Building boys in a time of danger
Leaders in a troubled world asked to protect, make a difference in lives

Excerpts and photos from article by Jason Swensen from LDS Church News, ending May 19, 2007

Young Men and Scout leaders throughout the Church enjoy renown as doctors, dentists, lawyers, engineers, craftsmen, salesmen and in other endeavors. But whatever their occupation, each is engaged in the building trade— the building of boys. That was the message shared by President Thomas S. Monson, first counselor in the First Presidency, at the conclusion of a historic training meeting for Aaronic Priesthood and LDS Scout leaders. Broadcast to meetinghouses throughout the United States and Canada on May 12, the program centered on the importance of enlisting the Scouting and Duty to God programs to help young men enjoy the privileges and preparatory opportunities offered during their Aaronic Priesthood years.

President Monson spoke of some dangers facing young men in a time of immorality and filth: "Where there is one man who is willing and able to build a boy, there are many more who, through greed, selfishness and lust for power, lurk in the shadows of gloom, away from the light of truth, to tear a boy down. I speak of those who peddle pornography, who belittle morality, who violate law and for filthy lucre sell a boy those products that destroy — those who put sin on a pedestal, who glorimize error, who look upon a fair-haired boy as a commodity for exploitation."

The priesthood is a commission to serve and lift others from the world's many troubles, President Monson said.

"We who have been ordained to the priesthood of God and have been called to work with Young men can make a difference. When we qualify for the help of the Lord, we have the privilege to build boys who will eventually become the leaders of tomorrow. It is vital that they bear the standard of morality and integrity and courage."

Miracles can be accomplished in the Lord's holy service. It is vital, the Church leader added, that those who have responsibility with the young men of the Church be there to help guide their paths. It was Christ — the best Builder of all — who offered the formula: "He that findeth his life shall lose it; and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it."

Builders of boys can be partners with God in bringing to pass His work and His glory — namely "the immortality and eternal life of man," President Monson said.

The Scouting program is the activity arm of the Aaronic Priesthood and helps build and strengthen young men. In 1913, the Church established its affiliation with the Boy Scouts of America, acting on a motion by Bryant S. Hinckley, a member of the YMMIA Board. Decades later, Brother Hinckley's son, President Gordon B. Hinckley, called Scouting "a program which the Church has sponsored for 80 years, to the blessing of hundreds of thousands of boys and young men."

President Monson reminisced about visiting London's Westminster Abbey 25 years ago while on an assignment in England with his wife, Frances. He described how they read the inscriptions marking the tombs of royalty and other famous people buried there. Then they came to the plaque of honor dedicated to the memory of Scouting's founder, Robert Lord Baden-Powell.

"I pondered the thought, 'How many boys have had their lives blessed — even saved — by the Scout movement begun by Baden-Powell?"' President Monson said. "Unlike others memorialized within the walls of Westminster Abbey, Baden-Powell had neither sailed the stormy seas of glory nor founded empires of worldly wealth. Rather, he was a builder of boys, one who taught them well how to run and win the race of life."

The boys of today will become the men of tomorrow, President Monson declared. Scouting, he said, teaches boys how to live, not merely how to make a living. Through Scouting, young men can learn the lifelong virtues of work and duty, he added.

It has been said that the greatest gift a man can give a boy is his willingness to share a part of his life with him, President Monson noted.

"Aaronic Priesthood leaders, Scout leaders, may you make the commitment to share your lives with our precious young men," President Monson concluded. "They depend on you. Their very salvation may be at stake. You can build a bridge to the heart of a boy and can help guide his precious soul back to our Father in Heaven."

Visit us online at http://www.ldsbsa.org
"Scouting prepares young men"

Charles W. Dahlquist, II
Young Men General President
Scouting and the Aaronic Priesthood Fireside

Someone recently asked Charles W. Dahlquist II if Scouting was as necessary or as relevant today as 100 years ago.

"I told him that I felt that there has never been a greater need for youth to acquire the timeless values espoused and taught by Scouting than now," said Brother Dahlquist, Young Men general president.

"The war between good and evil is raging now as never before. But it is not a war of tanks and guns — but of words, of media, of thoughts and feelings, of Internet, cell phones and earphones — of drugs and drinks that dull the mind and the soul of our youth.

"And if we as leaders are not valiant, our youth will not be prepared for the challenges that await them."

