
Scouting Handbook

for Church Units
in the United States

Revised May 2015

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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1.0 Introduction

This handbook outlines guidelines and policies relating to Scouting programs in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Bishops and Young Men, Primary, and Scouting leaders should be familiar with this information as they administer Scouting programs in the ward. Details about each Scouting program are available from the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and are not included in this handbook. Differences between Church policy and BSA policy are noted in this handbook as needed. Unless otherwise noted, the term *Scouting* includes Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Varsity Scouting, and Venturing.

1.1 Purpose of Scouting in the Aaronic Priesthood and Primary

Scouting can help young men and boys enhance close relationships with their families and the Church while developing strong and desirable traits of character, citizenship, and physical and mental fitness. Under priesthood leadership, Scouting should complement the efforts of Aaronic Priesthood quorums and Primary classes in building testimonies in young men and boys. Scouting under Church sponsorship should become an extension of the home, Primary classes, and Aaronic Priesthood quorums. Scouting functions as part of the Church's activity program for boys and young men. Scouting activities should be planned to fulfill gospel-centered purposes.

2.0 Training and Development

Young Men and Primary leaders who are called to Scouting responsibilities should receive training in Scouting principles, policies, and procedures as used by the Church. Trained Scout leaders who understand and live the gospel, understand priesthood governance, and understand the Scouting program are better able to serve young men and boys involved in Scouting activities. Accordingly, adult leaders are considered trained when they complete the following training:

- Youth Protection Training (available online, to be completed before service with youth begins and repeated every two years).
- Leader position-specific training for Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Varsity, and Venturing leaders, or Troop Committee Challenge for troop committee members.
- Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills for Boy Scout, Varsity, and Venturing leaders (offered by BSA local districts and councils).

2.1 Ongoing Training

Stake Young Men and Primary presidencies also provide ongoing training and support for ward Young Men, Primary, and Scouting leaders. In addition, the BSA provides monthly roundtables to help leaders learn Scouting methods and skills. The BSA also offers a variety of optional training courses, such as Wood Badge and the Trainer's EDGE. Stake and ward budget allowance funds may be used for adult Scouting training.

Training courses that require overnight activities should not be attended by mixed groups of adult men and women unless both genders have appropriate sleeping and personal care arrangements that are not in immediate proximity to each other. Where possible, leaders should attend training offered on days other than Sunday.

2.2 Priesthood Leadership Conference on Scouting

In cooperation with the BSA, the Church holds an optional Priesthood Leadership Conference on Scouting at the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. This weeklong course is for stake presidency members. It emphasizes the priesthood basis for Scouting in Church units and teaches how Scouting can be used to reinforce priesthood purposes and gospel principles.

2.3 The Partnership Relationship

Priesthood leaders and other Church members may participate as volunteers in district, council, and national Scouting committees and activities to solidify relationships between Scouting and the Church and to improve the Scouting program. Leaders should do everything possible within Church policies to create good will, mutual understanding, and cooperation between the two partners.

2.4 LDS-BSA Relationships Committee

An LDS-BSA relationships committee should be organized in each BSA local council to help maintain and strengthen working relationships between the Church and the BSA local council. This committee includes a member of each stake presidency within the BSA local council. An assigned Area Seventy chairs the committee or designates a stake president to be the chairman. If a stake president is designated as chairman, he provides the Area Seventy with regular reports at coordinating council meetings or at other times. The BSA council Scout executive or his designee serves as an adviser to this committee.

3.0 Stake Leaders' Responsibilities for Scouting

3.1 Stake Presidency

The stake presidency sees that Scouting is organized and functioning in each ward in the stake; that young men, boys, and leaders are registered; and that all Scouting units are chartered. They also develop a positive working relationship with the BSA local council and district executive. A member of the stake presidency serves as a member of the LDS-BSA relationships committee and registers as a member-at-large for the BSA local council.

3.2 Stake High Councilors

The stake presidency may assign high councilors who have assignments relating to the Aaronic Priesthood and Primary to meet as an Aaronic Priesthood committee to discuss Scouting-related matters (see *Handbook 2: Administering the Church* [2010], 15.3.2). These high councilors register with the BSA as assistant district commissioners. They receive appropriate BSA training, participate in the monthly district commissioner meetings, and work closely with the district commissioner and unit commissioners in their stake.

