Message from the Young Men General Presidency

President Charles W. Dahlquist II, Young Men General President

Recently I attended a Little Philmont in the Pleasanton, California area. As over 650 leaders gathered, most in their Scout field uniforms, I was overwhelmed with the goodness and dedication of these great leaders and their hunger to be trained. It was a wonderful day-and-a-half of training in Aaronic Priesthood and Scouting topics, including using Scouting to strengthen young men spiritually; LDS-BSA Relationships; Duty to God; implementing and strengthening Cub Scouts, 11-Year-Old Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity and Venturing; and a number of other topics. But the thing that has struck me the most was my experience with John and David, two young men in Scout uniforms who attended the Friday evening session to sing in an Aaronic Priesthood Scouting Choir. After the choir sang, many of the boys left, but John and David stayed with their mom.

And as I looked into their youthful faces and saw in their eyes the hopes and dreams of a full life ahead of them, I was once again struck with the message: “It’s all about the boy!” All that we do and all the tools that we have at our disposal are to help strengthen and prepare the young men in our charge—whether there are twenty, five or just one! President Monson has often reminded us about the importance of teaching, saving and retaining ALL the young men we serve—one by one. Remember how, as a young boy, President Monson was taught a lesson about the importance of the one at the feet of a wise teacher’s quorum adviser. President Monson related the story in General Conference some years ago:

"As a boy of 15 I was called to preside over a quorum of teachers. Our adviser was interested in us, and we knew it. One day he said to me, 'Tom, you enjoy raising pigeons, don't you?' I responded with a warm 'Yes.' Then he proffered, 'How would you like me to give you a pair of purebred Birmingham roller pigeons?' This time I answered, 'Yes, sir!' You see, the pigeons I had were just the common variety trapped on the roof of the Grant Elementary School.

He invited me to come to his home the next evening. The next day was one of the longest in my young life. I was awaiting my adviser's return from work an hour before he arrived. He took me to his loft, which was in a small barn at the rear of his yard. As I looked at the most beautiful pigeons I had yet seen, he said, 'Select any male, and I will give you a female which is different from any other pigeon in the world.' I made my selection. He then placed in my hand a tiny hen. I asked what made her so different. He responded, 'Look carefully, and you'll notice that she has but one eye.' Sure enough, one eye was missing, a cat having done the damage. 'Take them home to your loft,' he counseled. 'Keep them in for about 10 days and then turn them out to see if they will remain at your place.'

I followed his instructions. Upon releasing them, the male pigeon strutted about the roof of the loft, then returned inside to eat. But the one-eyed female was gone in an instant. I called Harold, my adviser, and asked, 'Did that one-eyed pigeon return to your loft?' 'Come on over,' said he, 'and we'll have a look.' As we walked from his kitchen door to the loft, my adviser commented, 'Tom, you are the president of the teachers quorum.' This I already knew. Then he added, 'What are you going to do to activate Bob?' I answered, 'I'll have him at quorum meeting this week.' Then he reached up to a special nest and handed to me the one-eyed pigeon. 'Keep her in a few days and try again.'

This I did, and once more she disappeared. Again the experience, 'Come on over and we'll see if she returned here.' Came the comment as we walked to the loft: 'Congratulations on getting Bob to priesthood meeting. Now what are you and Bob going to do to activate Bill?' 'We'll have him there this week,' I volunteered.

This experience was repeated over and over again. I was a grown man before I fully realized that, indeed, Harold, my adviser, had given me a special pigeon; the only bird in his loft he knew would return every time she was released. It was his inspired way of having an ideal personal priesthood interview with the teachers quorum president every two weeks. I owe a lot to that one-eyed pigeon. I owe more to that quorum adviser. He had the patience to help me prepare for opportunities which lay ahead." -- General conference, April 1979

I love Scouting and the way it helps us as youth leaders retain and strengthen our boys—and help them develop timeless character traits as well as vital life skills. I love the look of confidence in the eye of a boy at a court of honor, or at a pinewood derby, or when he has completed a merit badge. Scouting helps us build men who truly believe that they can make a difference in the world and in their communities. And I am continually impressed with the strength and goodness of our Aaronic Priesthood and Scouting leaders—particularly as they use the purposes of the Aaronic Priesthood and the aims of Scouting to strengthen the Davids, the Johns, and the Tommys they serve. It is clear in the life of President Monson that he learned the lesson from this visionary adviser—and continues to touch lives one by one. As we go about learning our duties and working with the young men, may we, too, follow the example of President Monson’s adviser and friend and do all we can to reach and retain the young men of the Aaronic Priesthood and help prepare them for the temple, for full time missions, and for lives of service to God, Country and Family.

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Message from Primary General Presidency

Sister Margaret Lifferth, First Counselor Primary General Presidency
Silver Beaver Recipient, March 2008

I recently visited with a family of three young boys. The youngest boy is about to turn eight years old and was brimming with excitement about being a Cub Scout. The next brother was nine and working on his Bear requirements. The oldest brother was 11 and enjoying his first year as a Boy Scout, in fact, he had just been asked to be patrol leader. The mother was a den leader and the dad had previously volunteered in Cub Scouting.

I sat in their living room and visited for about 30 minutes. It was the first time I had met this family, and yet it didn’t take long to realize the strength that had come to their family because they were working together in such a good cause. They spent time together, were aware of each others goals and opportunities, and took the time and interest to help each other along the Scouting path.

We visited about what was happening in Scouting for each of them. There were challenges, excitement, and plans for new achievements. Their family was an example to me of how Scouting can not only strengthen the boy, but can strengthen the whole family.

The purpose of Scouting in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints emphasizes that “Scouting can help boys and young men enhance close relationships with their families and the Church while developing strong and desirable traits of character, citizenship, and physical and mental fitness, all based upon a firm belief in God.”

I could see the fulfillment of this purpose in the Taylor family. At the completion of our visit, I left with them a small bolo tie . . . a gift that could be worn to their Scouting events. They gave me something much better . . . another example of the blessings of Scouting to the whole family.

Second Counselor in Young Men General Presidency is recognized with the Silver Antelope Award

Michael A. Neider will be presented the Silver Antelope Award by the Western Region at a National Court of Honor at the upcoming BSA Annual Meeting in San Diego, California. President Neider currently serves as Second Counselor to Young Men General President Charles W. Dahlquist, II. Mike has expressed his gratitude for the sacred opportunity and great privilege it is to give service to the Church and Scouting.

