Message from the Young Men General Presidency

First and foremost, we would like to express our love to you and our gratitude for your dedication and diligence as you serve the youth through Scouting. Thank you for taking the time to be trained and for applying the Scouting methods to help Young Men of the Aaronic Priesthood acquire the necessary values. The principles you are teaching them help them to serve and become a beacon of light to their friends and in their homes. The values you are instilling prepare them to become great missionaries, strong husbands and loving fathers, outstanding citizens and faithful priesthood men.

As we, the Young Men General Presidency of the Church, travel around our great country, we see the fruits of your labor reflected in the character of many, many young men. As we learn from them, we are touched by how lives are affected because of their testimonies and their actions. In the Immokalee branch in Florida, Junior Reyes wondered why he was the only boy in his priest quorum. Influenced by his Young Men president, he told himself, “I’ve got to open my mouth.” He started to invite his school friends to Scouting activities and then to church and to meet with the missionaries. As his friends were converted and baptized, they started to do as Junior did, inviting their own friends. In a period of 18 months, their quorum grew to 26 members. Now, a few months later, they’ve grown to a quorum of 33, most of them preparing to serve missions. You can find this great story in the “Mormon Messages for Youth” channel on YouTube.

Tim Glaszcak of the Oceanside 1st Ward, Carlsbad California Stake, has gone through Cubs and now in Scouts, he was befriended by many young men. He decided to join the Church after he attended a well-planned handcart activity on the pioneer trek.

We feel so grateful for and fully support the LDS and BSA partnership. The Church embraced Scouting in 1913, just three years after the movement was founded in England, and today remains perhaps its foremost supporter. We are the largest charter partner in terms of the boys and young men that participate in Scouting. Recently, eager to nurture and strengthen this relationship, the three key BSA leaders, Rex W. Tillerson, “Bob” J. Mazzuca and Tico Perez, traveled to Salt Lake City to meet with the First Presidency and other Church leaders, including the Young Men and Primary general presidencies. This is the first time a meeting of such a nature has occurred. The BSA leaders wanted to listen to our needs, learn from our values and get to know us better. They also shared BSA’s strategic plans.

We are all of us together, especially you who are reading this, making a difference in the lives of many, many wonderful young men, one by one. You are greatly needed. Please continue to be trained and to teach and implement the methods of Scouting and Duty to God. Today the words of our beloved prophet, President Monson, are more relevant than ever: “Brethren, if ever there were a time when the principles of Scouting were vitally needed—that time is now. If ever there were a generation who would benefit by keeping physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight—that generation is the present generation” (Thomas S. Monson, “Called to Serve”, Ensign, Nov 1991, 46)

The Young Men General Presidency

Please share with us inspiring stories of young men or leaders that are making a difference to YoungMen@ldschurch.org.
Message from the Primary General Presidency

Sister Jean A. Stevens,
First Counselor
Primary General Presidency

Scouting is fun and is an inspired program that really works. It’s about learning and living the gospel and can reinforce values and leadership skills that are taught in the home. It is leaders like you who are at the threshold of that first Scouting experience for each boy. You introduce them to ideals that start them on the trail to Scouting—the Cub Scout promise, the law of the pack, the sign, the salute and motto, right down to wearing their blue shirt and bright yellow neckerchief. It is leaders like you who help each boy love Scouting and look forward to each den and pack meeting.

President Thomas S. Monson has said, “If ever there were a time when the principles of Scouting were vitally needed—that time is now. If ever there were a generation who would benefit by keeping physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight—that generation is the present generation.” (Thomas S. Monson, “Called to Serve”, Ensign, Nov 1991, 46)

How many of your boys love and respect God more today, because you helped them understand that the number one priority of Scouting is: “On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God”? Scouting has from its inception encouraged a Scout to recognize an obligation or duty to God. Scouting can be a tool to help build a principle-based foundation and help them become leaders in their school, future missionaries, future husbands and fathers, future Church and community leaders. We appreciate all you do to launch our boys on the Scouting path!

Scouting & The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: Training Reminder

In January 2010, the Young Men General Presidency wrote, “Mandatory training for Scout leaders will be rolled out over the next three years. All direct-contact leaders will need to attend in order to remain registered. It is the local council’s responsibility to provide training for all leaders in the program. Each council needs to focus on training individual leaders, and should not solely provide training for leaders to attend. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints supports the mandatory training policy and desires all Scouting leaders to receive the training necessary for their individual position.”

