

# YOUNG WOMEN PERSONAL PROGRESS

## *Questions and Answers*

January 27, 2010

### 1. **What is the purpose of Personal Progress?**

The purpose of Young Women Personal Progress is to help each young woman strengthen her testimony of Jesus Christ, understand her identity as a daughter of God, prepare for her future roles, and prepare to be worthy to make and keep sacred temple covenants. Personal Progress is a tool to assist parents and leaders as they watch over and strengthen each young woman.

The medallions and ribbons associated with the program are a means of recognizing and encouraging progress toward these eternal goals. It is possible for every young woman to earn her medallion while in Young Women (see "Tracking and Pacing," [Young Women Personal Progress](#), 89–90) and go on to earn an Honor Bee charm. Integrating Personal Progress into Sunday lessons and Mutual activities will assist young women in applying the doctrine they learn through value experiences, value projects, and in all lesson settings.

### 2. **How do we find out about the changes to Personal Progress?**

Information about the changes to Young Women Personal Progress has been shared through multiple Church communication channels, including a notice to priesthood leaders, articles in Church magazines, and LDS.org. Links to the articles and copies of the implementation instructions and instructions found in the Personal Progress book are also available at [youngwomen.lds.org](#). The articles include:

- Elaine S. Dalton, "[What's New in Personal Progress?](#)" *New Era*, Jan. 2010, 32–35
- Heather Whittle Wrigley, "[Changing the World One Virtuous Woman at a Time](#)," *Ensign*, Jan. 2010, 74–75
- Two articles in the December 26, 2009, issue of the *Church News*: "[Fostering Spiritual Growth among Latter-day Saint Young Women](#)" and "[Young Women: Personal Progress](#)"

### 3. **How do I get a new Personal Progress book?**

Replacement books are being mailed to priesthood leaders (bishops and stake presidents) as they are available in each language. Included with the replacement books will be a notice to priesthood leaders and [implementation instructions](#) for Young Women leaders. A pricing sheet with ordering information will also be included.

Additional books and all additional Personal Progress materials may be ordered from [Church distribution centers](#) beginning January 15, 2010 (for English items in the United States and Canada). All materials and a link to online Church distribution resources are available at [youngwomen.lds.org](#).

### 4. **When should we implement the changes to Personal Progress?**

Implementation should begin immediately.

*We request that you be conservative in your initial order so all wards and stakes will have access to the new materials. Stake and ward leaders should coordinate the purchase of materials to avoid duplication of effort and possible waste. All purchases should be approved through priesthood leaders.*

### 5. **What experiences and projects have changed?**

The largest change to the *Young Women Personal Progress* book is the addition of the experiences and project associated with the Young Women value of virtue. Some minor modifications have been made to other value experiences to better focus a young woman's learning on the purpose of Personal Progress.

With the revisions to the *Young Women Personal Progress* book, the instructions for young women, parents, and leaders are found in the back of the book. These instructions replace all previously printed instructions regarding

Personal Progress in the *Church Handbook of Instructions, Book 2* and the [Guidebook for Parents and Leaders of Youth](#).

**6. Who should get a new Personal Progress Book and how should we transfer existing work in Personal Progress to the new book?**

If a young woman is almost finished with Personal Progress, she may finish with the previous book and the virtue insert.

If a young woman wishes to use the new book, she may transfer all of her work. If a young woman completed an experience or project in the previous Personal Progress book, that experience or project still counts toward her medallion in the new book. If an experience or project has been changed in the new book, the young woman does not need to do any additional work or redo any experiences or projects.

As with the previous Personal Progress book, a young woman can also customize value experiences and projects to focus on specific individual interests and needs such as education, physical fitness, and development of skills.

