



# LDS RELATIONSHIPS NEWSLETTER

## Boy Scouts of America

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### Highlight on Young Men General Presidency: President David L. Beck

#### Building Others a Family-Cherished Duty New Young Men President Promotes Positive Attitudes

David L. Beck learned early in life the lessons of helping others realize their vast potential and eternal worth.

The Bountiful, Utah, native was just 10 years old when he said goodbye to his neighborhood playmates and Primary pals and moved to Brazil where his father, Wayne Beck, had been called to preside over the Brazilian Mission.

There young David found himself struggling to learn a new language and to fit into a new culture. Still, he soon recognized the love and encouragement his mission president father and his mother, Evelyn Beck, had for the missionaries and the Brazilian people. Many times he witnessed people changing for the good because his parents believed in them.

"My father would build people up and challenge them to become better," said Brother Beck. "He helped them understand who they really are and what they can do."

Those childhood lessons would influence Brother Beck's interactions with others during his own full-time mission in Brazil and later as an assistant Scoutmaster, bishop, stake president, mission president (again, to Brazil) and, since April, as the Church's Young Men general president.

During the past five months of service in his worldwide calling, Brother Beck has been lifted by the enthusiasm and spirit of the many young men with whom he has come in contact. He is impressed by their willingness to serve and participate in the gospel. "They are a lot of fun to be with."

The youth leader often speaks of the relationships that can help young men (and their counterparts in the Young Women organization) become converted to the gospel. Such relationships defined President Wayne Beck's service. Now his son is doing all he can to follow suit.

A discussion with Brother Beck about his personal growth, development and testimony inevitably turns to Brazil. The mission home of his childhood doubled as the Brazil Mission office and headquarters. That shared space allowed David Beck to witness the fruits of missionary work being harvested on a daily basis in that South American nation. He grew to love missionary work, the Brazilian people and the Portuguese language. As he watched the missionaries in action he also came to understand the power that young people possess when they are about the Lord's work.

When his parents concluded their mission, David returned to Utah and his friends and relatives in the Bountiful area. His decision to serve a full-time mission was rewarded with a call to return to Brazil. "I went back to the same mission home where I lived as a boy," he said, shaking his head with wonder.

Brother Beck said his life was further blessed following the completion of his mission when he was reacquainted with the young woman who would become his wife, Robyn Ericksen. David's and Robyn's parents were good friends and the two had known each other as young children. "We have old home movies of us together," said Sister

Beck. The young returned missionary saw in the neighborhood girl all he had envisioned in an ideal companion.

"She was a sweet, positive person...I was interested," said Brother Beck, smiling.

"I loved the way he treated me with such respect," added his wife.

The couple were married in the Salt Lake Temple in 1976. Both were students at the University of Utah and quickly learned how to make the most of scant resources. "Our first Christmas together was pretty lean," he recalled. The two laugh at the memory of fixing their old car each Saturday in hopes the clunker would make it through the week until the next Saturday when they could fix it again. Still, those were special times that helped them develop an appreciation for the priceless things in life: family, gospel and education.

Brother Beck would claim undergraduate and master's degrees in engineering. He has spent his professional career in the manufacturing industry where he now serves as an executive.

The Becks count their one daughter and three sons among their most prized gifts. All four of the children accompanied their parents to Brazil when Brother Beck accepted a call to preside over the Brazil Rio de Janeiro North Mission in 1996. There they would represent the third generation of Becks providing gospel teaching and service to Brazil.

During his three-year tenure in Rio, President Beck tried to emulate his father's example of building up each missionary while challenging him or her to become better. "He really made each elder and sister feel special — he made time for them," said Sister Beck. The mission leader also recognized the value of a positive attitude while fulfilling one's duty. If, say, a young elder decided he had been assigned to a 'bad area,' the elder rarely enjoyed much success. If a sister missionary was certain her new companion was a third-rate missionary, her assumptions were generally fulfilled.

Conversely, those positive-minded missionaries who chose to love their companions, their mission and the people they served inevitably found pleasure and joy in their calling.

That same "positive attitude" can bless young people across the globe, said Brother Beck. Those adults who work with the youth of the Church share his sacred charge to lift and inspire. "Young men can tell when someone truly loves them and they will respond."

The Becks are following the Brethren's counsel to seek the Lord's inspiration in their new responsibilities. They are humbled and honored to serve the young men of the Church alongside thousands of bishops, Scoutmasters and Aaronic Priesthood leaders.

"We are common people who have been asked to do some extraordinary things," Brother Beck said.



Article and photos by Jason Swenson, Church News, August 15, 2009

# A Scout's Sabbath

*Focused on building strong  
Aaronic Priesthood holders*



CIMARRON, N.M.

On two occasions each year, stake leaders from across the United States gather and form a temporary yet remarkable ward under eastern New Mexico's vast turquoise sky.

These men come together here for the annual LDS Scouting Leadership Conference at the Philmont Scout Ranch. Their typical days at conference are filled with intensive training focused on building strong Aaronic Priesthood holders through the Scouting program.



But on Sunday, the Scout uniforms are left hanging inside the heavy-duty tents that the men and their families call home for their weeklong conference. The Sabbath Day at Philmont is about worship, fellowship and quiet moments with family.

With Young Men General President David L. Beck serving as this year's presiding priesthood leader, the "Philmont Ward" once again functioned as a traditional Church unit — complete with Primary classes, Young Men and Young Women lessons, gospel doctrine instruction and, of course, sacrament services. (This year's LDS Scouting Leadership Conference was held June 27-July 3, with a second session conducted July 4-July 10.)

