

# SCOUTING &

**The Church of Jesus Christ  
of Latter-day Saints**



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®  
LDS-BSA RELATIONSHIPS

Dear Scouter:

The purpose of this resource is to provide you with information about The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Church; LDS) that will help you in building a good working relationship with the leaders of the Church. No amount of written information could compensate for spending time with the leaders of a chartered organization. However, the knowledge gained by studying the contents of this packet will help you prepare a foundation to build an association that will strengthen the quality of Scouting in your district and council.

In addition to the information that follows, we suggest that you obtain the following three separate publications, all of which are published by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints:

- *Scouting Handbook*
- *Church Handbook of Instructions, “Aaronic Priesthood”*
- *Church Handbook of Instructions, “Primary”*

We hope you will find this information valuable in helping to build a solid relationship with Church leaders. Additional Scouting information can be found at the LDS-BSA Relationships Web site at [www.ldsbsa.org](http://www.ldsbsa.org) or the Church Web site at [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org).

Sincerely,

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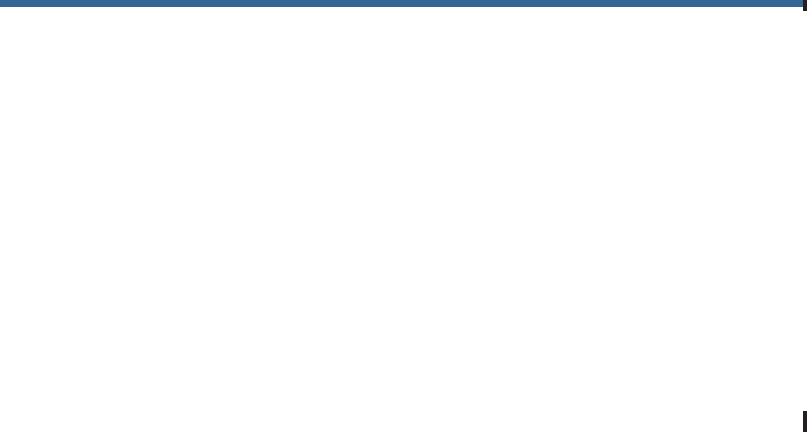




## Contents

A Brief History of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints . . . . .	Page 1
The Articles of Faith. . . . .	Page 2
A Brief History of Scouting in the Church . . . . .	Page 3
Latter-day Saint Membership in the Boy Scouts of America . . . . .	Page 4
Scouting Units. . . . .	Page 4
Eagle Scouts. . . . .	Page 5
Unit Leadership. . . . .	Page 5
Eleven-Year-Old Scouts. . . . .	Page 5
Tiger Cubs . . . . .	Page 5
Keeping Current With Registrations . . . . .	Page 7
Training . . . . .	Page 8
Roundtable Attendance. . . . .	Page 8
LDS Scouting Leadership Conference at Philmont and Little Philmonts . . . . .	Page 9
Service at the District and Council Levels . . . . .	Page 9
Commissioner Service . . . . .	Page 9
Council LDS Relationships Committees . . . . .	Page 10
Order of the Arrow. . . . .	Page 10
Fund-Raising. . . . .	Page 10
Outdoor Program: Policies for Church Units. . . . .	Page 11
Monday Night Activities . . . . .	Page 11
Glossary . . . . .	Page 12
Appendix . . . . .	Page 13

*This information, produced by the LDS-BSA Relationships office in Salt Lake City, Utah, is a resource for all interested Scouters to help them understand Scouting in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. This is an official publication of the Boy Scouts of America and is intended for the use of professional and volunteer Scout leaders on a national, council, and district level in servicing the Scouting units in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. If you are unfamiliar with LDS terms, we recommend you first review the definitions on page 12.*



## A Brief History of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

In the spring of 1820, 14-year-old Joseph Smith Jr. retired to the woods near his home in Palmyra, New York, and offered a simple prayer to our Father in Heaven. This humble prayer set into motion a series of events that brought The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from its obscure beginnings in upstate New York to prominence as a worldwide Christian church.



Joseph Smith Jr. was born December 23, 1805, to Joseph Smith Sr. and Lucy Mack Smith in Sharon, Vermont. Between 1823 and 1827, he was directed by heavenly messengers to the location of gold plates that contained a written history of the ancient inhabitants of the Americas. In 1827 Joseph began translating the characters engraved on the plates, completing the translation in June of 1829. The first edition of the Book of Mormon was printed in March 1830; on April 6, 1830, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized in Fayette Township, New York.

Over the next 14 years, the membership of the Church increased significantly, but religious persecution forced the Latter-day Saints to move from New York to Ohio, then to Missouri, and later to Illinois. On June 27, 1844, the Prophet Joseph Smith was martyred in the jail in Carthage, Illinois, sealing with his blood the testimony of his work. As persecution grew, the Saints were again forced to leave their homes; in the winter of 1846, they left Nauvoo, Illinois, crossing the frozen Mississippi River. They continued to move westward, eventually settling in what later became Salt Lake City, Utah. Over a period of a few short years, more than 70,000 Mormon pioneers crossed the plains to join the Saints in the Rocky Mountains.

Today the Church is a worldwide organization with more members outside of the United States than inside. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has more than 13 million members worldwide and is one of the fastest-growing churches in the world.

*For further information on the history of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, refer to [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org).*

## The Articles of Faith

The Articles of Faith outline 13 basic points of belief of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Prophet Joseph Smith first wrote them in an 1842 letter to John Wentworth, a newspaper editor, in response to Mr. Wentworth's request to know what members of the Church believed. They were subsequently published in Church periodicals.