The Young Men General Presidency also stated, “We must find ways to help each adult who works with Young Men to have a desire to become fully trained. If we are going to be able to provide a dynamic Aaronic Priesthood activity program that develops them spiritually, creates strong brotherhood, provides wide opportunity for service to others, and reaches out to all young men, we must be better prepared to use the tools of Scouting through proper understanding. That understanding only comes through effective training and proper implementation.”

Download a copy of Scouting & The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at www.ldsbsa.org/resources.html

Vol. 6 No. 1  February 2011
Boy Scouts of America officers visit leaders at Church headquarters
Discussions include Duty to God and Aaronic Priesthood

The Church embraced Scouting in 1913, just three years after the movement was founded in England, and today remains perhaps its foremost supporter.

"We're the largest charter partner in terms of the boys and young men that participate in Scouting, and in terms of adult-leader participation, we're way bigger than any other sponsoring organization," said David L. Beck, Young Men general president, adding that nearly a million Latter-day Saint adults are involved in Boy Scouts of America through the Primary and Young Men auxiliaries.

Eager to nurture and strengthen that relationship, he said, the three key BSA leaders traveled to Salt Lake City on November 16, 2010 to meet with the First Presidency and other Church leaders, including the Young Men and Primary general presidencies.

"As far as I know, that has never happened before," Brother Beck said in an interview after the visit.

The three were Rex W. Tillerson, national president; Tico Perez, national commissioner; and Robert J. Mazzuca, chief Scout executive.

With them on the visit were Wayne M. Perry, national president-elect (and a Church member from Bellevue, Washington) Wayne Brock, deputy chief Scout executive; Gary P. Butler, assistant chief Scout executive for Council Operations; and David Pack, director of LDS relationships with Scouting.

"First off, they wanted to establish communication with the leaders of the Church," Brother Beck emphasized. "They were here to listen, to get to know us better, to understand what our needs are. They also shared their strategic plans."

Brother Beck said the visit was initiated by the BSA leaders, though the seed was planted in August at the National Jamboree in Fort AP Hill, Virginia, where Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve and Brother Beck met with Mr. Mazzuca and Mr. Tillerson in private meetings. "They both said they would like to come visit the Church leaders," Brother Beck said.

While in Salt Lake City, the BSA leaders were greeted by Church President Thomas S. Monson and his counselors, President Henry B. Eyring and President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, in the North Board Room of the First Presidency's office.

That was followed by discussions with other Church leaders in the Church Administration Building; a tour of Temple Square, including the Conference Center; a reception and luncheon with President Monson, who has been on the BSA Executive Board for 40 years, longer than any other member.

"He's very much respected by the members of that board and by the officers of Boy Scouts of America," Brother Beck noted.

Topics during the meeting included the Church's Duty to God Program and how the BSA officers can support what the Church is trying to accomplish with it.

"We talked about the training of our leaders and we helped them understand the Aaronic Priesthood better and what our priorities and objectives are," Brother Beck said. "We helped them understand the strengths we have. The Church is strong in the retention of our young men in the Scouting program. It's unique that the Church has said Scouting is our activity program for young men and boys."

Giving it that institutional stamp helps with the retention, he acknowledged, "and the fact that we are very much interested in retention. That's a focus of the Church, not only in the activity portion, but in a spiritual way."

Brother Beck said the Primary general presidency explained the Primary organization. "That was very helpful to them." He added, "We emphasized the importance of the family. They are very clear that the Church is interested in programs that strengthen the family."

Mr. Tillerson is on record as championing family values and the support that Scouting gives them.

"And he's very strong about the values of Scouting," Brother Beck said. "Rex Tillerson as president has emphasized the Scout Oath and the Scout Law, that these are values they won't vacillate on, that they want these values to be embedded into the very bone and marrow of Scouting. And they're beautiful; they're very much aligned with the Church's values."

Article by R. Scott Lloyd, Church News, week of Dec 4, 2010
Stake Successes Due to Philmont Training

Many great things have occurred that I would like to share regarding what our stake is doing with the training we received at the Priesthood Leadership Conference on Scouting at Philmont in Cimarron, New Mexico.

Prior to us attending Philmont, we had some bishops and Young Men presidents who were lacking in testimony of what Scouting can do for the Aaronic Priesthood and saw the two programs as completely separate entities, with no correlation. At Philmont I asked what was the best way to tackle this. It was suggested that we hold a Uniformed Conference for our bishops, an overnighter, to get them away and teach them the principles learned at Philmont.