The hundreds of stake and youth leaders who participated in the 2009 conference fulfilled Sabbath-Day callings that they were given prior to their arrival.

It made for a fun and unusual Sunday. A stake president from, say, Portland, Ore., may have spent

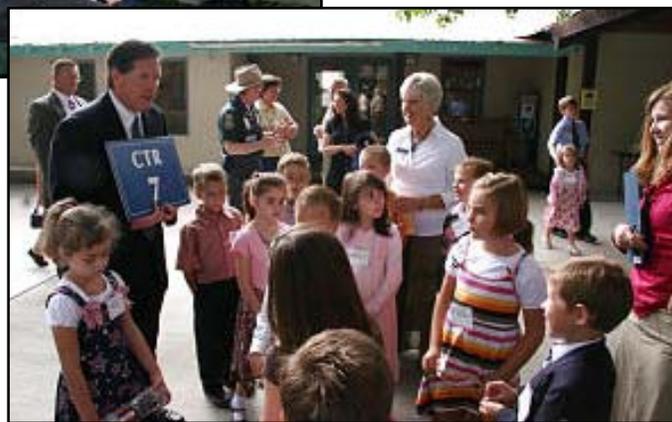


his Sabbath at Philmont teaching a CTR class.

Bryce Justeson, a high counselor

from the Mesa North Arizona Stake, taught the Valiant 9 class July 5 while seated at a picnic table on the camp's Villa Lawn. He utilized small ropes as visual devices to teach his young students about the snares of breaking the Word of Wisdom.

"I enjoyed myself," he said. "The kids all participated and did great."



While Brother Justeson and others taught the children, fellow campers led priesthood discussions in the shadow of

Philmont's Spanish tiled roofed villa. Meanwhile, the wives of conference participants taught and attended Relief Society in the camp's assembly hall.

Later, everyone gathered at the assembly hall for sacrament meeting. When the seats inside were filled, the congregation overflowed outside. The "outsiders"



view of the meeting was limited — but they enjoyed a cool summer breeze as they listened to the counsel from inside.

In his remarks, Brother Beck spoke about the potential of all those who hold the Aaronic Priesthood. His counterpart Primary General President, Sister Cheryl C. Lant, emphasized the role of scriptures in raising strong families.

For stake leaders accustomed to spending Sundays away from home, Philmont offered a rare opportunity for them to spend the Sabbath with their families. After the Church meetings, some studied their scriptures outdoors while seated on collapsible camp chairs. Others enjoyed quiet walks with wives and children around the scenic grounds.



Not all at the LDS camps observed the Sabbath at Philmont's modern training facilities. Once again, older teens spent the week roughing it in the New Mexican backcountry on Philmont-led treks. So leaders such as Brother Beck and Sister Lant traveled to them, joining young men and women for outdoor sacrament services. The priests in the trek group were enlisted to bless and pass the sacrament. Other youth delivered impromptu talks and testimonies.

Brother Beck presided over one outdoor meeting organized under a clearing of arched trees. There he spoke of the role Christ plays in each of their lives. The young men and women were taught that they did not need to wait to be great in their talents and testimonies.

Trekker Parker Schnepf, 17, of Mesa, Ariz., said partaking of the sacrament while surrounded by nature's beauty was a sacred, memorable experience. He was excited about the many opportunities Philmont provided.

"I want to have fun, make new friends and grow closer to God," he said.

*Article and photos by Jason Swenson, Church News, July 10, 2009*

## Calling All Scouting Alumni

For nearly 100 years, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has created a strong foundation of leadership, service, and community for millions of America's youth. Were you one of them?

The BSA is inviting former Scouts — and all those who have been positively impacted by Scouting — to reconnect. That includes family members of Scouts, volunteers, community leaders, and the tens of millions of Americans who benefit from Scouting every day.

Through BSA Alumni Connection ([www.BSAalumni.org](http://www.BSAalumni.org)), you can find new ways to get involved with the program again, at a special time in Scouting history. Next year, the organization marks its centennial.

"With every element of this important milestone, we're committed to inspiring, engaging, and empowering our entire Scouting community," said Chief Scout Executive Bob Mazzuca. "Our alumni are a big part of that."

Scouting alumni and friends are invited to come back, make a new connection, and take an active role in Scouting again. By reconnecting, you will be invited to participate in local anniversary events and activities. Plant an official BSA 100th Anniversary tree in celebration of your Scouting family tree. Visit Adventure Base 100, our traveling interactive campus and Scouting museum. Next July, experience the 2010 National Jamboree, in person or online. You can even earn five award ribbons for the 100th Anniversary commemorative patch.

And it doesn't stop there! We also have Alumni Adventures at the high adventure bases, local volunteer opportunities, and opportunities to share stories and find friends.

"While the commitment to our Scouting alumni starts now, it will continue long past our 2010 anniversary," said Bill Steele, BSA director of alumni relations. "This is an opportunity for people whose lives have been positively impacted by Scouting to demonstrate their dedication and commitment to the next generation."

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is a longtime partner of the Scouting movement. We believe that Scouting trains men to be good citizens and leaders by building character, reinforcing spirituality, and emphasizing the importance of family.

If Scouting helped shape your life, reconnect today. Go to [www.BSAalumni.org](http://www.BSAalumni.org) or call your BSA local council to take part.