President Neider has had varied experiences that have added to his growth. He is an attorney and the founder and former President and CEO of Miro Industries. He has contributed to his community beyond the Church and Scouting. He has served on the Governor’s Commission for Women and Families including a term as chairman. He has been a fundraiser for hospital and school district foundations. Additionally, President Neider has served in numerous church callings such bishop, stake president, nursery leader, and as a counselor in a full-time mission presidency. His Scouting service ranges from Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, and District Chairman to the BSA National Advisory Council, Boy Scout Committee, and Relationships Committee. At the 2007 World Scout Jamboree held in Chelmsford, England, he served on the Joint Delivery Team for the Faith and Beliefs Zone and was The BSA LDS headquarters staff Chaplain. These highlights are only a brief glimpse into the types of service that he has performed which constitute a portion of the basis for this the award.

In the years that I have known President Neider, he has never shared with me his credentials for which he receives this recognition. I have discovered his unselfish service through discussions with others. I have a very deep respect for his dedication and for the person of Mike Neider. I have seen his love for his wife, eight children, and twelve grandchildren. I have observed his dedication to the Savior. I have seen his devotion to the youth. I have witnessed his ability to help others understand why the Church is devoted to character building.

The true “Mike Neider” tries to build others and spread good cheer: When he checks out with the grocery clerk at the store he will say, “They should double your wages. Where is the manager? I should tell him.” For Father’s Day, he does not want a traditional gift. He invites everyone to memorize something uplifting or inspiring. He wants his family to use their minds and talents. As an example, some have memorized all of the verses of “The Star Spangled Banner,” others can quote “The Family: A Proclamation to the World,” and still others have recited poetry or performed musical pieces. At the World Scout Jamboree, he spent one night watching the sleeping bags and tents so they were secure for newly arriving scouts; then as daylight approached he took his shift as a BSA Chaplain without complaining that he had not been to bed, and visited and cared for a sick member of another faith.

Mike is known for his honest request, “How can I help you?” He loves people.

Article submitted by Donald E. Ellison, 2005 Silver Beaver Recipient and member of Northeast Religious Relationships Committee
For many young men, the term "Duty to God" has become part of everyday "LDSspeak" — a familiar Church idiom referring to the Aaronic Priesthood program that includes speaking in sacrament meeting, reading scriptures, being a good citizen, serving others and perhaps running a few miles to get in shape.

But the challenge of an ancient American prophet adds another level of sanctity to those three simple words: "I have said these things unto you that I might awaken you to a sense of your duty to God, that ye may walk blameless before him, that ye may walk after the holy order of God" (Alma 7:22).

Church leaders emphasize that Scouting and the Duty to God program should complement and enhance each other. In many cases, Scouting Priesthood leaders say the Duty to God program is helping young men across the globe to be better. By fulfilling spiritual, physical, educational and social development requirements, they're becoming better deacons, teachers and priests. Better sons, brothers and friends. Better future missionaries. Better future husbands and fathers.

But the Duty to God program, they add, is even more. It's a day-to-day guidebook helping Aaronic Priesthood holders trek that sacred walk.

Learning such a duty is not merely a responsibility — it's a privilege, said President Thomas S. Monson.

"I love the motto: 'Do (your) duty; that is best; Leave unto (the) Lord the rest,"' the Church leader said in the October 2005 general conference.

So how can youth leaders, parents and, yes, the young men, best utilize the Duty to God program?

Start first by making the Duty to God program a family affair. Moms and dads can take ownership of their sons' progress by becoming familiar with the requirements and offering steady encouragement.

"The program is intended to be individual, quorum and family oriented," wrote Young Men General President Charles Dahlquist II in a September 2006 Ensign article. "This means that many of the requirements for each of the deacon, teacher and priest awards may be accomplished at home — and signed off by a young man's parents.

"Thus, the first place a young man and his parents should become acquainted with the program and the guidebook is in the home." It's recommended that local quorum and priesthood leaders make a home visit to 11-year-old boys who will soon be ordained as deacons. There, priesthood leaders can explain the Duty to God program to the boy and his parents.

Las Vegas Nevada Highland Hills Stake President Todd Moody said the family of each young man in his stake receives a binder that incorporates the Duty to God and Scouting program. Included are pages that allow the young man and his family to track his progress leading to the Eagle Scout and Duty to God awards.

The binder is then reviewed with the young man each year during his annual bishop's interview.

While parents should play the pivotal role in a young man's Duty to God progress, the ward or branch can do much to assist. Many of the program's requirements are quorum-based, so bishops and other quorum leaders can plan Sunday and weekday Mutual activities that support the program and satisfy requirements. Many wards use the local Young Men secretary or a Scouting/Duty to God advancement specialist to maintain a master advancement report.

Meanwhile, President Moody uses the stake Scout courts of honor to recognize Aaronic Priesthood holders who have earned Duty to God certificates and awards. "It's amazing to see how well (the Scouting and Duty to God) programs are integrated," he said.

Keeping the young men — especially those schedule-stretched, high school-aged priests — enthused about the Duty to God program is also essential, said Bishop Roger Wilson of the Provo Edgemont 10th Ward, Provo Utah Edgemont North Ward.

On April 16, Bishop Wilson and other ward youth leaders hosted a Duty to God activity. The young men in the ward participated in a variety of Duty to God-themed events ranging from classes taught by the full-time missionaries, to instructional workshops on ironing shirts, family history and choosing careers.

Meanwhile, the parents of the young men attended their own event designed to help them help their sons.

"It was a lot of fun — a great learning experience," said Bishop Wilson. "Our challenge is to keep people focused on the program."

Brad Cornilles, a member of the ward Young Men presidency, helped organize the event "to educate and motivate the boys and their parents to what Duty to God really is."

Blessings can be had when young men and the people who care about them embrace the program.

"The Duty to God Award will assist young men to meet the future challenges of life and to achieve the purposes of the Aaronic Priesthood," said Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve during the 2001 October general conference.

Then, Elder Hales offered this pledge to the young men of the Church: "If you will fulfill the requirements for these priesthood duties and personal attributes, you will prepare yourselves for the Melchizedek Priesthood responsibilities and future challenges in your life.

"I promise you that your achievement of the Duty to God Award will provide you with a living testimony that will sustain you throughout your life."

Additional Duty to God resources and ideas can be found in the Aaronic Priesthood section at lds.org.

