

**Deseret Peak District  
June 2017 Round Table  
Unit Commissioner**

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Scout Law:  
Trustworthy

Theme:  
Let the Games Begin

## **A Vital Foundation for Scouting**

Eleven Year Old Scouts, as a boys first year in Boy Scouts, is a very important program to set the foundation for the rest of a boy's progress in the scouting program. The boys wear the Boy Scout uniform, they function as a patrol and they begin doing much harder requirements to advance. Strong leaders who are excited about helping the boys advance and who have a plan for advancement are essential to a good program. As unit commissioners what can we do to promote this first and vital time for the 11 year old scouts?

1st- Educate: Locally, most of the 11 year old scout units fall under the direction of the Primary. 11 year old scouts do not hold the priesthood yet and for this reason they are not included with the older scouts. They are no longer in the cub scouting program and can be involved in some of the older scout activities but a member of the Primary Presidency, the 11 year old scout leaders, and a committee member are responsible for to do 3 overnight campouts during the first year of scouting and those can be done with the older boys with Priesthood approval.

2nd- Prepare: Quoting the Boy Scouts of America Alpine District in Utah County, as an 11 year old scout leader "you will work with your troop committee and the Scoutmaster to deliver the promise of Scouting to your boys. Your boys will form a patrol and have a strong identity together. Ultimately, your primary objective is to provide a positive, consistent Scouting experience using the patrol method that allows the boys to build character, fitness and citizenship while making sure they reach the First Class rank or beyond by the time each boy turns 12 years old. And...always remember rule# 1: Make it fun for you and the boys!"

3rd -Support: Be there through visits to promote training and accountability. Study and search for information, stories and ideas to share with each visit as you see fit. Keep lines of communication open from patrols to you and from you to your leaders both in the scouting program and in the church.

Resources:

[www.LDS.org](http://www.LDS.org)- primary-scouting in the church-11 year old scouts

[www.utahscouts.org/program-resources/11-year-old-boy-scouts/53669](http://www.utahscouts.org/program-resources/11-year-old-boy-scouts/53669)

then click on 11 Year Old Scouts-National Parks Council

## **11-year-old camp**

As you plan your 11-year-old camp consider this question; why do we lose so many 11 year old scouts?

My theory is that they go from Webelos and Cub Scouts where if they are working at home and attending den meeting each week they can earn something every month to spending most of the year not earning anything. All the hard work they do every week and nothing to show for it. In the March/April 2017 Scouting Magazine page 15 talks about double dipping on requirements. It states that it is okay to give credit dual credit for a single activity if the requirements match. Many of the requirements for advancement also meet the requirements for merit badges. By knowing what these requirements are we can help the 11-year-old scouts earn merit badges while also earning their rank advancements. I have chosen to focus on 5 merit badges because I was told when my son was starting in boy scouts that they could help him earn his rank advancements. They are orienteering, environmental science, pioneering, first aid and wilderness survival. While we cannot complete the entire merit badge at camp, especially pioneering, we can get the scouts on their way and give the leaders encouragement to finish these in their weekly patrol meetings.

## **How do I find Merit Badge counselors?**

To find out if our district has volunteers who are registered as merit badge counselors for these or any other merit badges you might consider contact Geraldine and Dennis McBeth at 435 882-4613. Their number and address are also in the main round table handout.

## **Changes to Scouting**

By now we have all heard and are probably answering questions about the changes to scouting in the LDS church. In our monthly meeting Roger Ekins put a new spin on this by saying instead of focusing on what we can't do or don't have any more we should focus on what we do have. The Cub Scout program is still the activity arm for all boys ages 8-10. They still can earn their Arrow of Light award and learn many great skills. The boys scout program is still the activity arm of the church for boys ages 11-13. During this time, they add to their skills and knowledge while having the opportunity to earn their Eagle. If we have boys that are 14 or older and are still working on their advancements to earn their Eagle it is important that we have their leaders register them back into boy scouts from varsity and venturing now instead of waiting until recharter. This will help them with the time requirements needed for each advancement. The boys can be dual registered in boy scouts and varsity/venturing without issues. All that is required is for the parents of the boys to complete a new application. While boy

scouts do not fall under our umbrella as unit commissioners we still can in our visits get the word out about it. For those boys who want to continue in scouting past boy scouts our district is making plans and arrangements to have a Venturing crew chartered to the district. There have been wonder volunteers step up and say I want to do this, what do I have to do?