3.3 Stake Young Men Presidency

Under the direction of the stake presidency, the stake Young Men presidency conducts training and coordinates support for the individual Aaronic Priesthood Scouting programs in each ward. They orient newly called ward Young Men presidencies and provide ongoing instruction and encouragement. They register with the BSA as unit commissioners, serving as liaisons to the individual Scouting units (troops, teams, crews) in the stake. The stake presidency may designate other members of the stake to serve with the stake Young Men presidency as unit commissioners (see 3.5).

The stake Young Men presidency receives appropriate Scout leader training and participates in district committee meetings and roundtables. They also meet regularly with unit leaders, create close relationships with them, help them with re-chartering, and inform them of BSA district and council activities, training opportunities, policies, and health and safety issues.

3.4 Stake Primary Presidency

Under the direction of the stake presidency, the stake Primary presidency coordinates support for the individual Scouting programs in each ward Primary organization. They orient newly called

ward Primary presidencies and provide ongoing instruction and encouragement. They help ward Primary presidencies understand Church Scouting policies and how Scouting and the Faith in God program work together. They help plan day camps when needed. See *Handbook 2*, 11.5.3 for additional information.

The stake Primary presidency may register with the BSA as unit commissioners, or the stake presidency may designate other members of the stake to serve as unit commissioners under the direction of the stake Primary presidency. In making this assignment, the stake presidency should be careful not to overburden members who have other obligations. Unit commissioners function as liaisons to the Cub Scout program and the Scouting program for 11-year-old boys in each ward (see 3.5).

The high councilor assigned to the Primary informs the stake Primary presidency of training opportunities and helps them provide support and assistance to ward Primary leaders.

3.5 Unit Commissioners

Unit commissioners serve as resources to help Scouting units succeed throughout the stake. Each Cub pack, Scout troop, Varsity team, and Venturing crew should be served by a unit commissioner. Members of the stake Young Men presidency serve as unit commissioners. The stake presidency may also designate members of the stake Primary presidency or other stake members as unit commissioners, as long as this assignment will not overburden these members. Unit commissioners have the following responsibilities:

1. Register with BSA and receive required training.
2. Learn about Scout policies, procedures, and evaluation programs.
3. Establish a close relationship with adult Scout leaders in wards, interact with them regularly, and report the condition of Scouting in the stake to the assistant district commissioner.
4. Provide initial orientation, ongoing support, and instruction for all Scout units in the stake.
5. Inform Scouting units of training opportunities, charter renewal deadlines, health and safety issues, and activities in the stake and in the BSA local district and council.
6. Provide meaningful communication between Scouting units and the stake and between Scouting units and the BSA local district. This can be done at roundtable meetings, stake leadership meetings, or any other time.

4.0 Ward Leaders' Responsibilities for Scouting

4.1 Bishop

The bishop provides general direction for Scouting in the ward and ensures that it is properly organized and functioning as outlined in this publication and in *Handbook 2*, 8.13.4 and 11.5.3. He is registered with the BSA and serves as the executive officer for Scouting units chartered by the ward.

4.2 Bishop's Counselors

The bishop's counselors help the bishop by overseeing the Scouting programs for boys ages 8 through 11 and Aaronic Priesthood quorums.

The bishop assigns a counselor to serve as the ward's representative to the local Scouting district and council. This counselor registers as the chartered organization representative (COR). He works with other leaders to:

1. Charter all Scouting units in the ward annually.
2. Register boys ages 8 through 11, young men ages 12 through 15, and their adult leaders. Young men ages 16 and 17 and their leaders should be registered if the ward sponsors a Venturing crew or if rank advancements are being pursued.
3. See that tour and activity plans are completed; signed by the bishop, the COR, or the committee chairperson; and submitted.
4. Attend the district committee meetings and the annual council business meeting.
5. Attend Scout leader training.
6. Encourage all adults involved in Scouting to become properly trained soon after their call.
7. Help organize a functioning Scouting committee.
8. Conduct the annual Friends of Scouting campaign.
9. Help provide recognition for boys, young men, and their leaders.

