

2012 LDS Camporee Stake Leaders Guide

General

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the greater Houston area is happy to conduct its annual LDS Camporee for 11-13 year old Scouts. The camporee will occur at the Bovay Scout Ranch near Navasota, Texas on November 2-3, 2012. The theme this year is “**As Helaman’s Stripling Warriors, We Do Not Doubt**” (Alma 56:47-48) in remembrance of the 2,060 young men who put their lives on the line to protect their liberty with courage, strength, and obedience.

This guide has been assembled to assist stake leaders’ understanding of the camporee format and to assist them in their assigned responsibilities for the camporee. Other information about the Camporee can be found in the “Troop Leaders Guide” available at the camporee website.

Registration/Cost/Check-in

All participants, including stake leaders, Bishoprics, and Primary leaders need to be registered for the camp. Non-BSA registered participants are welcome and we especially encourage Primary Leaders and Bishoprics to attend to see their youth in action. Stake leaders should register with the troop they will be camping and eating with through the camporee website at www.lds-camporee.com. Leaders wanting to attend only on Saturday are welcome. Female restroom and “staff dorm” facilities for women are available at the camp. We encourage early registration to make sure there are sufficient supplies and food for all attendees.

There is no cost to attend the Camporee except for the shared cost within each troop for meals, supplies and transportation.

All attendees must provide a copy of the BSA Annual Health and Medical Record ([Parts A & B](#)) when they check in (http://www.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/parts_ab.pdf). There is no physical required for this form. The forms are kept in a confidential file for the First Aid staff’s use and will be returned when the Troop checks out.

Fires and Meals

Provided that the BSA Sam Houston Area Council [Fire Policy](#) is closely followed, "small" ground (including charcoal) fires within defined campfire rings are permitted. You might want to bring your own firewood, as well as a hose or buckets for proper fire safety. This will be a great chance to re-emphasize and re-teach common sense fire safety. Seize the moment! For most cooking, propane stoves will likely be your best bet. Other details and possible changes to the fire restrictions are on the “Current Fire Policy” link within the [Bovay Scout Ranch](#) web page (<http://www.samhoustonbsa.org/bovay.php>).

Each troop will be responsible for their own transportation, equipment, and food for Friday’s dinner and Saturday’s breakfast. The Saturday lunch will be provided by the Camporee. If you have an attendee that has special dietary needs the Troop should provide for them.

Friday PM “Campfire” and Saturday AM Devotional

In a change over 2011, this year each stake is asked to conduct a Friday PM “Campfire” (fireside) and a Saturday AM Devotional. Here are two central thoughts or messages you may incorporate in each of these valuable teaching experiences:

Alma 53:20 – Helaman’s 2,060 stripling warriors were distinguished by staying valiant for courage, strength, and activity (being “true at all times in whatsoever thing we are entrusted”). How does Scouting make that possible for new or near-future holders of the Aaronic Priesthood? Why do those qualities matter more today than ever?

Alma 57:20-21 – What is it that our faithful mothers teach us...
About staying “firm and undaunted” ?
Which will literally save our lives ?

More details about location and suggested content/activities will follow by October 15th.

Events:

The program for the Camporee is set forth in the Agenda in Appendix A. On Saturday morning camporee the youth will be organized into **The Army of Helaman** and will be split into 8 companies of approximately 75 boys each. Each company will rotate through 4 major events and then compete against other companies on Saturday afternoon

Each of the four Saturday recurring events is assigned to two specific stakes (eight total) and will be conducted simultaneously by the adult stake leaders in different locations (see assignments in Appendix B). Other stakes have complementary or support assignments. Using older scouts from each stake (ages 14 and up) to help staff these assignment is encouraged. These older youth should not expect to compete with the younger boys, but still need to be registered with the camporee. We expect most of the ward adult leaders to assist their Scouts to stay on task and on schedule throughout the day.

Safety and sufficient supervision are paramount. So is fun. The events should be planned so that most of the participants can be engaged in something fun most of the time. Since there may be 75 participants at any event at one time, this requires attention to the design of the event so participants aren’t waiting for turns for long periods of time. See Appendix C for additional suggestions for design of each event and competition.