In a video presentation that included clips from a Scout campsite and a classroom at the Missionary Training Center, Brother Dahlquist spoke of the urgency to prepare young men to reach their potential and become faithful missionaries. Through its partnership with the Church, Scouting has proven to be an effective program for strengthening the Aaronic Priesthood.

In years gone by, some youth have been able to get by on raw talent and ability. That's no longer the case, he said.

"If our young men are not men of character and integrity, if they have not learned to work hard and stand on their own two feet, if they have not committed to be finishers in all they do and to make right choices, they will not have sufficient tools to help them succeed and they will be left by the wayside."

Society is becoming increasingly sedentary, Brother Dahlquist said. Even youth spend hour upon hour in front of television screens, and on computers and cell phones.

"Scouting takes us back to nature, teaches boys to appreciate, cherish and learn to care for this grand and divine creation — in addition to learning the importance of physical fitness and caring for our physical bodies," he said. "That is central in Scouting, as (a boy) not only learns these lessons, but commits to keep himself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight."

A boy's success in Scouting is often a reflection of his leaders. Brother Dahlquist spoke of four characteristics of successful leaders.

• Testimony: "Young men need adult leaders with testimonies of the gospel of Jesus Christ: leaders who can say, 'Come follow me to the temple, or on a mission.'"

• Training: "Young men deserve leaders who are trained and who understand how to apply the principles and programs of Scouting to strengthen the quorums of the Aaronic Priesthood. Commit now to be trained."

• Tenure: "Ideally, it would be wonderful to leave leaders of the youth in callings as long as possible, but we recognize that is subject to revelation. Over time, leaders become trained, establish strong Scouting traditions and build relationships of trust with the boys and their families."

• Time: "It just takes time to be a good youth leader. There is no such thing as one hour on Sunday and one hour during the week in the work of saving and strengthening youth."

Brother Dahlquist spoke of the value of the Varsity and Venturing programs for older youth. He echoed the words of Presiding Bishop H. David Burton, who said, "It's all about the priesthood."

Scouting Leaders attend General Conference

The annual General Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was held on the first weekend of April 2007 in Salt Lake City. Twenty-six Scouting professionals and some of their spouses came to participate in Conference and learn more about the Church.

This experience has been very valuable to many scouting leaders all over the United States to improve relationships with LDS Stakes and Wards in each local Scout Council.

On Thursday afternoon the scout leaders participated in the Young Men Workshop, which highlighted how scouting works with the LDS Church. On Friday they traveled to BYU and participated in a workshop with Brad Harris, Professor in the Youth Leadership Department. Many students from this department have joined the scouting profession over the years.

They also visited the Humanitarian Center and Welfare Square, learning about the effort that is made by the LDS Church in providing for the needy. On Saturday they toured Temple Square and participated in the General Priesthood session of conference.

Lynn Wm. Southam, Arapahoe Colorado Stake President, has been instrumental in providing leadership for this event for several years. Scouters represented the following areas:

• Denver Area Council (Denver, CO): Jeffrie Herrmann, Jim Machamer, Tim Swensen, Dennis McGarry, Scott Glaser, Royd Despain, Steve L. Harris, and Lynn Wm. Southam
• Blue Mountain Council (Kennewick, WA): Mark Griffin
• Inland Northwest Council (Spokane, WA): Tim McCandless
• Nevada Area Council (Reno, NV): Shane Calendine, Manny Ramos, Keith Mette, Bill Waits and Dru Ross
• Great Salt Lake Council (Salt Lake City, UT): Paul Moore
• Circle Ten Council- (Dallas, TX): Dennis Luellen and Michael Denoy
• National Capitol Area Council (Washington D.C.): Alan Lambert and Jack Gerard
• Western Region (Phoenix, AZ): John Reesor and Steve Rankin.

If you are interested in attending future conferences, please contact David Pack, BSA Director of LDS Relationships at dapack@netbsa.org or at (801) 530-0004.
An Open Letter to Unit Leaders on “Wood Badge and the Principle of the ‘Twofer’ ”

by Scott W. Cameron, Young Men General Board

Dear Unit Leaders,

A “twofer” is “an arrangement in which a single expense yields a dual return—it is an alliteration of the saying “two for (the price of one.)” By definition, you as unit leaders are the busiest among us with the concerns of stewardship added to personal, family and professional pressures. You need to take advantage of any valuable “twofer” that has the potential to help you fulfill your calling and enrich your life. With you in mind, I will try to explain: “Wood Badge and the Principle of the ‘Twofer’.”