**7. Who can participate in Personal Progress?**

Young women 12–18 years of age, their mothers, and leaders are invited to participate in completing Personal Progress. As mothers work together with their daughters, their eternal relationship will be strengthened and both will grow in faith and testimony. Mothers complete the same requirements as their daughters (see [Young Women Personal Progress](#), 92). Leaders are encouraged to complete Personal Progress. Their example is important. The leader requirements are slightly modified from the regular program requirements to acknowledge the service leaders give in Young Women (see [Young Women Personal Progress](#), 91).

If a young woman does not have a mother to assist her, other exemplary women who desire to participate in and complete Personal Progress themselves may assist and mentor this young woman with her Personal Progress (see [Young Women Personal Progress](#), 93). As with a mother working with her daughter, this sister may earn the Young Womanhood Recognition along with the young women she mentors.

A young woman may also be assisted and mentored by *another* young woman who has completed her own Personal Progress and is earning her Honor Bee charm (see [Young Women Personal Progress](#), 83–84). The purpose is to strengthen each young woman as they serve one another, grow in faith and testimony, make righteous choices, and progress on the path to the temple.

**8. Can someone do just the virtue value experiences and project?**

The virtue insert, which was published in February 2009 and includes the experiences and project associated with the Young Women value of virtue, will remain a stand-alone item. Priesthood leaders and others wishing to emphasize this important principle may continue to use this insert. Those who complete the required experiences may receive a gold ribbon for their scriptures to recognize their accomplishment.

**9. Should we give a new Young Women torch pendant to all young women?**

Each young woman entering the Young Women program should receive a Young Women torch pendant and wear it as a symbol of her commitment to “stand for truth and righteousness” (see “Introduce the Program,” [Young Women Personal Progress](#), 86). If priesthood leaders approve the use of local budget allowance funds, each young woman could receive the new gold and white torch pendant.

**10. Should scripture ribbons be given to young women already working on Personal Progress?**

The new scripture ribbons have been introduced to allow leaders to recognize the progress of young women more frequently, to acknowledge a young woman’s accomplishments, and to encourage continued study of the scriptures and values. If priesthood leaders approve the use of local budget allowance funds, Young Women leaders may award ribbons to young women for the work they have already accomplished in Personal Progress, even if they have already earned their medallion and are still in the Young Women program. Beginning immediately, ribbons should

be awarded to all who are participating in Personal Progress as they complete the experiences and project associated with each value. The awarding of a value ribbon is an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of a young woman and give her an opportunity to share what she has learned and how she has been blessed by her work in that value.

**11. Who pays for the Young Women value ribbon bookmark, and is it required?**

The Young Women value ribbon bookmark may be given to a young woman so she does not lose her scripture ribbons. If unit funds are not available to purchase this item for young women, it may be purchased by family members or others. It can be given at any time.

**12. Is it possible to earn the Honor Bee charm without first earning the medallion or to work on both the medallion and an Honor Bee at the same time?**

The Honor Bee charm is earned *after* a young woman has earned her Young Womanhood Recognition medallion (including the requirements of virtue). The requirements for the Honor Bee include reading the Book of Mormon again and doing an additional 40 hours of service. The service must include mentoring another young woman with her Personal Progress.

The purpose of the Honor Bee is to encourage and acknowledge a young woman's ongoing progress. We hope a young woman will always be reading the Book of Mormon. Once she concludes her reading for the virtue value project she may begin reading again and count it toward her future Honor Bee. The required hours of service and mentoring of another young woman would begin after she has earned her medallion. Leaders and parents can assist a young woman in planning her additional service and guide her as she mentors other young women so all are strengthened as they continue on the path to the temple.

**13. Can a young woman earn an Honor Bee charm if she has earned her medallion but did not complete the requirements for the value of virtue?**

If a young woman has already finished Personal Progress and earned her medallion but did not complete the requirements for the value of virtue, she should first complete the additional requirements and earn the new medallion. She may then go on to earn an Honor Bee charm.

**14. Can a young woman earn more than one Honor Bee charm?**

A young woman can earn an Honor Bee charm as many times as she completes the requirements. She may not earn an Honor Bee until after she has earned the Young Womanhood Recognition medallion, including the value of virtue and its associated requirements. Once she has earned one Honor Bee, she may begin work on her next Honor Bee.