Article by Jason Swensen, Church News staff writer
Church News, week ending May 3, 2008
Ranch.

excitement build as we worked and prepared for our trip to the Philmont Scout and children who were still at home to participate with us. You could feel the Priesthood programs and how they work together. We also included our wives we would all gain a better understanding of the Scouting and Aaronic

We felt that if we all participated in the training as an entire stake presidency, need for each member of our stake presidency to go and be trained together. We discussed the need for each member of our stake presidency to go and be trained together.

We had received a letter from the First Presidency inviting us to participate in the Philmont Leadership Conference and after careful consideration we planned and committed to attend the first week of training in 2007. We discussed the need for each member of our stake presidency to go and be trained together.

We felt that if we all participated in the training as an entire stake presidency, we would all gain a better understanding of the Scouting and Aaronic Priesthood programs and how they work together. We also included our wives and children who were still at home to participate with us. You could feel the excitement build as we worked and prepared for our trip to the Philmont Scout Ranch.

Upon our arrival at the training center, President Dahlquist and Sister Lant greeted us. We located our “resort tent city”, unpacked, hung our family banner, and looked forward with anticipation of great things to come. The youth quickly gathered and started their journey on the Mountain Man trek in the backcountry.

The rest of us gathered that evening to kick off the conference. We quickly realized the great strength, knowledge, and wisdom that was present at Philmont. We joined with other stake leaders and their families who had joined with us in a common goal. Assignments were given for Sunday services and all participated cheerfully and willingly. It was like a “slice of heaven.” Many commented that it was good example of a “Zion community.”

During our week in Philmont, as families and as individuals, we gained from many memorable and unifying experiences. While we, as a stake presidency, attended classroom training, our wives were able to rub shoulders with other stake presidency wives and Young Women and Primary General Board members. Our children were kept busy with many activities as well. Our youth who participated in the Mountain Man trek even had life-changing experiences. Todd Love said, “It was a hard, but awesome experience. It was a place to be with young men you don’t know, but all have the same values and goals. You are all unified in the Gospel.”

That unity was felt by all of us during the week at Philmont. As a stake presidency we attended valuable classes and received guidance and instruction on how to integrate the Scouting and Aaronic Priesthood programs. Furthermore, we were taught the importance of the need to “seek out the one.” We counseled together and received insight from stake leaders from across the United States and the world. It was great to know that we all have a common desire to lift and bless the young men of this great Church.

During our week together we were able to sit together as a stake presidency in all of the training, which gave us an opportunity to ask each other questions about our programs, have insightful discussions, and plan for the future. It was a very unifying experience for our presidency. We were counseled often to become fully trained, including Wood Badge, and to impart what we had learned to those we have stewardship over. We listened to our leaders and returned home from a very uplifting week with great Saints and leaders with a plan of action.

Immediately upon return we started working on a “Little Philmont” and invited four other adjoining stakes to participate with us. We spent much of the next six months planning and implementing our goal of training the leaders in Southern California. We invited all the Aaronic Priesthood and Scouting leaders, including Primary leaders, to participate. We completed this training in March of this year with great success by having better trained leaders.

We challenged all of the leaders to become fully trained and are implementing a plan to make sure all Aaronic Priesthood and Scouting leaders are fully trained as well.

Our Orange County Council of BSA had their first ever “No-Sunday” Wood Badge course in April, and we committed as a stake presidency to complete this training. We joined many other LDS leaders in completing the Wood Badge course, which was led by the first LDS course director in our council. All three of us in our stake presidency are currently “working our ticket” and have received valuable training to assist our young men.

Perhaps the greatest blessing from our training at Philmont has been the unity we have felt as a stake presidency. By spending the week together we feel we are now more unified in our vision and focus. Understandably, with schedules and details, it is not always possible to send an entire stake presidency to Philmont, but it is well worth it. The Philmont training has given all three of us the resolve and enthusiasm to implement the things we have learned.

The impact of Philmont continues as we reach out together to the leaders in our stake with programs such as Little Philmont, Wood Badge, and other valuable training. Our invitation and challenge to all of those who have not yet participated in the Philmont training is to follow the counsel we have been given to learn our duty and lead as we have been called to do.

Article submitted by William T. Love, second counselor, Placentia, CA Stake Presidency
From the Top Down

Orange County Council in Southern California held its second “No-Sunday” Wood Badge course in two years this past spring. The course was blessed to have an LDS course director this year that served to show by example what can be accomplished when we are dedicated to being trained and involved as adult leaders. Most exciting of all was the fact that there were three stake presidents in attendance along with several stake presidency counselors, Young Men stake leaders, bishops, bishopric members, and stake primary leaders as well.

The course director of this training, Scott Catherall said, “With 16 stakes in our council, we still have a long way to go in training our adult leaders, but this was a great start. We now have several qualified LDS Wood Badge staff members and the council is starting to take notice of the success we are achieving by getting our leaders trained.”

Far too often we hear from those who attend Scout leader training and Wood Badge that they wish they had done it sooner. They would have saved so much time and effort by first learning and understanding the entire program and then using that knowledge and the resources available to help our youth succeed.

A two-weekend Wood Badge format, not running over a Sunday, can mean a tremendous amount of sacrifice for the staff and participants. This double-edge sword means two more days to take off work and be away from home on a weekday. But as we know, “Sacrifice brings forth the blessings of heaven,” and Wood Badge is no exception.

“We welcome the diversity of having all religions and people to associate with at Wood Badge. Diversity makes us stronger, gives us a fresh perspective and allows us to do some missionary work among these great volunteers.” says David Price, First Counselor in the Garden Grove California Stake Presidency.

There has been a tremendous amount of positive change happening here in the Orange County Council when it comes to the Church and Scouting. More and more members of the Church are becoming involved with their districts and council committees. We know that by becoming trained, more involved and better organized, we can create a better young men’s program for our youth in our wards, stakes and council. Volunteering to be part of our districts and councils also means following the Prophet by being more involved in our communities and letting our light so shine.

We have an LDS Relations Committee that meets every other month to coordinate and plan with the council the many activities that can benefit our adults and youth in Scouting. A member of each stake presidency and stake Young Men presidency attends this meeting to help assure the water gets to the end of the row. We are in the midst of planning a multi-stake LDS encampment at our council BSA camp for the summer of 2009.

The Wood Badge tradition exists to help us become better leaders, not only in Scouting but also in our Church callings, at work, and in the home. This important training teaches concepts and principles that help us to become better at what we do in all aspects of life. Be the example in your ward, stake and council and attend Wood Badge.

Don’t wait for a good time to go to Wood Badge. The best time to attend is NOW!