1. We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.
2. We believe that men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam's transgression.
3. We believe that through the Atonement of Christ, all mankind may be saved, by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel.
4. We believe that the first principles and ordinances of the Gospel are: first, Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, Repentance; third, Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; fourth, Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.
5. We believe that a man must be called of God, by prophecy, and by the laying on of hands by those who are in authority, to preach the Gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof.
6. We believe in the same organization that existed in the Primitive Church, namely, apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, and so forth.
7. We believe in the gift of tongues, prophecy, revelation, visions, healing, interpretation of tongues, and so forth.
8. We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.
9. We believe all that God has revealed, all that He does now reveal, and we believe that He will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.
10. We believe in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes; that Zion (the New Jerusalem) will be built upon the American continent; that Christ will reign personally upon the earth; and, that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory.
11. We claim the privilege of worshiping Almighty God according to the dictates of our own conscience, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how, where, or what they may.
12. We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers, and magistrates, in obeying, honoring, and sustaining the law.
13. We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men; indeed, we may say that we follow the admonition of Paul—We believe all things, we hope all things, we have endured many things, and hope to be able to endure all things. If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things.

—Joseph Smith

## A Brief History of Scouting in the Church

The Young Men Mutual Improvement Association (YMMIA) of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized June 10, 1875, under the direction of President Brigham Young. Its purpose was to provide leisure-time activities, particularly along spiritual and cultural lines, for the young men of the Church. Later, athletics were made part of the program. After news was received by Church leaders about the introduction of Boy Scouting by Robert Baden-Powell in England in 1907 and the organizing of the Boy Scouts of America in 1910, the idea of the Scouting



movement was investigated by the Athletic Committee of the YMMIA. On November 29, 1911, the YMMIA Scouts were officially recognized by the General Board of the YMMIA. The YMMIA Scouts, upon invitation from the National (BSA) Council, became a part of the Boy Scouts of America on May 21, 1913.

A number of key Church leaders currently serve on national and regional BSA committees. Most notable is Thomas S. Monson, President of the Church, who has served on the BSA National Executive Board since 1969. Others include the Young Men general president, who serves on the National Executive Board; and Young

Men general presidency and Primary general presidency, who serve as members of the National Advisory Board. Many other key Church leaders and dedicated members of the Church serve at all levels of Scouting throughout the United States.

At the council level, each Scout executive should build a good working relationship with the stake president. The district executive(s) should know which counselor in the stake presidency has stewardship over Scouting and should have a positive relationship with this individual. The district executive should meet annually with the bishop of each ward and have a close relationship with the chartered organization representative, who is generally a member of the bishopric.

Scouting has evolved into an important component of the Church's youth programs. When properly carried out under the direction of priesthood leaders, Scouting supplements activities of boys and young men ages eight to eighteen. Scouting also assists in accomplishing the eternal purposes of the priesthood and families.

*Refer to "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints/Scouting Structure" on page 15.*

## Latter-day Saint Membership in the Boy Scouts of America

According to a report published by the Boy Scouts of America (December 31, 2009) titled “Top 30 Chartered Organizations Ranked by Youth,” The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was ranked as number one in total units and number one in membership. The report also states that nationally about 17 percent of the BSA’s traditional membership is registered in units sponsored by the Church. The percentage is much higher in the western United States.

### Scouting Units

Scouting under Church sponsorship must not operate independently of the priesthood and the family. The Scout unit becomes an extension of the home and the Church—the deacons, teachers, and priests quorum, and the Primary classes—and functions as part of the Church’s activity program for boys and young men. Where Scouting is authorized by the Church, a Cub Scout pack, a Boy Scout troop, and a Varsity team should be chartered by wards and branches that have two or more boys of the particular age served by the program. While Venturing crews are optional, Venturing is recommended as the activity arm of the priests quorum.

The Church does not organize Scouting units through stakes, but rather through wards and branches as mentioned above. Although it is appropriate to have small units join with other wards and branches for activities (such as multiple-ward pack meetings or campouts), the merging/registering of boys from various wards to create one larger unit (with one unit number) is discouraged. The responsibility and stewardship for the Scouting, Primary, and Young Men programs lies primarily with the bishop and his counselors. The bishop serves as the president of the Aaronic Priesthood and is responsible for teaching and training Aaronic Priesthood quorum leaders. Individual young men are called to serve as the deacons quorum president, the teachers quorum president, and priests quorum assistants. The senior patrol leader, Varsity team captain, and Venturing crew leader are usually the youth quorum leaders. Scouting is a great tool to teach the young men leadership skills.

The Church has opted to use age to determine membership in Scouting programs. Because age is used by the Church in organizing quorums, membership in a Scouting unit is likewise determined by age (instead of school grade). Boys join Cub Scouts at age 8 in conjunction with their baptism, and become Boy Scouts at age 11, Varsity Scouts at age 14, and Venturers at age 16. Even though the units may be smaller than most non-LDS units, separate age-group units are encouraged to maintain priesthood quorum integrity and identity, as well as priesthood lines of authority. Individuals (youth and adults) do not need to be members of the Church in order to register and serve with Church-sponsored Scouting units. Women do not participate as youth members of Venturing crews. However, a woman can be called as a den leader, Cubmaster, committee member, or 11-year-old Scout leader.

*Refer to the “LDS Scouting Organization” charts for stake and ward levels in the appendices on pages 16–17.*

## Eagle Scouts

A higher percentage of Scouts in units sponsored by the Church reach the rank of Eagle than the national BSA average. This is due to a couple of important factors that are not as common in units chartered to other organizations. First, a very high retention in the program means that most LDS Scouts stay active in Scouting until age 18, increasing the opportunities for advancement and leadership experience. Second, because the Scouting program is so fully integrated into the Church's youth program, the leadership of the Church places an emphasis on earning the rank of Eagle Scout while simultaneously working on the Church's Duty to God Award. Therefore, the support mechanism beyond the family and unit is very strong for young men seeking the rank.