Have you ever lamented “I wish I had time to learn how ‘scouting,’ the activity arm of the Aaronic Priesthood, can help prepare young men for the Melchizedek Priesthood…I wish I had time to go to Wood Badge? If so, read on and you may discover you do have time.

Wood Badge is a “twofer” because it provides world class leadership training with an eye on how to teach young men to live correct principles that will prepare them for all Heavenly Father has in store for them. It offers this training in a setting away from the distractions of the world where you, as a unit leader, are more likely to receive inspiration.

First, the leadership training materials are first-rate and are taught with an eye on lifting young men. They are not taught to provide you with a competitive edge and they do not focus on your personal gain. Rather, the materials contain true principles for the enrichment and benefit of others. Such materials and the volunteer staff at Wood Badge who present them are focused on the generation which will soon lead our communities, our nation, and the world, and consequently, they are lifted to a higher plane. Principles learned for the benefit of others, and not for personal aggrandizement, are learned more quickly and more deeply and have a purity that gives them lasting value.

Second, the setting in which you will learn these principles is the “twofer.” The key to understanding this is contained in the lyrics of a hymn which the Tabernacle choir sings (penned by William D. Longstaff in 1882): “Take time to be holy, the world rushes on; spend much time in secret, with Jesus alone. By looking to Jesus, like Him thou shalt be; Thy friends in thy conduct His likeness shall see.” Wood Badge courses are taught in the mountains (wilderness) where inspiration comes more easily, where the trappings of civilization are less evident, and where the heavens blanket the earth with stars. These are the places where one’s heart is led to questions and longings of an eternal nature.

While the explanation of the “twofer” is a mere attention-getter, the truth is more akin to the type of obedience which opens heavenly windows. If you choose to go to Wood Badge, you may well learn how scouting can assist in leading young men to Christ and come back with a slightly changed countenance, as well.
“Rise Up O Men of God”

President Charles W. Dahlquist, II
General Young Men President

Excerpts from President Dahlquist’s message at the Young Men Workshops prior to General Conference, Mar 30 – Apr 1, 2007

We must understand the resources we have at our hands and be able to use them effectively to help the young men in our charge accomplish the purposes of the Aaronic Priesthood. This includes knowing the Duty to God program well; and getting appropriate Scouting training, including basic training, leader specific training, youth protection training and Wood Badge.

We are gratified with the wonderful efforts of leaders around the Church who are following this pattern and see, in the lives of the young men and their Aaronic Priesthood quorums, a great difference in a very positive way. The call to work with the young men of the Aaronic Priesthood and Scouting is a demanding assignment – but very worthwhile. Brethren, as President Hinckley has often reminded us, there are ways that we can all improve, as we accept the challenge to “Rise UP!”

For that reason, I plead with you, as leaders of youth to do all that you can to involve parents in your activities and to support them in their efforts to raise righteous youth. I also plead with you to use the resources available to you, including the Ward Priesthood Executive Council and Ward Council meetings to help strengthen fathers and mothers – for their own sakes and for the sakes of their children.

Twas a sheep, not a lamb, that had strayed away,
In the parable Jesus told;
A grown up sheep that had gone astray,
From the ninety and nine in the fold.

Out on the hillside, out in the cold,
Twas a sheep the Good Shepherd sought.
And back to the flock, safe into the fold
Twas a sheep the Good Shepherd brought.

And why for the sheep should we earnestly long,
And as earnestly hope and pray?
Because there is danger, if they go wrong,
They will lead the lambs astray.

For the lambs will follow the sheep, you know
Wherever the sheep may stray;
When the sheep go wrong, it will not be long
‘Til the lambs are as wrong as they.