Sufficient staffing is also paramount, so that participants don’t wander (physically and mentally). Several stakes have taken on the assignment to provide some side activities at each event area so that there is something going on to keep the boys engaged while they are waiting for or have completed their turn.

Each stake sponsoring an event should bring the equipment and supplies for that event. **Cost of supplies can be reimbursed by the camporee with prior approval.** We recommend that each event bring at minimum their own “pop-up’ pavilion for shade (which needs to be staked), chairs for the staff, a table for the water cooler that will be provided by the Camporee, and a sign. Caution tape strung between stakes in the ground may also be necessary for safe activities. We encourage each participant to carry his own cup (clipped to a belt loop) during the day and to drink plenty of water.

There will be a manned first aid station near the check-in area where assistance can be had in case of emergency. There will be a camp safety officer who will roam the camp periodically and assure safe practices. This officer should be obeyed in all cases.

Each recurring event across 9:am – 1:50pm will run 4 times. Near the end of each session there should be a brief “Scoutmaster’s Minute” to relate the activity to the overall theme and to prompt reflection of personal behavior. It may be easier to do this in smaller groups like patrols instead of with the whole Company at once so some advanced planning is needed.

Questions?

Please contact a member of the Camporee Staff, or call/email as noted on Stake Assignment Roster (Appendix B).

Appendix A

2012 LDS Camporee - Agenda "We Do Not Doubt" (Alma 56:47-48)

Friday, November 2, 2012

5:00-9:00 pm Arrival and check-in
9:00-9:45 pm Opening Campfire by Stake
10:00-10:30 pm SPL Meeting – Cracker Barrel
11:30 pm Lights out – in bed

Saturday, November 3, 2012

7:00-8:00 am Breakfast in camp sites by patrol
8:00-8:25 am Opening Assemblies & Flag Raisings by Stake

9:00 – 9:50 am Event Period 1

Antipus - Shepherd Sling (N)	Teancum - Archery (S)
Gid - Archery (N)	Teomner - Pugil Defense (S)
Cumeni - Pugil Defense (N)	Manti - Obstacle Course (S)
Judea - Obstacle Course (N)	Zarahemla - Shepherd Sling (S)

10:00 – 10:50 am Event Period 2

Antipus - Archery (N)	Teancum - Pugil Defense (S)
Gid - Pugil Defense (N)	Teomner - Obstacle Course (S)
Cumeni - Obstacle Course (N)	Manti - Shepherd Sling (S)
Judea - Shepherd Sling (N)	Zarahemla - Archery (S)

11:00 – 11:50 am Event Period 3

Antipus - Pugil Defense (N)	Teancum - Obstacle Course (S)
Gid - Obstacle Course (N)	Teomner - Shepherd Sling (S)
Cumeni - Shepherd Sling (N)	Manti - Archery (S)
Judea - Archery (N)	Zarahemla - Pugil Defense (S)

Noon to 12:50 pm Lunch by Company (Provided by Camp)

1:00-1:50 pm Event Period 4

Antipus - Obstacle Course (N)	Teancum - Shepherd Sling (S)
Gid - Shepherd Sling (N)	Teomner - Archery (S)
Cumeni - Archery (N)	Manti - Pugil Defense (S)
Judea - Pugil Defense (N)	Zarahemla - Obstacle Course (S)

2:15-3:30 pm Company Competitions
3:30-4:00 pm Closing Ceremony at Flag Poles
4:00-5:00 pm Cleanup, pack, campsite inspections, checkout and leave camp