## Unit Leadership

Under the direction of the ward's bishop, men are "called" to serve as advisers to the three quorums and serve as the "Young Men presidency" of the ward. Generally, these men also serve as Scoutmaster, Varsity Scout Coach, and Venturing crew Advisor. If assistant quorum advisers are called, they may serve in these roles or may assist the quorum adviser. In the Primary, one of the Primary presidency members serves as a member of the pack committee and one serves as a member of the troop committee representing the 11-year-old Scout patrol. A Scout committee should be as large as needed to carry out its responsibilities to the individual Scouting unit. All committee members, whether members of the Church or not, must understand and be willing to maintain Church standards. Where leadership or the number of young men or boys is limited, one committee could represent all Scouting units in the ward.

## Eleven-Year-Old Scouts

A patrol of 11-year-old Scouts (under the direction of the Primary, with the boys being registered in the Boy Scout troop) is comparable to what is known as the "New Scout patrol" in Scouting nomenclature. A member of the ward Primary presidency works with an adult who is called to be an assistant Scoutmaster with the 11-year-old patrol (this assistant Scoutmaster is known as the leader of the 11-year-old Scouts). The primary goal of the Scouts in this patrol should be to attain First Class rank advancement within a year.

## Tiger Cubs

The Church does not sponsor Scouting programs for boys younger than 8 years old.

*Refer to the "LDS Scouting Organization" charts for stake and ward levels in the appendix on pages 16–17.*



## Keeping Current With Registrations

In a letter dated March 17, 1999, which was sent to all “General Authorities and the following leaders in the United States: Area Authority Seventies; Stake, Mission, and District Presidents; Bishops and Branch Presidents,” President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, stated, “All adults called to serve in Church Scouting should be worthy and exemplify gospel living. Please be sure that the current membership record of each member called to serve in the Scouting program is in the local unit. Also ensure that all Scout leaders are registered with the Boy Scouts of



America before they begin their service.” The directive to have all adults registered prior to serving was again emphasized by President Thomas S. Monson in the May 2007 Aaronic Priesthood and Scouting broadcast. In that broadcast, the Young Men General President stated that it is the policy of the Church to register all eligible youth members of the Church with the BSA. It is then the role of the local leaders to reactivate the less active youth through Scouting.

Annual registration fees are paid for youth, adult leaders, and the unit by the Church through the local stake budget. Youth who turn 8, 11, 14, or 16 (joining the pack, troop, team, or crew respectively) or who move into the ward, as well as newly called leaders (i.e. newly selected or moving to a different Scouting unit in the ward), should be registered immediately upon joining the unit. If an adult or youth member has an unexpired membership certificate, the application should be marked “Transfer” (the transfer processing fee is only \$1). In order to ensure that all registrations have been properly processed by the council, it is recommended that each ward do a membership inventory twice each year.

The council should work with ward leaders and compare the ward’s unit rosters of leaders and Scouting-age boys with the list of members the council records show are registered in the ward Scouting units. Any discrepancies between the two lists should be corrected as soon as possible and any new registrations turned into the council office immediately. The district executive, working with the unit commissioner, can be of help in facilitating the periodic reviews.

*Refer to “Church Policies Concerning BSA Registration” in the appendix on page 18.*

## Training

The *LDS Scouting Handbook* places an increased responsibility on Church leaders, both stake and ward, to train LDS Scout leaders in the Scouting program. This means that stake and ward leaders need to know the Scouting program and must be trained themselves.

In January 2010, the Young Men General Presidency wrote, “Mandatory training for Scout leaders will be rolled out over the next three years. All direct-contact leaders will need to attend in order to remain registered. It is the local council’s responsibility to provide training for all leaders in the program. Each council needs to focus on training individual leaders, and should not solely provide training for leaders to attend. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints supports the mandatory training policy and desires all Scouting leaders to receive the training necessary for their individual position.”

The Young Men General Presidency also stated, “We must find ways to help each adult who works with Young Men to have a desire to become fully trained. If we are going to be able to provide a dynamic Aaronic Priesthood activity program that develops them spiritually, creates strong brotherhood, provides wide opportunity for service to others, and reaches out to all young men, we must be better prepared to use the tools of Scouting through proper understanding. That understanding only comes through effective training and proper implementation.”

The Boy Scouts of America offers basic training for each Scouting position, as well as other courses such as Wood Badge, to help leaders learn Scouting methods and skills. Taking training should help the leaders properly understand the program so that it meets the intended results of both the BSA and the Church. Scout leaders may enroll in these courses to supplement training from local priesthood leaders.

In the February 2007 *LDS Relationships Newsletter*, the Young Men General Presidency emphasized the importance of Wood Badge training: “If we are really intent in touching the lives of our young men—in building, as Elder Ballard has challenged, ‘the greatest generation of missionaries this world has ever seen’—then we will do whatever is necessary to help us to accomplish that, including getting trained. For most of us, Wood Badge is life-changing because it has to do more with vision and understanding this great tool for strengthening young men of the Aaronic Priesthood than anything else.”

## Roundtable Attendance

While BSA basic training and supplemental Church training provide an excellent foundation, attendance at monthly roundtables for Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, and Venturing adult leaders helps a leader renew skills, allows leaders to share ideas, and informs leaders about upcoming district/council events. Roundtables are an excellent opportunity for Scout leaders in the Church to gain a deeper understanding of practical ways to use Scouting in fulfilling their Church responsibilities. Volunteering as members of their district roundtable staff is another way for Church Scout leaders to serve at the district level, while forming new friendships and getting a head start on planning their unit activities.

## LDS Scouting Leadership Conference at Philmont and Little Philmonts

Each year, LDS stake presidents are invited to attend a week-long training experience at Philmont Scout Ranch. The invitations to attend are sent from the Church and directed to stake presidents and their counselors. Normally, more than 160 leaders and 500 family members attend during one of two available weeks. It is a powerful training experience for the individuals. As a part of their experience at Philmont, stake leaders are requested to return home and plan and conduct a stake (or multiple-stake) Little Philmont, and teach the principles learned at Philmont to Scout leaders who attend. The BSA professional's support of a Little Philmont is beneficial and should be sought.

