

Mission Viejo Stake Young Men's Youth Program Guidelines 2019

1. **Be With Them.** Promote trusting relationships that will anchor young men to the gospel.

- Be their friend - young men need a non-parental role model and mentor.
- Council with the young men in order to find out what they are interested in.
- Assist youth quorum leaders in planning and executing desired, quality activities with a priesthood purpose that will have a meaningful outcome, build strong relationships with each other, leaders, and families, and promote quorum unity and brotherhood. Follow all church safety and other policies/guidelines.
- Lead with the understanding that experience has shown that the best way to get greater participation in activities is to involve the young men in the planning and carrying out of activities.
- Participate with the young men on planned activities, including weekly mutual and combined activities, overnight campouts, scout camp, high adventure trips, annual stake youth conference, ward super activity, and temple trips.
- Get to know each young man and become familiar with his talents, interests, and challenges. Look for ways to strengthen each young man and help those that are struggling.
- Recognize the successful accomplishments of the young men and attend their sporting, musical, and other special events when possible.
- Be an example of the truism, "Don't tell me how much you know, until you show me that you care." In the minds of youth, "LOVE" = quality "TIME" spent with them.

2. **Connect Them With Heaven.** Focus on deep and lasting conversion for the young men.

- Accomplish the purposes of the Aaronic Priesthood.
- Encourage, support and assist young men in attending seminary, Sunday meetings, weekly mutual and combined activities, firesides, devotionals, temple trips, stake youth conference, high adventure, ward super activity, and other meaningful events.
- Support and assist young men in doing family history and temple work for their ancestors.
- Prepare each quorum member to have the experience of teaching 1 or 2 quorum lessons per year. Give them opportunities to share their testimony.
- Assist each young man in completing his "Duty to God" requirements, learning the principles of "For the Strength of Youth", and understanding his divine identity.
- Register and provide a quality scouting experience for young men Deacon ages 12 and 13 until the new program for this age group is implemented in 2020.
- Register, support and encourage young men Teacher and Priest ages 14 and older who desire to continue towards earning the rank of Eagle Scout until 2020.
- Provide young men Teacher and Priest ages 14 and older with a balance of activity opportunities to serve others, to develop spiritually, socially, physically, and intellectually, to investigate career options, and become self-reliant and a good citizen. 2 to 3 annual overnight activities are also encouraged.
- Teachers and Priests still involved in Scouting advancement should meet with their corresponding quorums on activity nights. Do Scouting another time.
- Encourage the bishopric to call an individual in the ward to serve as the "Life to Eagle Scout Coordinator", whose responsibility is to encourage, guide, assist and smooth the path of the young man as he progresses from the rank of Life Scout to the rank of Eagle Scout until 2020.

- Ensure every young man age 14 and older is assigned a Melchizedek Priesthood ministering companion and regularly visits assigned families.
- Encourage Priest age young men to attend Missionary Preparation classes, and provide them with the opportunity to experience “splits” with the ward missionaries, and to take the sacrament to incapacitated ward members at the direction of the Bishop.
- Teach the “law of consecration” by example by letting the young men see it in the actions of their leaders, as well as experiencing it themselves.
- Ensure each young man is having an annual interview with the Bishop or his counselor.
- Support the young men in obtaining patriarchal blessings.
- Leaders make an effort to share their testimony more often with the young men.
- Establish an electronic “Weekly Young Men’s Bulletin” , which is e-mailed at the beginning of each week to the YM and their parents, and where the Ward YM’s Secretary posts quorum activity announcements for that week, other future events and dates, quorum lesson and sacrament meeting talk assignments, articles of importance, and links to the Stake youth website and other appropriate sites.

3. **Let Them Lead.** Help young men lead Aaronic Priesthood quorums with power.

- Prepare the youth leaders to take charge and conduct all quorum and planning meetings and other youth activities and events. Practice the key principle of “shadow leadership”, where adult leaders spend the time necessary before the event occurs to coach and prepare the youth leader to take charge and conduct with confidence.
- Teach them the value of, and how to prepare, and use an agenda.
- Hold weekly presidency meetings.
- Conduct a quarterly leadership training and 3-month calendar planning meeting with the quorum presidency.
- Instruct the youth leaders on how to organize and supervise the quorum programs/activities, providing each quorum member with opportunities for Priesthood assignments, for leadership experiences, and for spiritual growth.
- Teach them leadership skills, including how to preside over the quorum, delegate assignments, council with other presidency and quorum members, seek the counsel of adult advisors and the bishopric, and how to prayerfully seek the direction of the spirit in administering the quorum and ministering to its members.
- Prepare a leadership booklet for the quorum presidencies to use, which will help them stay organized and keep track of calendared events, activities, assignments, agendas, quorum rosters, and leadership training guidelines.
- Teach youth leaders the value of reaching out to the “one”, and the importance of developing love, brotherhood, and loyalty among fellow quorum members where the quorum becomes a refuge from the outside world and is a place of love, acceptance, help and support for each young man.
- Encourage quarterly stewardship reporting interviews between the quorum presidents (and Priest 1st assistant), and the Bishop or his counselors.
- Always remember that Aaronic Priesthood quorum presidents hold the priesthood keys to direct the work of the quorums over which they preside. They are the acting, presiding heads of the quorums. They are assisted in these responsibilities by their counselors (or assistants), the quorum secretary, the quorum advisor(s), and the bishopric. Adult leaders are to assist, coach, mentor and train the presidents, not run the show.
- Recognize that adult leaders are successful in their responsibilities of preparing and training the youth leaders, if, and when, the adults can sit back and watch a meeting or activity unfold without them having to say a word!