“Wood Badge is all about leadership and helping young men succeed. I would highly recommend all Young Men/Priesthood & Scouting leaders in your ward and stake attend this training. And it was fun!”
--Randy Burnett, Stake President Placentia California Stake

“I will always remember my experience at the Wood Badge course WE 4-39-1-08. I am better prepared to help make a difference in our stake in the near future as I serve with the leaders of the different age groups of Scouting.”
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“I had a tremendous learning experience at the Wood Badge BSA training. It was unique in blending hands-on, simulated troop/patrol scouting leadership experiences together with a number of excellent didactic and motivational sessions.”
--Matt Goodman, Stake President, Orange California Stake
Dear David:

April 28, 2008

As a follow up to the Denver Area Council’s recent participation in the General Conference, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for the work that you and your staff did in coordinating our visit and express special thanks to the Young Men Presidency of the Church for allowing us to participate.

As you know, our staff has been participating in the spring General Conference for about seven years. Each year I use this event (as my predecessor did) to give District Executives and other professional team members, who are not members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, an opportunity to understand the history of the Church, understand the role that Scouting plays in the Church, and to form a clearer picture of how we (as a Council) can do a better job of meeting the Church’s needs in delivering the Scouting program.

Participation in the Thursday session on “New Leader Training” for Stake Presidencies presented by the Young Men General Presidency is always very beneficial to us in our council as it gives us a clear picture of the priorities the Young Men Presidency has for Scouting in the coming year. Observing the Scouting-related questions raised by local church leaders during this session also is helpful to us in determining where the gaps are in our service.

The other visits we make during “General Conference” to the Missionary Training Center, the Humanitarian Center, Temple Square, BYU and Welfare Square as well as sitting in on session in the Conference Center help those of us who are not Latter-Day Saints to better understand how the church views its role in the world.

Since our contingent to the General Conference always drives to Salt Lake City from Denver and back, the “road trip” (as my staff refers to it) gives us a great opportunity as a group to reflect on what we have learned and set some measurable goals for improving our service to LDS units.

Participation in the General Conference, over the years, by our professional staff has done wonders to enhance our relationship with, and improve our service to, units chartered to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

I have enclosed a copy of the slide show of the highlights of this year’s trip which we plan to share with our Stake Presidents and at our next LDS Relationships Committee meeting. Thanks again for allowing us to participate.

Sincerely,

Jeffrie A. Herrmann
Scout Executive
Denver Area Council

Please contact David Pack, director of LDS Relationships for the Boy Scouts of America, at dapack@netbsa.org, if your council is interested in participating in the fall or spring LDS General Conference.
Scout receives William T. Hornaday Award

Warren Chatwin from the Indian Nations Council in Tulsa, Oklahoma is the recent recipient of the William T. Hornaday Award, Silver Medal. Here he has documented his experience and projects in working towards this award.

On the Boy Scouts of America website, the William T. Hornaday Award for Distinguished Service to Natural Resource Conservation is described as “an Olympic medal bestowed by the earth.” This is very true, both in rarity, and in difficulty. The level I earned is the Silver Medal, which is the highest a Boy Scout can earn. This requires four Eagle Scout-quality projects in four different areas of conservation. My four projects were in the areas of “Hazardous Material Disposal and Management,” “Invasive Species Control,” “Resource Recovery,” and a dual category project in the areas of “Forestry and Range Management” and “Soil and Water Conservation.”

My first Hornaday project, entitled “Household Pollutants Day,” benefited the city of Owasso, Oklahoma. I called the Metropolitan Environmental Trust (MET), which covers the Greater Tulsa Area, and asked if there was a hazardous waste disposal program for the city of Owasso. I was told there was one called Household Pollutants Day that covered all of Tulsa and its suburbs, but that attendance had been very low for our area. I asked if I could put on an event for just Owasso, and she replied that it would be too expensive, require too many people, and that it wouldn’t be safe for me to collect items myself. Instead, it was decided that I should be in charge of all the public awareness for the City of Owasso.

With the MET, we decided that I should start with the elementary school kids, thus reaching a large part of Owasso, as well as create posters to go up around town. I decided to ask the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) chapter of the Owasso Eighth Grade Center (of which I was a member), if they could assist. I had 30 people volunteer, and from there I arranged meetings where we drew posters, wrote skits, and compiled costumes. Once this was completed, about 15 of the members were in charge of creating and putting the posters up in local businesses that advertised the event. Every child that was present in the schools where we performed our skits was sent home with flyers about Household Pollutants Day for their parents. There was also an article put in the local newspaper, The Owasso Reporter, about the event. Together these efforts resulted in at least a 22% increase in attendance for the Owasso area.

My second project, entitled “A Removal of Invasive Chinese Wisteria,” benefited the city of Tulsa at Oxley Nature Center. After meeting with Eddie Reese (the director of Oxley) about possible Hornaday projects, we decided that there was an area off of Whitetail Trail that is infested with Chinese wisteria (Wisteria sinensis) that has been treated but keeps returning. After some research on wisteria and talking with some different chemical companies, we decided that the reason the plant was so malignantly successful, and the reason it kept returning, was that it can sprout off of its root, so if you don’t kill the root, the plant has a high chance of regrowth. So we cut the plant as close to the root collar as possible, and then sprayed the stump with Tordon (an herbicide) to kill the roots. We had various dates where we went out and cut the wisteria with my Scout troop, and from the start, the wisteria was so thick you had to crawl to reach any stems to cut. It was extremely dense and you couldn’t move without touching a wisteria plant. We found the best method was to crawl in with some loppers to a spot, and then cut your way out. After we had cut an area, we sprayed the root collars with Tordon.

Over the space of ten months we eradicated the area of the forest that was the thickest and most dangerous, but because of the extensiveness of the infestation, we unfortunately could not perform a complete eradication (leaving this to the seasonal staff at the nature center). However, the area that was cleared is still clear after more than three years, and is beautifully filled with native plants once more. I also created a brochure titled, “Are there Aliens in Your Backyard?” which details some of the invasive species in our area and the dangers that they hold.

My third project, entitled “Vermicomposting at the Owasso Eighth Grade Center,” benefited the Owasso Public School system. My eighth grade science teacher told me about a local teacher who had recently received a $400 grant for creation of a vermicomposting unit for use in the classroom. I contacted her, and found that she was looking for someone to carry out the grant, and that she would like an outdoor bin, as well.

