

# EYO LEADER QUICKSTART GUIDE



First Class Badge

## Getting Started with the Eleven Year Old Scouts

### A Letter / Guide to Get You Up and Running Your First 90 Days and Beyond

Dear Eleven Year Old (EYO) Scout Leader, congratulations on accepting this new calling!

#### YOUR POSITION — A VITAL KEY

Ecclesiastically, the Primary President has stewardship of you and your boys. But in Scouting, you are an Asst. Scoutmaster in the troop working



**The Eleven Year Old (EYO) Scout program provides a solid foundation for Scouting and the Deacons Quorum, and is an important and vital key to having a successful, vibrant, and exciting ward Young Men's program.**

with the Scoutmaster and the bishopric counselor in charge of Scouting. Having really enjoyed being a Scoutmaster and Deacons Quorum Adviser for almost four years, I firmly know that the EYO program is THE FOUNDATION and VITAL KEY to the entire Young Men's program in the ward. The Lord has great trust in you! You

probably realize that you are not called as the perfect Scout leader, but you are called to become such. The Lord will bless you as you apply yourself and magnify your calling in helping His boys.

#### YOUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE

As an EYO leader, your primary objective is to provide a positive, consistent Scouting experience using the patrol method that allows the boys to prepare for the Aaronic Priesthood and achieve the First Class Rank or beyond, by age 12. This really is quite easy to do—and it is very rewarding to see their progress, share in their excitement, and to see them beam as they come out of a Board of Review having reached a new rank! Success is awesome with these young men, and I hope you enjoy the journey with them every step of the way. You'll inspire confidence in them, help them acquire great new skills and learn to be prepared, and discover with them the thrill and honor of duty and joy of doing a good turn daily.

#### GET 100% BSA TRAINED

Every boy deserves a well-trained leader! Your top priority is to get 100% BSA trained. This will help you know what to really focus on and how

to train the boys to run a successful boy-led program. You only need to do three things to be considered 100% BSA "Trained":

1. Youth Protection (online at [myscouting.org](http://myscouting.org))
  2. Scoutmaster/Asst SM Classroom Training
  3. North Star Training (Intro to Outdoor Leader Skills)
- See [www.utahscouts.org/timp](http://www.utahscouts.org/timp) for upcoming class dates. Thank you for your commitment to get this done in your first 90 days, North Star by 120 days.

#### ATTEND ROUNDTABLE EACH MONTH

Your training is ongoing. Attending monthly District Roundtable with other adult Scout leaders provides a great way to get new ideas and to receive further instruction. Scout Learning is an ongoing journey filled with challenges and lots of FUN! Your calling with the boys requires ongoing training. There is much to learn. YOU ARE NEVER ALONE! You have help all around you. And don't think you have to reinvent the wheel. Please plan to attend Roundtable each month at the Manilla Stake Center (by the temple), from 7 to 8 pm.

#### WHAT TO STUDY, KNOW, & IMPLEMENT

You need great resources. Get these asap, and study and implement their ideas in your calling:

1. The Scoutmaster's Handbook
2. Trails to Testimony ([www.trailstotestimony.com](http://www.trailstotestimony.com))
3. Working the Patrol Method ([www.scoutleadership.com](http://www.scoutleadership.com))
4. The LDS Scouting Handbook ([search online](#))

These resources will help you fully learn the BSA program so you can successfully implement it.

#### USE THE PATROL METHOD

The patrol method is one of the eight methods of Scouting, and the main method you'll use to teach the boys to lead. Consider what Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, taught:

*"The patrol method is not a way to operate a Boy Scout troop, it is the ONLY way. Unless the patrol method is in operation, you don't really have a Boy Scout troop."*

—Lord Baden-Powell



**Patrol Yell:**  
**"The Lightning Bolts**  
**... SHAZAM!"**

Your boy-led patrol is so important to these new Boy Scouts. They are used to having Mom and Dad sign off on everything and the Den Leaders being in charge. That is not the case any more in Boy Scouts. You must strive to let the boys lead, and only Scout leaders can sign things off. Learn to use the Patrol Method in all you do. Every boy needs a position and to contribute. Remember to "Train 'em, Trust 'em, and let 'em lead!" --Bill Hillcourt

### WEEKLY MEETINGS & UNIFORMS

In your weekly Patrol meetings, you and the boys should wear the khaki and green BSA field uniform, recite the Scout Oath and Law, learn new skills, and you should give a SM Minute at the end to tie things together. Always keep the spiritual aims in focus. Your learning activity will change week to week, but consistency and enthusiasm are the keys to a great program! If



**Even small groups of boys can run the patrol method.**

you work the boy-run patrol method with a weekly written agenda and have a strong patrol identity, it will be hard not to enjoy a fun, vibrant, and exciting EYO program!

### CROSSOVER CEREMONIES

When Webelos turn 11 years old, there is usually a ceremony at Cub Scout Pack Meeting. The new EYO boy usually crosses a bridge of some sort as part of that ceremony, and is then greeted by you and the EYO patrol. Put the troop neckerchief on him, and then welcome him to Boy Scouts and the EYO patrol with a HUGE patrol yell! Then you can take him off to your patrol meeting and have some fun together! This ceremony is very important as a rite of passage for the new scout, and you need to be aware when a boy turns 11 years old so you can be there at the Pack Meeting to properly welcome him to Boy Scouts.

