

11-Year Old Scout Program in the LDS Church Little Philmont 2009

Objective: Each participant will better understand Scouting for the 11 yr-old boy. Using this program in a separate patrol helps strengthen and prepare the boy for the Aaronic Priesthood, Duty to God, and the 12 & 13 year-old scout program. The focus is on implementing the BSA Scouting program for the 11 yr-old-scouts in the Church.

Introduction: The Church's scouting program for 11-year olds is a part of the activity program of the Primary and is under the direction of the Ward Primary President. The program integrates the standard aims of scouting with the primary purposes of helping boys live the gospel, and prepares them to receive the Aaronic Priesthood. It is part of the Priesthood preparation effort by the Church.

The 11-year-old patrol is a part of the ward scout troop and the scouts are registered with the troop. Adult 11-year-old scouting leaders are registered as Assistant Scoutmasters. A single Troop Committee supports the programs for all boys ages 11-13.

The Church prefers the 11-year-old scouting program be a separate patrol of the troop, which generally holds separate, preferably daytime, meetings, and does not participate regularly in the program for the Deacon-age scouts.

While operated as a separate program, the quality and accomplishments of the 11-year-old program still have a very substantial effect on the Scouting program for Deacons. A strong scouting program for 11-year-olds which captures and maintains their interest and enables the majority to achieve First Class rank provides the basis for a good scouting experience for boys as they advance into the program for 12 and 13 year olds.

When correctly implemented in the Church, the 11-Year-Old scouting program supports the purpose and objectives of the Primary. It harmonizes with the Faith in God guidebook. It helps prepare boys for the Aaronic Priesthood. It also permits the boys to enter into Boy Scouts at age eleven as well as meeting the needs of 11-year-old boys.

This presentation is oriented to the 11-Year-Old Leader who needs to know and understand the program to be effective. However, it will also benefit those with a supervisory or oversight role of the program. I have divided this presentation into four (4) areas.

The four areas are: 1 – What you must **BE** to fulfill the 11- year- old scouting leaders' role; 2 – What you need to **KNOW** to successfully implement the program; 3 – What you must **DO** to carry out your responsibilities as a scout leader: and 4 – **How** to approach some of the things you must do.

1. What you must **BE** to do the job.

A. **Be trained.** The BSA training for the 11 Year Old Scout Leader is the same as required as for the Ward Scoutmaster. The church has delegated to the BSA the responsibility to train Church Scouting leaders in the BSA programs rather than have Church Priesthood leaders teach such training. The required training includes:

- * Youth Protection
- * New Leaders Essentials
- * Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmasters Specific
- * Introduction to Outdoor Skills

B. **Be converted to** and develop a testimony of the value of the scouting program in preparing our Young Men to be future Missionaries, fathers, and leaders in the church.

C. **Be committed to** do the 11-year-old scout leaders job.

D. **Be an *EXAMPLE* for the 11-Year-Old Scouts.**

- * Live the Scout Oath and Law everyday
- * Uphold and live the Church standards

E. **Be a friend** to each Scout

2. What you need to **KNOW** to successfully implement the 11-Year-Old program.

A. **Who is responsible for the 11-year-old Scouting program?**

Stake—Responsibilities include:

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| Counselor in Stake Presidency | - Makes sure scouting is organized and functioning in the Stake |
| Stake Primary Presidency | - Oversees Scouting for 11-year-old boys.
- Ensure the purposes of both Primary and Scouting are accomplished.
- Help wards know and understand Church scouting policies.
- Encourage ward primary presidencies to attend scout training.
- Evaluate the scouting program frequently |

Ward –. Some of the responsibilities are:

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| Bishop | - Gives general direction for Scouting and ensures it is properly organized and funded |
| Bishops Counselor Over the Primary | - Oversees the 11-yr-old Scouting program
- Ensures it is organized correctly and has leaders who are trained. |
| Scout Committee | - Supports and assists Scouting activities
- Ensures Scout units operate within Church policy and BSA standards |
| Ward Primary Presidency | - Serves on appropriate scouting committees
- Coordinate scouting activities with other unit and Primary activities
- Ensure Church policy and procedures are followed |
| Primary Counselor over the 11-Year-Old Scouts | - Orient and supervise the 11-Year Old Scout Leader
- Visit Scout meetings and evaluate the program
- Regularly review each boys progress and participation. |

The 11-Year-Old Scout Leader- The Leader's role is the same as the Ward Scoutmaster, except that his control and influence is over a single patrol, not the entire Scout troop. The leader is the key to good scouting. The Patrol is molded in his image. Whatever abilities the assistant 11-Year-Old Leader or the scout committee have, they are not substitutes for the 11-Year-Old leader.

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| The 11 Yr-old Scout Leader | - Works for the Primary Presidency
- Meets regularly with Presidency member to discuss the Scouting program and each boy's progress
- Encourages and help each boy advance in scouting.
- Keep accurate records.
- Organizes and implements an annual Scouting program for 11-year-old scouts
- Trains the Patrol Leader
- Sets the direction of the program |
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B. The characteristics of 11–Year –Old Boys

- * Active and somewhat accident prone
- * Look sloppy
- * Have a belief in fair play
- * Talk quietly, often mumbles
- * Learning how to deal with adults – not his parents
- * Transitioning from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts
- * Learning to do things by himself (without help)
- * Is still a little boy

C. The 11-Year-Old Scout Program

Scouting is chartered by the Boy Scouts of America. It is an activity oriented outdoor program designed for the development of young men from the ages of 11 to 18 years. In the Church, the scouting programs provide the substance for what should be a dynamic seven year activity and learning program that is part of the Church's efforts to develop Aaronic Priesthood young men into strong adult priesthood holders.