As this was stated, the Spirit rang true.

After an incredibly hectic attempt at setting a date where we all could be together (at least eight dates were looked at, discussed, set, changed, etc.), we set up the overnighter. There was some “squawking” at being asked to wear a Class-A uniform, questions as to why we had to go away, “couldn’t we just give them the information in a meeting?”, etc. We taught them that we were not going to ‘dump’ information on them, but rather teach them principles regarding Scouting and the Aaronic Priesthood. We explained that this opportunity was not to “RAH RAH” Scouting, but to show how Scouting can bless their lives as leaders and the lives of their young men. Our purpose was to teach and be together, not to just give information.

We had an impression that the Young Men presidents were to be invited. We followed that impression and it proved to be a huge blessing. We knew this would allow for counseling to take place between a bishop and his Young Men president. We knew that the bishop would then have someone to delegate to and not be burdened with trying to go back and teach the impressions and feelings he had at the conference. We asked them to sleep in the same tent, travel together, and sit by each other during the sessions—all with the purpose of spending as much time together to discuss and share, thus allowing us to maximize the very short time we had. As mentioned, this proved to be a huge blessing for them.

On the Friday evening, we taught them the Magnificence of the Aaronic Priesthood. We showed the video clips on the CD given to us at Philmont. We had a tri-folding wood board that contained 4x6 pictures of each of their Young Men, arranged by ward, in the front of the room. Those we were not able to get pictures of had their names listed. The emphasis was these Young Men whom they had stewardship over! We let them take time and share with each other feelings and promptings that came as they learned of the Magnificence of the Aaronic Priesthood. They were taught how the Church partnered with BSA and not the other way around. The room was ‘decorated’ with quotes such as, “It is easier to build a boy than mend a man”, “Deacon’s and Teacher’s presidents are not glorified Opening and Closing Prayer assigners”, “The Mission of the Aaronic Priesthood is not a checklist, it is a ‘Becoming’, etc. There were easily twenty quotes posted on the walls. They were encouraged to read them, ponder them, discuss the principles taught by them, and were given time to do so. We took them through the scriptures and taught them the Doctrine of the Aaronic Priesthood. We gave them time to look at the pictures of their young men and write what the Spirit said to them and then share with each other. It was a powerful evening. Conversion took place and the foundation was set for the next day. I need also to mention that we fed them very well with plenty of food. We had separate members, not involved in the training, cooking and preparing for us to maximize our time. There was much laughter, discussion of uniform décor, etc. during the meals. It was really a great experience.

Saturday morning we were up early and, following the flag ceremony and breakfast, we went for a hike. We literally went straight up the mountain without a trail and it was not easy!! At the top, we could see a trail that we should have taken. We discussed and likened this to mutual evenings. We can spend all our time “cutting a new trail” and making it difficult on ourselves or we can follow the trail (the Scouting, Varsity and Venturing programs) and make it easy on ourselves and bless the lives of the boys. Basically, don’t spend all your time reinventing the wheel or cutting a new trail, when the programs are outlined for you.
Our first session that morning was on the Scouting program. The eight methods of Scouting were taught and the participants learned that the methods are an important principle of leadership. Imagine large blocks (square cardboard boxes) spelling the words PAUL SOAP and stacked on top of each other. Across the top of them were wood blocks held together by twine stating “Leadership and preparation—future missionaries.” As individual boxes of PAUL SOAP were removed (indicating not having a full program or utilizing all that Scouting can do), the wood blocks began to sag and bend, until they fell altogether. This great object lesson allowed everyone to see the relationship between Scouting and the Mission of the Aaronic Priesthood as well as the blessing and need to follow the program. Principles of Scouting were then taught.

Our next session was on the Varsity Scouting program. Principles of the program were taught, the Varsity books were shown and it was discussed that, if followed, they would never have to decide what to do on a mutual night again!

Our next session was on Venturing and the same things took place – teachings on the Why’s and What’s and the principles behind the Venturing Program.

We had our “THEREFORE WHAT” and “WHEN” discussion. They were given time to formulate a plan and how they were to accomplish it. They talked about individual young men and how to meet their individual needs, etc. It was a powerful, successful conference. The Savior truly blessed our efforts.

Each was given a notebook with specific sections to the training. This was modeled after the Philmont notebooks we received at the Priesthood Leadership Conference on Scouting. We have asked that they be involved in the training at our little Philmont. Those who struggled with Scouting now have felt the spirit of its purpose, the spirit of the Church partnering with Boy Scouts of America.