I did some research on what kind of worms to buy and decided on “red wigglers” (Eisenia fetida), and also got some pre-used outdoor worm bins donated. After buying a chain-link dog kennel to keep the worm bins in, I contacted my NJHS chapter and we made repairs to the worm bins, as well as prepped them to be ready when the worms arrived. I also utilized local grocery stores to donate their produce that was too old for sale to the school for use in the worm bins. When the worms arrived we added them as well as insulated the bins so the worms would be able to survive through the winter.

Next I purchased some tubs to use for indoor worm bins. I also purchased educational materials to accompany what would become some traveling worm bins that were for the whole school district. We also assisted a community member in starting her own worm bin.

My fourth and final project, entitled “The Ichabod Crane Trail at Lake Bixhoma,” benefited the city of Bixby through the creation of a trail to exhibit ancient post oak trees (Quercus stellata) that are often 300 to 400 years old. I obtained an interest in the Ancient Cross Timbers Forest in Oklahoma when I saw an article about these ancient forests in Oklahoma Living, which announced the opening of a preserve in nearby Sand Springs. At the bottom of the article was the contact information for Dr. David Stahle at the University of Arkansas Tree Ring Lab. I contacted him, and he invited me to the inaugural meeting of the Ancient Cross Timbers Consortium, where I got to meet with him and listen to some very interesting lectures on the Cross Timbers. Then after meeting with him a later date he gave me some satellite photos and topographical maps of Lake Bixhoma, a site where there was probably old growth forest. After travelling there and confirming that observation, I obtained permission from the Bixby City Council to create a trail. With the help of my Scout troop we built the Ichabod Crane Trail (which is a loop trail), as well as a trailhead and trail signs to show off these ancient trees. The trail was named after the main character in The Legend of Sleepy Hollow by Washington Irving, which was inspired by this type of forest. Irving gave this type of forest its nickname when he described it as a “cast-iron forest.” We also lined the trail with rocks to prevent erosion. This was completed and presented back to the City Council of Bixby; they were extremely pleased with the results.

Each of these projects benefited the environment and their respective communities, for a total of over 1000 hours of conservation work. In the last five years, I am approximately the twelfth person nationwide to get the William T. Hornaday Award Silver Medal. As great as the award is, it is the journey over the last five years to get the William T. Hornaday Award Silver Medal. As great as the award is, it is the journey over the last five years to get the award that was the best. I loved making new friends, helping and educating people, and watching others help me achieve my dreams. With this award completed, I am now focusing on the awards in Venturing, as well as educating myself towards my future profession. I have been accepted to Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, where I will major in wildlife and wildlands conservation, preparing myself to become a wildlife biologist. It is a long road, but if there’s anything I learned from the Hornaday Award, it’s that with enough work and dedication, anything is possible.
Local Scouts Attend Freedoms Foundation Conference at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania

A group of eleven Eagle Scouts and four leaders recently attended “The Price of Freedom Conference” hosted by Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge is a not-for-profit organization that promotes patriotism, leadership, and an understanding of the ideals and sacrifices exhibited by the Founding Fathers of our nation.

Scouts and leaders from the Draper and Kaysville (Utah) areas were able to participate in this conference with approximately ninety Boy Scouts from all areas of the country. The agenda included a leadership training class, a “skit night,” presentations by professional actors playing the part of George Washington and other Founding Fathers, and—as demanded by most Scouts—tremendous meals!

This group also participated in a mock congress as they debated and then voted on bills pertaining to the Patriot Act now being debated by our federal government. This was an insightful experience as the youth began to understand the difficulty of maintaining security while protecting individual rights. This debate was led by two history professors from the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania area.

Scouts were also able to participate in committees of their choice. These committees provided leadership at many of the events of this four-day conference. In addition to a full agenda of planned activities, the Scouts also had scheduled free time. During this free time, they were able to walk through the 52-acre Medal of Honor Grove, tour historic buildings on the campus of Freedoms Foundation, or spend time in the game room in the administration building. The conference concluded with a tour of the Valley Forge and Philadelphia areas, which included the National Boy Scout Museum, Revolutionary War sites, Independence Hall, and Congress Hall.

Aaron Cragun, a young man from Draper, called this experience “exciting and (character) building.” Trevor Taylor, a Scout from Kaysville, is thankful for the opportunity he had to attend this conference. He said that he “understands more about the early leaders of our country” and that this conference helped him to become a better leader.

This event is hosted each year by Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. Partial sponsorship was provided by a grant from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Scouts interested in attending future conferences can contact Jason Raia of Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge at 610-933-8825 ext. 233 for further information.

Article submitted by Jeffory Taylor, Kaysville, Utah

A different way to view the BSA...

We still deliver the character traits found in the Scout Oath and Law.

With those values in mind, today we are very much a part of workforce development! Employers tell me that they always need kids with a good education. But, what they would really like is people who come to work on time, don’t lie, and don’t steal from the company and who will give a full day’s work for a full day’s pay. Those are character issues, not educational issues.

People are seldom fired over reading, writing, and arithmetic… educational issues. People get fired over character issues… trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

Your education is what gets you the interview. Your education is what is required to get the job you want. However, it is your character by which you keep that job.

Let’s get personal…

Families don’t break up over educational issues. Relationships break up over character issues… trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind,… etc.

So… is character important?

Tell me how football, baseball, and soccer will help a person keep his job. Tell me how sports reinforce traits that contribute to a successful marriage, business, or employment relationship.

Scouting reinforces traits that are fundamental to being a successful parent, employee, employer, citizen, or partner in any relationship.

Article submitted by John Thurston, retired Scout Executive from Corpus Christi, Texas
10 Suggestions for an Effective LDS Relationships Committee

According to the Scouting Handbook published by the Church, “leaders should do everything possible within Church policies to create goodwill, mutual understanding, and cooperation between the two partners.” To further that cause, the Relationships Committee “strengthens the working relationship between the Church and the Boy Scouts of America.”

Having served for more than five years as chairman of the LDS Relationships Committee in the Las Vegas Area Council, I have 10 recommendations for success:

1. **Start at the Top!**
   A relationship of trust between the Scout Executive and the stake president who chairs the Relationships Committee is critical to an effective committee. That relationship will trickle down to the committee. A good relationship at the top translates into a functioning and effective committee and will create a better program for boys.

2. **Get Involved!**
   Although every stake president is a de facto member of the council advisory board, the stake president who chairs the Relationships Committee should also serve on the council’s executive board. He should regularly attend board meetings, participate in district and council events, and volunteer his time to serve in a meaningful way. Encourage other stake and ward leaders to do the same. A notable example of service in Scouting is President Thomas S. Monson who has served on the National Executive Board since 1969.