4.3 Scouting Committees

The bishopric organizes ward Scouting committees to ensure that Scouting functions properly as a supporting activity for Aaronic Priesthood young men and for boys ages 8 through 11. The bishopric calls several capable adults (including fathers and mothers of boys and young men) to serve as committee members. One of the committee members is called to serve as the chairperson.

Qualified adults, including those who are not members of the Church, may serve on these committees. Each committee should include a member of the bishopric.

A Scouting committee can be as large as needed to carry out its responsibilities to the individual Scouting units. Where leadership or the number of young men or boys is limited, one committee could represent all young men of Aaronic Priesthood age and another committee could represent Cub Scouting.

When more than one Scouting committee exists in the ward, members of the Primary presidency should be assigned as follows: (1) the member responsible for the 11-year-old boys serves on the Boy Scout troop committee, and (2) the member responsible for boys ages 8 to 10 serves on the Cub Scout pack committee.

Scouting committees:

1. Meet as needed to discuss Scouting in the ward and receive assignments from the committee chairperson.
2. Support and assist Scouting activities by providing needed services.
3. See that the Scouting units operate in accordance with Church and BSA policies and standards.

5.0 Scouting in the Aaronic Priesthood

5.1 Aaronic Priesthood Quorum Advisers (Ward Young Men Presidency)

Generally, Aaronic Priesthood quorum advisers serve as the adult leaders of the Scouting units in the ward. Both the adviser and the assistant adviser(s) attend meetings of the quorum and the Scouting unit and must be registered with the BSA.

5.2 Youth Leadership

Scouting is part of the responsibilities of deacons and teachers quorum presidencies and the assistants to the bishop in the priests quorum. Planning for Scouting activities should be done in presidency meetings and in the Scouting unit leadership meetings. Sunday quorum meetings should not become Scout planning sessions.

Each Scouting unit should be led by a young man who is nominated by the bishopric and sustained by the quorum members. For Scouting purposes, this constitutes an election. This leader is usually the quorum president or an assistant in the priests quorum, but another worthy young

man may serve, whether a member of the Church or not. Other youth leaders of the Scouting units are nominated by the quorum presidency, approved by the bishopric, and sustained by the quorum members.

The quorum presidency, with help from their quorum adviser(s), meets to correlate each Scouting activity with other quorum activities. The president presides at and conducts the meeting. If another young man is called to be the youth Scouting leader, the president should invite him to conduct the Scouting portion of the meeting and show support for his leadership. Quorum advisers attend this meeting to provide adult support and direction to those who preside over the meeting.

All Scouting meetings should open and close with prayer and may include an inspirational message by the adult unit leader (such as a Scoutmaster's Minute).

6.0 Scouting in Primary

In Primary, the Faith in God program should be coordinated with Scouting to lay a foundation that prepares a boy to keep his baptismal covenants, better serve his family, and receive the priesthood. Careful planning is necessary to ensure that activities accomplish gospel-centered purposes.

Scouting supports boys and their families by giving boys an additional opportunity to put into practice the gospel principles they learn at home and in Primary. Parental involvement is a key to success in this program. Scouting also provides boys with leadership opportunities and helps them develop habits and attitudes of good citizenship.

Scouting activities and meetings for Primary-age boys are preferably held weekly in the daytime. Meetings may be held at the meetinghouse, in a home, or in an outdoor setting and should open and close with prayer.

6.1 Cub Scouting for Boys Ages 8 to 10

When properly carried out, Cub Scouting is a fun, home-centered activity program. No Scout-sponsored overnight camping should be planned for boys under age 11. Details for Cub Scout programs are published by the BSA and are available through BSA local council offices.

6.2 Scouting for 11-Year-Olds

Latter-day Saint boys become Boy Scouts when they turn 11. Although they are part of the ward Scout troop, they function in their own patrol and

operate under the direction of the ward Primary presidency. They can participate with the ward Boy Scout troop in occasional daytime activities as well as boards of review and courts of honor.

Scouting prepares 11-year-old boys to receive the Aaronic Priesthood and transition into the deacons quorum and Young Men program. Scouting can help them increase in confidence, testimony, brotherhood, and understanding of Aaronic Priesthood duties. Eleven-year-old boys need to establish good relationships with their peers, the deacons quorum presidency, and their leaders.