There are so many other things they learned and felt. I wish I could share them all and could capture on paper the feelings and testimonies strengthened and gained. It was an inspired suggestion and we are grateful to have had the experience.

Submitted by Michael A. Lambert, Second Counselor, Mesa Arizona Salt River Stake Presidency

1913 Society of the LDS Relationships Office for the Boy Scouts of America Organized

The LDS-BSA Relationships office has organized the 1913 Society. The Society is a giving fraternity that supports and provides additional funding for many of the Scouting activities of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Your annual gift will benefit:

- The annual Priesthood Leadership Conference on Scouting at Philmont
- World and National Jamborees
- Training of LDS stake and ward leaders at Little Philmonts
- The education of Scouting professionals and volunteers at General Conference

As a member of the 1913 Society, you are not just donating financially, you are joining a group of Scouters who are invited to participate in furthering the cause of Scouting throughout the LDS Church.

Annually a 1913 Society event will occur at the LDS Fall General Conference in October. It will be in Salt Lake City, Utah and all members of the 1913 Society will be invited.

Renowned artist Peter M. Fillerup of Wild West Designs, Inc. has graciously helped the LDS-BSA Relationships office with artwork that will be presented to new members of the 1913 Society.

For more information on the 1913 Society, contact David C. Pack, Director of LDS-BSA Relationships, at 801-530-0004.
2010 National Scout Jamboree: Corps of chaplains enjoy challenge
Trio of LDS chaplains reunite after fatal 2005 tragedy

After stepping off the bus at the 2005 National Jamboree with his troop of Anchorage, Alaska Scouts, Larry Call was greeted by a couple of fellow members from Las Vegas. They introduced themselves as their subcamp chaplains and welcomed the Alaskans to Jamboree. Brother Call had never met Todd Moody and Paul Moffat, but he remembers feeling an instant connection with the two men. "They were people I would choose to be friends with," he said.

Moments later, tragedy struck and the lives of Brother Call, Brother Moody and Brother Moffat were forever changed — and lifelong friendships were forged.

After arriving at the jamboree, the Anchorage contingent's first task was to help a hired crew set up large, circus-style tents that the boys and their leaders would use for dining and shade. The Anchorage campsite was on a slope in Subcamp 7. Above were electricity lines that had gone unnoticed. Several of the Alaskan leaders, including Brother Call and his home teacher, Michael LaCroix, volunteered to help raise the metal center pole inside one of the tents. Two Scouts, including Brother Call's 14-year-old son, Kendell, joined the men inside. The leaders grabbed the pole and began to pull. The raised pole ignited when it made contact with the overhead lines. Weeks after the July 25, 2005, accident, Brother Call spoke of the chaotic scene that unfolded about him. "It was the most horrific scene you could possibly imagine."

Brother LaCroix and Alaskan Scout leaders Michael Shibe, Ronald Bitzer and Scott Powell were all killed. Brother Call was thrown to the ground, overcome with electricity. He was injured but alive.

That's when chaplains Moody and Moffat were pressed into action, providing shepherding to Brother Call and the others that would prove pivotal in helping the survivors make it through the tragedy. In the moments following the disaster, the chaplains rushed to the Alaskan tent and helped bring calm to dozens of panicked Scouts. Brother Call was taken to a Jamboree medical tent, where he received a blessing from Brother Moody, who presides over the Las Vegas Nevada Highland Hills Stake.

The following days and weeks were marked by mourning, prayer, priesthood blessings, support and friendship. After spending a night at a nearby hospital, Brother Call returned for the duration of the Jamboree. Most of the Alaskan Scouts also chose to remain. A fellow LDS Scout leader, Wayne Watson, was assigned to watch over 72 of the Alaskan Scouts, including many who had lost their leaders. He never left their sides.

Scout leaders Call, Moody and Moffat knew their shared experience that tragic day at Jamboree would link them for life. They've become close friends.

"Since the accident, Larry's been to Las Vegas four or five times — we've spent time together," said Brother Moody. "I've taken my sons to Alaska, and we've fished for salmon."

Brother Moody and Brother Moffat returned here for the 2010 National Jamboree. They were joined in the Jamboree chaplain corps by Brother Call, who, ironically, was assigned to Subcamp 7, where the 2005 tragedy occurred. "For me, the cherry on top of the banana split is being able to work with other great chaplains, with guys like Todd and Larry," said Brother Moffat of the Monte Vista Ward, Las Vegas Nevada Sandstone Stake.

