

Varsity Addendum

Varsity Program for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Congratulations! You have been called to serve one of the greatest and yet most challenged age groups. These 14- and 15-year-old young men need valiant role models who, in addition to their own fathers, can guide them as a shepherd and mentor as they face physical, emotional, social, and spiritual challenges. Duty to God and the Varsity program will help young men become self-reliant and meet their challenges.

Your role as teachers quorum adviser and Varsity team coach is to coach the quorum president as he administers the Varsity team program. The quorum president needs your guidance to enlarge his vision in reaching out to all young men who live within the ward boundaries.

Varsity Activities and Spiritual Development

Here are some resources that can help as you serve the young men:

Spiritual Development

Bishopric
The standard works
Aaronic Priesthood manuals
Duty to God book
For the Strength of Youth
True to the Faith
Preach My Gospel
Stake Young Men presidency
Stake priesthood leadership training

Boy Scouts of America Varsity Program

Varsity Coach Startup
Youth Protection (online training)
Varsity Guide Book
Varsity Play Book
Varsity leader-specific training
Wood Badge for the 21st Century
Monthly district roundtable meetings
Council camps and activities
Varsity Scout program features
(www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/varsityteamprogram-v1.pdf)

Use these resources to help the young men grow spiritually and develop important life and leadership skills. Each young man in the quorum should fulfill his Duty to God plans and earn his Eagle Scout Award.

Look for opportunities to help the young men see how the weekly Varsity activities relate to their spiritual development. For example, you could do this at the end of each team meeting when the team captain (usually the quorum president) asks you to make some closing comments.

Organizing a Varsity Team

If a Varsity team is not currently operating in your ward, seek approval from your priesthood leaders to organize one. Your ward clerk can help you identify all of the 14- and 15-year-old young men who live in your ward boundaries. Make diligent efforts to help the quorum president involve all young men of record in all quorum (team) activities. Quorum members should regularly be encouraged to invite friends even if they are not members to participate with the Varsity team.

Consider calling the teachers quorum president as the team captain. He holds the priesthood keys to lead the quorum. Suggestions on the next page show how a Varsity team can be organized utilizing the teachers quorum presidency to fill Varsity leadership positions.

Youth leadership opportunities in the Varsity program help young men develop confidence in planning, conducting, and evaluating team meetings and activities. As the Varsity coach, you serve as the supporting coach, guiding from the sidelines rather than on the field. Your role is to prepare the leaders. This ensures that the young men can exercise leadership skills as they learn to work together as an effective team.

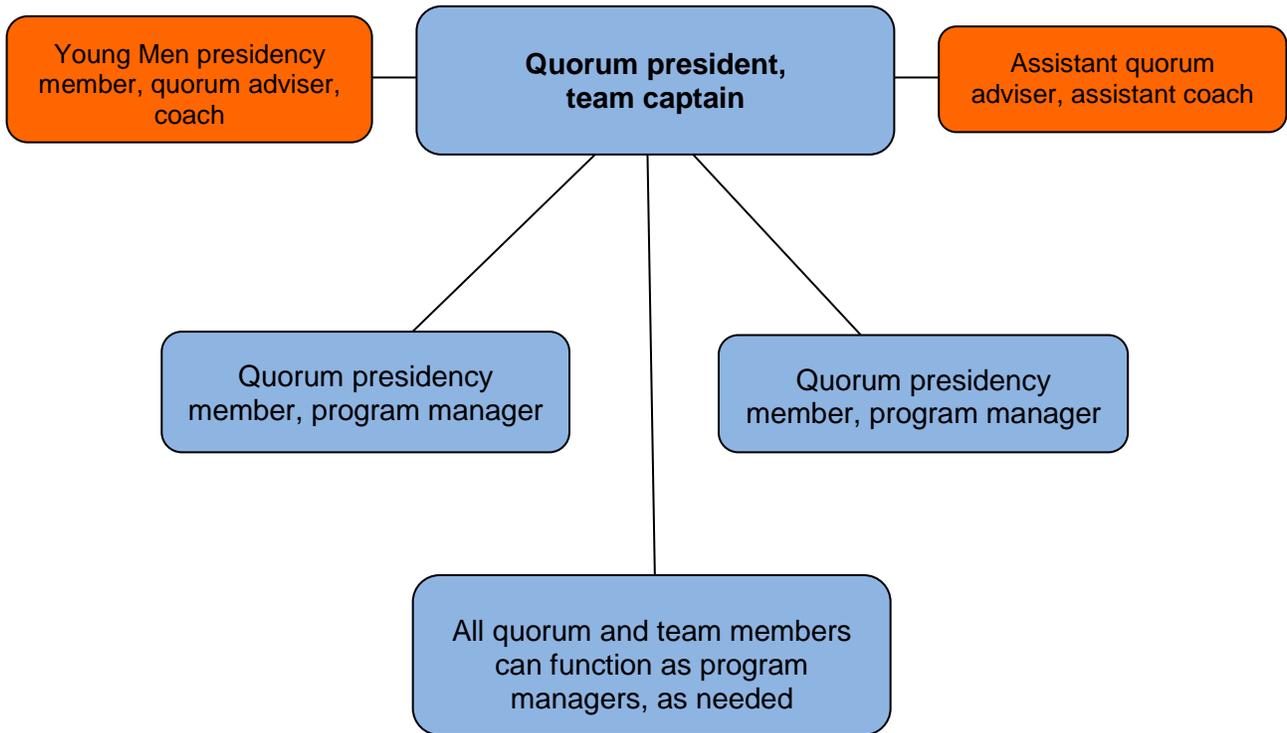
The following resources can help your Varsity team plan activities (see appendix in the *Varsity Play Book*):