Appendix B - Stake Assignment Roster

Stake	Assignment	Stake Contact for Camporee	Steering Committee Mentor/Liaison
Bay City	<i>Invited to camp Assist with closing competitions</i>	Frank Curl 979-798-9460 fmcurl@yahoo.com	Jack Mohr 713-656-4948 jack.w.mohr@gmail.com
Beaumont	<i>Invited to camp</i>	Kevin Boudreaux 409-963-2034, 409-651-8704 kvnbdx@gmail.com	Jack Mohr 713-656-4948 jack.w.mohr@gmail.com
College Station	<i>Obstacle Course * (A) Porta-Potties</i>	David Hickson 979-587-2101 (Cell) david.hickson@suddenlink.net	Paul Masters 512-769-1454 tortdog@gmail.com
Cypress	<i>Lunch KTO station</i>	Jon Metcalf 281-705-5633 jon@jonmetcalf.com	Josh Eppich 713-392-2030 joshua.eppich@gmail.com
Friendswood	<i>Campsite Inspections Safety+Hydration</i>	Bill Jezewski 281-229-1797 (cell) wjezewski@msn.com	Garrett Nguyen 281-902-8528 garrett46367@att.net
Houston (Spanish)	<i>Invited to camp Assist with closing competitions</i>	Robert Wells 702-501-6700 (cell) 713-485-8807 (w k) bob@wellsfamily.org	Jack Mohr 713-656-4948 jack.w.mohr@gmail.com
Houston East	<i>Camp Nurse KTO Station +TBD</i>	Jose Garcia 713-921-2087 jgfestiva@aol.com	David Wilson 832-681-0798 davidbrentwilson@gmail.com
Houston North	<i>Pugil Defense and Wobble Boards (A)</i>	Jacob Swanson 832-289-0914 swany582@hotmail.com	Steve Sanders 281-642-3583 sandman_glass@yahoo.com
Houston South	<i>Shepherd's Slings (A)</i>	Craig Ruggles - Vince Markwalter 832-814-9770 - 713-416-8769 cwruggles@gmail.com - vincejm67@gmail.com	Stan Shearer 281-743-7767 shearer.scouting@yahoo.com
Houston West	<i>Campsite Inspections Safety+Hydration</i>	Jesse Alfaro 281-961-8100 jalfarojr@sbcglobal.net	Garrett Nguyen 281-902-8528 garrett46367@att.net
Katy	<i>Pugil Defense and Wobble Boards (B)</i>	Nathan Jensen 281-599-0690 (h), 832-596-5967 (c) wn0j.ia@gmail.com	Steve Sanders 281-642-3583 sandman_glass@yahoo.com
Kingwood	<i>Obstacle Course * (B) KTO Station</i>	Rich Bowman 281-851-8700 rbowman@byu.net	Paul Masters 512-769-1454 tortdog@gmail.com
Klein	<i>Archery Fight off the Enemy (A)</i>	Troy Black 832-589-9118 troyblack@yahoo.com	Mike Diehl 281-750-0589 msdiehl@gmail.com
League City	<i>Shepherd's Slings (B)</i>	Todd Mahana 281-745-7337 toddmahana@savageservices.com	Stan Shearer 281-743-7767 shearer.scouting@yahoo.com
Richmond	<i>Planning, Registration, Parking, Sat. closing, Awards</i>	Herb Hyatt 281-565-1711 (h) 832-458-1711 (c) hphyatt@byu.net	
Spring	<i>Archery Fight off the Enemy (B)</i>	Gerardo Amado 281-363-8784 (h) 281-630-2045 (c) gerardo.amado@shell.com	Mike Diehl 281-750-0589 msdiehl@gmail.com
Summerwood	<i>Afternoon closing competitions</i>	Chris Farrell, Kurt Kirkham 832-453-3356 ctlsales1@aol.com	David Wilson 832-681-0798 davidbrentwilson@gmail.com

Appendix C

Event Notes and Scoutmaster Minutes

Archery

Helaman's stripling warriors no doubt learned how to make and shoot an arrow, not only to defend themselves from an enemy but also to provide for their families. It's entirely possible that their mothers taught them about Nephi's experience which we find today recorded early in the Book of Mormon.

As told in 1st Nephi Chapter 16, Lehi and his family were traveling through the wilderness and they stopped for a time to rest and obtain food for their families. When they went out to slay food, Nephi's fine steel bow broke so they slew no animals and they returned hungry and tired. Nephi's family was very angry with him and they complained to each other and to God. So Nephi made a new bow out of wood, arrows out of straight sticks, put together a sling with stones, and then went to his father, Lehi, to ask where he should go to obtain food.

“ And it came to pass that he (Lehi) did inquire of the Lord, for they had humbled themselves . . . And it came to pass that the voice of the Lord came unto my father . . . And it came to pass that the voice of the Lord said unto him: Look upon the ball, and behold the things which are written.

This ball or “Liahona” worked according to their faith and diligence in doing what was right.

