

AARONIC
PRIESTHOOD
PRIEST



FULFILLING OUR
DUTY TO GOD



***“Behold,
I am a
disciple of
Jesus Christ,
the Son
of God.”
3 Nephi 5:13***

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In this guidebook, the terms *stake president* and *bishop* refer also to *district president* and *branch president*, and the terms *stake* and *ward* refer also to *district* and *branch*.



“And witness unto thee, O God, the Eternal Father, that they are willing to take upon them the name of thy Son, and always remember him and keep his commandments which he has given them; that they may always have his Spirit to be with them.”
D&C 20:77

MESSAGE FROM THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

You live in a day of great challenges and opportunities. You have been called to make a difference in the world. As a son of God, with the power of the Aaronic Priesthood, you can be a wonderful force for good.

You can provide service, giving of your time, talents, and energies without thought of reward. You can fulfill priesthood duties, such as blessing the sacrament and serving as a home teacher. You can lift others by your example. You can strengthen yourself, building faith and testimony, living the gospel while you learn it and share it.

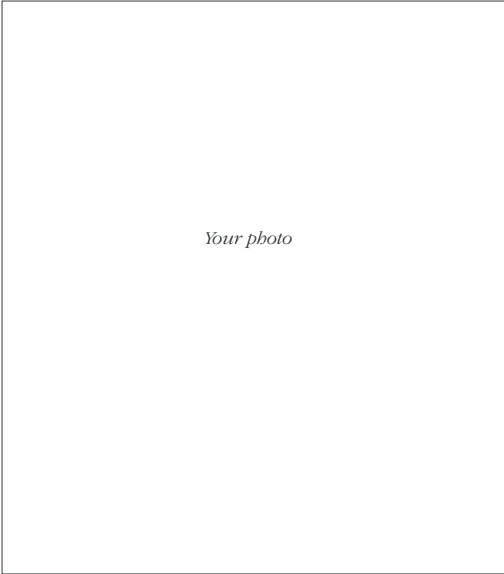
You have a responsibility to learn what Heavenly Father wants you to do and then to do your best to follow His will. This guidebook, along with *For the Strength of Youth*, will help you learn and do your duty to God. We hope you will earn the Duty to God Award and that it will become a symbol of your preparation to receive the Melchizedek Priesthood.

The Lord believes in you and has an important mission for you to do. He will help you as you turn to Him in prayer. Listen for the promptings of the Spirit. Obey the commandments. Make and keep covenants that will prepare you for the temple. Work with your parents and leaders as you set goals and strive to achieve them. You will feel a great sense of accomplishment as you fulfill your duty and prepare for the exciting challenges of the future.

The First Presidency



***“See that ye serve him with all your heart, might, mind and strength, that ye may stand blameless before God at the last day.”
D&C 4:2***



This guidebook belongs to:

I was ordained a priest on (date):

At (ward and stake):

By:

Who holds the priesthood office of:

THE PREPARATORY PRIESTHOOD

As a priest, you have had many opportunities to learn and do your duty in the Aaronic Priesthood. Many new opportunities soon await you. You will receive the Melchizedek Priesthood. You will go to the temple and make sacred covenants. You will serve as a missionary, teaching the gospel and blessing the lives of others. Make the most of this important time in your life. Continue to focus on the purposes of the Aaronic Priesthood, and do those things that will help you accomplish them. The purposes of the Aaronic Priesthood include:

- Become converted to the gospel of Jesus Christ and live its teachings.
- Serve faithfully in priesthood callings, and fulfill the responsibilities of priesthood offices.
- Give meaningful service.
- Prepare and live worthily to receive the Melchizedek Priesthood and temple ordinances.
- Prepare to serve an honorable full-time mission.
- Obtain as much education as possible.
- Prepare to become a worthy husband and father.
- Give proper respect to women, girls, and children.