*Article submitted by Bill Steele, BSA Director of Alumni Relations*

# Scouting a Tool for Priesthood Growth

CIMARRON, NEW MEXICO

The Priesthood Leadership Conference on Scouting at Philmont Scout Ranch is undeniably a Scouting event.

Stake leaders of all backgrounds wore the ubiquitous tan uniform to their courses. Instructors brought classes to order by raising the three-fingered Scout sign. And crowds again hovered around beloved LDS Scout leader Bill Burch and his fellow whittler Gary Dollar as they sat on the Philmont lawns carving comical



bolo ties that are familiar to Scouts worldwide.

But beyond the Scout uniforms, silly skits and tent cities, the annual conference is first about the priesthood. It's

a week of intensive training focused on leaving one's flock to find the lost one. Philmont is about teaching men to build relationships with boys that will help prepare them for missions, temple worship, Church service, future families and, yes, Scouting achievement.

The hundreds of uniformed participants at this year's recent



conferences (held June 27-July 3 and July 4-July 10) are themselves, first and foremost, priesthood leaders — stake presidents and members of stake presidencies, along with a few stake Young Men presidents.

The men traveled from all corners of the United States — from Miami, Florida, to Wenatchee, Washington. They gathered at Philmont's sprawling training center to learn more about

utilizing the tools of Scouting to help young men become



the best Aaronic Priesthood holders they can be.

General auxiliary leaders of the Church again provided classroom and spiritual instruction. Young Men General

President David L. Beck presided at both weeklong sessions of the conference. He was assisted by his counselors, Brother Larry M. Gibson and Brother Adrian Ochoa. Primary General President Cheryl C. Lant and her counselors, Sister Margaret S. Lifferth

and Sister Vicki F. Matsumori, also participated. LDS-BSA Relationships Director David C. Pack and several other veteran youth leaders were enlisted to teach courses and provide answers to questions regarding the development of young men.

After spending a Sabbath at Philmont dedicated to worship and family time (see July 11 Church News), conference participants spent their week attending training presentations.

Subjects again ranged from strengthening the Church's young men through Scouting to helping Aaronic Priesthood quorum presidencies

preside more effectively. The courses were informal and participants often shared their thoughts, wisdom and experiences.

At most sessions, Philmont "students" scribbled copious notes and enjoyed plenty of laughs. During one class taught by Sister Lant, participants earned parts for a pinewood car whenever they correctly answered questions about Cub Scouting. The course concluded with a pinewood derby that brought the competitive 8-

year-old out of plenty of middle-age stake presidents and their counselors.

Meanwhile, course instructor/thespian Mark A. Dietlein divined the history of the Scouting program with his dramatic depiction of Scouting founder Robert Lord Baden-Powell — complete with a Smokey Bear hat and walking stick.

Philmont's many spiritual messages reminded participants of the true purpose of the leadership conference. At the beginning of the conference, Brother Beck challenged the men to make commitments during their week at Philmont that will bless the lives of the young men they serve.

"This is not just an exercise," said Brother Beck about commitment making, "we need to act."

Sister Lant reminded the Scouters that the priesthood is at the core of their duties.

"The vision of Scouting is all about what a boy can become," she said.

Several firesides and a priesthood leadership meeting high in the Philmont back country were spiritual highlights. Many such gatherings focused on marriage and strengthening families.

Philmont would not be Philmont without families. The majority of the hundreds of priesthood leaders at camp traveled to eastern New

Mexico with their wives and children. Their homes for the week were canvas tents equipped with all the conveniences of home — almost. (Two cots, space for hanging clothing, a light bulb and an electrical outlet.)

While the men were in class, their



wives — dubbed the "Silverados" — joined in firesides, craft classes, hikes and tours of the scenic surroundings.

The boys and girls divided into groups and spent the week

experiencing Philmont through a variety of age-appropriate activities such as hiking, archery, plenty of crafts, spirited games of dodge ball and horseback riding.

Many of the young men and women who were 14 or older bade farewell to their families minutes after arriving at camp and embarked on a Philmont mountain trek. They returned a week later, grinning and grimy, to a hero's welcome from their families.

Evenings at Philmont were again devoted to families and fun. Highlights included a camp-wide family home evening, a talent

show, a patriotic children's parade and a Philmont-style barbecue complete with cobbler and buffalo burgers.

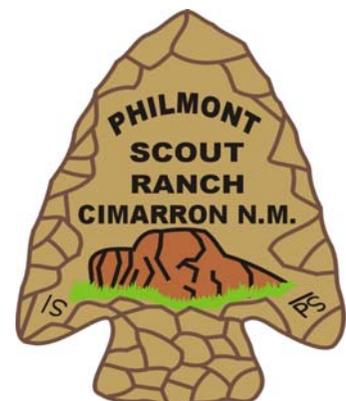
The Church's Priesthood Leadership Conference marked another memorable year at Philmont. The energy felt even as members of Philmont's Class of 2009 were clearing out of their tents suggested their Philmont adventure would not be their last. Still, they left the

mountaintop and returned to their respective "valleys" — their own lives, professions and Church duties.

In the final training session of camp, Brother Beck reminded the men of their remarkable privilege of working with the Aaronic Priesthood.

"This is a gift in the life of a [priesthood leader]; to work with young men."

*Article and photos by Jason Swenson, Church News, July 18, 2009*



## Cub Scouting is the Foundation

### Program for Primary Boys Can Help Prepare Them for Future Opportunities



Bishops and branch presidents — want a deacons quorum filled with young men well prepared to perform their Aaronic Priesthood duties?

