

# Calling Scout Leaders

When a Bishop calls a new Scout leader, he is asking him or her to do more than just fill another Church assignment. You are asking this brother or sister to also join, and serve in, another organization and to assume all of the obligations that this entails. To fulfill this calling, they must register with the Boy Scouts of America as a Scout leader *prior* to serving and must be trained in the duties of the position to which he or she is being called.

In this calling there will be BSA meetings to attend, such as roundtables, Huddles or the quarterly Advisor meeting for Venturing leaders, as well as getting trained in addition to the normal church meetings. There will also be significant personal expenses, such as buying a uniform and miscellaneous camping gear.

There is also a significant time commitment. Weekly Scout meetings at MIA, monthly Roundables, a monthly campouts and occasional training are just some of the things that are a key part of being a Scout leader.

***This makes a Scout calling vastly different from all other callings in the Church.***

A person who accepts a Scout calling must be committed. If he or she is unwilling to get training, or cannot devote the time needed, or does not feel comfortable working with boys, the chance of being successful in this calling is slight. And, to be fair, the person being called must know everything that will be expected of them in this calling – BSA responsibilities as well as Church responsibilities. Youth leaders have such a profound influence on youth that it is especially important to call the right people.

Scouting involves many BSA obligations as well as church obligations, and you may not be fully acquainted with the BSA obligations. Before considering someone for a Scouting calling, review what these BSA responsibilities are. This will avoid learning later that some important obligation cannot be met

Although an interview with a prospective Scout leader is not a worthiness interview, moral issues are still involved. Scouting provides many opportunities for child abuse. Men are with boys in many situations where an unscrupulous man might take immoral liberties. And even when there might not be any physical abuse, wrong lessons could be taught. A Scout leader can have a tremendous affect on a boy – both good and bad.

BSA has put many safeguards in place to avoid wrongdoing, but no system is perfect. A prospective Scout leader must fill out an adult application **before** he can be a Scout leader, and the questions asked on this application have been designed to detect any conduct that is not appropriate – but again no system is foolproof.

The Scout council cannot investigate every applicant. It relies on the sponsoring institution to do this. **You** should know this individual well enough to know whether he is the right type of person to work with boys. Be wary of recent move-ins to the ward. You do not know their track records. Check with their former bishops. Also be wary of individuals who inordinately want to be with boys and whose lives seem not to be sufficiently balanced.