Message from the Young Men General Presidency

With the announcement of the forthcoming resource titled, *Fulfilling My Duty to God*, there have been many questions such as:

- “Does it support Scouting?”
- “Will Scouting continue as the weekday activity program of the Aaronic Priesthood in the United States and Canada?”
- “Does it replace Scouting?”

The duty of all Aaronic Priesthood holders is to “invite all to come unto Christ.” The objective of Scouting as given by Lord Baden Powell is to “…bring about God’s Kingdom on earth.”

Duty to God focuses our young men on: strengthening their testimony and relationship with God; learning and fulfilling their priesthood duties; and, applying the standards from *For the Strength of Youth*. In other words, it helps prepare them to be spiritually self-reliant.

The Scouting programs are also based on duty to God, service to others, and building a well rounded young man. And whether a young man is doing his duty to God in a uniform, his Sunday best, normal weekday clothing or even his pajamas – what he always is, 24/7, is a priesthood man of God.

The new Duty to God positions the activities provided through Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts and Venturers as even more relevant in the development of these Priesthood Men of God.

Consider these four reasons Scouting is used as the activity program for the Aaronic Priesthood.

1. It provides an outstanding training program for adults on how to successfully guide young men to achieve their very best.

Many have said that “Scouting is for the boy.” In reality, it is for the adult. Boy Scouts of America provides the training, programs, and resources necessary to help adults effectively prepare young men for today and their future.

BSA is in the process of rolling out required training for adult leaders. The Young Men General Presidency recently made the following statement:

“The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints supports the training policy of Boy Scouts of America and desires all Scouting leaders to receive the necessary required training for their position.

We must find ways to motivate each adult who works with Young Men to become fully trained. If we are going to provide a dynamic Aaronic Priesthood activity program that develops them spiritually, creates strong brotherhood, provides wide opportunity for service to others, develops self-reliance and reaches out to all young men, we must be better prepared in using the tools of Scouting. That preparation only comes through effective quality training followed by proper implementation.”

2. If used correctly, the four Scouting programs will provide both a safe and neutral environment.
   - It is safe because of the required implementation of well defined policies and procedures.
   - Because Sunday quorum involvement is not specifically required, it provides for those who are less active or of other faiths to be invited to participate in meaningful and enjoyable activities.
   - It is a great place for young men to act on their duty to God.

3. It develops leadership and physical, temporal, mental, emotional, and spiritual self-reliance.
   - Each of the four programs is age and maturity specific.
   - Each program builds upon the foundation established by the previous program.
   - They are designed to build well rounded young men who can lead. Self-reliance and leadership experience are needed more than ever as young men prepare for missions, marriage, and life.

4. It regularly connects trusted adults to a young man beyond the quorum meeting.
   - Those involved in Scouting are to be guides, advisors, mentors, and coaches for young men.
   - They need to trust and love you if you are to really touch their hearts and lives.
   - Love and trust is most often developed outside the classroom. They need to see that you are consistently there and always willing to get out with them in activity experiences.
   - John taught us how to connect: “We love Him, because He first loved us.” [1 John 4:19]

As the Young Men General Presidency, we fully support the four programs of Scouting and strongly encourage you to see them effectively utilized in your ward. These are tools that supplement Duty to God in developing strong, well-rounded, self-reliant priesthood men of God who love the Lord with all their heart and are going about, engaged in His work.

Visit us online at www.ldsbsa.org
Scouting in Primary

A new Primary General Presidency was sustained in general conference on Saturday, April 3, 2010. Sister Rosemary M. Wixom now leads as the 12th president of the Primary. Sister Jean A. Stevens serves as first counselor, with Sister Cheryl A. Esplin serving as second counselor. Sister Wixom said, “There are only two things you need to qualify you for this work. One is to love the Lord and second is to love the children!” These ladies definitely qualify!!

One of their responsibilities in their new calling is to oversee Scouting for boys ages eight through eleven, which is approximately 47% of boys in the Church today. “Scouting is fun and has an important purpose,” Sister Wixom said.

In the Church, Scouting prepares boys to become righteous men who hold and honor the priesthood of God. Scouting is about learning and living the gospel. It can reinforce positive character values and leadership skills that are taught in the home. The new Primary General Presidency looks forward to their time of service.