3. **Wear the Uniform!**
   A bishop or stake president who will proudly wear the official BSA uniform will notice that other Scout leaders (and the Scouts) will follow. And as long as you are wearing the shirt, put on the pants, belt and socks! On more formal occasions, wear the dress uniform which, like the uniform worn by professional Scouters, is appropriate for all Scouting leaders on formal occasions. The dress uniform for men consists of a dark-blue blazer with the embroidered Boy Scout emblem worn on the pocket (available with a magnet back), gray slacks, a black leather belt, a Scout necktie, and black dress shoes.

4. **Get Trained!**
   One of the best things we can do to strengthen the relationship between the Church and the Boy Scouts of America is to get better trained. Start with Basic Training and then attend Wood Badge. We need to see more knots and beads on our leaders. Accept the invitation of the First Presidency and attend the Priesthood Leadership Conference on Scouting at Philmont Scout Ranch and invite other stake leaders to attend as well.

5. **Communicate!**
   The stake president who chairs the Relationships Committee in his council needs frequent contact with the Scout Executive. Sit down for lunch. Speak face-to-face regularly as well as by phone. Exchange e-mails. Good communication will keep your finger on the pulse of the council, and important issues will find their way to the Relationships Committee’s next agenda and then to the local units.

6. **Meet Regularly as a Relationships Committee!**
   Our Relationships Committee meets four times a year on every fifth Tuesday. We start promptly at 6:00 p.m. and do our best to keep the meeting to one hour by following an agenda. This meeting provides valuable time for interaction between the Church and Scouting. It also provides a forum to share information about rechartering, membership, quality units, training. Friends of Scouting, summer camps, etc.

7. **Say “Thank You!”**
   Our council holds an annual breakfast every December just for stake presidents. That meeting provides an opportunity for us to thank the stake presidents for all they do for Scouting. It also gives the Scout Executive and LDS Relationships Chairman a chance to share their respective visions for the coming year.

8. **Give Away a Patch!**
   Prior to my assignment as chairman of the LDS Relationships Committee, I had a small Tupperware container which held all the Scout memorabilia I’ve collected since my youth. I now have a trunk full of patches and other Scouting-related items. I love giving patches away to Scouts. Leaders love them too. I think it’s true that a leader will do almost anything for a patch.

9. **Testify!**
   The chairman of the Relationships Committee will have many opportunities to speak about Scouting to various audiences. Take advantage when those chances come. Take the time to bear testimony that Scouting is the activity arm of the Aaronic Priesthood and will assist in accomplishing the eternal purposes of the priesthood and families. Talk about the legacy of the partnership between the Church and Scouting. Help young men understand that Scouting is the activity arm of the Aaronic Priesthood and will assist in accomplishing the eternal purposes of the priesthood and families. Talk about the legacy of the partnership between the Church and Scouting. Help young men understand that Scouting is the activity arm of the Aaronic Priesthood and will assist in accomplishing the eternal purposes of the priesthood and families. Talk about the legacy of the partnership between the Church and Scouting. Help young men understand that Scouting is the activity arm of the Aaronic Priesthood and will assist in accomplishing the eternal purposes of the priesthood and families. Talk about the legacy of the partnership between the Church and Scouting. Help young men understand that Scouting is the activity arm of the Aaronic Priesthood and will assist in accomplishing the eternal purposes of the priesthood and families. Talk about the legacy of the partnership between the Church and Scouting. Help young men understand that Scouting is the activity arm of the Aaronic Priesthood and will assist in accomplishing the eternal purposes of the priesthood and families. Talk about the legacy of the partnership between the Church and Scouting. Help young men understand that Scouting is the activity arm of the Aaronic Priesthood and will assist in accomplishing the eternal purposes of the priesthood and families. Talk about the legacy of the partnership between the Church and Scouting. Help young men understand that Scouting is the activity arm of the Aaronic Priesthood and will assist in accomplishing the eternal purposes of the priesthood and families. Talk about the legacy of the partnership between the Church and Scouting. Help young men understand that Scouting is the activity arm of the Aaronic Priesthood and will assist in accomplishing the eternal purposes of the priesthood and families. Talk about the legacy of the partnership between the Church and Scouting. Help young men understand that Scouting is the activity arm of the Aaronic Priesthood and will assist in accomplishing the eternal purposes of the priesthood and families. Talk about the legacy of the partnership between the Church and Scouting. Help young men understand that Scouting is the activity arm of the Aaronic Priesthood and will assist in accomplishing the eternal purposes of the priesthood and families. Talk about the legacy of the partnership between the Church and Scouting. Help young men understand that Scouting is the activity arm of the Aaronic Priesthood and will assist in accomplishing the eternal purposes of the priesthood and families. Talk about the legacy of the partnership between the Church and Scouting. Help young men understand that Scouting is the activity arm of the Aaronic Priesthood and will assist in accomplishing the eternal purposes of the priesthood and families. Talk about the legacy of the partnership between the Church and Scouting. Help young men understand that Scouting is the activity arm of the Aaronic Priesthood and will assist in accomplishing the eternal purposes of the priesthood and families. Talk about the legacy of the partnership between the Church and Scouting. Help young men understand that Scouting is the activity arm of the Aaronic Priesthood and will assist in accomplishing the eternal purposes of the priesthood and families. Talk about

10. **Run the Program!**
    An effective Relationships Committee chairman will show by example how to run an effective Scouting program. The stake president who chairs the LDS Relationships Committee will speak with experience and authority as he presides over successful Scouting programs in his own stake.

    Five years from now we will celebrate the 100 year partnership between the BSA and the Church. Let’s prepare now to strengthen that relationship for the next 100 years.

Article submitted by President Todd L. Moody, Chairman of the LDS Relationships Committee, Las Vegas Area Council
Boys’ Life

One of the challenges we face with Scouting in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is our perceived lack of interest in Boys’ Life magazine. While it is true that subscriptions to this magazine are extremely low in the Church, the reality is that it has more to do with the fact that registration and subscriptions to Boys’ Life are traditionally done simultaneously (i.e., at the time of re-chartering). Because the fees for registration are paid by the Church and subscriptions to Boys’ Life are paid by the family of the Scout, very few LDS Scouts subscribe to the magazine.