Eleven-year-old boys meet separately from the Aaronic Priesthood-age Scouts because they are not yet part of a quorum. They preferably meet in the daytime, but if evening meetings are necessary, the boys should not be away from their homes late at night and must be carefully supervised until they return home.

Eleven-year-old Scouts participate in rank advancement. They are encouraged to complete as many of the First Class rank requirements as possible before turning 12, with the exception of the requirement for six overnight camps.

Eleven-year-old Scouts may participate in three one-night camps a year, which meets the camping requirements for advancement to the rank of Second Class. If desired, these overnight camps may be held with the ward's Boy Scout troop. The eleven-year-old Scout leader plans the camps in consultation with the ward Primary presidency, the bishopric adviser to the Primary, and the ward Scouting committee. No other Scout-sponsored overnight camping should be planned for eleven-year-old Scouts.

Female leaders do not participate in overnight camping with these boys. If the leader of the eleven-year-old Scouts is a woman, the bishopric adviser to the Primary or another qualified male adult should be invited to supervise overnight camps. Fathers are encouraged to participate in overnight camps with their sons and with boys whose fathers cannot attend.

In consultation with the ward Primary presidency and the leader of the eleven-year-old Scouts, the bishopric appoints one of the boys to serve as the patrol leader. This patrol leader may meet occasionally with the older troop leaders when they plan events that will include the eleven-year-old patrol. The patrol leader should, with adult leader assistance, choose assistant patrol leaders and assign other duties in the patrol as needed.

If a ward or branch has only one or two 11-year-old boys, the objective for them is the same—to

prepare them to receive the Aaronic Priesthood and help them advance through the Boy Scout program. Possible approaches to administering the program in this circumstance include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Increase the size of the patrol through activation and missionary efforts.
2. Use the Lone Scout Program from the BSA.
3. Combine with neighboring wards or branches after considering distance, expense, and time demands that this option might impose on the families involved.

If this last option is chosen, the Primary president and bishopric adviser continue to track the progress of each boy from their ward or branch.

At age 12, boys join the deacons quorum and the Boy Scout troop.

6.3 Day Camps

Day camps offer opportunities for boys to have fun outdoors and complete outdoor requirements. If the BSA local council does not provide day camps or if they are not held within a reasonable travel distance, a member of the ward or stake Primary presidency directs the organization of day camps. For example, a member of the ward Primary presidency and the leader of the eleven-year-old Scouts, with the help of the ward Scouting committee, could organize a ward day camp for eleven-year-old Scouts. *A Day Camp Guide for Eleven-Year-Old Scouts* is available online at LDS.org.

6.4 Leader of the Patrol of Eleven-Year-Old Scouts

Either the Primary teacher of 11-year-old boys or another capable adult may serve as the group's Scout leader. This leader should:

1. Work under the direction of a member of the Primary presidency and meet with her regularly to discuss the Scouting program and each boy's progress.
2. Register with the BSA as the eleven-year-old Scout leader.
3. Attend the ward Scouting committee meetings.
4. Attend Scout training as applicable.
5. Attend other Primary meetings as invited.
6. Help each boy achieve the Faith in God Award and advance in Scouting.
7. See that the boys participate in a day camp, and help plan it if requested.

For additional information, see LDS.org.

6.5 Ward Primary Presidency

The ward Primary presidency, under the direction of a counselor in the bishopric, has responsibility for Scouting for boys ages 8 through 11. The Church does not participate in Scouting programs for boys younger than 8 years old. A member of the presidency is responsible to see that Scouting is organized appropriately.

The presidency member should:

1. Register with BSA, receive BSA training, serve on the appropriate ward Scouting committees, and ensure that Church policies are followed.
2. Coordinate Scouting with the Faith in God program to maintain a gospel focus.
3. Encourage attendance at Scout leader training.
4. Help leaders understand how Scouting can strengthen the family and accomplish the purposes of Primary.
5. Visit Scout meetings and activities to support and evaluate the quality of the boys' experiences in Scouting. Review each boy's progress and participation in presidency meetings and in the regular meetings with the bishopric adviser.
6. Help plan day camps and ensure that boys have an opportunity to participate in them.

7.0 Awards and Recognition

The Church makes the following Scouting awards and recognitions available to boys, young men, and adult leaders:

On My Honor Award. This is the Latter-day Saint religious award for young men in Boy Scouting, Varsity Scouting, or Venturing. Scouts who are members of other faiths may also earn the award.

