

Strengthening Youth Training Outline for New Materials

For Use in the United States and Canada (1 December 2001)

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Strengthening Youth: Training on New Materials

STRENGTHENING YOUTH

Overview

- *For the Strength of Youth*
- *Aaronic Priesthood: Fulfilling our Duty to God*
- *Young Women Personal Progress*
- *Guidebook for Parents and Leaders of Youth*

This training will cover the items shown.

STRENGTHENING YOUTH

Purpose



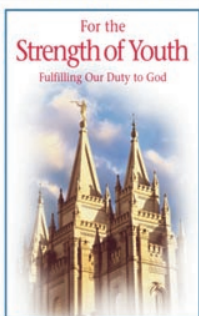
“We desire all young men to strive to earn the Eagle Scout and Duty to God Awards. We desire all young women to strive to earn the Young Womanhood Recognition.

As youth work on these goals, they will develop skills and attributes that will lead them to the temple and prepare them for a lifetime of service to their families and the Lord.”

In a letter dated September 28, 2001, the First Presidency announced a new Aaronic Priesthood Duty to God program and revisions of *For the Strength of Youth* and *Young Women Personal Progress*. They encouraged all young men and young women to receive the Duty to God Award or Young Womanhood Recognition. (See attached letter.)

STRENGTHENING YOUTH

Revised Pamphlet and Card



For the Strength of Youth presents the standards of the Church and teaches youth how to apply them.

By keeping these standards, youth will be of great service in the Church and the world and will be worthy to go to the temple to receive holy ordinances.


Every youth and parent should have a copy of this pamphlet.

The purposes for the revision of *For the Strength of Youth* are shown. (See *Guidebook for Parents and Leaders of Youth*, pages 7–8.) The new version of the pamphlet includes:

- A new First Presidency message.
- Additional topics that focus on what President Gordon B. Hinckley is emphasizing.
- Scripture references for each of the topics.
- An increased emphasis on personal and family accountability.

Aaronic Priesthood: Fulfilling Our Duty to God

AARONIC PRIESTHOOD
Fulfilling Our Duty to God



"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 Aaronic Priesthood Duty to God program helps young men accomplish the purposes of the Aaronic Priesthood. It helps them develop skills and attributes that are needed to succeed in life. (See *Guidebook for Parents and Leaders of Youth*, pages 9–14.)

The purpose of this program is well stated in Alma 7:22.

As each young man enters the deacons quorum, he will be given the *Aaronic Priesthood: Fulfilling Our Duty to God* guidebook for deacons. He will be given the guidebooks for teachers and priests as he enters those quorums.


AARONIC PRIESTHOOD
Purposes of Aaronic Priesthood



- Become converted.
- Serve faithfully in priesthood callings.
- Give meaningful service.
- Prepare for the Melchizedek Priesthood and the temple.
- Prepare to serve an honorable mission.
- Obtain an education.
- Prepare for marriage and fatherhood.
- Show respect for women, girls, and children.

The Aaronic Priesthood Purposes have been expanded to include the eight items shown.

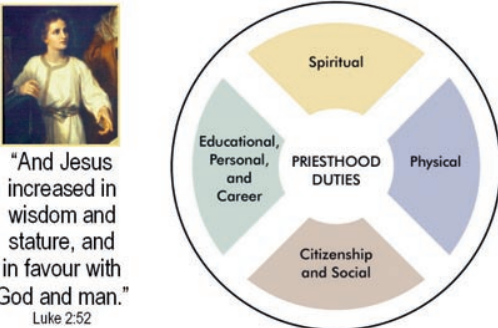
AARONIC PRIESTHOOD
Duty to God—Requirements



- Priesthood duties and standards
- Family activities
- Quorum activities
- Personal goals
- Duty to God service project
- Personal journal

In order to receive the Duty to God Award, a young man must accomplish the requirements outlined in each guidebook.

AARONIC PRIESTHOOD
Duty to God—Personal Goals



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

The Savior is the perfect model for everyone, including young men (see Luke 2:52). Young men become more like the Savior as they develop in the four areas shown.

AARONIC PRIESTHOOD
Duty to God Award



When a young man completes the requirements in one of the *Aaronic Priesthood: Fulfilling Our Duty to God* guidebooks, he receives a Duty to God certificate. When he receives all three of his Duty to God certificates, he receives the Duty to God Award. We want each young man who enters the elders quorum to have received his Duty to God Award.

AARONIC PRIESTHOOD
Duty to God and Scouting



Many Scouting requirements can fulfill goals and requirements of the Aaronic Priesthood Duty to God Program.

Scouting is part of the Aaronic Priesthood activity program. The Duty to God Award is a priesthood award, having requirements that will help young men develop spiritually and fulfill their priesthood duties. All young men are encouraged to earn the Eagle Scout Award and the Duty to God Award.

Scouting will continue to be used in the Church as it is now—Scouts, Varsity Scouts, and Venturing. The Aaronic Priesthood Duty to God program and Scouting go hand in hand.