Last year the Las Vegas Nevada Highland Hills Stake was challenged by the National Office of the Boy Scouts of America to increase its Boys’ Life subscriptions. Those responsible for re-chartering were asked to contact the family of every registered boy ages 8-18 and encourage them to subscribe to the magazine. There was an overwhelming response. Whereas only three units subscribed in 2006, boys in 21 units subscribed in 2007. The result was a 1,160% increase over the previous year.

Top Ten Things Leaders Can Do to Keep LDS Scout Units Safe!!

For those who enjoy watching David Letterman on late night television as he discloses his now-famous “top ten” lists . . . here are my Top Ten – best practice applications of existing Scout and Church-based programs. By following these ten tips, you can help keep young men and leaders safe during Scout-related activities. These ten tips are based on over thirty-years of participation in Scouting as an adult leader and over twenty-years in the safety and health profession.

All too frequently, a scout participating in a unit sponsored by a ward or branch from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is injured. However, to bring this statement into perspective the Church registers several hundred thousand young men and adult leaders in the United States. The observations and recommendations highlighted below are not meant to alarm or to stifle the activity of scouts, but to highlight the balance needed between providing exciting adventures and bringing your scouts home safely at the end of the day.

In true Letterman style, I have listed these Top Ten tips in reverse order:

#10 – Utilize National BSA’s “Risk Zone” programs to focus attention on high hazard activities, as they apply to your activities scheduled throughout the year. Topics include: • Swimming and Boating • Hiking and Climbing • Health of Participants • Falling Objects • Transportation To and From

#9 – Help your unit apply for and receive the “Be Ready and Prepared” award from National BSA. The program objectives of this award are to: • Encourage and reward BSA units that incorporate safe practices while enjoying activities. • Help units focus on areas which will emphasize sound risk management principles to reduce fatalities and serious injuries. This is an excellent program that can help units significantly increase their safety record and can be a great tool for recruitment as well. Parents will be grateful that your unit is actively seeking

Boys’ Life magazine is the official publication of the Boy Scouts of America. Last year, Boys’ Life was recognized by the Association of Educational Publishers for its educational excellence and received four Distinguished Achievement Awards, including the coveted Periodical of the Year award for Grades 6 through 8 for illustration, article, and fiction. Created in 1911, Boys’ Life is a monthly magazine that reaches an audience of 1.3 million subscribers, including 200,000 which are not Boy Scouts.

As members of the Church, we are encouraged to seek diligently and teach wisdom “out of the best books” (D&C 88:118 and 109:7, 14.) Personally, I am thrilled to have a magazine in my home that I consider wholesome reading for my children. My 11-year-old son particularly enjoys “Scouts in Action” – lifesaving and meritorious action awards, and “Think & Grin” for its good, clean humor. The $12.00 annual subscription has been well worth it for my family.

Article submitted by President Todd L. Moody, Las Vegas Nevada Highland Hills Stake

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Top Ten. . . . Continued

Scouts of America that will help keep boys and leaders safe. This resource is available at the Scout Shop or online through a link on the National BSA website at http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx. It is also available through a link on the Aaronic Priesthood/Young Men’s section on the Church’s website at http://www.lds.org/pa/display/0,17884,4693-1,00.html.

#4 – Effectively use Scouting as the activity arm of the Aaronic Priesthood. President Thomas S. Monson stated in his May 2007 Aaronic Priesthood—Scouting satellite broadcast talk: “To help us in our endeavors to build and strengthen our young men who hold the Aaronic Priesthood, we have the Scouting program, which is the activity arm of the Aaronic Priesthood.” President Charles W. Dahlquist also made the following statement in his Spring 2005 President’s General Message: “In the United States and Canada, as you evaluate your Young Men activity program, be certain that you implement the Scouting program, including Varsity and Venturing. Scouting is the activity arm of the priesthood in these countries. It is very evident that in those stakes and wards where Scouting is used to strengthen the priesthood, the young men of the Aaronic Priesthood are much stronger and better prepared than they would otherwise have been.”

Occasionally, I hear of units that work very hard to get around the principles found in the Guide to Safe Scouting instead of working within these potentially life-saving guidelines. I always ask myself the same question; “Why would a responsible Aaronic Priesthood Advisor/Scout leader gather together a group of young men and intentionally designate an activity as a “quorum activity?” Usually, this is done to engage in an activity that is unauthorized or restricted by the Guide to Safe Scouting. Once a leader takes these steps, the leader places the liability for the activity squarely on his shoulders. The leader’s homeowner policy now becomes the first line of defense in case of a liability claim, because the protections of BSA registration are called into question.

#3 – File a local or national tour permit, whenever required by your council, by your bishop, stake president, or whenever specified by the Guide to Safe Scouting. This simple act solidifies all of the protection that the National Boy Scouts of America organization has to offer. Why? Because is acts as a check and balance to ensure that larger-scale activities are planned in advance, standards are reviewed, itineraries are disclosed, two-deep leadership is present, and permission from parents or guardians is secured. This permit helps to ensure that you are doing everything necessary to carry out a top notch program.

#2 – Properly register each of your young men and adults involved in Scouting. Registration provides youth and adult leaders with an opportunity to see that everyone has a chance to participate in this life-improving program. It provides significant protection to both Scouts and Scout Leaders. The Church Handbook of Instructions provides guidance for registration of our young men of the Aaronic Priesthood. It states: “Where Scouting is authorized, young men ages 12 through 15 should be registered. Young men ages 16 and 17 should be registered when they are pursuing rank advancements or when stake presidents and bishops choose to sponsor Venturing Crews . . . for young men of this age. Scout leaders should also be registered.” It continues “If wards choose not to participate in Scouting for priest-age young men, bishops and stake presidents make sure the programs for these young men are well planned, meet spiritual and social needs, and are consistent with the purposes of the Aaronic Priesthood.” President Monson recently reaffirmed that “It is the policy of the Church to register our young men with either the Boys Scouts of America or Scouts Canada. But it is the charge of the local leaders to claim the blessings of registration by going out and reactivating the less active— and building a program that will attract them.”

#1 – The number one thing you can do to ensure safety, has two parts. The first part consists of asking about and obtaining the appropriate training for your calling as a Scout Leader. Start with available online Fast Start training, but then follow up with basic training and Woodbadge. The scriptures tell us in Doctrine and Covenants, Section 107: 99 “Wherefore, now let every man learn his duty, and to act in the office in which he is appointed, in all diligence.” Seek help and support from your ward bishopric and stake leaders. It will be difficult to serve effectively in your calling without the appropriate training. President Dahlquist is continually stressing the “Four T’s of Testimony, Training, Tenure, and Time” as being the key to effectively serving as an Aaronic Priesthood Advisor and Scout Leader. In the May 2007 Aaronic Priesthood–Scouting satellite broadcast, President Dahlquist said: “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 become trained. This is one of the finest benefits we receive from our partnership with Scouting.”

