

What are the key issues facing The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and Boy Scouts of America?

- 1. Adapting and Implementing Scouting for LDS Purposes**—LDS church leaders will, as always, select their own Scout leaders based on church standards. BSA employees and volunteers are obligated to ensure Scouting helps stakes and wards meet their goals. The best way to accomplish this is to facilitate open, productive communication between Scouting representatives and stake presidents and bishops. Scouting representatives should listen to the specific needs expressed by stake and ward leaders as they share their vision for youth in local wards. The BSA should then assist the stake and ward with all available resources in adapting and implementing that vision.
- 2. Unified Alignment and Service Model**—Because church leaders and Scouting representatives are partners in delivering the Scouting program and its benefits to local youth, they will be most effective if they are unified. This partnership is best facilitated through frequent, productive communication, improved customer service on the part of BSA councils, and positive interpersonal relationships between Scouting representatives and LDS volunteers. The BSA should work to support priesthood-driven goals by conforming to the church service structure and language.
- 3. Leadership Training**—Scouting works most effectively when volunteers at every level are committed to the church's vision and thoroughly trained in Scouting programs and methods. The council should ensure BSA trainers teach LDS stake representatives, who in turn teach ward Scout leaders. This ensures volunteers at every level are taught Scouting methods while allowing LDS leaders to exercise their stewardship. The BSA is responsible to make this training easily available for stake and ward leaders. This will include automating and simplifying online education tools so volunteers have easy access to necessary information and materials.
- 4. Technology**—Scouting should provide online tools that are readily available and easy to use. Wards should be able to re-charter units, register new youth, and record advancement online using well-functioning programs that they can access from any electronic device. To better serve stakes and wards, the BSA should make use of all available technology to simplify and streamline Scouting information and processes. This should include a series of online articles and videos that, once completed by volunteers, qualifies them as trained Scout leaders.
- 5. Cost**—The BSA should explore lower-cost options for uniforms, advancements, program materials, and other direct Scouting costs for families and wards. Donors need the reassurance that local donations benefit local Scouting programs. The disconnect between the donating Latter-day Saint and the Scouting council must be addressed. The BSA must be transparent in the use of funds and is responsible to show LDS leaders the value they receive as a return on their investment.