Added Brother Moody: "Here we are, five years later, serving as chaplains together and having the time of our lives."

The tragedy of 2005 has exacted an emotional and professional cost. Brother Call, a member of the O'Malley Ward, Anchorage Alaska Stake, no longer practices dentistry because the damage from the electrical accident robbed his hands of dexterity. But it's also been a period of healing for the Call family and the Anchorage community. He never doubted he would return to the National Jamboree.

"I can't say that I didn't have any fears coming back, but to be able to come back is a chance to give back," he said. Brother Call spoke of his love for the priesthood and for the support he's received from Scouters of all backgrounds. As a subcamp Jamboree chaplain, he was assigned to minister to many of the same staffers who helped him in the accident's aftermath.

"We've put our arms around each other," he said. "There have been a lot of tears shed here. But most of it has been out of gratitude for each other and for what they did for me."

Brother Call was also joined at the National Jamboree by his wife, Paula, who assisted at the Church's exhibit here. His friend Wayne Watson also returned, eager once again to serve the boys. "I think we're all made of tough stuff," he said.

Article by Jason Swensen, Church News, week of August 7, 2010
2010 National Scout Jamboree: Demand of being a Jamboree chaplain

Chaplains at the 2010 National Boy Scout Jamboree were easy to spot, even among the thousands of rank-and-file Scout leaders donating their time here.

Each of the 125 jamboree chaplain sported a beige cap, a shoulder patch with the recognizable shepherd's crook and, always, broad smiles. Serving as the chief chaplain, here is a familiar face to Aaronic Priesthood holders — former Young Men general president, Charles W. Dahlquist II. His assignment marks the first time a Latter-day Saint has directed the non-denominational chaplain corps at a national jamboree.

"It's a neat experience, we work with chaplains of all religions;" said Brother Dahlquist, adding he was honored to represent the Church and Scouting at Fort A.P. Hill.

Chaplaincy is demanding. The men were on call 24/7, ministering to Scouts and their leaders. Brother Dahlquist and the others provided listening ears and spiritual counsel to the 45,000 Scouts and their leaders gathered for the 10-day encampment. Much of their day-to-day shepherding included offering encouragement to, say, a homesick Tenderfoot Scout or counseling a frazzled Scoutmaster at wits end with one of his charges. But chaplains at jamboree are also enlisted at serious moments. They make hospital visits to sick or injured Scouts and are called upon to comfort a camper when he learns a loved one back home has died.

Brother Dahlquist said he was inspired by the cooperation that existed inside the corps. Jews, Muslims, Catholic and Protestant clergy worked alongside their Mormon colleagues, providing support and maybe a prayer or blessing for those in need. The chaplains' religious beliefs may differ in the ranks, but unity defined their calling.

"Islamic services were held for the first time at an (on-site) mosque," said Brother Dahlquist, a veteran chaplain at national jamborees.

As the jamboree's lead chaplain, Brother Dahlquist was reminded of the essentialness of Scouting. "When was there a time when we needed more a young man to learn his duty to God and his duty to country?"

He challenged LDS Scouts at jamboree to use their time wisely and seize each opportunity to learn new skills. He spoke of the enthusiasm Scouts of all religious backgrounds demonstrated as they earned the Church-sponsored George Albert Smith Award, which challenges the boys to live Scout principles and be good examples.

"I hope when (LDS Scouts) return from Jamboree that they apply what they've learned here and strengthen their priesthood quorums."

Article by Jason Swensen, Church News, week of August 7, 2010

2011 World Scout Jamboree Simply Scouting

There will be a World Scout Jamboree located near Rinkaby, Sweden from July 27 - August 7 this coming summer. 40,000 Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, Venture Scouts and their leaders will congregate in Rinkaby from all over the world. President Dahlquist, former LDS Young Men General President and Great Salt Lake Council President, has called Floyd Hatch (a volunteer), Doug Guest and Vic Rowberry (Great Salt Lake Council professional Scoruters) to serve as the Great Salt Lake Council Contingency Chairmen for a group of 144 Priest-age young men and 16 adult leaders. Contingency plans include flying into Copenhagen, Denmark on Wednesday, July 27th, travelling to Rinkaby for the jamboree, and then flying home (out of Copenhagen) on Sunday, August 7th.