*“To warn,
expound,
exhort, and
teach, and
invite all to
come unto
Christ.”
D&C 20:59*

YOUR DUTY TO GOD

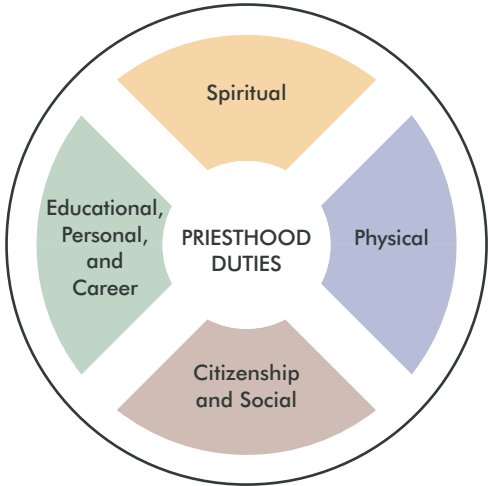
As a priest, you can earn a Duty to God certificate by completing the requirements in this guidebook. You may already have earned a certificate as a deacon and as a teacher. When you have earned all 3 certificates, you will earn the Duty to God Award. To earn a certificate as a priest, you must complete the following:

- Priesthood Duties and Standards (page 11)
- Family Activities (page 12)
- Quorum Activities (page 14)
- Personal Goals in each of 4 categories:
 - Spiritual Development (page 16)
 - Physical Development (page 19)
 - Educational, Personal, and Career Development (page 21)
 - Citizenship and Social Development (page 23)
- Duty to God Service Project (page 26)
- My Personal Journal (page 27)

Ask your parents and quorum leaders for help in setting these goals. Set your goals prayerfully. Be sure to choose challenging goals that will help you reach your potential. As you work on a requirement, you might ask yourself: How will this help me on my mission? How will it prepare me for the temple? How will it strengthen my testimony? How will it help me serve others or help my parents?

Your annual interview with your bishop is a good time to review your goals.

The 4 areas of personal development are:



*“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.”
Luke 2:52*



AARONIC PRIESTHOOD AND SCOUTING

As a priest, much of your attention is now turned toward receiving the Melchizedek Priesthood, going to the temple, and serving a full-time mission. However, you can continue to participate in Scouting and complete your Eagle Scout Award. Work closely with your parents and quorum adviser to accomplish this goal.



DUTY TO GOD CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

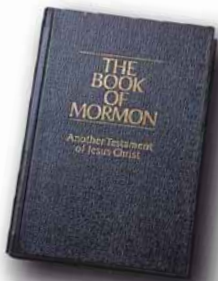
The requirements for earning the Duty to God certificate for priests are outlined below.

Priesthood Duties and Standards

Remain worthy to represent the Savior by doing all of the following regularly:

1. Keep the commandments.
2. Live the standards in *For the Strength of Youth*.
3. Have daily personal prayer.
4. Read the scriptures.
5. Attend seminary, where available; otherwise, enroll in the appropriate seminary home-study course.
6. Attend sacrament meeting, priesthood meeting, and other Church meetings.
7. Keep the Word of Wisdom.
8. Pay a full tithing.
9. Prepare the sacrament.
10. Serve as a home teacher, as assigned by your priesthood leaders.
11. Perform other assigned priesthood duties.

“The priest’s duty is to preach, teach, expound, exhort, and baptize, and administer the sacrament.”
D&C 20:46



Family Activities

Do all of the following. Have a parent initial each goal when you complete it.

_____ 1. Read the Book of Mormon. Discuss with your family the highlights from the book, including such topics as the difference in attitude between Nephi and Laman and Lemuel, the value of obedience to parents and priesthood leaders, the need to heed the messages of Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, the fight between good and evil, King Benjamin's wise counsel, Jesus Christ's visit to the Western Hemisphere, and the promise given in Moroni 10:4–5.

_____ 2. Read *For the Strength of Youth*, and discuss with your parents your experience in living gospel standards.

_____ 3. If you have not yet received your patriarchal blessing, begin making plans to do so.

_____ 4. Under the direction of your parents, organize and teach at least 4 family home evening lessons each year.

_____ 5. Read about the following topics in *Gospel Principles* or *Principles of the Gospel*, and teach 2 of them to your family: the Creation, death (physical and spiritual), eternal life, the Fall, forgiveness, God the Father, kingdoms of glory, mercy, missionary work, the premortal existence, prophets, the Restoration of the gospel, the Resurrection, the Second Coming, and temples.