Start first by building successful Cub Scout dens.

That was the message shared by Sister Cheryl C. Lant, Primary general president, during the recent Priesthood Leadership Conference at the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico.

"Cub Scouts are part of the whole [priesthood] picture — it's where we lay the foundation," she said.

Sister Lant may have appeared to be preaching to the proverbial choir. The dozens of men in her audience were all priesthood leaders in Scout uniforms who had come to Philmont in hopes of strengthening their respective quorums, troops and, yes, Cub Scout dens. Still, Sister Lant reminded the leaders about the essential role the ward and stake priesthood leadership should play in Cub Scouting. The young boys in the blue and gold uniforms are not merely the charges of the Primary.

The purpose of Scouting and Cub Scouting is the same: to provide activities and leadership opportunities to young men in the Church preparing for future duties as missionaries, fathers, husbands and temple-going Melchizedek Priesthood holders.

Sister Lant taught that the Primary's Faith in God Award need not operate independently of Cub Scouting. Instead, Cub Scouting helps boys get the most out of their Faith in God experience.

"Faith in God helps us to focus on what it is we want to teach these boys," she said.

Several Faith in God Award requirements — such as serving others and developing talents — fit nicely with tasks Cub Scouts perform to earn their various badges. Cub Scouts are also encouraged to earn the Scouting Religious Square Knot.

Sister Lant said local Primary leaders sometimes feel overwhelmed when asked to implement both Faith in God and Cub Scouting in their ward or branch. That won't be the case when Primary presidencies and bishoprics fully understand the compatibility found between the two. Sister Lant suggested that Cub leaders first learn the purposes and requirements of the Faith



in God Award. "Then they can use its guiding principles as they approach Cub Scouting."

It was no coincidence that Sister Lant was sporting the regulation yellow Cub Scout Den Leader uniform for her presentation. Wearing the uniform, she said, helps both the leaders and the boys feel they are a part of something important.

Encourage the boys to wear their uniforms to all of their Cub Scout activities.

"They act different when they are in their uniforms," she added.

Buying a new Cub Scout uniform may pose a financial challenge for some families. A few of the Philmont participants spoke of organizing a "uniform bank" in their ward or stake to help offset the costs. Sister Lant also recommended that families donate their "gently worn" Scout uniforms to inner-city groups operating troops and dens.

Sister Lant said new Primary presidencies may not fully realize the importance of a well-run Cub Scout den.

"Priesthood leaders need to understand that these women need training so they understand [their callings]."

In closing, Sister Lant shared her beliefs in the Scouting program and its role as the activity arm of the Aaronic Priesthood. Cub Scouts is another tool that local priesthood and Primary leaders can utilize to train and prepare boys to receive that "preparatory" priesthood. "Truly the work we are doing is the work of the priesthood."

Philmont participants were also reminded during Sister Lant's presentation that Cub Scout activities can also be a lot of fun. The Primary leader divided the men into small groups, handed them the basic parts of a pinewood car and told them to start building. Minutes later, they nostalgically gathered around a pinewood derby track and staged spirited races.

There were plenty of high-fives, a few beaming winners and even some good-natured, pinewood derby ribbing amongst the middle-age stake presidents and young men leaders.

*Article and photos by Jason Swenson, Church News, September 12, 2009*



## Just One More Step and I'm Through

*Jalynn Johnson, 17, shares her experience of the Mountain Women backcountry trek she participated in with her 14-year-old sister, Jaden, during the LDS Week at Philmont. Her 16-year-old brother, Jace, also participated in the backcountry program as a Mountain Man, while their father, Kelly R. Johnson, attended the LDS training sessions at the Philmont Training Center.*

Okay, just one more step and I'm through. I can't make it, I'm too tired. Exhaustion is taking over, my hips and collar bone hurt. I can't bear it - wait, why am I still going? How are my swollen feet, twisted ankle, and sore legs still carrying me? I'm leading everyone, how can I give up now? I don't want to disappoint them, get them discouraged. I can do this; I will do this!

Hooray for another family vacation. But, instead of a rigorous-schedule-dad-plans-every-waking-moment vacation, it's a Jaden-and-I-go-into-the-wilderness-to-fend-for-ourselves vacation. My dad was invited to a leadership conference at a scout ranch in New Mexico, Philmont was the name. So while my Dad received training; my Mom got to do crafts, and Jace, Jaden, and I got to go backpacking for six days. I was super excited but a little nervous. Though I tend to think myself as a tough girl, I had to carry a fifty pound pack up mountains, over streams, and up switch backs for six days, going at least five miles a day. Needless to say we packed as light as we could and tried to forget. We arrived at Philmont and had to leave in two hours. We checked our packs, said our goodbyes, and headed off for six days, with eight girls, into the wilderness. As I tried to lift my pack off the ground, I couldn't. Panic set in, how am I going to carry this? I put on a fake smile for my sis who was struggling as well, we helped each other heave the packs onto our backs, and headed up the trail, wondering what we had got ourselves into.

