

Family, Church and Scouting - Outline

These three topics are inter-related. In the LDS community they have to be for a boy to be successful.

"Scouting is a time-tested tool that can help young men fulfill their Aaronic Priesthood duties and prepare for future service. The vision of Scouting is all about what a boy can become." Cheryl C. Lant - Primary General President

15 minutes Family

Cub scouting is all about family. Families help the cub scout grow - who in turn helps the pack go.

The family is the center of faith, testimony and devotion to God and each other, the basic unit of eternity.

Children are taught gospel principles and families exemplify how to apply them in every day living.

Family units teach children how to work, be responsible and serve others.

What are some ways this is accomplished in your own homes? i.e. chores, etc.

Let's talk about The Family - A Proclamation to the World. What is this and what does it mean to the church as a whole?

Families need to be an integral part of the program. Even if they (parents) don't have a calling per se in the actual running of things - they need to know they have the power to work with their sons in their scout books.

The Scouting program within the LDS church offers each youth involved - these types of opportunities as they participate with their leaders and parents in the Scouting program.

Leaders who understand the needs of the youth they work with - will be much more effective in helping them set goals for each boy to accomplish as they advance through the Scouting program and church sponsored programs.

15 minutes Church

"Cub Scouts are part of the whole [priesthood] picture--it's where we lay the foundation." Sister Cheryl C. Lant Primary General President

Sister Lant cited Elder David A. Bednar's observation that a young man doesn't simply become a missionary with the issuance of a formal call. It takes preparation long before a young elder enters the mission field.

Show centerfold from The Church News. Point out the Cub Scout Promise.

The cub scout promise states that I (name) promise to do my best to do my duty to God and my country, to help other people and to obey the law of the pack.

By using what they are taught and applying what is learned from church and families - our boys are living the cub scout promise. It's as simple as that.

What are some ways the doctrines of the church are taught in our homes? i.e. Scripture study, FHE, etc.

By reinforcing these doctrines - our boys are learning how they should live.

Do our cub scout dens provide an environment in which every young man can feel he belongs? Let's talk about ways to accomplish this.

When we are assisting our scouts in fulfilling their duties and assignments we are helping to promote faith, testimony experiences and discipline.

In what way does the Church strengthen families? i.e. doctrinal principles, church programs such as Scouting, ecclesiastical guidance, etc.

The Church provides many opportunities for our young scouts to develop leadership. This in turn will help them be strong and righteous family, church and community leaders.

We have service projects the boys need to do to help complete Religious Knot requirements.

We have Good Will/Good Turn

We have the Scouting for Food Drive

**The Faith in God booklets are put out by the church. In the front is a letter from the First Presidency. It states that "You are now preparing to receive the Aaronic Priesthood. Use these years to learn about the priesthood and to be worthy and ready to receive it."

The Primary's Faith in God book/Award needs to operate in conjunction with the Cub Scout program. Cub Scouting helps the boys get the most out of the Faith in God experience.

"Faith in God helps us to focus on what it is we want to teach these boys" Cheryl C. Lant Primary General President

There is a class today that is all about Integrating Faith in God and the Religious Square Knot so I won't go into detail here. However - I will bring it up from time to time as it is such an important tool in teaching our boys.

***Save for the last class {How many here are part of new Primary Presidencies?

Priesthood leaders - these women need training so they understand their callings - this is from Sister Lant - General Primary President.}

The boys deserve and need registered AND trained adult leaders. They need leaders who are dependable. If at all possible - keep a leader with the boys for at least a year. This builds a trusting lasting relationship and does the boys a world of good. They need to know their leaders care about them and love them. If you are not sure of how many cub scout leaders you need - the BSA requirement is 2 deep leadership. Even if there is only one boy.

A well run program means the boys are advancing. They are not simply being sent for an hour a week to be babysat. If the boys are advancing - they are learning new

skills, interests, leadership skills and building lasting friendships that will hopefully carry them through the choices they may face while associating with their non-scouting peers.

Each ward/branch needs a working budget for the boys. Your cub leaders need to know there are the funds available to purchase awards/advancements/supplies/and most importantly - training for the leaders to help these boys be successful. Your leaders need to know how much is in the cub scouting funds.

Show a sample of one of my yearly budgets.

"The young boys in blue and gold uniforms are not merely the charges of the Primary. The purpose of Scouting and Cub Scouting is the same: to provide activities and leadership opportunities to young men in the Church preparing for future duties as missionaries, fathers, husbands and temple-going Melchizedek Priesthood holders."

Cheryl C. Lant - Primary General President

Again from Sister Lant- "Cub Scouts is another tool that local priesthood and Primary leaders can utilize to train and prepare boys to receive that "preparatory" priesthood. Truly the work we are doing is the work of the priesthood" she says.

15 minutes Scouting

From the Church News - week ending February 28, 2009

How does scouting support the purposes of the Aaronic Priesthood and helps young men become better missionaries?

From the article it states "The principles embraced by the youngest Cub Scout to a Venturer finishing his final year of high school also double as life-building tools that can help prepare a young man for mission field success."

Scouting - particularly cub scouting should be a year round program.

The boys AND the leaders need to be in uniform. Uniforms create solidarity as a team. It says "hey - we are part of a unit that does good things." When the boys are in uniform - they really do act differently.

Cub Scouts teaches 12 Core Values... talk about each one from the Church News article.

***Share with session 3 (11 yr old scout leaders) the character development on the poster for boy scouts.

All of these core values are found in the Faith in God booklets. If your boys do not have one - see your Primary presidencies. They should receive one copy when they turn 8 and use it regularly until they turn 12. Everything they do in scouting can be applied towards the requirements for this fabulous book.

As our young scouts interact daily at home, school and weekly at scouts - they are implementing these core values. If we as their leaders/parents give positive reinforcement when we see these values demonstrated - the boys will continue to try and do them.

Cub Scouts should be able to attend den meetings each week. The only times I personally don't have them is over holiday times such as Thanksgiving, Christmas break and Spring break. Other than that - we try to hold scouts every week unless there is an emergency or one of the leaders can't find a replacement for 2 deep

leadership. They also attend Day Camp with their respective districts. Cascade Pacific Council has yearly calendars with themes for each month to help the boys explore new things, ideas and have wonderful experiences.

Share experiences....

***Share with Session 2. The Role of the Pack... (for Webelo leaders and Cubmasters)

In October 1993 President Monson declared to an audience of priesthood holders... "I am pleased to stand firm for an organization that teaches duty to God and country, that embraces the Scout Law. Yes, an organization whose motto is 'Be Prepared' (for Boy Scouts) - ['Do Your Best' for Cub Scouts] and whose slogan is 'Do a good turn daily.'

"The Aaronic Priesthood prepares boys for manhood and the weightier duties of the Melchizedek Priesthood. Scouting helps our boys to walk uprightly the priesthood path to exaltation."

"The vision of Scouting is all about what a boy can become."
Cheryl C. Lant - Primary General President