***“And exhort them to pray vocally and in secret and attend to all family duties.”
D&C 20:47***

_____ 6. Read Doctrine and Covenants 4, and discuss what it means to be prepared spiritually, financially, emotionally, and physically for your mission. Discuss the importance of work (see Genesis 3:19; Proverbs 14:23; 2 Nephi 5:17; Mosiah 2:14; Doctrine and Covenants 42:42).

_____ 7. Talk to one or both of your parents about your career goals and how you are planning to achieve them.

_____ 8. Read Doctrine and Covenants 134, and discuss with your parents how it relates to your responsibilities as a citizen of your country.

_____ 9. Submit the name of one of your ancestors for temple work, or write a 500-word personal history.

“And we know that all men must repent and believe on the name of Jesus Christ, and worship the Father in his name, and endure in faith on his name to the end, or they cannot be saved in the kingdom of God.”
D&C 20:29

_____ 10. Read *Endowed from on High*, and discuss it with your parents.

Quorum Activities

Do all of the following. Have a priesthood leader initial each goal when you complete it.

_____ 1. Memorize the sacrament prayers. Talk to a priesthood leader about the baptismal covenant and what it involves.

_____ 2. If possible, give at least two 4- to 5-minute talks each year in a priesthood or sacrament meeting, when assigned by a priesthood leader.

_____ 3. Serve as a companion to a full-time missionary at least twice, when assigned by a priesthood leader. Discuss the teaching experience with the missionary.

_____ 4. Discuss the meaning of the oath and covenant of the priesthood with a priesthood leader (see Doctrine and Covenants 84:33–44).

_____ 5. Under the direction of a priesthood leader, help teach at least 2 lessons in priests quorum meetings.

_____ 6. Learn the basic skills of conducting music, memorize a hymn, and lead others in singing it during opening exercises of priesthood meeting at least once a year.

_____ 7. Participate in at least 1 priests quorum service project each year.



*“In all these duties the priest is to assist the elder if occasion requires.”
D&C 20:52*

Personal Goals

To earn a Duty to God certificate as a priest, you must complete 8 or more personal goals under each of the 4 categories that follow. If these suggested goals do not fit your needs or abilities, you can modify the requirements, with the approval of your parents and Aaronic Priesthood leaders. Discuss your goals with your parents and a priesthood leader.

Have a parent or priesthood leader initial each goal when you have completed it. Keep a summary of your progress on page 32.



“And remember in all things the poor and the needy, the sick and the afflicted.”
D&C 52:40

Spiritual Development

Select 8 or more goals from this category. These goals help you strengthen your testimony, learn your priesthood duties, and understand the doctrines of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

_____ 1. Speak in a quorum or sacrament meeting about the importance of honesty and integrity in daily life.

_____ 2. Teach a gospel lesson to younger children in family home evening, Sunday School, Primary, or another meeting.

_____ 3. Visit a hospital or care center, and talk with or read to the patients or residents.

_____ 4. With your bishop's guidance, identify and assist 2 elderly families with tasks such as shopping, gardening, cleaning house, and painting.

_____ 5. Learn to play the piano or organ well enough to accompany 2 hymns in a Church meeting.

_____ 6. Participate in a baptismal service by being a witness, performing a baptism, giving a talk, leading the music, or helping set up.

_____ 7. Encourage and invite a less-active quorum member to participate in at least 1 quorum or ward activity.

_____ 8. Continue to add regularly to your mission fund in preparation for receiving your mission call.



*“Behold,
my soul
delighteth in
the things
of the Lord;
and my
heart
pondereth
continually
upon the
things which
I have seen
and heard.”
2 Nephi 4:16*

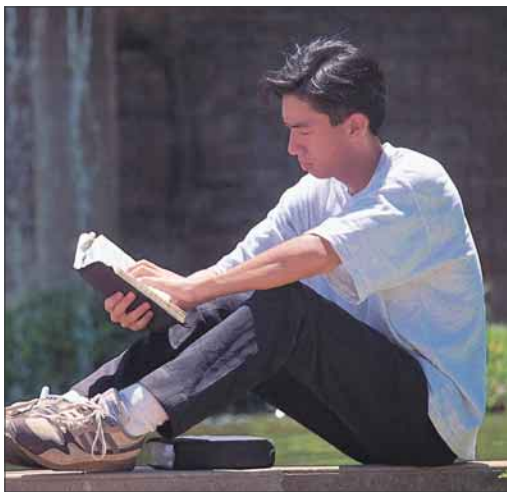
_____ 9. Participate in a community service project that benefits people who are not members of the Church.