On My Honor Adult Recognition. This recognition may be given to adult Scout leaders. Requirements for earning the award and suggestions for presenting it are outlined on the application card.

Faith in God Award. Primary boys and boys of other faiths, ages 8 through 10, can earn the BSA Religious Square Knot Award by completing the requirements in the *Faith in God for Boys* guidebook marked by the square knot icon.

Additional awards, including the BSA Religious Square Knot patch, are described in the online *BSA Guide to Awards and Insignia*. Contact your BSA local council office for information on training awards and requirements.

8.0 Church Policies

8.1 Standards

Church standards should be upheld at all Scout-sponsored activities. All Scouts and their leaders who are registered in Latter-day Saint Scouting units are expected to live the standards of the Church as outlined in *For the Strength of Youth*.

8.2 Registration of Youth and Adults

Throughout the year, each ward ensures that all youth and adults who participate in the BSA are properly registered. Any youth who joins the BSA for the first time must complete a BSA youth application. If a registered youth joins a Scouting unit in the ward after being a member of another Scouting unit, the ward notifies the BSA local council by sending the youth's name, birth date, and mailing address, along with a phone number for a parent or guardian. This notification must be signed by a member of the bishopric.

Each adult leader must complete a BSA adult application. All adult Scouting leaders must be properly registered and complete Youth Protection Training before beginning their service (see 8.6 and 8.8).

All registration fees for youth and adults, including those of other faiths who join Latter-day Saint units, are paid directly from Church headquarters to the BSA National Council.

8.3 Rechartering

Rechartering is the annual process by which each Scouting unit renews its charter as an official part of the BSA. As part of rechartering, each ward sends the BSA local council an updated roster of the Scouting unit, including the names, birth dates, and contact information of the registered youth in the unit. The roster lists all young men ages 8 through 15. Young men ages 16 and 17 are listed only if they are pursuing rank advancements or if the ward sponsors a Venturing crew. The roster must be signed by a member of the bishopric.

All fees for rechartering, unit liability insurance, and annual registration, including fees for those of other faiths who join Latter-day Saint units, are paid directly from Church headquarters to the BSA National Council.

The Church does not sponsor Scouting for girls or young women. The Primary and Young Women programs of the Church are designed to meet the needs and interests of girls and young women.

8.4 Combining Scouting Units

The stake president may authorize small units to combine for weekday activities as long as each ward maintains a properly registered unit; each is staffed with adult leaders; and retention, recruitment, and activation efforts are maintained by each ward or quorum.

8.5 Calling Adult Scouting Leaders

Worthy adults, whether members of the Church or not, may be called to serve as Scouting leaders. A current membership record of each member called to serve in Scouting should be in the local unit. All adult Scouting leaders must be properly registered and must complete Youth Protection Training before beginning their service.

Members of the Church who serve in Scouting assignments should be sustained and set apart (see also 8.8). Others who request it may receive a blessing from a member of the bishopric to help them in their assignment.

The bishopric may call men or women to serve as Scouting leaders for Primary-age Scouts. Women do not serve as leaders for young men of Aaronic Priesthood age, but they may chair or serve on Scouting committees.

When possible, leaders should be allowed to serve in Aaronic Priesthood and Scouting callings long enough to become fully trained, establish strong activity programs, and effectively touch the lives of boys and young men.

8.6 Youth Protection Program

The BSA requires all Scouting leaders to take Youth Protection Training, which is available online or through the BSA local district or council.

8.7 Two-Deep Leadership

Two registered adult leaders or one registered adult leader and a parent of a participant (one of whom must be 21 years of age or older) are required for all Scouting trips, outings, classes, and meetings.

In situations that require personal conferences, such as a Scoutmaster's conference or merit badge counseling, the meeting should be conducted in view of other adults or youth.

When camping, no youth is permitted to sleep in the tent of an adult other than his own parent or guardian.

Adult leaders must respect the privacy of youth in situations such as changing clothes and taking showers at camp, and they should intrude

only when health and safety require doing so. Adults should also protect their own privacy in similar situations.