And so for the sheep we earnestly plead,
For the sake of the lambs today;
If the lambs are lost; what a terrible cost
Some sheep will have to pay.
--Anonymous

And so I pray that you will do all in your power to help strengthen the families of the boys in your Aaronic Priesthood quorums. Involve them, as is appropriate, in youth activities. Help them to see the value of their participation on Scouting Committees, as merit badge counselors, and other opportunities to participate. I know of nothing more effective than the Scouting program to help support and involve parents in the lives of their young men. Now, in your efforts to involve them, be sensitive to their other assignments and pressures, and involve them as is appropriate to bless their families. I would think that it might also be important now and then to meet with the parents and ask how they are feeling about their son’s experience in the Aaronic Priesthood and how they feel we are doing in helping THEM to strengthen their son. This becomes even more important in single parent homes, where mothers are often taxed to the limit, just with household necessities. It is here that the priesthood can go to work to help and support and assist and lift the load to help these grand, faithful Latter-day Saints mothers in the significant role of teaching and raising their sons, helping them prepare for full time missionary service and providing appropriate priesthood role models for these great young men.

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Scouts are looking for more counselors
*Members with professional experience can greatly enrich lives of young men*

Article by Jason Swensen, *Church News*, week ending March 17, 2007

Here's a message for those members who haven't pulled on the khaki Scout uniform for decades, perhaps never earned a personal rank advancement past Tenderfoot or don't have an Aaronic Priesthood-age son at home: the Boy Scouts in your ward or branch need you.

Veteran LDS Scouters say a young man's experience in the Church-endorsed program is the sum of its varied parts. Those camping trips, lifesaving drills and trips to the local city council meetings help Scouts exercise those principles taught each Sunday in priesthood meetings. Many such activities are undertaken while earning one of Scouting's many merit badge awards.

Scouts can earn dozens of merit badges ranging from American Business to Woodwork. In each case, Scouts work with a designated merit badge counselor who helps them meet the requirements demanded by each badge.

Obviously, a person with a professional background in one of the many merit badge subjects is an ideal candidate to be a merit badge counselor. Chemists make good Chemistry merit badge counselors. Game wardens make good Fish & Wildlife Management merit badge counselors. But holding a graduate degree in a specific field isn't essential for would-be counselors, said David Pack, director of Scouting's LDS Relations office. Far more important is a concern for the boys in your ward or branch.

"Just about anyone — man or woman — can be a merit badge counselor," Brother Pack said, adding each counselor must be registered with the local Boy Scouts of America council, a no-cost process that generally takes only a day or two.

Still, LDS Scout units often struggle to find dedicated merit badge counselors. Many wards and branches pass around "personal research questionnaires" to identify members with specific professional backgrounds, avocations and hobbies. Such surveys can assist Scoutmasters searching for potential merit badge counselors.

"But don't wait to be asked — volunteer," Brother Pack said.

Wallace "Wally" Rupp, 78, has been the Scoutmaster of Troop 745 (Taylorsville 20th Ward, Taylorsville Utah North Central Stake) for more than 40 years. He's never had trouble finding merit badge counselors for the hundreds of Scouts he has led, including 162 boys who have earned the Eagle rank.

Potential counselors don't have to be experts — "just someone that is knowledgeable in that field and has an interest in the boys," Brother Rupp said.

Indeed, earning merit badges can enrich a young man's life far beyond Courts of Honor and rank advancements. Countless former Scouts took their first step on a chosen career path while earning, say, the Dentistry, Law, or Geology merit badges. Others discovered lifelong hobbies and interests via the merit badge program. In each case, a faithful merit badge counselor played a central role.

Earned correctly, a merit badge can play a significant role in a young man's development. Earned incorrectly, the award is nothing more than a circle of embroidered cloth.

In order to best serve the boy and guard the integrity of the Scouting program, merit badge counselors should insist that Scouts satisfy the requirements of the award. "No more, no less," Brother Pack said. Don't cut corners and short change a young man's opportunity to grow through completion of the merit badge requirements as outlined.

If a requirement says "show," "demonstrate," "list," or "make," then that's exactly what the Scout should do. Such rigidity can be challenging when one counselor is working with a group of boys at the same time. Each Scout will likely progress at a different rate, so fight the urge to simply pass off every boy at once, Brother Pack said.

At the same time, merit badge counselors should not expand the requirements and make the process more difficult. Follow requirements strictly as outlined.

Brother Rupp has witnessed merit badges bless the lives of boys and their counselors, alike. His late wife, Gloria Rupp, never earned a single merit badge. But her background as an educator qualified her to serve as a counselor in many academic-themed merit badges. Boys were strengthened by her example and experience — and Sister Rupp cherished the opportunity to serve.