AARONIC PRIESTHOOD

Helping a Young Man Fulfill His Duty



- Parents
- Bishop—President of the Aaronic Priesthood
- Quorum presidencies
- Young Men advisers
- Mutual

There are people and programs in place to help each young man progress. Under the direction of the bishopric, the Young Men adviser plays a key role in helping young men receive their Duty to God Award.

AARONIC PRIESTHOOD

Fulfilling Our Duty to God



We want every young man to earn his Aaronic Priesthood Duty to God Award.

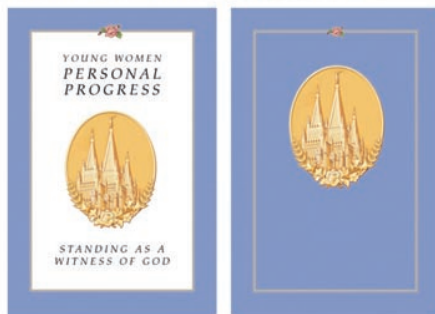
We want every young man to earn his Eagle Scout Award.

“The First Presidency has said: ‘We want every young man to earn his Duty to God Award. And we want every young man to earn his Eagle Scout Award.’ The implementation of this program must be speedy and thorough. All of us must be on track, united in our efforts. This is not a passing thing. It is of extreme importance. Our boys depend on us! I beg you, brethren, let us move forward as the Prophet Joseph Smith said: ‘Courage, brethren; and on, on to the victory!’ (D&C 128:22)” (Elder F. Melvin Hammond, Young Men General President).

Young Women Personal Progress

YOUNG WOMEN

Personal Progress Book and Journal



The Young Women Personal Progress program has been simplified and revised to meet the challenges of today:

- The *Young Women Personal Progress* book and a new companion journal are smaller to fit with the scriptures the young women use.
- There is a greater emphasis on the Savior, the scriptures, the family, and preparation for future roles.
- Parents are invited to assist their daughters in planning and completing the Personal Progress program.
- The Young Women theme has been strengthened.

YOUNG WOMEN
Addition to the Theme

*strengthen home
and family*

At the foundation of the Young Women program is the Young Women theme, which the girls stand and repeat each week. There will now be four new words added to the theme. They are “*strengthen home and family.*” This addition comes at a time when the home and family are under attack. It is critical that young men and young women on the threshold of life understand very clearly the principles and values that build strong families.

YOUNG WOMEN
Theme

“We are daughters of our Heavenly Father, who loves us, and we love Him. We will ‘stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places’ (Mosiah 18:9) as we strive to live the Young Women Values, which are:

Faith
Divine Nature
Individual Worth
Knowledge
Choice and Accountability
Good Works and
Integrity

We believe as we come to accept and act upon these values, we will be prepared to *strengthen home and family,* make and keep sacred covenants, receive the ordinances of the temple, and enjoy the blessings of exaltation.”

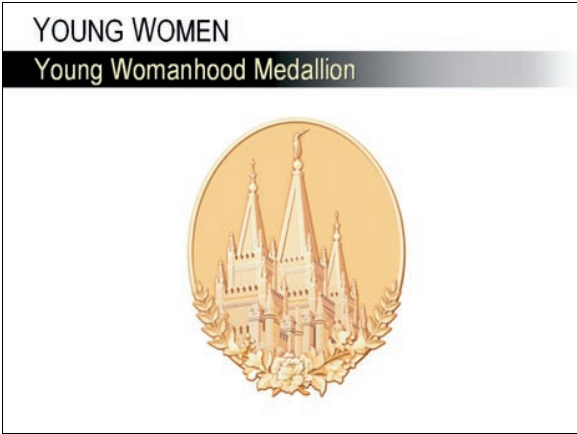
The theme will now read as shown. Please implement this change immediately. This change will help young women to strengthen home and family *now* in the homes of their youth and *later* in their own homes with their own families.

YOUNG WOMEN
Personal Progress Requirements

To receive the Young Womanhood Recognition, a young woman:

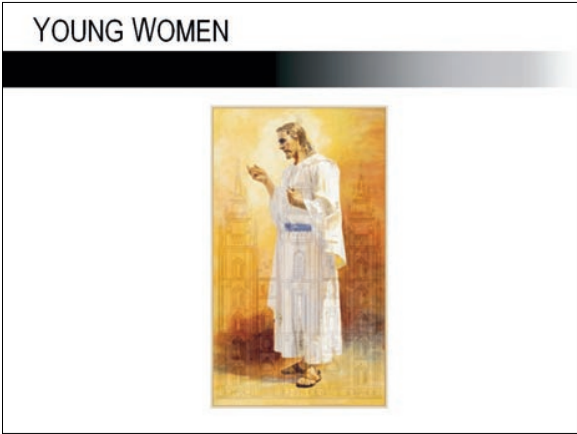
- Completes six experiences and one ten-hour project for each of the seven values.
- Lives the *For the Strength of Youth* standards.

The requirements to complete the Personal Progress program and receive the Young Womanhood Recognition are shown. A young woman may now work at her own pace.