- Resource survey for adults including those in the ward.
- Individual interest survey
- Meeting plan worksheet
- Activity planning worksheet
- Annual planning chart



Priesthood-Directed Varsity Team Organization

Youth Leadership is built on a foundation of adult mentors



Program managers can be assigned in each of the following fields of emphasis:

1. *Personal Development and Advancement*
2. *Special Programs and Service*
3. *High Adventure and Sports*

The above fields of emphasis can be further reduced or divided into as many as six fields of emphasis to fit the size of the quorum.

Each program manager works with an adult mentor who has been assigned to assist him in accomplishing the work of the quorum and team. The quorum presidency makes the decision to either assign themselves or other quorum members to be program managers, based on the size of the quorum. Each quorum member should have regular opportunities to fulfill assignments from his quorum presidency. Adult program advisers can be asked to assist program managers in their role. These adults may be members of the team committee or specialists who help with a single event. Each team must have at least two adult leaders. In smaller quorums and teams, these advisers can fulfill multiple roles, with the coach and assistant coach filling in where needed.

The Varsity program is designed to be flexible. Adapt the leadership to function based on the number of squads or the number of young men in the team. Adult Program advisers can be members of the team committee or specialists called for a one-time event. All activities requires a minimum of two adults.

Planning Teachers Quorum and Varsity Program Activities

A well functioning teachers quorum does not just happen. It takes careful planning. Here are a few simple steps that will help you plan your quorum program.

Step 1: Prepare for an annual planning meeting (annual program planning clinic) by finding out what resources are available.

1. Prepare the Varsity Scout team resource survey.
2. Appoint program managers over the program areas of interest:
 - a. Personal Development and Advancement
 - b. Special Programs and Service
 - c. High Adventure and Sports
3. Identify the talents and resources of all parents of the quorum (team) members.
4. Identify the talents and resources of your ward, stake, community, and other contacts.

Step 2: Conduct the annual program planning clinic.

1. Planning is easier when you pick just a few things to do that all of the young men are interested in. Focus on six to eight theme ideas during the year. The *Varsity Program Features* can provide 27 ideas different ideas.
2. Each theme can be planned for a period of 4 to 12 weeks, based on the interest of the team.
3. Each theme culminates with a high-adventure activity, big event, or outdoor adventure.

Step 3: Hold regular quorum presidency meetings to refine the details of the team plans.

1. The quorum presidency assigns program managers to incorporate all of the program areas into each theme. The presidency works with advisers to help recruit the program advisers to work with and mentor the program managers.
2. Advisers work with the quorum presidency to ensure that each young man (including less-active members and those of other faiths) has a role to play in each activity.

As you plan each theme, focus your weekly activities on one of the program areas and *Duty to God* sharing experiences. Young men assigned to be program managers begin with smaller activities, working up to the outdoor activity, big event, or high adventure activity.

September and October

Theme: Canoe camping
Outdoor Activity: Canoe camping at the lake

November, December, and January

Theme: Snow camping
Outdoor Activity: Snow caving up the canyon

February

Theme: Mechanics
Big Event: Participate in engine repair class at community center

March and April

Theme: Orienteering
Outdoor Activity: Geocaching activity

May, June, and July

Theme: Backpacking, rock climbing, rappelling, and On Target
Weeklong High Adventure: 30-mile backpack with climbing and rappelling activities

August

Theme: Shooting Sports
Activity: Participate in Hunter Safety Course
Outdoor Activity: Hold annual planning clinic for next year's activities