Now Brother Rupp looks forward to yet another week spent with Troop 745 on its annual weeklong trip to Utah's Uinta Mountains this summer. Once again, merit badges will be earned and precious memories made.
Achieve the Centennial Quality Unit Award

Having a quality Scout program is of utmost importance for the impact on your youth. One way to measure how you are doing is to work toward achieving the new Centennial Quality Unit Award. Requirement/Goal sheets can be picked up at your local Scout service center or downloaded on the website: http://www.ldsbsa.org. A brief explanation & interpretation of these goals is located below. Take time to evaluate how you are doing and set a goal to become a Centennial Quality Unit in 2007.

2007 Centennial Quality Unit Award Commitment
Interpretation of Requirements and Worksheet

Unit Type ___________________________   Unit Number _______________

Use interpretations with the unit leader in understanding what each requirement means. All units are encouraged to establish goals that increase their participation over the previous year.

1. We will have _____ percent of our district contact leaders complete Basic Leader Training for their position, including Youth Protection Training. Each of our adult leaders (Cubmasters, den leaders, Webelos leaders and all assistants, Scoutmasters and assistants, crew Advisors and associates) who meet with youth regularly are trained in Fast Start and Basic Leader Training. You identify how many are registered and develop a plan to have them trained. If a leader is newly signed up within the past two months, you will want them to commit to getting trained, but they do not keep the unit from earning the award.
   _____ Number of direct contact leaders registered   _____ Number trained

2. As one of the committed units in our district, we commit to retraining _____ percent of our members, recruiting _____ new youth, and rechartering on time.
   (Goal of retention youth and goal for recruiting of new youth to be set with commissioner and unit leader at beginning of calendar year.)
   _____ Goal new youth to recruit   _____ Actual new youth recruited
   _____ percent retention last year   _____ percent retention this year
   _____ Rechartered on time (Yes or No)

3. As a participating unit in the national parent initiative, we commit to recruit and train _____ new adults to be active.
   _____ Number of new adults recruited.

4. We had a minimum of 60 percent of our youth members advance in rank for Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting or earn Venturing recognition awards, or we improved by 10 percent over last year. This includes the basic ranks of Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting. The recognition award program is the measure for Venturing. Percent advanced/earned _____ last year, _____ this year

5. At least 70 percent of our youth members had an outdoor experience or one activity per month, or improve the percentage over last year. Specify in advance the events that will be used and how many are required to qualify. (For Cub Scouting, this would include a pack meeting.) This may vary for each type of program.
   _____ percent participated last year, _____ percent participated this year

6. We will conduct annual program planning and will provide the financial resources to deliver a quality program to our members. Our unit has an annually planned program. The unit develops a budget of needed expenses and plans how they will provide the finances to achieve a quality program, either through unit fundraisers or each member providing their own finances. _____ Yes _____ No

Additional Goals. When commissioners meet with units as part of the action planning meeting, they will review other areas critical to providing a quality program. These are part of the unit self-assessment process, provided to commissioners as part of their monthly unit visit. These include 100 percent of families subscribing to Boy’s Life, an annual service project recorded on the Good Turn for America website, two-deep leadership, an active committee, youth training for Boy Scouting and Venturing, use of the patrol method for Boy Scouting, and other areas as needed for special emphasis annually.

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On March 15-17, 2007, J. Floyd Hatch, board member of both the Young Men’s General Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Great Salt Lake Council, along with Bry Davis, Varsity Program Vice-President of the Great Salt Lake Council, and Gary Dollar, board member of the Utah National Park Council as well as a BSA Varsity Scout Committee member, traveled to the Mogollon Varsity Mountain Man Rendezvous held bi-annually at the R Bar C Scout Ranch (near Payson, AZ).

The event, hosted by the Mesa District and Grand Canyon Council, provided Varsity Scouts with the opportunity to learn about, or enhance, their skills through participation in 70+ different high-adventure activities. The theme for the 2 ½ day event was “Make a Difference and Be Happy”, which reflects the time and energy donated to the event by its Booshway (event leader), Mike Heaton, and the event committee.