“And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did go forth up into the top of the mountain, according to the directions which were given upon the ball.

And it came to pass that I did slay wild beasts, insomuch that I did obtain food for our families.

And it came to pass that I did return to our tents, bearing the beasts which I had slain; and now when they beheld that I had obtained food, how great was their joy! And it came to pass that they did humble themselves before the Lord, and did give thanks unto him.

We need to be humble too. Like Nephi we should acknowledge that our leaders and God know best, and seek out their counsel, so we can be successful in providing for and leading our families.

Obstacle Course

One definition of an “obstacle course” is *a series of challenging physical obstacles an individual or team must navigate usually while being timed. Obstacle courses can include running, climbing, jumping, crawling, and balancing elements with the aim of testing speed, agility and endurance. Sometimes a course involves mental tests.*

In the context of the 2,060 stripling warriors found in the latter part of the Book of Alma, no doubt these young men prepared well physically and mentally, for both team and individual agility, which very well could have included an obstacle course. Here, we also have opportunities to teach

- Elements of defensive obstacles (such as referred to in Alma 50:2-4) including their spiritual parallels;
- Possibly some Scout skills (such as tying a knot or lashing two poles together); and, if patrols are used within the course, even elements of a COPE course.
- Throw a milk jug through a hula hoop
- Load a wheelbarrow with a hay bale, then run it a certain distance (around a pole and then back to the start?)
- Toss a horseshoe over a peg, a ball into a basket, etc.

The point is that it's not just running and jumping, but testing skills up, down, and around.

An obstacle course can follow a simple layout, suitable for young Scouts: <http://vimeo.com/2325046>. Look to use such items as cargo nets, tires, hay bales, and places where if you miss – such as having to balance on a 1 in. lip across a 10 ft. walk – then it slows you down but the fall to the ground is less than a foot so there's little chance of getting hurt.

In fact, safety is an overriding importance, so keep that in mind before designing anything. A good generic checklist is found in the "Sweet 16 of Safety"

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/GSS/gss08.aspx#a>.

Format

Plan to accommodate 75 boys or 15 patrols across a 50 min. period.

Include a way to score (by time or number of stations completed correctly or both).

Include a "Scoutmaster's Minute" wherein the significance of what is taking place can be related to the experience of the 2,060 stripling warriors.

If possible, include a related side activity along the line of "Keeping Troops Occupied" (KTO) so that those who are waiting to run the event don't wander, physically or mentally.

Pugil Defense

For the 2,060 stripling warriors found in the latter part of the Book of Alma, no doubt these young men prepared well physically and mentally, for both team and individual agility, which very well could have included practice in hand-to-hand combat.

"Pugil Defense" is a training term used to describe practice with hand-to-hand combat wherein the participants wield something the length of a spear or sword – called a "pugil stick" – but which is safe to thrust against each other without a chance of any kind of actual harm in the practice setting. For young Scouts, this rules out any sort of rigid pole, even if encased in foam (like PVC pipe inside a swimming pool noodle), since a rigid core can still lead to a straight-on injury unless the ends are extensively padded. So this requires some creativity to come up with a bendable pole which would still be sufficiently rigid to imbalance an opponent. A hollow core foam pool noodle is one possibility, although there may be other designs which are simpler and/or cheaper to make.

“Wobble Boards” are unstable platforms which makes it much harder for the participants to push at each other with their pugil sticks. They can be made simply by any sort of 18-24 in. diameter round base (for example, a ½ in. plywood circle or octagon) which has a non-flat side facing the ground. Two examples are (1) 2x4s cut in an arc, then fitted in a cross so that they trace out the slice of a sphere under the circular plywood platform; or (2) fastening any kind of centered “knob” on the underside of the circular base, such as a rounded 4” x 4” x 4” block. Either of these provide the necessary challenge to balance so that the otherwise unimpressive pugil sticks can provide a push or side nudge sufficient to imbalance (“knock out”, but only figuratively) the other participant.

Maintaining safety is of course an overriding importance, so keep that in mind before designing anything. A good generic checklist is found in the “Sweet 16 of Safety” <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/GSS/gss08.aspx#a>. Specific rules about “no head shots” and “strike zone, knees to shoulders only” make good sense as well.