Lucky for us the first twenty minutes of the hike were switch backs. I really thought I was going to die. Death was approaching, like an unwanted virus seeping slowly through my veins, and I was totally unprepared for it. I kept telling myself to make it to the next bush and I would stop, that'd be it for me. But strangely, I kept going. I had just barely met these girls and I didn't want them to think that I wasn't tough enough to handle it. Also, my sister was behind me still trekking along; I had to make it to camp. When we got there I was exhausted. A two man tarp tent on the rocky ground had never looked so good to me. As we settled in I waited till the last possible moment to go to the bathroom. You see, for girls, going to the bathroom in the wilderness is quite the process. I didn't want to go too far from camp since it was dark so I slipped on my boots, grabbed my headlamp, and ran about fifty yards away from camp. I figured it was a good spot; so I turned off my headlamp did my business quickly and then hurried back to camp before a bear ate me, or something like that. As I started to run I hadn't turned on

my headlamp yet; and soon after I was reaching up to turn it on, I heard a pop, and I hit the ground. You have got to be kidding me, my ankle? Sprained? Oh please not now. I limped back to my tent, too exhausted to tell anyone and slept like a baby.

I woke up in the morning as stiff as a board. I couldn't move. My collar bone and hips were bruised from the weight of my pack, and my ankle was the size of a grapefruit. I got a yell from outside saying it was my turn to lead the girls on the hike. Now the hike that day was of course supposed to be the hardest hike of the trip. We had to cross a stream more than fifteen times followed by a hike with steep rocky, boulder hills straight up a good old mountain. I asked my sister if she would strap me on her back, but she declined, stating she was just as sore. Well, I decided to get up and try to move, and a girl wrapped my ankle. Camp was taken down and we headed off. I had several Ibuprofen that morning, and prayed that numbing would kick in soon. A little bit into the hike, I was surprised that I was doing so well. I had got used to my back hurting from the weight of my pack, and my ankle only hurt when I stepped wrong. Also, when we crossed the streams it was actually really fun. And a bonus was that I was leading everyone in the right direction, which is always a good thing. But the happiness was short lived when we came to the beginning of the three miles of torture. As all the girls encouraged one another, we began trekking up the rocky abyss. When it started to get hard everyone stopped talking. All you could hear was heavy breathing, feet stepping, and birds chirping. That was when my negative thoughts started to kick in. I thought to myself of how sore I was and just how easy it would be to quit. It was the worst internal conflict, story books can't even compare. Before the trip I would have given up. There's no question. My mind would win over my will, and giving up would be inevitable. But, this was different. This intense struggle, all those negative thoughts, it made me want to succeed, it made me want to prove not only to others, but especially to myself, that I could overcome my thoughts. In just an instant my mind set had switched. I picked up the pace and we flew up that mountain. It may have been the most straining thing physically that I had ever done, but I knew without that positive mental attitude, I wouldn't have made it.

We made it into camp and we were exhausted. But, I had the biggest smile on my face because I knew that I had done something hard. I had overcome that mental barrier and succeeded! The rest of the trip was a breeze. I have never had so much fun in my life. Looking back I'm so happy I was able to have that experience. My attitude changed there, and the change has remained with me. Instead of a just-one-more-step-and-I'm-through attitude, I'm willing to take as many steps as I

need to succeed, and prove mostly to myself that I can do hard things, no matter what the obstacle.

*Article and photo submitted by Jalynn Johnson, Kaysville Utah Central Stake*



## The Power and Impact of Training on Young Men

I was called to serve as stake president in November of 2004. I came to this assignment with a long history of church service and I had experienced and learned many things from that service. As I embarked on the ominous task of learning my new responsibilities, I realized that my past service had not prepared me in all ways for my new assignment. I thought of the various errands I should pursue. They were many but my thoughts kept coming back to the youth of my stake.

I received a letter from the Church inviting our stake presidency to attend the week long LDS Relationships training at the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. It finally hit me that I would not be able to fulfill the duties of my calling, relative to the youth, without more training. My second counselor and I, along with our families, decided to attend Philmont in July 2005. This turned out to be one of the greatest experiences our families have ever had. The training I received positioned me to better serve the youth and to better train the youth leaders in my stake.

At Philmont, and in other settings, I kept hearing about Wood Badge. I had learned the importance of training at Philmont, but training at Philmont is not feasible for everyone. I realized that Wood Badge was a large part of the answer to training. I tried to encourage the young men leaders in my stake to attend, but my encouragement was hollow because I, myself, had not been to Wood Badge. I realized that the only way to promote Wood Badge effectively was for me to commit to attend. I made the commitment and found that the young men leaders in my stake were much more willing to listen to my plea for them to get training when I myself was pursuing training.

My counselors also accepted the challenge to attend Wood Badge. Then, as a presidency, we challenged each ward in our stake to send four leaders to Wood Badge. Our challenge was met with enthusiasm and we soon had 35 stake members committed to attend Wood Badge. Our experience at Wood Badge was terrific and I will never

forget the joy I felt joining together with the members of my stake to be trained. The friendships established will be treasured forever. The unity that developed among our stake members in attendance was amazing. Most importantly, the Scouting and Young Men programs in our stake have blossomed as a result of having better trained leaders. The strength of our leadership has increased. The Young Men and Scout leaders in our stake have continued to pursue training at Wood Badge and other specific training. There is a sense of excitement for the Scouting and Young Men's programs in our stake like never before.



As I look at our programs, the increased training has resulted in two key areas of improvement: first, an increased spiritual dimension to our Young Men and Scouting activities, and second, an

improvement in the quality of our activities. Our trained leaders have gained a vision of the blessings that activities bring to lives of the boys when they contain a spiritual element and when the activities are meaningful. The results of these improvements are: (1) a modest increase in the number of young men serving missions (approximately a 3% increase in the percentage of young men serving missions), and (2) a reduction in the number of missionaries returning home early because of the difficulties of a mission (we have only had one missionary come home early in the past two years).