## Service at the District and Council Levels

It is desirable for youth leaders of the Church to become involved in district and council Scouting. Latter-day Saint leaders who have a desire to serve should be encouraged to volunteer on district and council committees and to work with other volunteers and the council professional staff to carry out the total Scouting program.

The *LDS Scouting Handbook* states: "Priesthood leaders may participate as volunteers in district and council Scouting committees and activities to solidify relationships between Scouting and the Church. In every instance, leaders should do everything possible within Church policies to create goodwill, mutual understanding, and cooperation between the two [organizations]."

*Refer to "LDS Leadership Positions and Possible BSA Positions" as posted on [www.ldsbsa.org](http://www.ldsbsa.org).*

## Commissioner Service

Commissioner service is a valuable way for the council and district to engage stake leadership in Scouting. Each LDS stake has a Young Men presidency and a Primary presidency that is organized to take care of Scouting's needs in the stake. The stake Young Men presidency work well as commissioners for Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, and Venturing. The stake Primary presidency service Cub Scouts and 11-year-old Scouts. The council and district should work with stake presidencies to recruit stake leadership to help with commissioner service. By being involved in commissioner service, these recruited LDS leaders are able to:

1. Help ward leaders know and understand Church Scouting policies.
2. Encourage ward Scout leaders to participate in basic training and other approved training.
3. Evaluate the quality of the boys' program by visiting ward Scout meetings and activities periodically.

*Refer to the "LDS Scouting Organization" charts for stake and ward levels in the appendixes on pages 16–17. Also see "LDS Leadership Positions and Possible BSA Positions" for commissioner recommendations as posted on [www.ldsbsa.org](http://www.ldsbsa.org).*

## Council LDS Relationships Committees

Each council should have an active LDS relationships committee. The chairman of the committee should be a currently serving stake president or his counselor; representatives from each stake presidency should serve on the council. Depending on the size of the LDS population in the council, this committee may be organized on a council or district basis, or both. The council LDS relationships committee provides an opportunity for the committee to support the council's Church-sponsored Scouting units. This committee may also be asked to answer requests from the LDS-BSA Relationships office in Salt Lake City to share information on the status of local units' progress with charter renewal, Centennial Quality Unit status, training of leaders, Friends of Scouting, summer camp attendance, and so on. In many councils, the Scout executive or his designee serves as the professional adviser to the council LDS relationships committee. If your council does not have an LDS relationships committee, please contact the LDS-BSA Relationships office at 801-530-0004 for assistance.

## Order of the Arrow

The Order of the Arrow (OA) is Scouting's national honor society. It supports the teachings of the Church regarding cheerful service and brotherhood. Troops and teams may hold elections for their youth, and adults can be recommended for membership and participate as well.



## Fund-Raising

Stakes and wards should fund all youth activities, including Scouting, from the budget allowance. If budget allowance funds are insufficient, young men may individually earn their own money for the cost of one annual camp. Annual day-camp experiences for Cub Scouts also qualify as annual camps. If budget allowance funds are insufficient and young men are unable to individually earn enough for the one annual camp, as a last resort, they may hold group fund-raising activities, if done in accordance with the *Budget Allowance Guidelines*. Wards do not charge young men, including Cub Scouts, fees or dues for weekly or monthly activities. Young men and Cub Scouts may hold group fund-raising activities to pay for equipment for the unit if there is not sufficient budget allowance.

Those conducting fund-raising activities should:

1. Obtain the bishop's approval for the activity.
2. Not sell products or services door-to-door.
3. Provide meaningful value or service.
4. Provide a positive experience and build harmony and unity within the group.
5. Comply with tax and liability guidelines presented in the *Church Handbook of Instructions*. For more information, they should contact their stake president or bishop.

Priesthood leaders should take special care to see that members are not made to feel obligated to contribute to fund-raising activities. Contributions should be voluntary.

Since Scouting is an integral part of the Church program for youth, registration fees are paid by the stake and reimbursed by Church headquarters, and activity expenses are covered by the Church through the budget allowance. A subscription to *Boys' Life* magazine is encouraged, but optional, and can be purchased by the Scout or his family.

Friends of Scouting is a BSA fund-raiser that benefits each local council. The Church supports Friends of Scouting as a separate voluntary solicitation. Every member of every ward should be offered the opportunity to contribute to Friends of Scouting.

*For more information on fund-raising activities, please refer to [www.ldsbsa.org](http://www.ldsbsa.org).*

## Outdoor Program: Policies for Church Units

Latter-day Saint members are directed by the Church to not travel to or from camps on Sundays. Most campouts should end no later than Saturday. The Church does not approve of hiking and camping trips on Sunday. Jamboree and special LDS encampments require special permission. Any planned activities should be consistent with keeping the Sabbath holy. For Primary-age boys, day camp attendance is strongly encouraged, but Cub Scouts (ages 8 through 10) do not go on any Scout-sponsored overnight camping trips other than family camps. Eleven-year-old Boy Scouts may camp on a one-night overnighter three times a year in order to satisfy the requirements of the Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class rank advancements. For more information, refer to the *LDS Scouting Handbook*.



## Monday Night Activities

In a letter to members of the Church throughout the world, the First Presidency stated: “Monday nights are reserved throughout the Church for family home evenings. We encourage members to set aside this time to strengthen family ties and teach the gospel in their homes. Where practical, members may also want to encourage community and school leaders to avoid scheduling activities on Monday evenings that require children or parents to be away from their homes. Church buildings and facilities should be closed on Monday evenings. No ward or stake activities should be planned, and other interruptions to family home evenings should be avoided.” However, there are situations—such as week-long training events and long-term camping trips—when Monday activities cannot be avoided. LDS Scouters should participate actively in their district and/or the council and should encourage their district and council not to hold any Scouting meetings on Monday nights.

