

Vanguard International Scouting Association
2020 Annual Report Summary

On January 1, 2020, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints discontinued its role as a charter partner with the Boy Scouts of America. For those Latter-day Saints desiring to continue their Scouting experience, the Church encouraged them to join community Scouting units. Therefore, as with other denominations participating in Scouting, Latter-day



**THE GREATEST
ADVENTURE**

The Greatest Adventure that I can imagine is an adventure with youth...It is so important that we recognize in our youth the leaders of tomorrow. How many of you see in your boys the president of your Rotary Club, or Chamber of Commerce, or mayor of the town, a member of Congress, a senator, and in every one of them a good, loyal citizen who is prepared to do his best to do his duty to God and his country, and to help other people at all times and hold high the standards as set out in the Scout Law?

-President N. Eldon Tanner

Saints continuing their Scouting involvement needed an independent organization to support their efforts in Scouting, domestically and internationally. For that reason, on October 29, 2019, Vanguard International Scouting Association (or “Vanguard”) was organized under the laws of the State of Utah. The initial Board of Directors was comprised of Wayne Perry (Medina, Washington), Christine Perry (Medina, Washington), Lyle Knight (Billings, Montana), Todd Moody (Las Vegas, Nevada), Dr. E. Gordon Gee (Morgantown, West Virginia), Jake R. Nichol (Park City, Utah), Mark R. Francis (Okinawa, Japan) and Charles W. Dahlquist, II (St. George, Utah). The board is scheduled to meet quarterly to consider matters brought to it by the officers of Vanguard.



The officers of Vanguard include Charles W. Dahlquist, II, International Commissioner and CEO; Trevor Bender, Associate Commissioner-Operations; Dr. Matt McIff, Assistant Commissioner-Program; and Mark Francis, Registrar and Executive Secretary. Wayne and Roma Bishop chair the Religious Awards Committee and Mike Ball is the Vanguard Webmaster. During the year 2020, the BSA Advisor to Vanguard was initially Amy Hutcherson, who has since left to

work in a BSA council in Illinois. Wendy Kurten currently serves as the Vanguard BSA Advisor. The Officers comprise the Vanguard Operations Team and meet weekly to consider matters relevant to the operation and growth of Vanguard and the accomplishment of its mission.

Vanguard International Mission and Performance Plan

Initially, the *Vanguard International Mission and Performance Plan* was prepared as a non-profit business plan document to assist in providing direction to Vanguard in its initial growth period. The *Mission and Performance Plan* specified the purposes of *Vanguard International Scouting Association* as follows:

1. Represent Scouting by members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to the BSA, other NSOs and WOSM.
2. Encourage membership in and affiliation with Scouting organizations by members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints worldwide.
3. Develop a BSA Religious Award to help Latter-day Saint Scouts and Scouting leaders learn and apply their Duty to God.
4. Perform those other functions that will encourage active involvement in the Scouting programs of the BSA, other NSOs worldwide by members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The Mission and Performance Plan also provided that in order to fulfil the purposes set forth above, the *Vanguard International Scouting Association* is currently or will, in the future, be involved in the following activities:

ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT THE CORPORATE PURPOSES

1. Serve as a liaison between Scouts and Scouters who are members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and BSA, other NSOs and WOSM.
2. Represent Latter-day Saint Scouters on the BSA Relationship Task Force and other BSA committees and encourage active participation on BSA committees at all levels: National, Regional, Area, Council and District.
3. Provide and coordinate, in connection with local Church leaders, Latter-day Saint chaplain services at Philmont Scout Ranch, National and World Jamborees and other Scouting encampments.

4. Represent Latter-day Saint Scouts, Scouters and Scouting families at BSA National Jamborees, World Scout Jamborees and other Scouting events by providing Latter-day Saint Scouting exhibits, sponsoring Latter-day Saint Scouting events, etc.
5. Provide a forum for connecting Latter-day Saint Scouters across the world to help them be more effective in using Scouting to further the youth objectives of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
6. Provide communications to Latter-day Saints involved in Scouting and others domestically and across the world concerning the benefits of Scouting in helping their youth reach their potential, develop life skills and develop character traits, and prepare them...for Life.
7. Continue to build bridges of “friendship, fellowship and faith” with our Scouting friends from all different backgrounds and denominations across the world.
8. Develop and promote a Religious Award to help Latter-day Saint Scouts, Scouting leaders and families learn and apply their Duty to God. Provide written materials to describe the requirements for Scouts and leaders to earn the award and provide helps and materials to assist them in earning the award.
9. Sponsor annual Conferences for Latter-day Saint Scouters at Philmont Scout Ranch.
10. Develop materials to support the efforts of Latter-day Saint Scouters worldwide.
11. Work with the BSA for needed major maintenance of the Latter-day Saints chapel at Philmont Scout Ranch.
12. Work with BSA to develop marketing and recruitment materials to help grow Scouting, both domestically and internationally, among those of the Latter-day Saint faith.
13. Encourage occasional Scouting encampments for Latter-day Saint Scouts, normally on a Scouting regional or area basis.
14. Perform those other functions that will encourage active involvement in the Scouting programs of the BSA, other NSOs worldwide by members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

15. Provide ideas to show how the work in various national Scouting programs can be used in the new Church Children and Youth program. The intent is to give a guide to the complementary nature of the two programs and to show that youth efforts in one can also serve the youth in the other.