Eagle Project Completed on 100th Anniversary of Scouting

The Eagle project that Tom Smith started in November of 2007 was finally completed. The monument’s purpose was meant to “[inspire] all boys to be good outstanding boys and citizens by living the principles of the Scout Oath, Law, motto and slogan.” It was erected in Woods Cross, Utah on February 8, 2010.

A New Century in Scouting

Tanzen Duke, a member of the Bandelier Ward in the Albuquerque New Mexico West Stake became the newest Cub Scout in Pack 750 and the first Cub Scout of the BSA's new century in the Great Southwest Council.

Tanzen, who shares his birthday with the Boy Scouts of America, turned eight years old on February 8, 2010.

He is shown in the photo handing his Cub Scout application to Rio Grande district director Cindy Watts early Monday morning (before school). Behind him is his grandfather, Blaine Bachman, who became a Cub Scout himself fifty years ago this year and now serves as the district's 100th Anniversary Chairman.

Article submitted by Blaine Bachman, Photos by Monique Duke
Highlight on Young Men General Presidency: President Adrian Ochoa

Wise mentors guided Young Men leader

There's a reason why Adrian Ochoa can move comfortably among folks from different cultures, backgrounds, businesses. The recently called second counselor of the Young Men General Presidency is, himself, a product of diverse worlds.

Brother Adrian Ochoa and his wife, Sister Nancy Ochoa, witnessed the capacity of faithful young men while serving a mission together in Honduras.

Yes, he was born in San Francisco and spent much of his youth in Los Angeles, speaking English and experiencing the opportunities and challenges offered by a sprawling city. But he also called the rural communities of Chihuahua, Mexico, his second childhood home. It was there with his Spanish-speaking grandparents that he rode his horse, ran with his dog and breathed "different air."

"I was able to be in touch with very humble people," he said of his split Los Angeles/Chihuahua experience. "I learned to understand all kinds of people."

Brother Ochoa's background has also afforded him a personal understanding of those who might be less active in the Church and find themselves in need of a mentor or friend.

Young Adrian Ochoa's grandmother was an active Church member and taught her young grandson about the gospel. He was baptized when he turned 8 but was never really involved in the Church while growing up. He was 25 years old and living in Mexico when he was befriended by the full-time missionaries. Despite his young age, Adrian was already a successful businessman, overseeing more than 200 employees. Still, he had not forgotten his grandmother's gospel teachings.

At the missionaries' urging, Adrian read the Book of Mormon for the first time. He was moved by an ancient prophet's teachings about humility found in Alma 32:15: "He that humbleth himself, and repenteth of his sins, and endureth to the end, the same shall be blessed."

Adrian felt strongly that the Lord was eager for him to be humble so he could be blessed. He was anxious to "endure to the end."

"I decided I wanted to embrace the Church and its fullness and I never looked back," he said.

Despite his professional responsibilities, Brother Ochoa wanted to contribute in the Church. He approached his local priesthood leaders in Mexico about serving a traditional, full-time mission. Instead, he was called to utilize his business acumen as a public communications missionary in the area.

"I was able to preach the gospel working with media and the government," he said.

While laboring in Monterrey, Mexico, Brother Ochoa attended a stake conference and heard the testimony of a new member named Nancy Villareal. Impressed by the young woman's enthusiastic convictions, Brother Ochoa introduced himself following the meeting and the two became friends.

Nancy had been introduced to the Church by missionaries who knocked on her family's door. They asked if they could share their message of the restored gospel. The young accounting student's testimony of the gospel began to take shape as she studied the Book of Mormon with a small group of members.

"I felt the spirit so strongly. I knew I wanted to be baptized," she said. Such spiritual sensitivity attracted Brother Ochoa to his future wife.

"She was so pure and good," he said. "I knew that she would return to our Heavenly Father — with me, or with someone else."

The two began dating and were eventually married in the Mexico City Mexico Temple. They are the parents of five children.

Brother Ochoa has experienced firsthand the value of mentors. A short time after becoming active in the Church, he was befriended by a beloved priesthood leader who helped him grow in the gospel. Now as a general youth leader himself, he appreciates the importance of strong leaders in the lives of young men.