I have seen a big change in our summer high adventure activities. Now, these activities are not just about fun and entertainment, they are teaching the boys to be spiritual and to also work and persevere to accomplish things that are hard.

One of the bishops in our stake recently wrote this:

“Recently, one young man in the ward that was not attending church or weekly activities visited with me to let me know of the challenges he was having with pornography that he has not been able to overcome. As he turned 16 over the summer, there were clearly some changes that needed to take place in his life before he could be ordained as a priest. We made sure that he was invited to priest camp by contacting him personally as well as his mother. He attended the camp and then met with me again the following Sunday. He told me how wonderful it was to feel the



spirit at priest camp as we went on the hike, attended the workshops, and as we had testimony meeting together as a ward. He said that he had never felt the spirit so strong for that long of a period of time before. He said that he wanted have the spirit all the time in his life. He was willing to do whatever he needed to in order to feel the spirit in his life. Since that time, he has attended his Sunday church meetings as well as mutual. He is working

closely with me as well as getting some counseling in overcoming his addiction to pornography with the goal to feel the spirit again just as he did at priest camp. He is making significant

progress and will continue to do so. I am confident that he will do what is necessary to be ordained a priest and go on to receive the Melchizedek priesthood and serve a mission.”

One component of the increased quality of our activities has been inclusion of difficult things into the activities. One ward in our stake planned and succeeded in a 50 mile hike with the 14-18 year boys. For the boys in this ward, such a challenging activity was new territory and some went to the activity only with the insistence of parents and leaders. It has been amazing to hear the young men talk over and over again about their experiences, both physical and spiritual, from this challenging summer activity. Several have commented that the trip was the most difficult thing they have ever done, but it was the most rewarding accomplishment they have ever experienced.

Another ward in our stake planned and completed a Priest’s Quorum high adventure trip to the Tetons. The young men and their leaders hiked about 32 miles over three and a half days. The theme for the trip was “It’s OK to do hard things” – which turned out to be very good for discussions with the boys each day. It was a hard trip as campfires were not allowed, it rained quite a bit, the boys were pelted by quarter-size hail stones, and there were some very steep parts to the hike. The boys felt proud of their accomplishment and knew they had done something hard and worthwhile.

Three of our wards completed nearly a 30 mile canoe trip in Yellowstone. Each group endured mosquitoes and rough waters, but each group experienced the marvels of spectacular scenery and witnessed firsthand that, “All things denote there is a God.”



This past summer, our stake sponsored a camp for all of the Priest-age boys in our stake. Included in the activities of the camp was a hike to the top of Bald Mountain. This is not a long hike, but it is steep and challenging. As one of the priests reached the top of Bald Mountain, he came up to me and said, “President Johnson, it’s OK to do hard things.” As I heard this young man make this statement, I realized that he was quoting the theme of his Priest’s high adventure to the Tetons. He was applying that principle taught at that adventure to the current situation. I looked him in the eyes and could easily see a young man now prepared to face the difficulties of a mission and the challenges of life. A confirming feeling also came to me that the Scouting and Young Men’s programs really do work when implemented correctly. I credit trained, committed leaders for implementing the programs in a way to have an impact on the boys.

Of course, training is a continuous process. As our stake presidency approached the mid-point of our service, we decided it would be a great boost to our energy level to attend Philmont

again. The three of us, along with our stake Young Men’s President, and our families made another trip to Philmont in June 2009. It was a marvelous experience. A highlight of the trip was the experience five of our children had on the Mountain Trek. Our children still talk about the fun and accomplishment associated with the Mountain Trek. Again, they learned they can do hard things.

Our recent trip to Philmont has energized us and caused us to recommit to serving the youth of our stake. At Philmont, I heard a quote that had a big impact on me.

“Boys need lots of heroes like Lincoln and Washington. But they also need to have some heroes close by. They need to know some man of towering strength and basic integrity, personally. They need to meet them on the street, to hike and camp with them, to feel close enough to them to ask questions and to talk things over man-to-man with them.” (Walter McPeck)

The heroes needed are best developed through training men of strength and integrity to successfully implement and use the Scouting and Young Men’s programs.

*Article and photos submitted by Kelly R. Johnson, Stake President, Kaysville Utah Central Stake*

## Little Philmont 2009: “Raising the Bar – Every Boy Deserves a Trained Leader”

On September 11-12, 2009 stake and ward leaders of seven stakes from Fresno to Porterville, California gathered at Camp Chawanakee in Shaver Lake, California to participate in a Little Philmont leadership conference.

The conference guests were Elder Larry R Lawrence of the Seventy and David Pack, LDS-BSA Relationship Director. The theme for this year’s conference was ‘Raising the Bar – Every Boy Deserves a Trained Leader.’

The conference began Friday evening with an opening campfire where Brother Pack set the tone for the conference and ended with a Woodbadge beading ceremony where many leaders received their beads. Saturday, following a full breakfast and flag ceremony, each participant attended one of six different training classes relating to their current calling in the Primary or Young Men programs.

Each training class was visited briefly by David Pack who gave instruction and answered questions relating to the specific training being given in each class. The conference closed Saturday afternoon in the camp’s outdoor chapel where Elder Lawrence gave concluding remarks about the training that everyone had received and a challenge to remember that your calling is really to help save our boys and young men in the church.