_____ 10. Recite from memory the Articles of Faith and Doctrine and Covenants 4.

_____ 11. Participate in a ward or stake missionary preparation program. Where possible, work with the ward mission leader to participate in companionship exchanges with the full-time or stake missionaries.

_____ 12. As assigned by a priesthood leader, speak in sacrament meeting about a righteous father and the impact he had on his family.

*“Stand fast
in the work
wherewith
I have called
you.”
D&C 9:14*



13. _____

Physical Development

Select 8 or more goals from this category. These goals help you develop good health habits, become more physically fit, learn teamwork, and practice safety.

- _____ 1. Run 10 kilometers or 6 miles in 60 minutes or less.
- _____ 2. Hike 25 kilometers or 15 miles with a pack in 2 days or less.
- _____ 3. Run for 30 minutes 3 times a week for 3 months.
- _____ 4. Swim for 30 minutes twice a week for 3 months.
- _____ 5. Present a display or demonstrate a hobby or craft at school, in a Church activity, or at a community event.
- _____ 6. Participate in a musical group that presents music in harmony with Church standards, and give a public performance.
- _____ 7. Participate on a sports team in your quorum, ward, school, or community.
- _____ 8. Learn to play or officiate for a sport.
- _____ 9. Teach the rules of a sport to another family or quorum member.
- _____ 10. As local regulations permit, organize and carry out a camping trip for your quorum. Make arrangements with the owner of the land for permission to camp there, and clean up the area before leaving.



“And they were all young men, and they were exceedingly valiant for courage, and also for strength and activity; but behold, this was not all—they were men who were true at all times in whatsoever thing they were entrusted.” Alma 53:20



_____ 11. Study the needs of people with certain disabilities, and then present a plan to your parents or a priesthood leader for organizing a camping trip that includes those with disabilities.

_____ 12. Under the direction of a priesthood leader, plan an activity close to home in which all members of your quorum may participate with little or no cost. Possible activities include a 50-kilometer or 30-mile bike or wilderness trek, a rafting or canoeing trip, or a bicycle road rally.

_____ 13. _____



Educational, Personal, and Career Development

Select 8 or more goals from this category. These goals help you become more self-reliant, develop talents, and gain leadership qualities.

_____ 1. Write a post–high school education or training plan. Include how your education or training might be financed. Explain how your plans will work with your goal of serving a 2-year full-time mission.

_____ 2. Enroll and participate in a university or vocational school, on-the-job training program, apprenticeship, or internship.

_____ 3. If possible, plan to visit the workplace of 3 occupations you are interested in. Write about what you did and did not like about the job and about why you think it does or does not fit your long-term goals.

_____ 4. With your parents' permission, obtain part-time work.

_____ 5. Learn how to find a job. Prepare a résumé, and hold a practice interview with one or both of your parents or a priesthood leader.

_____ 6. Obtain a valid driver's license with your parents' approval.

_____ 7. Prepare a personal history, including several important events in your life or your family's life. Keep a journal or personal record.

***“By these things we know that there is a God in heaven, who is infinite and eternal, from everlasting to everlasting the same unchangeable God, the framer of heaven and earth, and all things which are in them.”
D&C 20:17***



“But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.”
1 Timothy 5:8

_____ 8. In a language other than your own, learn to bear your testimony, and memorize the last 6 articles of faith. Also, in 5 languages, learn greetings that people would give on the street.

_____ 9. Plan and participate in a variety show at church or in the community that includes local talent.

_____ 10. Create at least 3 paintings or drawings, and, if possible, display them in a church, school, or community cultural arts event.