"Our youth need great examples and the love of their priesthood leaders." A strong bishop, Aaronic Priesthood adviser or Scoutmaster, he added, can be especially essential in the lives of young men who are less active in their quorums or troops.

"Our Heavenly Father is there. His arms are open if we are obedient ... we can be blessed," he said.

Article by Jason Swensen, Church News, week ending Sept. 12, 2009
Under the direction of the Orem Utah Timpview Stake Presidency, a special Scout training was held called, "Little Philmont." Banners led Scouting leaders to the flag-decorated stake center to be trained by stake leaders and to rub shoulders with district and council representatives.

**Opening:** Stake young men leaders conducted the flag ceremony, Francis Quan of the stake High Council gave the opening prayer, and a men's double quartet sang with power, "Rise Up, O Men of God, adding the line, "As Scouters of the Timpview Stake, Rise Up, O Saints of God."

President Skousen spoke first and challenged leaders to show their boys that they were serious about Scouting, by jumping in with both feet, whether the water was warm or cold, by wearing the uniform and by being trained. He promised Scouting leaders that if they would build their program with proper planning and with yearly and quarterly revolving calendars, the boys would come. He challenged them to love the boys indoors and in the outdoors, and that by doing so, they would build wonderful levels of trust to last a lifetime.

**Keynote Speaker:** David C. Pack, the director of LDS-BSA Relationships, was the keynote speaker who began his remarks by telling how President Monson was the longest tenured officer on the executive board of BSA, joining in 1969. [President Monson] told Brother Pack one day that he is involved because he wants to, and also told him, "We must save every boy, one at a time."

Brother Pack then said, "It's about the individual. How do we carry it out individually? On our knees."

He reminded us of Mosiah 1:5 that talks about how the Lamanites lived according to "the traditions of their fathers, which are not correct," and compared it to how some do Scouting according to how they have seen it done by others, which is also incorrect. He related D&C 8:2-3 which promises that the Holy Ghost will "tell you in your mind and in your heart" what you should do, but then reminded us with D&C 9:7-9 that Oliver Cowdery wanted to translate without studying and couldn't because he "took no thought save it was to ask."

Brother Pack then said, "God cannot bless us with inspiration on something we know nothing about. We must study by reading the manuals, by going to roundtable, by attending basic training and Wood Badge. We need to become dangerously educated because the young men need us to receive personal revelation. Rise up and get the knowledge to do it."

Brother Pack said, "Knowing how to change a boy is a life-long journey. Each of us must learn how to do it." He gave an example of 10 boys ranging from ages 8-19. Two are lost by age 12, one more is lost by age 14, two more are lost by age 16, three more are lost by age 18, and the remaining two become elders by age 19.

"Observing your 10 boys, who would you send away? President Monson has said, 'It is easier to build a boy than to mend a man.' We must also be careful not to over-entertain the boys."

He continued, "Bishops bestow keys on deacons and teachers quorum presidents. The only others in the ward who hold keys are the bishop and elders quorum president. Scouting is not in the church because of advancement. That is only one of the eight methods. The real reason is because Scouting is the best program in the world where boys lead boys, boys with keys, trusted keys. Sometimes adults plan activities without the boys, so they can surprise them. Since the boys haven't helped plan the activity, they don't show up. Surprise! No ownership."

He explained, "We are on a journey in our callings to work with youth, to know how to change boys forever. I love 50 milers and what it does for a boy. Before the hike, as a quorum, they think they are so tough. Everything is perfect. Then on Monday, a few hours into the hike, they wonder who talked them into it. That night, they are so tired; they just climb into their sleeping bags and go to sleep.

Tuesday morning comes and as they contemplate death, they wonder if they will ever see their mothers again. Tuesday night at the campfire program, you will never see a more teachable group of boys, never better. Someone needs to be there to teach them. Sunday lessons will never be the same. Each boy has accomplished the hardest thing in his life up to that point, which makes him able to do more. Outdoors is a wonderful place to test a boy. Help each boy with a significant away-from-home experience, so, when he gets on his mission, he will remember that he didn't give up on the 50-miler, so he won't give up then."