Through Little Philmont conferences held in these seven stakes, it has increased the knowledge of stake and ward leaders on how Scouting can be used as a tool to help the boys and young men learn leadership skills, but, more importantly, help each one develop a strong testimony of the Gospel and their Savior Jesus Christ.

### Little Philmont’s Effect on Leaders

The influence of the 2007 Little Philmont on the seven stakes from Fresno to Porterville, California resulted in a full eight patrol Woodbadge course in September 2008. The fruits of the training were shown at the 2009 Little Philmont Friday

night campfire. A beading ceremony was held where 14 leaders received their beads. This was the largest group in the Sequoia Council to ever receive their beads at one time. Many others from the 2008 course are on schedule to complete their ticket and receive their beads in the near future.

The impact of the 2009 Little Philmont can best be described by a bishop who attended the leadership training conference. He made the following statement:

“I wanted to take a minute and comment on my experience at Little Philmont this week. I am not given to brevity nor undue praise, so when I say that the experience was *life changing*, please know that I have chosen my words carefully. On Sunday morning in Bishopric meeting, I shared a small portion of my many pages of notes with the bishopric. I then shared a little more in PEC and the topic was repeated in Ward Council. If I may wax colloquial; *“I’ve got a fever, and the only prescription is more Scouting!”* Needless to say, when the scripture was read from Genesis 44:34 *“For how shall I go up to my father, and the lad be not with me?”* and the application was made that “the lad” was one of my Aaronic Priesthood young men, my heart and life was changed. Powerful stuff. How grateful I am that I was at Little Philmont and can apply its teachings now, right now. I have a new understanding and vision of the importance of Scouting as we strive to, in my words, ‘leave no boy behind’.”

As other leaders ponder the messages given, as this bishop has, the influence will begin to change their lives and this will begin to change how they approach their callings with the young men. They will begin to see the overall vision of how Scouting can help each young man be more sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Ghost in their lives,

strengthen their testimony, be better prepared to serve a mission for the Lord, and be better future husbands and fathers.

*Articles and photo submitted by Christopher Johnson, Stake Young Men Presidency, Fresno California Stake*



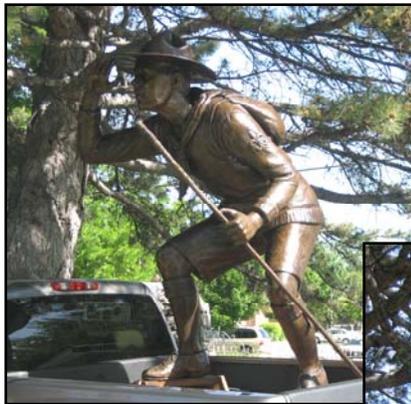
# Eagle Project Commemorates 100 years of Scouting

*Tom Smith is a priest in the Woods Cross 6<sup>th</sup> Ward, Woods Cross Utah North Stake.*

Tommy started his Eagle Scout project in November of 2007 at the age of 14. Having been very active in Scouts, attended the 2005 National Boy Scout Jamboree and hiked a hundred miles at Philmont the following year (all on his own hard-earned funds), he was quite a Scouter. Therefore it was not surprising that his choice for an Eagle Scout project had a Scouting theme. Earlier Tom had been impressed by the Eagle Scout project of Cameron Chambers who erected a considerable plaque acknowledging the veterans of our little unassuming city of Woods Cross, Utah. Tom wanted to do something as equally inspiring. Inasmuch as Scouting was on the verge of turning 100, the idea of a monument to better the community by inspiring all boys to be good outstanding boys and citizens by living the principles of the Scout oath, law, motto and slogan began to formulate. Tom went before the city council and asked that, if he produced such a monument as an inspiration for the boys of the community, would the city accept it and place it in an area of prominence? The city council overwhelmingly accepted the idea and one city council member even donated \$100 before Tom completed his presentation.

The economic downturn not only has increased the cost of the project, but has inhibited contributions. Pleasant Grove v. Sumnum was argued before the U.S. Supreme Court a year after Tom got started and that put the entire project in peril. Progress on the monument came to a standstill until the favorable ruling was handed down on February 25, 2009. But all in all, the positive experiences have far outweighed the setbacks.

The monument will undoubtedly be the most dynamic monument to Scouting in the world, if not the largest. It will stand approximately 17½ feet high and feature a 7½ foot high bronze sculpture of a Boy Scout peering off a climb atop an 8 foot high monolithic pedestal. A stepped



platform will support the entire structure. The sculpture is the creation of Utah sculptor Stanley J. Watts who used as his inspiration a 1908 sketch



The Scout Oath. Three sides of the pedestal will contain the Scout oath, law, and motto and slogan. The fourth side will contain a bronze plaque explaining the monument and containing the names of the sculptor, craftsmen, and builders, together with all those who made donations of \$500 or more.