Varsity Scouts who participated in the event were able to experience everything from black powder rifle shooting to rappelling. The highlight of the rendezvous might have been the Dutch-oven cook off. Approximately 2,300 Varsity Scouts, leaders, and staff worked and played hard during the days and stayed up late into the nights. Most of the adult leaders and staff joined with Floyd Hatch for a Friday afternoon leadership session. All of the attendees assembled at the camp amphitheater for a Friday night fireside program which included talks and encouragement from local leaders in addition to Bry Davis and Gary Dollar representing their Council leadership and Floyd Hatch representing the Young Men’s leadership of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Brother Hatch began his remarks stating that “the Young Men’s General Presidency (and board) pray for events like yours (the Rendezvous) to occur so that boys’ lives can be strengthened.” He commented on the strong Varsity leadership in the Mesa area, including the fact that 3 of the original 17 members of the first Varsity Committee formed by the BSA were involved with District and Council leadership and were present at the Rendezvous. They included Gary Jones, Mesa District Commissioner, Mike Heaton, Mesa District Varsity Commissioner, and Bob Church, Assistant Council Commissioner for Varsity. The event culminated on Saturday morning with the Coulter Run followed by the closing ceremonies.
On Friday, February 2, 2007, three members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints were presented with the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Service Award by the Trapper Trails Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Each of these recipients was honored because they provided unusual service to the community of Ogden, Utah by reaching out to numerous young men in the inner city, utilizing the guidelines of a program known as SCOUTREACH.

Reed Richards, Andres (Andy) Ramos and his wife Rita Ramos were honored at a banquet at the Timberline Restaurant in Ogden, Utah, where approximately 200 Scouts, Scout leaders, civic leaders, and members of the community gathered. Brother Richards is currently serving as Stake President of the Ogden East Stake and is the immediate past president of the Trapper Trails Council. Brother Ramos is serving as a member of the Young Men General Board and is on the Executive Board of the Trapper Trails Council. He also serves on the Scout Committees of the Trapper Trails Council and the Great Salt Lake Council. Sister Ramos serves as Scout Committee Chairman in the Buenaventura Branch of the Ogden Stake and is also a member of the Trapper Trails Council training committee.

Opening remarks were offered by George Hall, President of the Trapper Trails SCOUTREACH program. The keynote speaker was L. Clifford Goff, Stake President of the Ogden, Utah Stake and former Mayor of Ogden, Utah. The invocation was offered by Elder Donald J. Keyes, Area Authority Seventy. Other attendees included President Michael A. Neider, second counselor in the Young Men General Presidency and Allan F. Packer, member of the Young Men General Board.

Some of the remarks given by former Mayor Goff stated that the efforts of Brother Richards and Brother and Sister Ramos were instrumental in stemming the tide of gangs in the Ogden area, where gang activity has been reduced and is showing signs of continued reduction. He congratulated them for their time and efforts and said that they had made a meaningful contribution to the community that would be felt for many years to come.

According to the program, The Whitney M. Young, Jr. Service Award recognizes outstanding services by an adult individual or an organization for demonstrated involvement in the development and implementation of Scouting opportunities for youth from rural or low-income urban backgrounds. Each recipient was presented with a ribbon which was placed around their neck with the award attached. They were also presented with a pin to wear on their clothing and a wooden plaque to hang on the wall. They were each invited to speak and each of them received a loud, standing applause.

The program listed 21 boys who had achieved the rank of Eagle Scout while participating in units of this SCOUTREACH program. They are: Steven Alvarez, Franco Arellano, Jorge Barragan, Willy Brandt, David O. Burrola, Leonel Fernandez, David M. Garcia, Cristian Hernandez, Hugo Hernandez, David Herrera, Francisco Lopez, Yahir Mendoza, Walter Josh McCroby, Josue Negreros, Jaime Ninataype, Andres E. Ramos, Christopher Rocha, Cesar Rodarte, Miguel Salguero, Anthony Tinti and Joshua Vasquez. Three of these boys have left to serve full-time missions for the Church and one more is currently waiting to receive his mission call.

Order of the Arrow

The Order of the Arrow is Scouting’s National Honor Society. Its activities support church teachings regarding cheerful service and brotherhood and membership should be encouraged. Troops and teams should hold annual elections for their young men as well as recommend adults to join and participate. Each troop and team should have an active OA Troop/Team Representative, which is an official leadership position that counts towards leadership requirements for rank advancements. For more details see http://www.main.oa-bsa.org/programs/ttr/