**15. Can mothers, leaders, and others earn the Young Women value ribbons, get a bookmark, and earn an Honor Bee charm?**

Mothers, leaders, and others who are working with young women on Personal Progress may receive all the associated recognition items as they are earned. With the exception of the bookmark which is optional, these items should be paid for with local budget allowance funds. The purchase and awarding of these items should be coordinated through the Young Women leaders.

**16. Can young women, leaders, and mothers earn more than one medallion?**

A young woman, leader, or mother who completes all of the requirements to earn a Young Womanhood Recognition medallion may be awarded a medallion each time these requirements have been met. It is recommended that a daughter earn her medallion before or along with her mother.

**17. Can a young woman trade her old medallion for a new medallion?**

If priesthood leaders approve the use of local budget allowance funds, a young woman who is still in the Young Women program and has completed the Personal Progress program, including the experiences and project associated with the value of virtue, may receive the new medallion. If she has not done the requirements for virtue,

she may do so and earn the new medallion. She should then be invited to continue progressing and earn an Honor Bee charm. All recognition items should be purchased using unit funds and the awarding of these items should be coordinated through the Young Women leader.

Leaders who have extra old medallions may return them to Church distribution. They are encouraged not to distribute them for other purposes beyond the purpose for which they were intended. Refunds or exchanges are not available on the old Young Women jewelry.

**18. What is the difference between the new Young Women logo stickers and the achievement emblems?**

The Young Women achievement emblems are awarded along with a value ribbon when a young woman completes the experiences and project in a value. They are a gold foil sticker and are placed in the back of her Personal Progress book when awarded. The achievement emblems are a recognition item and a unit number is required for purchase. They should not be used for any other purpose.

The Young Women logo stickers are gold ink on a white background and may be used at the discretion of the Young Women leader.

**19. Should we have a “Personal Progress specialist?”**

Personal Progress is an excellent opportunity to visit one-on-one with a young woman. As you do so you will learn more about her and her goals and ensure that she is learning the skills and gaining the testimony necessary to prepare her for the temple and her future roles. Young Women leaders and priesthood leaders will want to counsel together to determine how best to accomplish this. The needs and desires of parents should also be considered in this process. It is recommended that this one-on-one interaction not be limited to a single specialist. All members of a Young Women presidency, along with advisers, mothers, and other mentors, including other young women and adult women, may assist in this process so the young women feel the support and love of many exemplary women.

The instructions on pages 86 and 87 of the Personal Progress book offer suggestions on how parents and leaders can support a young woman and record and recognize her progress. Presidency members and advisers can work together to regularly monitor each young woman’s progress.

**20. How and when should the age-group certificates be awarded?**

The age-group certificates are to acknowledge a young woman’s movement from one class to the next and should be awarded in sacrament meeting on or near her first Sunday in the new class. For example, a young woman would receive the Beehive certificate as she concluded her years in the Beehive class and moved on to the Mia Maid class. The awarding of these certificates should be done under the direction of the bishop. The presentation could include acknowledgment of the accomplishments of the young woman and also recognize her success in Personal Progress.

**21. How should we use the Young Women tracking sheet?**

Leaders should use the new Young Women tracking sheet to help priesthood leaders and others learn about the accomplishments, interests, and progress of each young woman. The secretary in the Young Women presidency could keep the tracking sheets for all young women in the ward, or the presidency member or adviser over each class could maintain the individual tracking sheets for the girls in their class and pass them along as the young women move from class to class.

**22. Should we use the age-group mottos and statements in the handbook or the new statements on the Young Women Theme Card for Beehive, Mia Maid, and Laurel?**

The statements on the Young Women Theme Card regarding the age-groups Beehive, Mia Maid, and Laurel replace the mottos and statements in the *Church Handbook of Instructions, Book 2*.