2020 Activities and Priorities

At the beginning of 2020, certain priorities were identified and set forth as goals for the initial 12 months of Vanguard’s operation. The following sets forth the priorities and the progress toward accomplishing each of those priorities during 2020.

Vanguard Activities/Priorities - 2020	Progress Reports
<p>1. Development of Relationship with WOSM and BSA. Establish Vanguard International Scouting Association as a recognized entity representing the needs and interests of Latter-day Saint Scouts and Scouters with Boy Scouts of America (as an affinity group) and with WOSM, including participation on critical BSA and WOSM meetings for religious entities.</p>	<p><u>Progress Report:</u> On April 9, 2020 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between BSA and Vanguard establishing Vanguard as an “Affinity Group” with the BSA for the exclusive purpose of serving and supporting Latter-day Saints involved in Scouting, registered Scouting Leaders and Scouting families throughout the BSA. We have also had productive conversations with WOSM to continue the relationship with Latter-day Saint Scouters through Vanguard.</p>

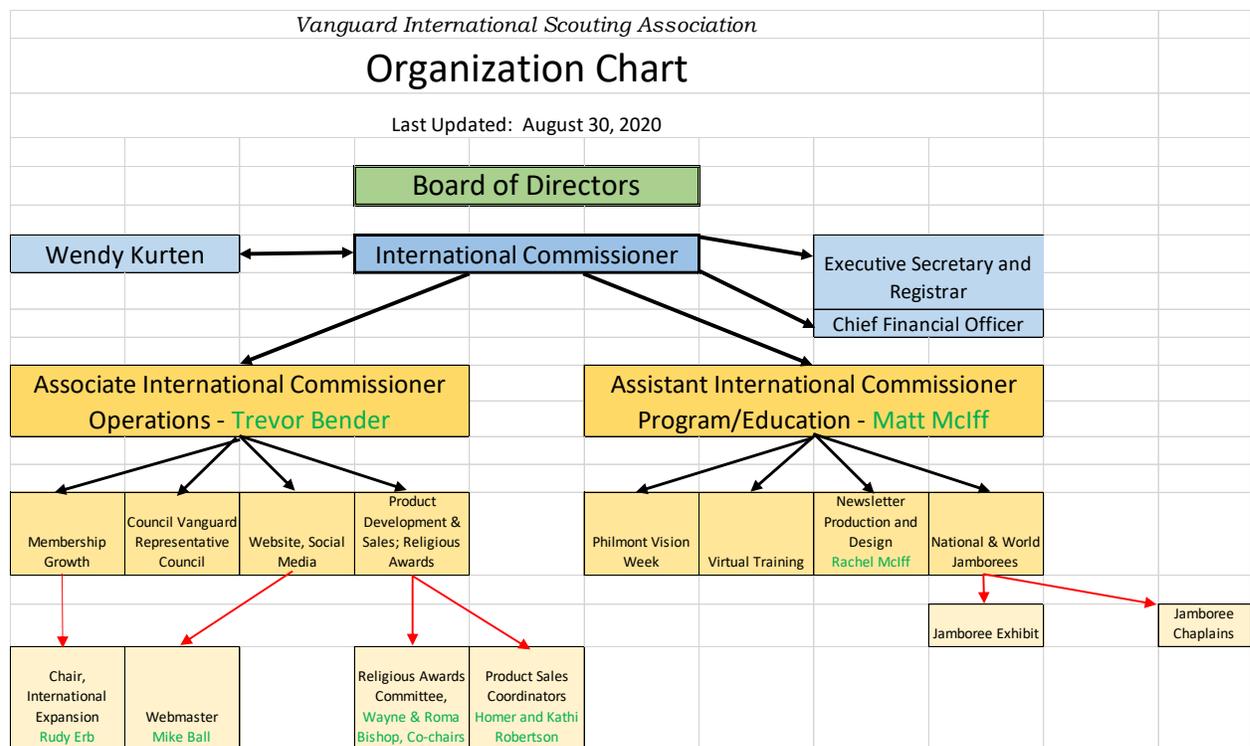
Vanguard Activities/Priorities - 2020	Progress Reports
<p>2. Establish a Vanguard International Scouting Association Representative in each council with major Latter-day Saint population. Those council Vanguard Representatives would be expected to represent Vanguard and Latter-day Saint Scouting on the Council Relationships Committee and would also participate in regular Vanguard Council Representatives Conferences (virtual). They would provide feedback to our Vanguard Operations Team on the strengthening of Scouting among Latter-day Saints in their council and, in addition, would be the means of increasing the effectiveness of communications between the Vanguard Operations Team and individual councils, Latter-day Saint Scouts, Scouting adult leaders and Latter-day Saint Scout families.</p>	<p><u>Progress Report:</u> We have established a Vanguard Council Representative (“VCR”) Council and are in the process of identifying and recruiting a VCR from each council in the BSA. We currently have recruited approximately 10 members of that council. Beginning in 2021, this VCR Council will meet (virtually) on a quarterly basis.</p>
<p>3. Develop Scouting Religious Awards for Latter-day Saints. Because both the Faith in God and On My Honor awards were discontinued when the Church discontinued its relationship with Scouting, there was a need to develop a Scouting Religious Award for younger Scouts (Cub Scouts), older Scouts and adults and receive approval for such from Boy Scouts of America.</p>	<p><u>Progress Report:</u> The <i>Light and Truth Award</i> for Cub Scouts and the <i>Vanguard Religious Award</i> for older Scouts and registered leaders was approved by the BSA Religious Relationships Committee and officially introduced at the 2020 Vision Little Philmont on May 15-16. As of December 31, 2020, we have had 18 adults earn the <i>Vanguard Adult Religious Award</i>, and 17 youth earn the <i>Vanguard Youth Religious Award</i>. In addition, just before the end of the year we had the first Cub Scout earn the <i>Light and Truth Award</i>.)</p>