President Dahlquist was inspired with a variation for our contingency’s return to Utah! Because of his concern for the older boy programs in Scouting, he approached the National Scout office and received special permission for our Venturing contingency to delay our departure out of Copenhagen for two days. This will allow us to stay in Copenhagen through Tuesday, August 9 with the goal to treat our young men to the best pre-mission experience that they can receive. We will plan a Sunday afternoon sacrament meeting and a Monday tour of several important locations in the Copenhagen area.

Great Salt Lake Council and LDS Church leadership see this Jamboree experience as an incredible opportunity to strengthen the lives of many future missionaries. We are in the early planning stages and have lots to do. Our preliminary plans include a special sacrament meeting on August 7 in a Copenhagen chapel. Our Aaronic Priesthood members will handle the preparation and passing of the sacrament. We believe that all 144 of our young men will sing several hymns to the congregation. We envision a Copenhagen chapel filled with Danish missionaries, invited guests, and our contingency of 170 leaders and young men!

On Monday, we envision dividing our contingency into crews and do the following: • Spend time in the temple doing baptisms for the dead with names that they bring from home. • Learn from “Preach My Gospel” with the full time missionaries. • Tour the Copenhagen, Denmark area to places that include: a harbor cruise to see the “Kristina” sculpture in honor of Danish pioneers who traveled to Utah, a bus to experience the original Kristus & a tour of the Frederiksborg Castle.

Article by J. Floyd Hatch, Contingency Chairman, Great Salt Lake Council, Salt Lake City, Utah
Conference raises Scouts' church knowledge

“The principles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints dovetail very well with the goals and purposes of the Boy Scouts of America,” a visiting national Scouting leader says.

"We are happy with our relationship with the LDS Church. It remains strong and we look forward to its continuation,” said Matthew J. Budz, team leader of Community Alliances for the national organization, which has headquarters in Irving, Texas. His position gives him oversight of Scout programs sponsored by religious organizations, including the LDS Church.

Budz was one of a group of Scouting leaders from across the country who were special guests of the Church during the 180th Semiannual General Conference of the Church.

For the past seven years, the Church's Young Men organization has hosted such groups to help them understand how the Scouting program has been integrated into overall Young Men's activities, said Paul L. Moffat of Las Vegas. He has been assigned by the Young Men general presidency to head the project. The visitors to this conference were from Colorado, Texas, the Pacific Islands and the BSA national headquarters, he said.

"For seven years, we have hosted Boy Scout professionals from across the United States. They leave with an advanced degree in how Scouting works in the Church,” said Moffat. "They ask many questions and provide feedback for us. It helps keep an open dialogue."

Besides attending the Saturday afternoon and Priesthood sessions of the conference, the Scout leaders toured Welfare Square, the Humanitarian Center and other Church sites that are of most interest to visitors, he said.

“The LDS Church has the largest contingent of Boy Scouts operating under church sponsorship — some 412,000 youth that represent 17 percent of all Scouts in the country,” Moffat said. For LDS youths, the Scouting program is aligned with usual priesthood advancement, providing activities that conform to Church standards. It has been an integral part of the male youth program since 1913, when it was adopted by then-President Joseph F. Smith.

Like many organizations that deal with youth, BSA is concerned about the decline of morals and civility in the country, Budz said. But he is convinced that the “timeless values — duty to God, to country and to oneself” will continue to provide a solid base for Scouting into the foreseeable future. "Merit badges may change, but the core values will remain." He added that “in the current tough economic times, BSA has fared better than some others,” and attributed that to the general knowledge worldwide that Scouting aims to develop character and build leaders in communities.

“In January 2011, for the first time, an international jamboree, including the United States, Mexico and Canada, will be held in West Virginia,” he said.

“Coming here has been a learning experience for those of us who are not members,” he said, summing up the conference experience. “It strengthens our knowledge of how the Church works.”

Article by Twila Van Leer, Deseret News, Dec 3, 2010

Our online shopping cart is thrilled to now offer the new LDS-BSA temporary pocket patch. This 3 ½” round patch, with button loop, is a double-sided patch with woven images. The front has the fleur-de-lis with the Angel Moroni and words highlighting the partnership of the LDS Church and Scouting. The back of the patch shows incredible detail of the Salt Lake City Temple and the words “Duty to God, Honor, Priesthood.”

The previous LDS-BSA temporary patch will be discontinued, but is still being sold as collector’s items as long as supplies last.

Patches can be purchased online at www.ldsbsa.org/order.html