_____ 11. Participate in a church, school, or community choir.

_____ 12. Learn to play a musical instrument.

_____ 13. _____



Citizenship and Social Development

Select 8 or more goals from this category. These goals help you serve others, improve social skills, and become a better member of your family, ward, community, and nation.

_____ 1. Plan and participate in at least 1 combined activity with your quorum members and the Young Women in the ward.

_____ 2. Read the section on dating in *For the Strength of Youth*. Discuss appropriate dating activities and conduct and the characteristics to look for in a potential spouse.

_____ 3. Learn good personal hygiene and grooming habits. Discuss why these skills are important to your success now and as a potential full-time missionary.

***“Yea, and all their priests and teachers should labor with their own hands for their support, in all cases save it were in sickness, or in much want; and doing these things, they did abound in the grace of God.”
Mosiab 27:5***

*“For inas-
much as ye
do it unto
the least of
these, ye do
it unto me.”*
D&C 42:38



_____ 4. Invite a group of newly married couples from the ward or stake to a panel discussion in which they discuss how individuals should treat each other during courtship and what to look for in a future spouse.

_____ 5. Attend a social event in the ward or stake and another similar event at school. Describe to your parents or a priesthood leader how you felt and behaved in both situations.

_____ 6. Plan and carry out a cultural or social activity for a group of elderly people in your area. Consult with the ward high priests group leader in your planning.

_____ 7. Organize or assist with a crime-prevention program in your neighborhood, under the direction of priesthood and community leaders.

_____ 8. Ask a representative of a local law enforcement agency to attend a neighborhood meeting, and encourage residents to watch out for one another.

_____ 9. After talking with a priesthood leader, do 2 projects that will help you better understand national governments and how to preserve peace.

_____ 10. Talk to a priesthood leader about the culture of a country or countries in which full-time missionaries are serving.

_____ 11. Help an elderly person participate in an election in your area.

_____ 12. Participate in at least 2 community service projects during the year.

_____ 13. _____

“But, verily I say unto you, teach one another according to the office wherewith I have appointed you; and let every man esteem his brother as himself, and practise virtue and holiness before me.”
D&C
38:23–24



*“And behold,
I tell you
these things
that ye
may learn
wisdom;
that ye may
learn that
when ye are
in the service
of your
fellow beings
ye are only
in the service
of your God.”
Mosiab 2:17*



DUTY TO GOD SERVICE PROJECT

Giving service to others is one of the purposes of the Aaronic Priesthood. Choose a project that gives significant service to your family, ward, stake, or community. The project should be at least 30 hours, and it needs to be approved by your parents and quorum adviser.

If you earn the Eagle Scout Award while you are a priest, the Eagle service project may count for both the Eagle Scout Award and the priest service project. You are encouraged to involve other members of your quorum in completing the project.

MY PERSONAL JOURNAL

One of the best goals you can set is to keep a journal. It becomes more and more interesting and valuable as you grow older. It will give you a lifelong record of your growth and accomplishments. It is a place to record your spiritual impressions and feelings. To earn the Duty to God certificate for priests, you must fill in the journal section of this guidebook. But you can actually write much more than just these pages. You can use your journal, a notebook, or additional paper.



YOUR DUTY TO GOD RECORD SHEET

Check or initial the appropriate box as you complete each section. Your bishop will sign your Completion of Duty to God page when you have completed the requirements in the following areas. Then you can receive your Duty to God certificate.

Priesthood Duties and Standards	
Family Activities	
Quorum Activities	

Personal Goals

Spiritual Development	
Physical Development	
Educational, Personal, and Career Development	
Citizenship and Social Development	
Duty to God Service Project	
My Personal Journal	



COMPLETION OF DUTY TO GOD

Name

has completed all the requirements necessary to receive the Duty to God for Priests certificate. He has faithfully performed his priesthood duties and lived the standards of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He has performed service, built faith and testimony, and prepared himself to be ordained to the office of elder in the Melchizedek Priesthood.

Signature of bishop or branch president

Date

*And now my beloved brethren,
I have said these things unto you
that I might awaken you
to a sense of your duty to God,
that ye may walk blameless before him,
that ye may walk after
the holy order of God,
after which ye have been received.*

Alma 7:22

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

ENGLISH



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