

Teacher and Priest Activity Program

May 11, 2017

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Building young men with strong testimonies in the Lord Jesus Christ, helping them magnify their priesthood duties and preparing to fulfill their divine roles is the purpose of the Young Men's 14-18 activity program. Stake, ward, and quorum leaders should use *Handbook 2*: chapters 8 and 13, and counsel together on how to implement this activity program. Activities should provide opportunities to be with youth, connect them with heaven, and let them lead (see ymactivities.lds.org).

Principles

Activities should:

- Provide belonging and support by strengthening quorum unity and building relationships with peers, leaders, and families (see *Handbook 2*, 13.1).
- Provide experiences that help young men fulfill their Aaronic Priesthood duties and their divine roles:
 - Accomplish the purposes of the Aaronic Priesthood (see *Handbook 2*, 8.1.3).
 - Develop temporal and spiritual self-reliance skills, such as time management, budgeting, and simple home and mechanical maintenance (see *Handbook 2*, 6.1.1).
 - Engage in becoming good citizens (see *Handbook 2*, 21.1.29).
- Be planned and executed by Aaronic Priesthood quorum leaders, with support from adult advisers (see *Handbook 2*, 13.2).
- Provide a balance of opportunities to serve others and to develop spiritually, socially, physically, and intellectually (see Luke 2:52; *Handbook 2*, 8.13.1; 13.2.6).
- Follow all Church safety and other policies and guidelines (see *Handbook 2*, 13.6).

Activity Guidelines

- Develop an annual calendar to ensure a balance of purposeful spiritual, social, physical, and intellectual activities (see *Handbook 2*, 13.2.6). Ideas for meaningful quorum activities can be found at ymactivities.lds.org and in *Handbook 2*, 13.1.
- Combined activities with young men and young women are particularly beneficial for youth ages 14 and older and could be held more frequently than once a month (see *Handbook 2*, 8.13.1).
- One youth conference or multiday high adventure activity should be held each year (see *Handbook 2*, 13.4). In addition, 2–3 overnight activities are also encouraged (see *Handbook 2*, 13.6.12).

- Mutual activities are generally held weekly but can be held less frequently based on needs and circumstances of quorum members, but they should be held at least monthly (see *Handbook 2*, 8.13.1).
- Ward Councils are encouraged to counsel together and consider the needs of all youth and families in their wards in applying these guidelines (see *Handbook 2*, 4.5.2; 13.2.8).

Fulfilling My Duty to God

- Provide ample opportunities for young men to learn, act, and share their experiences in Duty to God (see *Fulfilling My Duty to God: For Aaronic Priesthood Holders*, 95–98).
- Consider doing the “For the Strength of Youth” development activities as a quorum (see *Fulfilling My Duty to God*, 98–99).
- You may work as a quorum to fulfill the outlined projects (see *Fulfilling My Duty to God*, 55, 79, 84).