He concluded by saying, "What happens to a boy, when he hears and feels his leader testify of the truth, is a lasting thing. Love these boys in the rain, in snow caves; make a difference, in an environment they will be prepared to learn in. We have been called to do it and may we be faithful in doing so."

**Video Presentation:** Thomas S. Monson, "The Priesthood – Mighty Army of the Lord," (April 1999 General Priesthood Session). He compared water samples from the Dead Sea (void of life) and the Sea of Galilee (full of life). He then went on to say, "There is another body of water found throughout the Church today. I speak of the pool of prospective elders in each ward and each stake. Picture in your mind a river of water gushing into the pool. Then consider a trickle of water emerging from that stagnated pool, a trickle that represents those going forward into the Melchizedek Priesthood. The pool of prospective elders is becoming larger and wider and deeper more rapidly than any of us can fully appreciate."

As a stake, we believe that a properly carried out Scouting program can successfully reduce the size of this ever-growing pool.

**Breakout Sessions:** Held for the following groups:

1. **Leaders of Cub Scout and 11-year-old boys:** Training emphasizing the importance of roundtable attendance, for those who teach the boys as well as everyone else. Without instruction, they build marshmallow guns using PVC pipe for shooting earplugs, and learned that there were no wrong ways to build them.
They showed a movie promoting Scouting in the church as a wonderful way to shape boys and apply it to Gospel principles.

2. Leaders of 12 and 13-year-old boys: Training began with a fire-starting activity challenging leaders to ignite sawdust, charcoal, and lint using a rock and a file. They discussed building good relationships with the boys, so they could help them draw closer to God. They also reviewed 15 well-received points for directing a Scout troop.

3. Leaders of 14 and 15-year-old boys: Varsity leaders filled out Individual Interest and Adult Resource Surveys, and participated as coaches, captains, squad leaders, program managers and advisors in a mock team meeting to plan a summer super activity. Reading and understanding of the Varsity Play Book was promoted. They closed with an activity where lasers were reflected with multiple mirrors to promote operation On-Target.

4. Leaders of 16 to 18-year old boys: Questions were asked and discussed: 1) Why has the Lord called you? 2) As you heard President Monson in the video and Elder Dahlquist's conference talk, what inspiration did you receive? 3) What is the most important thing for your young men and how are you going to do it? They ended with a tower-building activity with three teams. After 10 minutes, communication and collaboration proved to be much more effective than structural engineering to produce the winning team.

5. Adult Scout Committee Members: Training was offered for successful Eagle advancement, unit equipment inventory, effective boards of review, planning for courts of honor, organizing advancement records, assigning committee member responsibilities, coordinating the earning of required merit badges for boys before age 14, and the supporting of Varsity and Venturing programs with the earning of awards measuring successful implementation.

6. Young Men Secretaries and Duty To God Coordinators: Training was centered on using computer software (Troop Master, etc), for tracking Duty To God requirements and Scouting advancement in coordination with weekly activities and Sunday quorum lessons. Quarterly reporting to parents and monthly reporting to youth and adult leaders was promoted to ensure completion of remaining requirements.

7. Chartered Organizational Representatives (COR) and Bishoprics: The Stake Presidency taught the importance of having each adult leader properly trained, so that they can serve the youth to the best of their ability. They promoted Wood Badge and pointed out that all who have been have reported good things and that it is a wonderful way to make leaders more effective. They discussed Key Scouter’s Meeting as a great way to encourage and be coordinated with each unit of Scouting. The COR really determines the level of Scouting enthusiasm.

The evening ended with refreshments and with several prize drawings in the cultural hall, all showing how fun and exciting Scouting can be. A pinewood derby race was held for bishoprics that built cars in their breakout session, with the Timpview 4th Ward emerging victorious and receiving official "Bill Burch" bolo ties. Hand carved walking staffs, made by Steve Baldwin, were presented to David C. Pack, for taking the time to speak and be with us, to Present Thad C. Adams, who expressed appreciation for his counselors and for all who magnify their Scouting callings, and to President James A. Skousen for organizing "Little Philmont" and making it all happen. The evening ended with the men's double quartet reverently singing "On My Honor" with the closing prayer being offered by Morgan Humphries of the stake High Council.

