



# VANGUARD AWARD

RELIGIOUS AWARD FOR LATTER-DAY SAINT YOUTH  
(11-17 YEARS OF AGE)  
AND ADULTS IN SCOUTING



The Vanguard Award is the religious award for members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints registered in Scouting who are 11 years of age or older, including Adults registered with the BSA. To earn this award, Scouts should first discuss the requirements for the Vanguard Award with their parents and their Scouting leaders. Before you begin to work on the award, you should also obtain a personal journal. This can either be a special journal or a simple spiral bound notebook. You can then begin working on the requirements and electives for this award. Do not be in too much of a hurry to earn or “run through” the award.

This award is designed to help strengthen your faith in the Lord, Jesus Christ, and increase your understanding of the importance of doing your duty to God. As you work on and complete certain requirements, write your feelings in your personal journal, as required, or talk to your parents or Scouting leaders. As you complete each requirement, note on the back of the Vanguard Application Card the number of the requirement, the date it was completed, and the signature or initial of a parent or Scouting leader. Once you have completed all requirements for the Vanguard Award, provide it to your Scout leader, who will talk with you about what you have learned. Then go to [www.vanguardscouting.org](http://www.vanguardscouting.org), where you can download the Application for Vanguard Award form, which you should complete, acquire the appropriate signatures and submit as noted on the form. Once you have received your Award Certificate from Vanguard International Scouting Association, your award can then be presented at a future Scout/Venturing event or meeting.

## Requirements and Electives for Vanguard Award (for both Youth and Adult)

### Building Faith and Testimony—A Scout is Reverent.

#### REQUIREMENTS

1. Faith increases as one reads, searches and ponders the scriptures regularly. Reverence, the 12th point of the Scout Law, is strengthened as we increase our faith in Jesus Christ. Read the Book of Mormon and, as you read, mark special passages that impress you. As you read, write in your journal your feelings about the Savior.
2. You may be asked if you believe in Christ and if your Church is considered Christian. To clarify the beliefs of the Church concerning Jesus Christ, in 2000 the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles issued a proclamation entitled “The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles.” Read this document and discuss with a parent or leader the important doctrines included in this testimony of our modern-day Apostles concerning Jesus Christ. Write in your journal your feelings as you read “The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles.” You might even consider committing all or parts of it to memory.
3. The *Come, Follow Me* resource manual teaches us that “The aim of all gospel learning is to deepen our conversion and help us become more like Jesus Christ.” Read 4 consecutive lessons from the current *Come, Follow Me* resource booklet and write in your journal your impressions and how gospel study strengthens your faith and testimony of Jesus Christ.

#### ELECTIVES (Choose and complete two from the following)

1. We strengthen our understanding of our duty as we share with and teach others. Teach someone from your troop or family what it means to have faith and how that helps you more effectively do your duty to God. Write in your journal what you learned as you prepared for and taught this concept of service.
2. While you are on a campout with your troop or family, spend some “alone time” and read Joseph Smith History 1. Then write in your journal your feelings about the First Vision and how young Joseph must have felt on that day.
3. Read the sections on Faith and Testimony in *True to the Faith: A Gospel Reference* and, in your personal journal, identify at least two things you can do to strengthen your faith in Jesus Christ and your testimony of the restored Church. Apply those two things in your life for two weeks and then write about your progress in your journal.
4. Complete at least one year of seminary. Record in your journal how your faith and testimony have grown during that year.

### Living the Gospel—Doing Your Duty to God.

#### REQUIREMENTS

1. The Scout Oath and the Scout Law describe standards, objectives and expectations for Scouts; and the booklet *For the Strength of Youth* sets forth standards for Latter-day Saints. Read the booklet *For the Strength of Youth* and discuss with one or both of your parents or your Scouting leader how the Scout Oath and Scout Law support the standards outlined there.

2. Attend your Church meetings regularly, including Sacrament Meeting, Priesthood or Young Women and Sunday School and participate actively in your ward youth activities.

ELECTIVES (Choose and complete two from the following)

1. Tithing is an important principle of obedience. Read Malachi 3:8-11. Pay a full tithe and record in your journal the ways the Lord “opens the windows of heaven” when we pay our tithes and offerings. Include ways that you have been blessed as you have paid a full tithe. Discuss with a parent or leader how tithes and other “offerings” are used to strengthen the work of the Lord.
2. Scouting teaches us to “Do A Good Turn Daily.” Ministering to others is a vital part of Gospel living. Read one general conference talk on ministering. Discuss with a parent or leader how you can minister to someone in your troop, ward, branch or neighborhood. Minister to someone by reaching out to lift them, strengthen them and help them.
3. Music has always been an important part of Scouting and of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Learn two hymns by memory, pass them off to a parent or leader and write in your journal the names of the hymns and a summary of their primary message.
4. Scouting values and Church teachings complement and reinforce each other. Identify at least one general conference talk that teaches the importance of living each point of the Scout Law. In your journal, note the attribute (trustworthy, etc.), the name of the speaker, the date of the talk, and a quote or two from that talk that encourages you to acquire that attribute or character trait.

### **Family Relationships—A Scout is Kind. A Scout is Obedient.**

REQUIREMENTS

1. You can be instrumental in strengthening your family today and preparing to raise a righteous family yourself. Read “The Family: A Proclamation to the World.” Discuss three things you can do to strengthen your own family. For three weeks make a special effort to strengthen your relationship with a family member by showing love through your actions. Write notes of encouragement, pray for this family member, find ways to be helpful, and verbally express your love. Record your experience and feelings in your journal.
2. Personal and family histories bring families together over generations. Your personal and family history begins with YOU! In your journal, or in another separate journal, begin your personal history. Write about your life this far, including your family, your friends, your Church experiences, your Scouting adventures, your school and other experiences you have had. Include 5 stories about experiences that you have had in your life and what you have learned from those experiences.