8.8 **Background Screening for BSA Adult Leaders**

The BSA will complete a criminal background check on all new adult leaders as part of the registration approval process. This includes the screening of Social Security numbers. A Scout leader should not be sustained or set apart until priesthood leaders ensure that the BSA has completed this process. Priesthood leaders should also cooperate with BSA officials to resolve any issues that may arise.

8.9 **Safety**

Priesthood and Scouting leaders should refer regularly to *Handbook 2*, chapter 13 for policies and guidelines regarding activities and safety. Leaders should also comply with guidelines in the *Guide to Safe Scouting*, published by the BSA. This publication is available online at scouting.org and at BSA local council service centers. Additional safety guidelines can be found on safety.lds.org.

Leaders should use the BSA Activity Consent Form and Approval by Parents or Legal Guardian, as well as tour and activity plans, as required, when planning activities and outings.

Activities should be appropriate for the participants' ages, ability, and maturity. Leaders and youth should have fitness levels appropriate for the activity, and individual medical risk factors should be carefully considered. Before holding an activity, leaders should instruct all participants in safety practices unique to the activity. Leaders and youth should know and abide by all laws and safety guidelines pertaining to the activity or property.

8.10 **Emergencies**

Leaders should be prepared for emergencies that may occur and know in advance how to contact law enforcement and emergency services.

8.11 **Accident Response and Reporting**

Leaders should notify the bishop and stake president promptly if an accident, illness, or injury occurs on Church property or during an official Scouting or Church-sponsored activity. If the accident involves a fatality or overnight hospital stay, leaders immediately notify the Risk Management Division at Church headquarters (telephone 1-801-240-4049 or 1-800-453-3860,

extension 2-4049). Leaders should also notify the local BSA council.

For detailed guidelines on responding to accidents and reporting them, see *Handbook 2*, 13.6.20.

8.12 **Camping and Sabbath Day Observance**

Keeping the Sabbath day holy is a commandment of the Lord and the practice of the Church. The Church does not approve of hiking and camping trips on Sunday. Scout groups should not travel to or from camps on Sunday. Plans for outings should ensure that Aaronic Priesthood brethren and other members can fulfill their regular Church assignments.

As an exception, priesthood leaders may give approval for a Church-sponsored Scouting unit to participate in some BSA-sponsored national and regional jamborees that occur over the Sabbath. This participation may only occur with prior priesthood approval and with supervision by authorized priesthood leaders. Members who attend such events are not to participate in activities that are inappropriate for the Sabbath. Scout uniforms may be worn during sacrament services at these events.

Sacrament meetings are not to be held—and the sacrament is not to be administered—outside the boundaries of the ward or stake where the priesthood leaders preside. Any exceptions must be approved by a member of the Presidency of the Seventy.

Scouting events (except approved long-term camps) are not held on Monday evening, the night designated for family home evening.

8.13 **Scouting Month**

February has traditionally been designated as Scouting Month in the United States. Leaders of Scouting units chartered by the Church may plan and carry out approved activities to recognize this tradition. However, in keeping with the purposes of Sabbath observance, boys and leaders do not wear their uniforms to regular Sunday meetings or while administering and passing the sacrament.

8.14 **Travel**

Leaders should follow the travel policies outlined in *Handbook 2* (13.6.24). In addition, members who travel in Church-sponsored Scouting groups should prepare tour and activity plans and receive approval from appropriate priesthood leaders. Church Scouting units may not own or acquire automobiles or buses for travel.

When using private passenger vehicles, each driver should be a licensed, responsible adult. All vehicles and drivers should be covered by reasonable amounts of insurance.

Drivers should be instructed to obey all laws, to make sure their vehicle is in safe operating condition, and to ensure that each person properly uses a seat belt. Drivers should also be instructed not to drive if they are drowsy, not to use mobile phones while driving, and not to engage in other behaviors that would distract them.

8.15 **Funding Scouting**

Leaders should follow the budget allowance guidelines in *Handbook 2* to fund Scouting (see 8.13.7, 11.8.7, 13.2.8, 13.2.9, 13.5, and 13.6.8). Ward budgets should be used to purchase Scouting awards and materials, as determined by local leaders. Commercially produced or packaged goods or services should not be sold.

Scouting units may participate in Scouting shows, camporees, and other BSA activities that involve the sale of tickets by boys or young men, as long as all other budget allowance guidelines are met.