Format

1. Acquire/assemble/test pugil sticks and wobble boards sufficient to accommodate 75 boys or 15 patrols across a 50 min. period. [However many sets you choose to make (16+ ?), be sure each is sturdy enough to hold up across four hours of heavy use.]
2. Organize a “jousting tournament” or similar competition, wherein participants may compete one on one; or two on two, or five in a line, or one patrol vs. another patrol, or a fully organized double-elimination tournament... Work out the rules which make sense for this size of group, which may require making allowance for differences in height and weight.

Also, please include the following:

- A way to score each patrol and some sort of point scoring or tangible recognition (gold, silver, bronze, honorable mention, etc.) for the winning patrols.
- A “Scoutmaster’s Minute” wherein the significance of what is taking place can be related to the experience of the 2,060 stripling warriors.
- A related side activity along the line of “Keeping Troops Occupied” (KTO) so that those who are waiting to run the event don’t wander, physically or mentally.

Shepherd’s Slings

Reference to actual shepherds and flocks in the scriptures – notably in 1 Samuel 17 (David vs. Goliath) and in Alma 17 (Ammon at the waters of Sebus) – reconfirm that a hand-made sling was likely an excellent tool defense against opponents and intruders. Shepherd boys must have practiced quite well to take out predators which would threaten their flock – as David said he had killed a bear and a lion while tending his sheep. No doubt Helaman’s Army knew how to use a sling as well.

The objective of this event is to imbue Scouts with self-confidence, teach them something they can make which could be a means of self- or family-protection in the future, and thereby help them to relate more closely to the young men who used slings in ancient times for righteous purposes.

The shepherd's sling of old can be easily replicated with about 6 feet of 3/16 in. nylon "parachute cord" with the ends sealed or burned so they don't fray. Some have used shoelaces, hemp cord, and clothesline; but parachute cord seems to be easiest to work with.

Here are two related video clips, each about 8 min. long, which provide useful background.

- How to make a Shepherd's Sling - www.youtube.com/watch?v=APEXNLO1oHY
- Scientific analysis of the sling used by David of the Old Testament - www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELYea2UDfeY

Format

Conduct four 50 min. events, which [use the BSA Edge Method](#) for up to 75 Scouts per session (300 Scouts total across the day). Expected sequence is to:

- 1- Teach/Explain "Totin Chip of Slings" Safety: Just like knives, guns and archery is great fun in a controlled setting but can be dangerous and worse if not respected, so it is with using a sling.
- 2- Demonstrate to each Scout how to make a Shepherd's Sling, guide them to do so. One approach may be to setup small teaching groups (approx. 7 Scouts per group so that each has a good chance of getting his sling ready for competition).
- 3- Have an adult or older Scout demonstrate how to use a shepherd's sling. This is a new skill which likely none will have tried before – so it makes for an even playing field for everyone.
- 4- Enable each Scout to safely try out a sling, using target practice (such as to an Archery target, 10+ yards away?) with safe + biodegradable objects such as orange candy "circus peanut" pieces, paint balls, or whatever else you may come up with that is reasonable and inexpensive. (That means no rocks!)

Maintaining safety is of course an overriding importance, so keep that in mind before proceeding with any of your plans. A good generic checklist is found in the "Sweet 16 of Safety" www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/GSS/gss08.aspx#a. Perhaps the most common sense safety rule will be that no sling practicing with rocks or any other hard objects will be allowed during the camporee.

Additional notes:

- a) Acquire sufficient parachute cord – in multiple or neon colors, if possible – to accommodate 300 Scouts.
- b) Organize sufficient staff (older Scouts and adults) to train the participants as noted above.
- c) Follow the sequence noted above, and (time permitting) conduct a slinging competition: Score each patrol to determine a tangible recognition (gold, silver, bronze, honorable mention, etc.) for the winners.
- d) Tag each sling with the Scout's name, Troop, Ward, and Stake.
- e) Collect up and bag all completed slings, then provide to adult leaders so they may return them to their Scouts as they leave the camporee.
- f) Present a "Scoutmaster's Minute" wherein the significance of what they've learned can be related to the experience of the 2,060 stripling warriors.