All in all the monument is not projected to exceed \$50,000, which is a drastically reduced price as the craftsmen building the monument are doing it for cost. Tom has organized the Scouts to canvas the neighborhoods of Wood Cross City passing out flyers to get donations. Tom has made presentations in Scout roundtables and continues to meet with individuals and business for contributions. All donations are free-will, non-tax deductible contributions by those who value the Scout movement. As of this writing (August 27, 2009), \$33,279 has been donated. Tom has had the good fortune to meet with some of the choicest people imaginable, and, because of the media coverage, has met and received

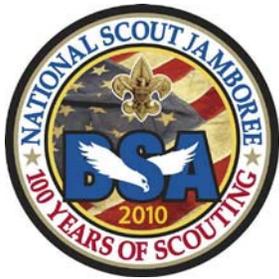


contributions from folks throughout the entire Salt Lake Valley. What a positive impact they all have had on Tom. No donations have exceeded \$500, which is the amount to include the contributor's name on the monument's bronze plaque. As of this writing, twenty-seven \$500 contributions have been received by individuals, couples, families and businesses. In addition, twenty-nine donations of \$500 each have been received to place the name of someone other than the contributor on the monument, such as a former Scout leader or mentor. Tom, himself, not only contributed the first \$500 to the monument, but has contributed an additional \$3,500 to include the names of seven of his Scout leaders. He is earning another \$2,000 to add the names of four more. I, myself, have contributed \$8,500 to add the names of all my former Scout leaders beginning with my den mothers to my Explorer advisors, all of whom are part of cherished memories from my boyhood years.

*Article and photos submitted by Ron Smith, Tom's father*

by Scouting's founder Robert Baden Powell. The bronze was finished in time for the city's Memorial Day commemoration this year (2009). Other works of the sculptor can be seen on [www.atlasbronze.com](http://www.atlasbronze.com). The monolithic pedestal will be created by Unlimited Designs, Inc., ([www.unlimiteddesigns.com](http://www.unlimiteddesigns.com)) who will use as a pattern Norman Rockwell's





## 2010 National Jamboree

**July 26- August 4<sup>th</sup>  
Ft. AP Hill, Virginia**

### 100 years of Scouting!

A century of the finest outdoor and leadership experience a boy could have! This tradition lives on at the pinnacle of the 100th Anniversary of Scouting—the 2010 National Jamboree. Yesterday merges with tomorrow at the greatest Scouting event of the century. It is the opportunity of a lifetime, one you will never forget. DON'T MISS OUT on this special moment in time!

### Jamboree City Rises Again

At dawn on July 26, 2010, dew on the empty fields shimmers in the growing daylight. And then ... here they come! By noon, throngs of Scouts are carrying gear and tents, and gateways begin to emerge from the empty ground. By dusk, the landscape has been transformed into a bustling city of 18,000 tents, 3,600 patrol kitchens and 43,000 Scouts and leaders. This transformation occurs in mere hours, making Jamboree City the fastest growing city in Virginia, if not the world.

Amid the thousands of colorful tents that will house participants and provide program and support services, there is an infrastructure that provides a safe and secure environment at Fort A.P. Hill. Everything from bus systems, telephone and Internet, to first-aid stations and a hospital, police and fire departments, post offices, food warehouses, a daily newspaper, and retail stores (trading posts and concession stands) provides all the support and program services needed for an outstanding event.

### What is There to Do?

You name it! The jamboree program reflects the skills of Scouting—physical fitness, environmental conservation, our national heritage, and the true spirit of Scouting.

See yourself rappelling, discovering scuba, kayaking, rafting, and sailing. Experience trap shooting, archery, bikeathlons, buckskin games, confidence courses, conservation trail, and more! There is not enough time in the day for all the exciting activities that are there waiting for you to try.

Daily activities include an incredible merit badge midway, arts and sciences, a re-creation of Baden-Powell's original Scout camp on Brownsea Island, an American Indian village, regional entertainment stages, and many other activities. The arena shows are a highlight for all participants. The jamboree is Scouting at its very best!

Registration and additional information can be found at the National BSA Jamboree website: [www.bsajamboree.org](http://www.bsajamboree.org)

## Celebrating 100 years of Scouting on Scout Sunday 2010

Is your unit, ward or stake doing something to commemorate 100 years of Scouting on Scout Sunday, February 7, 2010?

We would love to have your stories and photos (optional). There is no limit to how many can be submitted. A few of the events will be highlighted on our website [www.ldsbsa.org](http://www.ldsbsa.org).

All submissions should be sent to [Joanne.Reinertson@Scouting.org](mailto:Joanne.Reinertson@Scouting.org) with the words "Scout Sunday" in the subject line.

# Philmont

## 2009 Stats

- Sessions Held: 2
- Total Faculty and Family Members: 94
- Priesthood Leaders: 319
- Family Members at Philmont: 685
- Mountain Trek Young Men & Women: 174
- Total Participants: 1,178
- Number of LDS Stakes Represented: 191
- Number of States Represented: 29
- Number of Councils Represented: 68

# Philmont

## 2010 LDS Scouting Leadership Conference

**Session 1: June 26-July 2, 2010**

**Session 2: July 3-July 9, 2010**

Invitations will be mailed from LDS Church headquarters to each stake president in the United States in November 2009.

### NEW PHILMONT PARTICIPATION

**POLICY:** The LDS Scouting Leadership Conference at Philmont is for STAKE PRESIDENCY members and their families. Due to the high demand to attend the conference, only stake presidency members will be immediately registered. In addition, if members of the stake presidency register and would like a high councilor and/or stake Young Men president to attend with them, those applications will be immediately accepted as long as space is available. All other applications will be placed on a waiting list.

When openings occur, wait list applicants will be contacted by the LDS-BSA Relationships office. If you are a high councilor or stake Young Men president, encourage your stake presidency to submit their applications and you will all be accepted to the conference.

In addition, Philmont is a family experience as well as a marvelous training opportunity. Each priesthood leader is encouraged to bring his wife and family to Philmont.

Philmont information and updates are also available on our website: [www.ldsbsa.org](http://www.ldsbsa.org)