The Church supports the BSA's annual Friends of Scouting drive. These funds provide financial support for the BSA local council. Stake presidents and bishops oversee the drive in their units.

8.16 **Uniforms**

Young men registered in a Scouting unit are encouraged to wear the appropriate uniform. No young man or boy should be excluded from Scouting if he is unable to purchase a uniform. Units may wish to maintain a supply of used uniforms to make them available for boys. Abbreviated or simple uniforms and insignia, which have been approved by the BSA, are appropriate and encouraged. Adult leaders are also encouraged to wear appropriate Scouting uniforms, where feasible.

8.17 **Young Men and Boys of Other Faiths**

Young men and boys of other faiths who agree to abide by Church standards should be welcomed and encouraged to participate in Scouting activities. Expenses for their participation are paid in the same manner as for other youth. Voluntary contributions from their families may be accepted and handled in accordance with Church policy.

8.18 **Scouting for Boys and Young Men with Disabilities**

As much as possible, programs and activities should be planned to include Scouts with disabilities. Young men or boys with mental, physical, or emotional disabilities should be encouraged to participate in Scouting to the extent their abilities will allow. They may complete as many of the program requirements as possible. More information about Scouting experiences for those with disabilities is available at scouting.org and from BSA local council offices. See also *Handbook 2*, 21.1.26.

8.19 **Specialty, Multiple-Unit, and Long-Term Camps**

Latter-day Saint Scouting units are not authorized to organize "specialty" or similar programs that focus exclusively on a particular skill, hobby, or career.

Stake or ward Scout camps that involve more than two units and that exceed three consecutive nights for Venturers and five consecutive nights for Boy Scouts and Varsity Scouts cannot be advertised as "Scout" camps unless they follow the BSA national camp standards and are authorized by the local council. If long-term camps do not qualify as authorized Scout camps, they will not be covered by BSA liability insurance. For long-term camping, use of BSA facilities is strongly recommended.

8.20 **Official Scouting Activities and Unauthorized Activities**

An "official Scouting activity" is an activity that is consistent with the established programs, values, charter, bylaws, and rules and regulations of the BSA. The BSA's *Guide to Safe Scouting* provides important planning guidelines, along with a list of unauthorized and restricted activities. These activities are not considered official Scouting activities.

Volunteers (registered and unregistered), units, and chartered organizations will jeopardize insurance coverage for themselves and their organization if they engage in unauthorized activities. Leaders should not put themselves, others, or the Church at risk. (See the BSA's *Guide to Safe Scouting*, section X, "Insurance.")

8.21 Liability Insurance

There is insurance coverage through the BSA for a Scout meeting or event that qualifies as an official Scouting activity (see 8.20). The BSA provides primary comprehensive general liability insurance protection for registered Scout Leaders, Scouting units, and chartering organizations.

The insurance provided to unregistered Scouting volunteers through the BSA's general liability insurance program is excess over any other insurance the volunteer might have available to him or her. Vehicle or watercraft liability insurance coverage through the BSA is provided on an excess basis. (See the BSA's *Guide to Safe Scouting*, section X, "Insurance.")

For personal liability insurance guidelines within the Church, see *Handbook 2*, 13.6.9, which states: "Where possible, [members] should protect themselves by carrying reasonable amounts of liability insurance. Such insurance may be available through homeowners insurance or other policies."

The Church does not typically purchase primary liability insurance but uses Church funds to defend and pay claims. On a case-by-case basis, the Church may assist those who are sued in connection with Church activities. The Church will attempt to exhaust all available coverage before using Church funds. For official Scouting activities, there should be insurance coverage through the BSA.

Neither the Church nor the BSA provides indemnification or defense coverage to individuals who commit intentional or criminal acts.

8.22 Church Activity Medical Assistance (CAMA)

Church Activity Medical Assistance (CAMA) applies to Church-sponsored activities, including Scouting. CAMA is administered by Deseret Mutual (DMBA) and provides assistance to participants of activities sponsored by stakes, wards, and branches of the Church in the United States. No fees should be paid to the BSA local council for accident and health insurance coverage. See the current DMBA CAMA handbook for information on how this assistance is provided (visit dmba.com/churchactivity for details or see *Handbook 2*, 13.6.9).