## Glossary

This glossary contains words used by Church members that might not be familiar to Scouters who are not members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. There are two official glossaries for Church-related words: <http://newsroom.lds.org/ldsnewsroom/eng/glossary> and <http://mormon.org/mormonorg/eng/basic-beliefs/glossary>. Search these if you need additional guidance. For guidance on how to refer to the Church and its members correctly, see <http://newsroom.lds.org/ldsnewsroom/eng/style-guide>. The official BSA style guide, which includes a glossary of Scouting terms, is at [www.scouting.org/Media/LOS](http://www.scouting.org/Media/LOS).

**Aaronic Priesthood.** The lesser of the two levels or orders of priesthood in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Aaronic Priesthood is conferred upon faithful male members of the Church beginning at age 12 and includes the offices of deacon, teacher, and priest. Aaronic Priesthood holders prepare and offer the sacrament (communion) to Church members during Sunday worship services, help to visit members in their homes, collect contributions for the poor, and have other service duties. The name of the Aaronic Priesthood comes from Aaron, brother of Moses, in the Old Testament.

**Bishop.** The leader of a local congregation (known as a ward), with duties similar to those of a pastor, priest, or rabbi. The bishop has two counselors, and the three (comprising the bishopric) are unpaid. The bishop is registered with the BSA as the institution head; one of his counselors is usually registered as the chartered organization representative.

**Branch.** A local congregation, smaller than a ward, in an area where the Church is in a developing stage. The leader of a branch is called the branch president; he and his two counselors are known as the branch presidency. The branch president is the institution head; one of the counselors usually serves as the chartered organization representative.

**Calling.** An invitation to a member to accept an office or responsibility in the Church. Worthy adults (whether members of the Church or not) may be “called” to serve as Scout leaders.

**First Presidency.** The highest ruling body of the Church, composed of the President of the Church and two counselors. All three are referred to as “President.” The First Presidency is the final authority in all matters relating to the Church.

**Mormon.** A fourth-century prophet in the Americas who abridged the historical and religious records of his people onto metal plates. His record was translated by Joseph Smith and first published in the United States in 1830 as the Book of Mormon. The name “Mormon” has become an unofficial nickname for members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. When referring to Church members, the term “Latter-day Saints” is preferred, although “Mormons” is also acceptable.

**Primary.** The Church organization for children ages three through eleven. The Primary presidency supervises Scouting for Primary boys ages 8 through 11: Cub Scouts (Wolf and Bear), ages 8 and 9; Webelos Scouts, age 10; and boys in the patrol for 11-year-old Scouts.

**Quorum.** An organized group of brethren who hold the same office in the priesthood. They may be ordained to an office in the Aaronic Priesthood starting at age 12. Young men are registered in age-appropriate Scouting units that consist of members of their priesthood quorums: Boy Scouts ages 12–13 are in the deacons quorum, Varsity Scouts ages 14–15 are in the teachers quorum, and Venturers ages 16–18 are in the priests quorum.

**Stake.** A geographical subdivision of the Church composed of several wards (similar to a diocese). The stake presidency consists of the stake president (the leader of the stake) and two counselors.

**Ward.** The basic geographical unit of the Church, consisting of several hundred members in a single congregation, presided over by a bishop and two counselors (known collectively as a bishopric). In BSA terminology, the ward is the chartered organization.

## Appendix

A. Statements by Church Leaders About Scouting . . . . .	Page 14
B. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints/Scouting Structure . . . . .	Page 15
C. Suggested LDS Scouting Organization at the Stake Level . . . . .	Page 16
D. Suggested LDS Scouting Organization at the Ward Level . . . . .	Page 17
E. Church Policies Regarding BSA Registration . . . . .	Page 18
F. Sources of Information on Scouting in the Church . . . . .	Page 20

## Appendix A

### Statements by Church Leaders About Scouting

“I pondered the thought, ‘How many boys have had their lives blessed—even saved—by the Scout movement begun by Baden-Powell?’ Unlike others memorialized within the walls of Westminster Abbey, Baden-Powell had neither sailed the stormy seas of glory nor founded empires of worldly wealth. Rather, he was a builder of boys—one who taught them well how to run and win the race of life. Every boy blessed by Scouting adopts the motto “*Be Prepared.*” He subscribes to the slogan “*Do a Good Turn Daily.*” Scouting provides proficiency badges to encourage skills and personal endeavor. Scouting teaches boys how to live, not merely how to make a living.”

—President Thomas S. Monson  
*Aaronic Priesthood–Scouting Broadcast, May 12, 2007*

“Scouting takes us back to nature, teaches boys to appreciate, cherish and learn to care for this grand and divine creation—in addition to learning the importance of physical fitness and caring for our physical bodies. That is central in Scouting, as [a boy] not only learns these lessons, but commits to keep himself ‘physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.’”

—Young Men General President Charles W. Dahlquist II  
*Aaronic Priesthood–Scouting Broadcast, May 12, 2007*

“Scouting is fun and has an important purpose! Woven through all the fun is an inspired program that really works. Scouting is about learning and living the gospel. Scouting can reinforce positive character values and leadership skills that are taught in the home. Scouting prepares boys to become righteous men who hold and honor the priesthood of God. Scout leaders have the responsibility to help each boy connect what he is learning in Scouting to his priesthood preparation and his future as a covenant-keeping missionary, husband, and father.”

—Primary General President Cheryl C. Lant  
*www.lds.org (Primary Activity Days—Scouting)*

“I love the Scouting movement. The promise of the Scout Oath and the 12 points of the Scout Law direct young men along the path of being prepared for the 21st century. They provide a solid and powerful magnetic force toward development of a well-rounded and noteworthy character that counts. If every boy in America knew and observed the Scout Oath, we would do away with most of the jails and prisons in this country. If each of us would live up to those few words, ‘On my honor, I will do my best,’ whether it be in school, whether it be in our social life, whether it be in our business or professional life, if I will do my very best, success and happiness will be mine.”