Part two directly involves the Scouts. As leaders, we have a responsibility to teach and train the scouts regarding the safety requirements of a proposed activity. The time and effort spent training will depend on the type of activity. For some of the higher risk activities, we need to spend as much time and effort with the principles of safety as we do teaching about the “fun” side of the activity. Remember . . . the only good activity is a safe activity. We want these times to be memorable for the right reason and not because of an incident or injury.

To summarize, here is the “Top Ten” list in abbreviated format.
10. Learn and use “Risk Zone” principles during activities
9. Earn the “Ready and Prepared” award
8. Use the Church’s Activity Plan
7. Plan activities with a corresponding Priesthood Purpose
6. Allow leaders to stay in their callings long enough to be effective
5. Read, know, and use the Guide to Safe Scouting
4. Use Scouting effectively as the activity arm of the Aaronic Priesthood
3. Use and file tour permits as required
2. Register all young men and adults involved in Scouting
1. Obtain proper training for all aspects of your calling

Hopefully, these tips will help your unit have a safe (and exciting!) summer as you experience the beauties of nature, for it is within these environments that Lord Robert Baden Powell was convinced that Scouts learned to understand their God and Creator. In an excerpt of a good-bye note to Boy Scouts, Baden-Powell wrote the following, which was found among his personal papers after his death: “Nature study will show you how full of beautiful and wonderful things God has made the world for you to enjoy.”

Have a great summer!!

Article by Alan A. Rogers,
Great Salt Lake Council Risk Management Committee Member
Oklahoma LDS Centennial Aaronic Priesthood Encampment

In October 1997 as part of the Church-wide sesquicentennial celebration of the arrival of the Saints in the Salt Lake Valley, the Aaronic Priesthood and Scouts from Oklahoma gathered to commemorate the sacrifices of the early pioneers and assure that the legacy of faith received from them would never be lost. (See Church News October 25, 1997.) It was a monumental event attended by over six hundred LDS scouts and leaders that impacted a generation of young men who have now served missions, married in the temple, and continue to serve faithfully in the gospel. In October 2007, Aaronic Priesthood and Scouts from across Oklahoma returned to the same encampment site in Osage County to celebrate Oklahoma’s Centennial year and challenge the current generation to carry the legacy forward.

Approximately seven hundred Aaronic Priesthood Scouts and leaders from eleven different stakes attended the 2007 “Greater Faith in the Heartland” Oklahoma LDS Encampment on October 18 – 20 hosted by the Stillwater Oklahoma Stake. Also participating were the Lawton Oklahoma Stake, Norman Oklahoma Stake, Oklahoma City Oklahoma Stake, Oklahoma City South Stake, Tulsa Oklahoma Stake, Tulsa, Oklahoma East Stake, Fort Smith Arkansas Stake, Springdale Arkansas Stake, Derby Kansas Stake, and Joplin Missouri Stake.

The encampment theme of “Be There” was taken from Elder Robert D. Hales’ message delivered in the April 2007 General Conference Priesthood Session where he exhorted all Aaronic Priesthood holders to “Be There” for the Lord and for themselves at critical and defining moments of their lives. As a reminder of this challenge, “Be There” was prominently displayed on the back of T-shirts received by encampment participants.

President Dean R. Burgess, first counselor in the Young Men general presidency, addressed the Scouts at the Friday night campfire, challenging all in attendance not to just “Be There” but to “Be There Now” for the Lord. President Burgess also presented training to the Young Men leaders in attendance and attempted to meet each young man at the encampment. At the same campfire, the returned missionaries present gave a memorable rendition of “I Am a Child of God” in French, Spanish, Portuguese, Mayan, German, Japanese, and a language from Indonesia followed by the entire camp singing the first verse in English.

One of the main objectives of this encampment was to strengthen the Aaronic Priesthood holders who often find themselves either the only member of the Church in their school or one of very few. Associating with a large number of LDS Scouts and Scouters at the encampment instilled a sense of camaraderie with their fellow priesthood brethren and increased the confidence and knowledge that they are not really alone in their struggles and challenges in a world that does not embrace the values contained in For the Strength of Youth.

In addition to a spiritual feast, Scouts at the encampment participated in a variety of events to increase their Scouting skills and have fun. Some of these activities included handcart races, blow darts, sling shot, tug of war, remote wood sawing, hillbilly sports, hatchet throw, knife throw, fire building, and lashing. Boys had the opportunity to examine a medical evacuation helicopter up close and review educational displays on Boys’ Life magazine, the US Mint, the Church Educational System, Duty to God / Eagle Scout correlation, and others.

The Tulsa Oklahoma Stake won the Outstanding Stake Award for their preparation and participation in the encampment. The Stillwater Oklahoma Stake won the Outstanding Gateway Award and the Outstanding Original Song Award with “We Will Be Mormon Missionaries” sung to the tune of “Yellow Submarine.”

The encampment was planned and conducted by James V. Murray, encampment director, from the Stillwater Oklahoma Stake and Jeff Sutton, co-director from the Indianapolis Indiana North Stake. Other committee leaders were: Bryant Hardy, Program; Hans Hurst and David Cragun, Physical Facilities; Melanie Bayles, Registration; Mic Forquer, Food; Randy Murray, Security; and Randy Clark, Trading Post. They were supported by committed staff members from throughout Oklahoma and surrounding states.

All involved are looking forward to 2013 for the next Oklahoma LDS Encampment celebrating one hundred years of Scouting as the activity arm of the Aaronic Priesthood.

Philmont 2008 LDS Leadership Conference

We are excited to announce that the 2008 LDS Scouting Leadership Conference at Philmont is full again for another year. The attendance as of April 29, 2008 is as follows:

**Session 1 (June 28 - July 4): 579 Total**
- 168 Participants
- 512 Family members staying at the Training Center
- 67 Mountain Trek youth – ages 14 – 20

**Session 2 (July 5 – 11): 579 Total**
- 152 Participants
- 500 Family members staying at the Training Center
- 79 Mountain Trek youth – ages 14 – 20

The Young Men and Primary general presidencies as well as additional faculty members are enthusiastically preparing to make this year a year to remember for all of those who participate. If you were unable to make it to this year’s conference, make plans to sign up early next year, as spaces fill up quickly!