Article submitted by Dirk Whatcott, Young Men presidency, Orem Utah Timpview Stake

Priesthood Leadership Conference on Scouting at Philmont

We are excited to announce that the 2010 Priesthood Leadership Conference on Scouting at Philmont is full again for another year. The attendance as of May 6, 2010 is as follows:

Session 1 (June 26 – July 2): 574 Total
• 168 Priesthood Leaders
• 504 Family members staying at the Training Center
• 70 Mountain Trek youth (ages 14 – 20)

Session 2 (July 3 – 9): 594 Total
• 145 Priesthood Leaders
• 515 Family members staying at the Training Center
• 80 Mountain Trek youth (ages 14 – 20)

The Philmont faculty is working hard to ensure that the Priesthood Leadership Conference is the highlight of the year for all of the participants. If you are interested in attending Philmont next year, go to www.ldsbsa.org and download the 2011 Philmont application packet which will be posted in late fall. We hope to see you at Scouting’s paradise!
No Worries

“No worries”, he said. Well, I was worried; I needed to know if the four vans and trailers had been reserved and if he would pick us up at the airport in Auckland. And I needed to know now (September 16th) before we left the United States on January 9th.

I’m accustomed to planning and securing agreements months away from the event. In this case, the event was the 2010 New Zealand Brigham Young University (BYU) Study Abroad and the person on the phone (20 time zones away) in New Zealand had agreed orally to rent four vans and trailers to us. I was looking for a written contract.

What, me worry? I was in charge of 35 BYU students for three months in a foreign country where we would drive on the left side of the road! We carefully planned a two week, 600-mile excursion from the north to the south of New Zealand. Every Holiday Park and outdoor attraction was contacted months in advance. Each student was spending $7,000 for a life-changing recreational and cultural experience and I was determined to make it happen.

After arriving in New Zealand, I quickly discovered that “Kiwis” (New Zealanders) are very laid back, but efficient. They don’t worry about much and they like to use the words, “heaps” and “wee” a lot. They are also very friendly, honest and civil.

In our first campground in Russell, New Zealand, the owner of the Holiday Park told me that he had extra “cheese” for our group. I went over to his place hoping for some cheddar or swiss, and found out that he said “chairs”. They accused us Americans of having an accent.

The 12% sales tax and gas at $2.80 per liter (that is $10.60 per gallon), has forced kiwi’s to learn to live with less. They also seemed less stressed. It is against the law in New Zealand to sue. There were no personal injury lawyers and, consequently, no signs warning you of danger, no forms to sign, no fear of being sued, no worries! The government will pay for compensatory damages in an accident. No punitive damages allowed.

Three times we had to take a student to a hospital for health care; one included a helicopter trip into the wilderness and an overnight hospital stay. No insurance needed, no paperwork, no cost, no worries!

In many ways, New Zealand is a land of enchantment. The ice cream, chocolate and the fish and chips are wonderful. The country has a great wilderness ethic, thanks to their Department of Conservation. The DOC maintains and promotes several national parks and many “great walks” that attract hikers from around the world. All Kiwis take six to eight weeks holiday [vacation] each year. Their holiday parks (fancy KOA campgrounds), botanical gardens, wilderness huts and trails are well maintained.

We completed the two week tour of the country and settled in to teach BYU classes at the Southern Institute of Technology in Invercargill. The students lived with host families and my family lived in an apartment. While in Invercargill, we performed over 500 hours of service, rode bikes everywhere, enjoyed several backpacking trips into the Fjordland National Park, trips to the beach, kayaking, surfing, rock climbing and rappelling. In the classroom, students studied about and the absence of Scouting. Priesthood leaders have advised bishops and branch presidents to not affiliate with Scouts New Zealand, because the adult leadership requirements do not meet Church standards.

This was the first time in my life that I lived in a place where the Boy Scouts of America was not present. The Aaronic Priesthood young men of the Invercargill Branch have never raised their right arm to the square and recited the Scout Oath and Law, never experienced the joy and work of earning a merit badge, have received no formal leadership training, no personal growth conference with an adult. They have never attended a board of review or court of honor, never experienced the wonder and variety of activities at Scout camp. There is no Patrol Method, and no connection between Sunday activities and mutual night. It occurred to me that, as Americans, we might take these activities for granted. Sometimes we don’t fully appreciate something until it is absent.