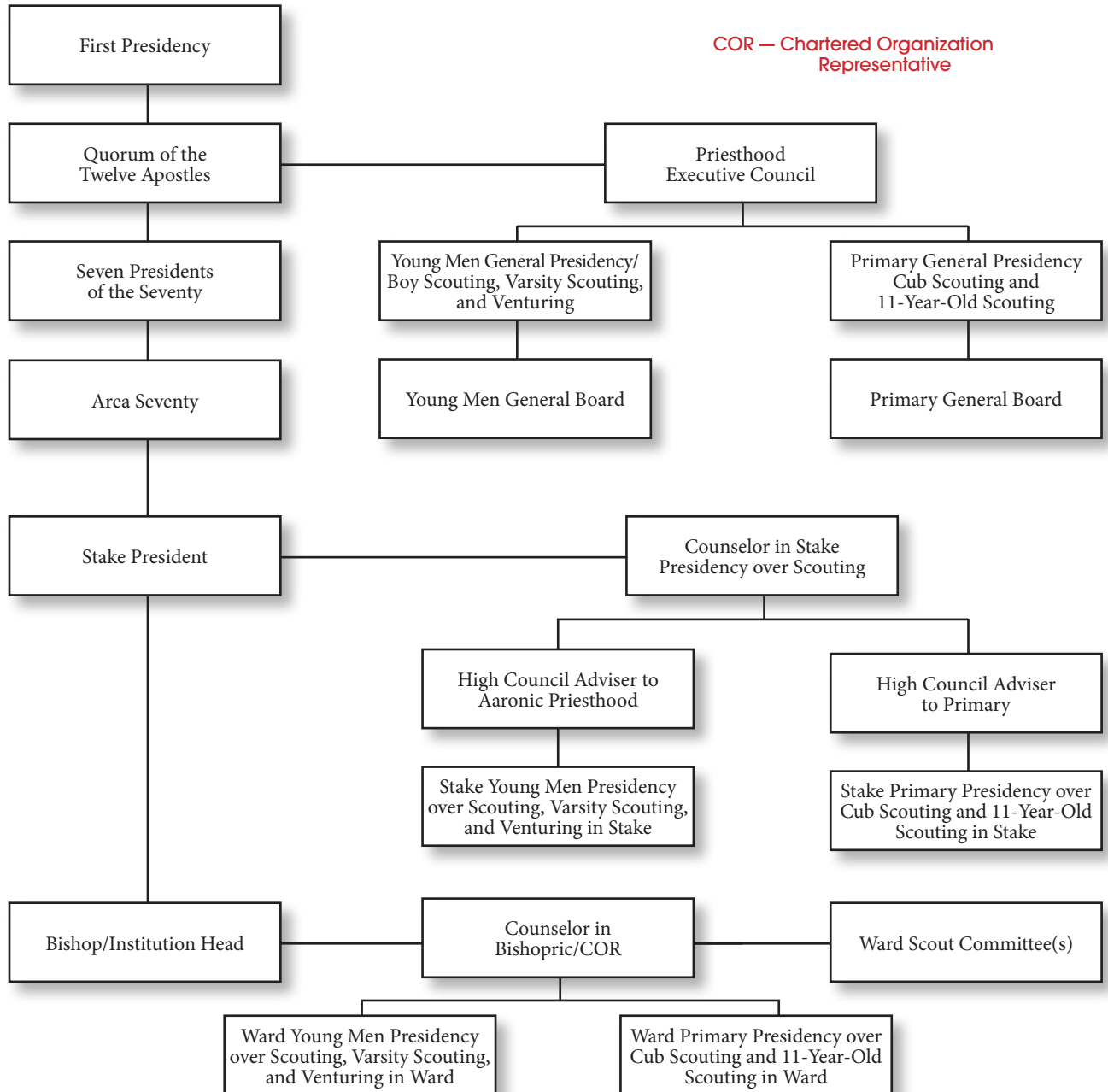
—President Gordon B. Hinckley  
*Boy Scout Jamborall, Fillmore, Utah, September 27, 1996*

“This is not an optional program . . . Scouting is no longer on trial. It is an economically, socially, and spiritually sound program. It builds men of character and spirituality and trains them for citizen and leadership responsibility. Scouting teaches a boy to take care of himself and stand on his own two feet. It is an inspired program for a demanding time. This is that time! I would to God that every boy of Scouting age could have the benefits and blessings of this great program. It is truly a noble program. It is a builder of character not only in the boys but also in the men who provide the leadership.”

—President Ezra Taft Benson  
*Regional Representatives Seminar, Salt Lake City, Utah, March 31, 1978*