ELECTIVES (Choose and complete two from the following)

1. Earn the Family Life merit badge. If you are not part of the Boy Scouts of America, accomplish the requirements described in the BSA merit badge pamphlet, or another comparable award for your National Scout Organization.
2. Earn the Genealogy merit badge. If you are not part of the Boy Scouts of America, accomplish the requirements described in the BSA merit badge pamphlet, or another comparable award for your National Scout Organization.
3. Write a personal note to each member of your family expressing your love for him/her and how you appreciate the strengths he/she brings to your family.

### **Missionary Preparation—The Scout Motto: “Be Prepared.”**

Doing your duty to God means preparing now for missionary service throughout your life, including serving as a missionary for the Lord.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Memorize Doctrine & Covenants 4. Discuss with a parent or leader some of the key phrases in that section. Write in your journal two things you can do to increase your “...desires to serve God...” so you can be called to serve the Lord.
2. Read and study the five essential doctrines of Christ as taught in Chapter 3 of *Preach My Gospel: A Guide to Missionary Service*. Discuss with a leader or parent your personal feelings about these teachings and how you plan to keep all the commitments in these lessons.
3. Learn to lead music as a preparation for missionary service. Review the pages in Hymns about leading music and, with a parent or leader, lead one hymn in 2/4 (or 6/8) time, one hymn in 3/4 time and one hymn in 4/4 time. If you need additional assistance, talk with the ward or branch music director or someone else who knows how to lead music.

ELECTIVES (Choose and complete two from the following)

1. Memorize six Articles of Faith in a language other than your native language.
2. Learn to iron a shirt or blouse.
3. Earn the Cooking merit badge. If you are not part of the Boy Scouts of America, accomplish the requirements described in the BSA merit badge pamphlet, or another comparable award for your National Scout Organization. As a missionary, it is important that you be prepared for full time missionary service by acquiring certain life skills.
4. Learn about the beliefs and practices of a world religion other than The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. You may learn about the religion from that religion’s webpage or by talking to a friend who is a member of that religion who is in your school, troop or neighborhood. After you have completed your study, in your journal identify (1) those things that that religion has in common with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; (2) how the two religions differ in their doctrines, beliefs and practices; and (3) how understanding information about other religions will help prepare you to serve a mission for the Lord.

## Church History and Church Organization—A Scout is Loyal. A Scout is Obedient.

### REQUIREMENTS

1. Each general conference edition of the *Ensign* and *Liahona* include pictures of the current General Authorities and General Officers of the Church. You can also find biographical information about each online at [churchofjesuschrist.org](http://churchofjesuschrist.org). With a parent or Scout leader, identify each member of the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve by name and describe one story or characteristic about each that has impressed you.
2. Speaking on the importance of the Restoration and the role of Joseph Smith in that work, John Taylor wrote: “Joseph Smith, the Prophet and Seer of the Lord, has done more, save Jesus only, for the salvation of men in this world, than any other man that ever lived in it.” Read Doctrine & Covenants 135:3 and the Church Bicentennial Proclamation “The Restoration of the Fulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.” After studying it carefully, record in your journal your testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith and the Restoration.

### ELECTIVES (Choose and complete one from the following)

1. Participate in a local Pioneer “trek” or other multi-day focus on Church history or visit a particular Church historic site. Write in your journal each day about your experiences, your feelings and how that experience helped you appreciate the strength and sacrifices of the early pioneers. If you do not live close to a Church historic site, select an ancestor or pioneer in Church history and read about sacrifices in his or her life and then write in your journal how you felt as you read about that person’s life and the sacrifices he/she made.
2. Read a general conference talk about succession in the Church when the President of the Church dies. Discuss the process with a parent or leader and write in your journal your feelings for the current President of the Church.

## Service—A Scout is Helpful.

Service is more than a project—it is a way of life and a significant part of Scouting and living as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

### REQUIREMENTS

1. Read Mosiah 2:17 and describe in your journal how King Benjamin’s words relate to us today.
2. Identify ways that you can improve your community by serving on a regular basis (at least twice each month) for a period of two months. Write in your journal how you felt as you served in your community. This may include volunteering at a local service organization with your family (see [www.justserve.org](http://www.justserve.org)), volunteering to babysit for a young family so the mother can go shopping or the parents can go out on a date, or regularly cleaning up an area of your community, such as a park, ball field, etc.
3. Teach a younger Scout the importance of service and help him/her reach out and provide some service to a person or group in need. Write in your journal how you felt as you shared with that Scout your feelings about the blessing of service and always looking for opportunities of Doing a Good Turn Daily (the Scout Slogan).

## VANGUARD AWARD TRACKING SHEET



Category	Requirements			Elective(s)		Parent / Leader Initials
Building Faith & Testimony						
Living the Gospel						
Family Relationships & Family History						
Missionary Preparation						
Church History & Church Organization						
Service						

When you have completed all requirements and the appropriate number of electives for the Vanguard Award, please go to [vanguardscouting.org](http://vanguardscouting.org) and complete the application for your award.

Vanguard International Scouting Association is an independent organization, not sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, but serving Latter-day Saints in Scouting worldwide.