I helped the advisors and boys plan out activities. In the absence of program helps, the advancement trail, district and council activities and roundtables, planning was simple, but void of purposeful, life changing opportunities. Most week nights the young men would go to one of their homes and play video games and eat ice cream.

I believe that there is a connection between this growing list of prospective elders and the absence of Scouting. I also believe that, in the United States, there is a connection between young men advancing in the Aaronic Priesthood and the programs provided by the Boy Scouts of America. For nearly one hundred years, these programs have helped young men make and keep sacred covenants.

Former Young Men General President Charles W. Dahlquist II said, “It is very evident that in those stakes and wards where Scouting is a powerful tool in our tool box, to help young men stay on the path leading to the Melchizedek Priesthood.

Article by Brad Harris, Associate Professor of Recreation Management & Youth Leadership, BYU
Scouting for Food: Photo Gallery

Last spring, Scouts from across Utah participated in the annual Scouting for Food Drive to assist the Utah Food Bank. According to Scout leaders, this is the largest single-day collection event for the Utah Food Bank. Scouts canvassed their neighborhoods to collect food items donated by Utahns. To find out if your council is participating in Scouting for Food this year, contact your local Scout service center.

Information and Photos from Church News, March 28, 2009
Scouting was introduced to the United States in 1910. Thane D. Winward was born in Whitney, Idaho in 1914. Ezra Taft Benson began his career in Scouting as an assistant Scoutmaster in the Whitney Ward 1918. Later he became the Scoutmaster in Whitney and, for a short time, Thane was one of his Scouts.

After Thane married Evelyn Larsen in 1939, they settled on a little farm east of Whitney in an area known as Egypt. They had four children while they lived there, but, having an opportunity to better their situation, they moved to a larger farm in Dayton, Idaho in 1944. Not long after they got settled, Thane was asked to be the Scoutmaster in Dayton. He took the responsibility seriously. He figured if he was going to be effective, he needed to know what he was doing. Consequently, he studied the program and began the process of advancing in Scouting, just like the boys he was teaching. Back then an adult could still earn an Eagle Scout Award and that is exactly what he did. Thane was a man who believed in setting an example.

Life went on and eight more children came to bless the home of Thane and Evelyn Winward. They ended up with twelve children – seven sons and five daughters. Thane continued as Scoutmaster off and on throughout the years. His untiring efforts and example began to pay off as first one Scout and then another progressed along the trail and finally attained the Eagle Scout rank.

The time came that Thane’s own sons began to enter the Scouting program. First one son and then another advanced through the ranks and earned the Eagle Scout Award until all seven sons became Eagle Scouts. That, in itself, is quite an accomplishment and quite a record, but the story continues. Through the years, the family continued to grow and grandchildren began to arrive on the scene. Before many years had passed, 63 grandchildren would arrive, 37 of which were grandsons. As time went on, each grandson entered the Scouting program and began to advance. As tradition dictated, first one grandson and then another, earned the Eagle Scout Award.

By this time, Thane had been honored by receiving the Silver Beaver, and Evelyn had been equally honored by receiving the Silver Fawn. Grandson after grandson followed tradition and the number of Eagle Scouts began to increase. Thane and Evelyn were proud of each and every one. Thane passed away in 1992 and Evelyn passed away in 2001. The die had been cast as the Eagles continued to multiply. In July 2008, grandson #37 was awarded his Eagle Scout Award, following the example of his grandfather, his seven uncles, and his 36 cousins before him. Many of those who married Thane’s daughters and granddaughters also are Eagle Scouts, and great-grandsons are now continuing the tradition in force. Thane and Evelyn must surely be proud.

Article & photo by Bruce Winward, son & Sam Winward, grandson

To An Eagle Scout
By Thane D. Winward, Sr.

One who worked a little harder,
One who studied a little more;
One who stayed up a little later at night,
One who got up in the morning a little earlier;
One who has met a few more great men –
And been taught in skill and lore by them;
One who has honored a little more,
One who stands a little straighter,
One who honors others, his country, and his God.
A young man among men!
Eagle Scout, I'm proud of you, honor you,
And welcome you into the Eagle Scout ranks.