## Appendix B

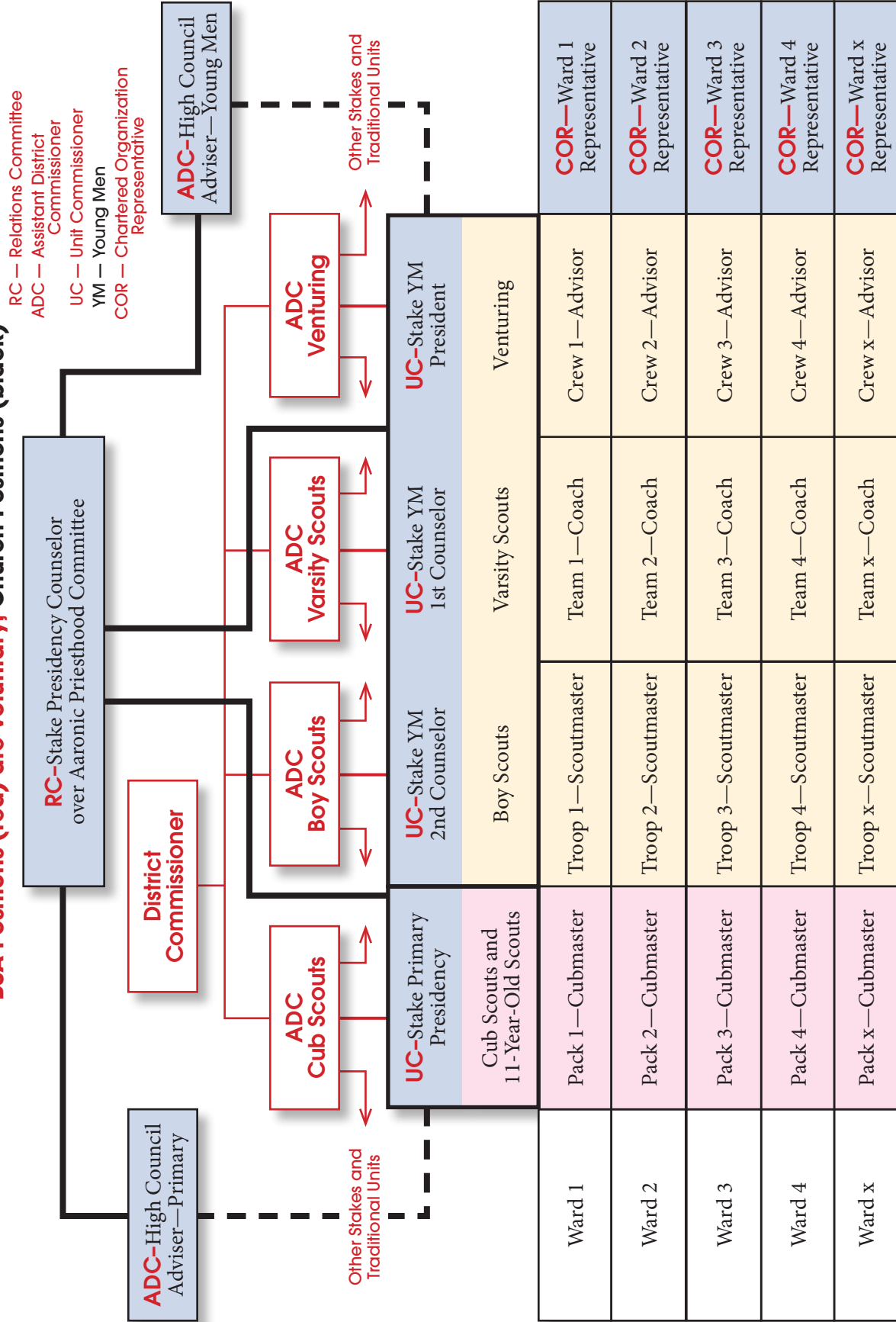
# The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Scouting Structure



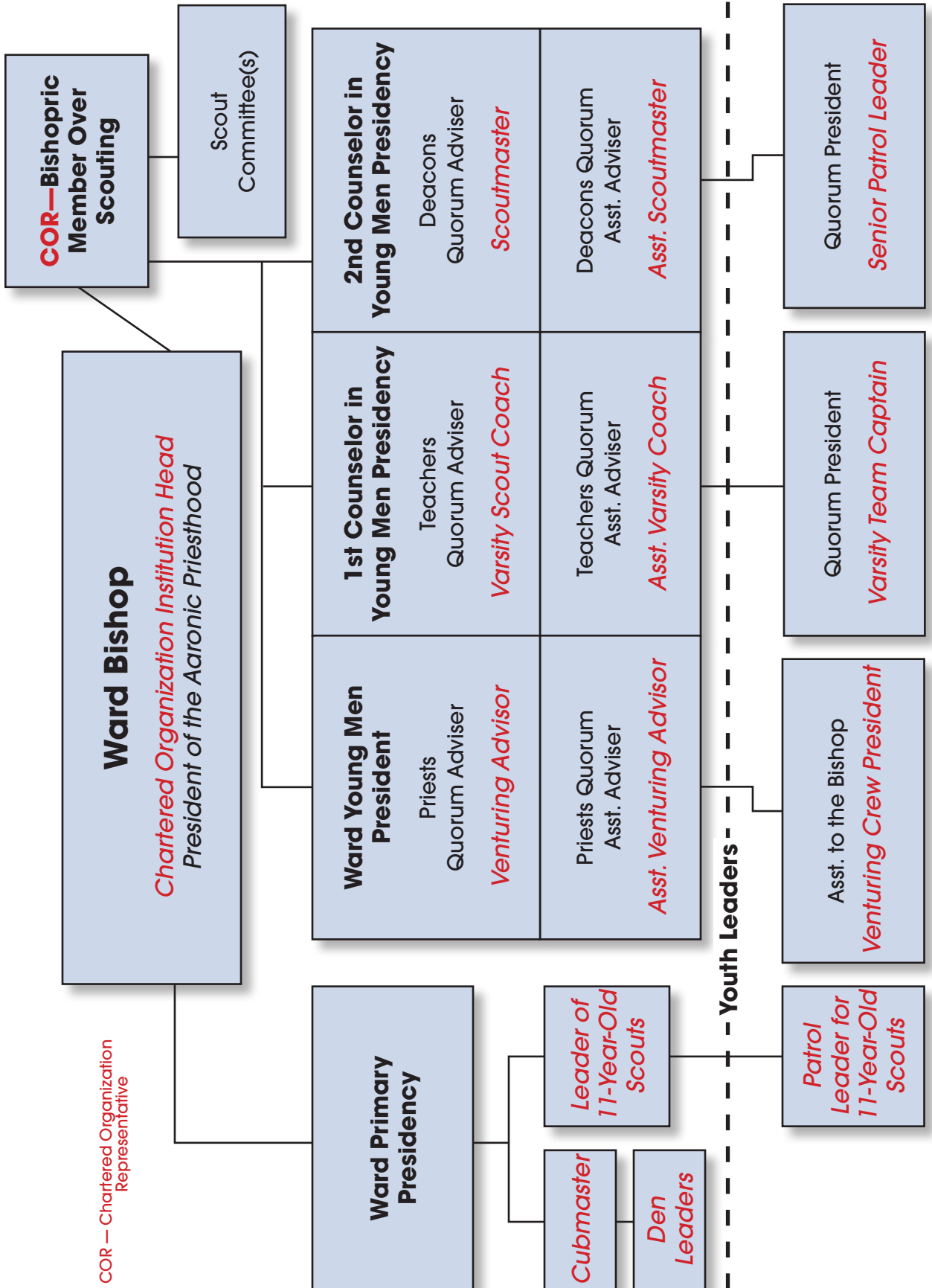
# Appendix C

## Typical LDS Scouting Organization—Stake Level

BSA Positions (red) are voluntary; Church Positions (black)