The 11-Year-Old Scout program provides the transition organization between the Cub Scouts and the Aaronic Priesthood (Deacons) in the Boy Scout troop. It is a time of building a foundation for the boy upon which all three Scouting programs of the Aaronic Priesthood build. The focus of the 11-Year-Old Scout program is to help the new Scout achieve the rank of first class by the time he turns 12 years of age and enters the Deacons Quorum.

The Scouting program has three aims; character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness. And uses eight methods to accomplish these aims; ideals, patrols, outdoor activity, advancement, personal growth, adult association, leadership development, and uniform.

Many in the Church view the objective of the Scouting program as being the production of Eagle Scouts. However, you can see that earning the Eagle award is not one of the three aims of Scouting. In fact, earning the Eagle rank is not explicitly one of the eight methods of Scouting. It is a part of one of the methods of Scouting, advancement. However, the Eagle Scout advancement program has a lot to offer a young man, if he accepts the challenge.

Advancement is only one method used in Scouting; there are seven other methods that are equally important. The Scouting programs provide an environment that helps young men develop character, citizenship and personal fitness. These aims coexist very closely with the purposes of the Aaronic Priesthood. A program that accomplishes the three aims of Scouting, will easily develop young men who will fulfill the purposes of the Aaronic Priesthood

A good Scouting program will produce Eagle scouts simply as a “by product” of running the program.

D. The books to have and read. Owning and reading the following books will help you do your job.

- * Boy Scout Handbook
- * Scoutmasters Handbook
- * Troop Program Resources
- * Safe Scouting Handbook
- * Scouting Handbook (Church's Green Book)
- * The Patrol Leaders Handbook
- * Faith in God for Boys (Primary version of Duty to God)
- * The standard works of the Church

E. The Church Policy – The Church scouting policies are clearly spelled out in the Churches' green "Scouting" handbook. Some of those policies specific to 11-Year-Old Scouting are as follows:

1. BSA uniforms are encouraged for all registered Scouts. No boy will be excluded from Scouting if he cannot afford one.
2. All Scout meetings and activities will open and close with prayer
3. Boys 11-years-old and younger will not accompany the older scouts on overnight activities, including the sons of the leaders.
4. Scouts should not go hiking, camping, or travel to or from camps on Sundays
5. Eleven-Year-Old Scouts meet separately from the Aaronic Priesthood-age scouts
6. Eleven-Year-Old Scouts may participate in a one-night campout three times each year. No other overnights should be planned.
7. Each boy participating in an overnight camp-out should have learned and practiced the required skills before the camping experience.
8. Women leaders do not participate in overnight camping with the boys

F. Where to get help:

- * Ward Primary Presidency
- * Ward Scoutmaster
- * Ward Scout Committee
- * Unit Commissioner
- * BSA District Director or Executive
- * Monthly Roundtables
- * Bishopric
- * Internet – LDSScouting.org

G. How the Program is funded

The 11 Year-Old Scout program is a Primary program, so the funding comes from the Ward Primary Budget. The 11 Year-Old Scout Leader should develop a budget plan to reflect the cost of implementing the Annual Program developed for the 11 Year-Old Scouts. This plan should be submitted along with the Annual Program Plan (Calendar) to the Primary President for funding, or negotiation on what the 11 Year-Old scout program will include.

The 11 Year-Old Scout Leader should provide the parents of the incoming 11 Year-Old scout with a list of the necessary equipment the new scout needs to function in the Patrol. This will eliminate some costs from the program.

Costs of items such as Rank Advancement patches and merit badges earned could come from the Scout Budget in the Young Men Program. Such items are usually awarded at regular Troop Courts of Honor, and the costs could be borne by the Scout Troop or the Young Men Program. Such award costs are minimal since an 11 Year-Old Scout could earn no more than three rank advancements, and possibly one or two merit badges.

However, there are costs associated with running a scout program that really can't be avoided. Those costs will vary from unit to unit and depends upon whether program items are available from the Boy Scout Troop.

3. What you must DO.

A. Have FUN with the calling and make the program **FUN** for the scouts involved. If it's not **Fun**, it's not **scouting**.

B. Develop and initiate an annual program and calendar to enable 11-Year-Old scouts, that apply themselves, to achieve First Class Scout rank prior to their moving into the Deacon's Quorum.

C. Prepare and conduct weekly Patrol meetings with the 11-year-old scouts.

D. Conduct three one night camp-outs, and nine other monthly activities.

These are other than patrol meetings, such as hikes, service projects, and day activities such as compass courses, tree and plant identification hikes, etc. And attend the Stake Day Camp for 11-year-olds.

E. Train and work with the Patrol Leader to enable him to lead the Patrol. Patrol Leaders should be changed every 4-6 months.

F. Ensure the safety of all scouts all the time, following the "Safe Scouting" BSA handbook

G. Integrate Faith in God.

H. Attend monthly ward scout Committee meetings, troop courts of honor, monthly district roundtable training, the Quarterly Stake PH Leadership training when invited, and ward Primary leadership meetings.

I. Wear a complete BSA uniform to all Patrol meetings, and other scouting events and activities.

J. Share personal testimony often during meetings, campfires, at scouting events, and any other time when it is appropriate to let the scouts know you have a testimony of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

K. Develop a rapport with the Scouts

L. Keep good records

4. How do we do some of the things suggested above?

A- Holding Patrol meetings

B- Building an Annual Program (Calendar)

5. Some of the Challenges facing the 11-Year-Old Scout Leader

A. Small groups (games and Patrol meetings)

B. Integrating scout advancement, priesthood preparation, & Faith in God.

C. Following Church Policy

D. Funding