When a young woman completes the Personal Progress program, she receives the new Young Womanhood Recognition medallion depicting the temple spires. This signifies that the goal of the Personal Progress program is to prepare a young woman to receive the ordinances of the temple. The medallion will be available in either gold or silver. We hope that every young woman will earn this medallion and wear it when she enters Relief Society.

When a 12-year-old girl becomes a Beehive, she is given a torch necklace. This torch necklace and the medallion, which a young woman earns through great personal effort, will now be the only pieces of jewelry for Young Women.



There is a picture in the front of the *Young Women Personal Progress* book that helps young women understand that they are working toward the goal of coming unto Christ. This goal can be achieved by receiving sacred temple ordinances. It is through the temple that a young woman comes to Christ.

“With all of our hearts, we thank the First Presidency for caring so much about the rising generation and for providing such rich and inspired resources for us to use in guiding them. May we find inspired ways to use these tools wisely and often to strengthen and encourage and build a strong foundation in the lives of every young woman and every young man in our Church” (Sister Margaret D. Nadauld, Young Women General President).

Mutual

MUTUAL
Purposes

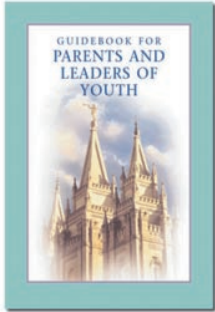
Mutual provides opportunities for youth to:

- Meet in a social setting.
- Apply gospel principles.
- Strengthen their testimonies.
- Give service.
- Develop wholesome relationships.
- Reach out to less-active youth.

“Mutual is fundamental to all that we are trying to do with and for the Young Women and the Young Men. Many parents recognize that when youth reach the adolescent years, they benefit from positive influences to reinforce and supplement the correct principles taught at home. No matter how clearly we understand the resources of the achievement programs for both Young Men and Young Women, if Mutual is not properly in place, our efforts are more likely to fail” (Elder Cecil O. Samuelson, Quorum of the Seventy).

Young men and young women should have a weekly activity night called Mutual unless travel or other restrictions preclude it. The purposes for Mutual are shown. Mutual also helps young people achieve their Duty to God Award and Young Womanhood Recognition.

MUTUAL



The new *Guidebook for Parents and Leaders of Youth* provides detailed information about Mutual.

Information about Mutual can be found in the *Guidebook for Parents and Leaders of Youth* and the *Church Handbook of Instructions*.

MUTUAL

Guidelines



- Held at the same day, time, and place each week.
- Planned by leaders and youth.
- Includes opening exercises, class or quorum activities, and an optional practice or social activity.

Mutual does not replace the family; it supports the efforts of parents with their youth. Also through Mutual, active youth are able to positively influence young people from less-active and nonmember homes.

Some guidelines for Mutual are shown. Holding Mutual at the same time, day, and place each week will allow parents and youth to plan for the activities.

MUTUAL

Annual Theme



Beginning in 2002, youth and their leaders will be invited to focus on an annual theme as part of Mutual.

Guidelines will be sent annually from Church headquarters.

Information will be sent annually from Church headquarters to priesthood leaders suggesting an annual theme for use in Mutual.

The theme for 2002 is "Stand Ye in Holy Places" (see D&C 87:8). The purpose of this theme is to help youth stand firm in the gospel by living the standards described in *For the Strength of Youth*.

MUTUAL

Combined Activities

Mutual Planning Worksheet

Date this Mutual night will be held: _____

Opening exercises

Devoting: _____

Conducting: _____

Opening hymns: _____

Opening prayer: _____

Show musical numbers, new song practices:

Talks: _____

Class or quorum activity: _____

Practice or social activity (optional): _____

- Are held monthly for all youth ages 12 through 18.
- Are reviewed in bishopric youth committee meeting.
- Teach youth to work and learn together.
- May include topics from *For the Strength of Youth*.

Guidelines for combined Aaronic Priesthood–Young Women activities are shown.

MUTUAL

Aaronic Priesthood Activities



- Plan activities around four basic areas of development.
- Help young men achieve their Duty to God Award.
- Where available, also work on Scouting activities.

Planning guidelines for Young Men and Young Women activities are also shown.

MUTUAL

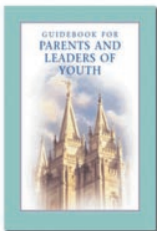
Young Women Activities



- Plan activities from the following areas:
 - Service
 - Home arts
 - Music, speech, and drama
 - Dance
 - Literary and visual arts
 - Camp
 - Sports and physical fitness
- Help young women acquire skills and talents encouraged in the Personal Progress program.

STRENGTHENING YOUTH

Role of Parents and Youth Leaders



Parents have the primary responsibility to help their sons and daughters succeed.

Youth leaders are responsible to see that the youth programs are effectively implemented and to help young men earn the Duty to God Award and young women earn the Young Womanhood Recognition.

The *Guidebook for Parents and Leaders of Youth* further outlines the above programs and summarizes the role of parents and youth leaders. All parents and leaders should have this book and be familiar with it.