# Appendix D Typical LDS Scouting Organization—Ward Level



## Appendix E

### Church Policies Regarding BSA Registration

Upon being called to a ward Scouting leadership position, the person accepting the call should complete the most current version of the BSA Adult Application (available at your BSA local council office and online at [www.scouting.org/Media/forms](http://www.scouting.org/Media/forms)), making sure all questions have been answered and signatures are secured. The membership application should be submitted with appropriate fees to the BSA local council office immediately. The name of each applicant is checked against the BSA files and a criminal background check is done. If there are any problems, a BSA official will contact the ward bishop; otherwise, the bishop may assume the application has been accepted. If an adult being considered for a ward Scout leadership calling is new to the ward, the bishop should check with the prior bishop to make certain all is in order.

—LDS-BSA Relationships Office, April 1998 / Revised May 2008

“Never allow a Scout leader to function in any position in a [Scout] unit sponsored by the Church in the United States until he has been registered with the Boy Scouts of America.”

—President Boyd K. Packer, from a letter to stake presidents, January 2, 1997

“No man is called to work with youth until his membership certificate is in the hands of the bishop. In addition, no man is called to work in Scouting until he is fully registered with the governing board [local council] of Scouting and his record merits consideration for a call. This procedure has been expounded many times, yet wolves continue to enter with the intent to destroy the flock. President Hinckley asked that I stress tonight this instruction.”

—President Thomas S. Monson, from an April 4, 1998, priesthood session address titled “In Harm’s Way”

“Relationships with the Boy Scouts of America—The bishop assigns one of his counselors or another worthy adult to serve as the ward’s representative to the Scout district or council. This leader works with the district commissioners ... to register participants and ensure that all Scouts and leaders are registered.”

—LDS Scouting Handbook, p. 2

“All boys, young men, and their adult leaders participating in approved Scouting in the Church are to be duly registered with the Boy Scouts of America through local councils.”

—*LDS Scouting Handbook*, p. 5

“Where Scouting is authorized, the Church pays all or part of the following registration fees: (1) for boys and young men ages 8 through 17, (2) for Scout leaders, and (3) for unit chartering. Registration and chartering expenses are paid from the stake general checking account. The Church provides these funds in addition to the budget allowance.”

—*2006 Church Handbook of Instructions, Book 1*, p. 160

“A Scout troop should be chartered for 12- and 13-year-old young men. A Varsity Scout team should be chartered for 14- and 15-year-olds. Where priesthood leaders have determined to use the [Venturing] program for 16- and 17-year-old young men, [a Venturing crew] should be chartered for that age group. Such divisions are recommended to help maintain quorum identity.”

—*LDS Scouting Handbook*, p. 3

“Stakes do not register Scout units. Such units take young men away from their wards and cause them to lose identity with their quorums.”

—*LDS Scouting Handbook*, p. 6

“Scouting under Church sponsorship must not operate independently of the priesthood and the family. The Scout unit should become an extension of the home; the deacons, teachers, or priests quorum; or the Primary classes; and should function as part of the Church’s activity program for boys and young men.”

—*LDS Scouting Handbook*, p. 1

## Appendix F

### Sources of Information on Scouting in the Church

Harris, Bradley D. *Trails to Testimony: Bringing Young Men to Christ Through Scouting*. Bradley D. Harris, associate professor of recreational management and youth leadership at Brigham Young University, challenges parents and youth leaders alike to rediscover the spiritual dimensions of Scouting—to focus on the close relationship that should exist between Scouting and the Aaronic Priesthood. Available through LDS-BSA Relationships office in Salt Lake City or on its Web site, [www.ldsbsa.org](http://www.ldsbsa.org), under “LDS Scout Items.”

Packer, Thyne J. *On My Honor: A Guide to Scouting in the Church*. Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, Inc., 1998. This book provides a thorough and clear presentation of the Scouting program that will help leaders and parents better instill the ideals of Scouting into their young men. The purposes of Scouting are intertwined with the fundamentals of the Church. Available through the LDS-BSA Relationships office in Salt Lake City or on its Web site, [www.ldsbsa.org](http://www.ldsbsa.org), under “LDS Scout Items.”

LDS-BSA Relationships office (Salt Lake City) Web site: [www.ldsbsa.org](http://www.ldsbsa.org). An excellent resource for information regarding the interaction between the Church and the BSA.

“Aaronic Priesthood/Young Men Scouting” page of the official Church Web site: [www.lds.org/pa/display/0,17884,5166-1,00](http://www.lds.org/pa/display/0,17884,5166-1,00)

“Scouting in the Primary” Web page of the official Church Web site: [www.lds.org/pa/display/0,17884,4828-1,00](http://www.lds.org/pa/display/0,17884,4828-1,00)

Handbooks published by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah are available for Church members through the online Distribution Center. Non-LDS Scouters may order these handbooks by contacting the LDS-BSA Relationships office (contact information is on the last page of this pamphlet).

- *Scouting Handbook* (also referred to in this document as the “LDS Scouting Handbook”), 1997. (#35814)
- “Aaronic Priesthood,” section 2 of the *Church Handbook of Instructions, Book 2: Priesthood and Auxiliary Leaders*, 1998. (#35702)
- “Primary,” section 5 of the *Church Handbook of Instructions, Book 2: Priesthood and Auxiliary Leaders*, 1998. (#35705)

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