### CAMPING, OUTINGS & SUMMER CAMP

Though your boys are only supposed to camp three times as LDS EYO scouts, you can offer campouts more often to accommodate the new EYO Scouts or those aging out of your patrol. These

campouts should never be squandered, but rather highly structured with achieving very specific requirements that each boy must accomplish. The district and sometimes stake puts on EYO campouts as well. Father's & Son's Campout usually does not count as a BSA campout as it is not usually boy-led, planned, and executed, though,



**EYO Scouts learn that Boy Scout activities are fun, and**

if properly done, could be. In addition, in order to get to First Class, each EYO scout will need to go to 10 other activities outside Patrol meetings. On the months you don't have an overnight campout, you should have a Saturday activity of some kind. Also, EYO scouts can attend summer camp as tens of thousands of 11-year olds do across the country each summer. My son went to camp with a community troop as an EYO scout and it lit a monster fire in him, and at 42 merit badges (and counting) he has never looked back! Camp is a HUGE accelerator! Each boy and circumstance is different, but the EYO scouts can go to summer camp, earn merit badges and have a lot of fun. Share this with the parents. (They just can't go with their LDS Troop.)



**Crossovers to Boy Scouts**

## MERIT BADGES

EYO Scouts can and should earn merit badges! They should stick to some easy ones at first, but eventually they will need six merit badges for Star Rank – four of them Eagle Required. So, keep looking for opportunities for the boys to earn merit badges. There are many MB Pow-wows in



*and the boys can build great friendships together.*

the valley. Our stake holds one each spring. BYU holds one in March and October. Get them signed up! Scouts can usually earn three badges at these events. Alternatively, the AF Fitness Center has a ton of MB offerings. My son, Kaleb, earned the Scuba Diving MB there. With more than 120 merit badges to choose from, please encourage the EYO scouts to work on a few badges during this first year. It will be a great help to them later!

## THE EYO PROGRAM

Attached is a 14-week program that is road-tested, well-conceived, and when executed gets the boys really excited about Scouting! They learn a lot, grow a lot, and become leaders as they have

a chance to teach their Scout skills to new EYO Scouts entering the patrol throughout the year. This program, when properly implemented with the patrol method, builds great scouts. I have personally seen this program energize an entire Young Men's program in Kansas City. It was a thrill to see our EYO patrol go up against 80 other patrols in the district and not only bring home top trophies for their skills and knowledge, but more importantly for their Patrol Teamwork.

This EYO program is designed to repeat multiple times a year to accommodate all the boys entering and leaving at different times. Courts of Honor are held four times a year in most units. These are great dates/milestones to shoot for in your advancement of Scouts. You should always plan to attend these Courts and contribute. The Scout Committee Chair will probably have an assignment for you, and no one can perform a skit like the EYO Patrol can!

Please review this program and see that it is very easy to follow. It is structured in a way that is very efficient and easy to do. There was a lot of time and wisdom that was put into creating this program, and again, I have seen its success first hand. This makes it very easy on you to know what to do each week to stay on track, and it is VERY useful and helpful to parents so they know you have a plan and know what to work on with the boys. Parents are a great help and you need to get them onboard with you.

An Idea: My EYO Leader/Asst. Scoutmaster in Kansas City created 14 different kits that had all the materials in it for each night's activities. That way, he could just grab the kit and head to the Patrol Meeting each week. He is available as a mentor for EYO leaders. Please contact me if you are interested in communicating with him.

Keep in mind: it's not all about Advancement—that is just one of the eight methods of Scouting. Focusing on just Advancement is like running a V-8 engine on only one cylinder. Employ all eight



*Aviation Merit Badge*



*A well-trained, engaged leader makes all the difference.*



**Patrols learn to work together to acquire new skills and support one another as a group.**

***"We desire all young men to strive to earn the Eagle Scout and Duty to God Awards... 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."***

*First Presidency Letter, Sept. 28, 2001*

methods of Scouting in your program. Encourage each boy to earn their Primary Faith in God Award and frequently discuss receiving the Aaronic Priesthood in your meetings and Scoutmaster's Minutes.

### **SERVICE PROJECTS**

Scouting and the Aaronic Priesthood is all about giving service. When you get your boys serving each other and the community, your patrol begins to take on a powerful character and identity for good. Seek opportunities to get out and serve together at events, ward, or in the neighborhood. It will make a big difference in your program!

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Working with the young men requires a lot of communication, especially with the parents. It often requires a lot of patience, too! Providing a 90-day rolling calendar is important to keep everyone in the know. Parents usually like to know the what, when, and where of the activities and any follow-up they need to give. They need to know that their boys need to wear their uniforms and to bring their Scout Handbooks each week. They also like to know Courts of Honor dates, campout dates, and merit badge opportunities they can get their boys to. Build excitement in your program through these communications and be really positive. Your enthusiasm is the gas that drives this car, and it is very contagious! So, have fun getting the word out and always celebrate the accomplishments of the boys! Use websites to keep calendars and great pics. (see [www.bsa1138.com](http://www.bsa1138.com))

### **TRACKING PROGRESS**

Don't forget to sign off things for your boys in their Scout Handbooks! That is the definitive, most important record during their whole time in Scouting. Keep close track of every completed requirement so their time is not wasted and you can maximize your time together.

### **TIME TO GET STARTED!**

So, EYO Leader, thank you for stepping up and devoting your time to a cause that is really, really worthwhile! Your work will be something that will be part of these boys forever – good or bad. We know that it will be positive – and you will be a force for good in their lives as you show real interest in them, expect great things of them, and encourage them to do their best! May the Lord bless you with the vision you need to carry out this important work of saving these young men and helping them to start on the road to being men of God. Your great example goes a long way!

Please don't hesitate to ask questions or get help. We are here for you! We look forward to working with you to build a vibrant, exciting, rewarding EYO program for the boys that we can be proud of, and that will make a huge impact for good in their lives. Thank you for your selfless service!

Best regards,

—Kent

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