Vanguard Activities/Priorities - 2020	Progress Reports
<p>4. Establish a Social Media Presence and Website. It was important for Vanguard to move quickly from the former LDS-BSA web platform and establish a new, fresh website that provided help and guidance to Vanguard members and other Latter-day Saints involved in Scouting worldwide.</p>	<p><u>Progress Report:</u> We immediately changed the name and look of the LDS-BSA Website to <i>vanguardscouting.org</i>, although much of the substance remained the same. We have both a <i>FaceBook</i> Page as well as an <i>Instagram</i> presence. The new Vanguard website includes two regular blogs: <i>Scouting with Stan</i> (Stan Stolpe (Alexandria, Virginia) and the <i>Commissioner's Corner</i>.</p> <p>Recently we established a Vanguard Digital Technology Team chaired by Neal Robison of Austin, Texas (Neal is a master at game design and designed the Novus wristband game for the 2019 World Scout Jamboree), Saborn Va (social media specialist), Mike Ball (Vanguard Webmaster) and Trevor Bender (Vanguard Associate Commissioner – Operations). The Task Force is working diligently to prepare a full internet and social media rework for Vanguard and will be presenting its report to the Vanguard Operations Team on February 16, 2021.</p> <p>In addition, we have begun the monthly publication of a web-based newsletter, The Vanguard Beacon, which will provide news of Latter-day Saints in Scouting across the world, as well as helps, guides and inspiration for Latter-day Saint leaders and Scouting Families. Vanguard also has a presence on FaceBook and on Instagram.</p> <p>At the end of the year, we determined that there are still many across the country who do not even know of the existence of Vanguard and its mission; nor are they aware of the option for Latter-day Saints to continue in Scouting. It will be one of our highest priorities in 2021 to get the message to the end of the row and increase our presence on social media and the recognizability of Vanguard's name and mission.</p>

Vanguard Activities/Priorities - 2020	Progress Reports
<p>5. Vision 2020 at Philmont Scout Ranch. Hold a successful Latter-day Saint week (Vision 2020) at Philmont Scout Ranch with at least 60 participants.</p>	<p><u>Progress Report:</u> Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Vanguard Operations Team decided to hold a Virtual Little Philmont in the place of an on-site Vision Course. It was held on May 15-16, 2020 (Friday night and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) and had 687 registrants. We have had many very positive comments about the program and feel it was a greater success than we hoped for. We also sent out a survey requesting information and suggestions as to how we could improve the virtual efforts in the future. We received many responses and are in the process of implementing many of those suggestions to improve our educational efforts in the future.</p>
<p>6. Establish a Vanguard Performance and Mission Plan</p>	<p><u>Progress Report:</u> This has been developed, including a general marketing plan, and is currently being reviewed by Jake Nichol, a member of the Vanguard board.</p>
<p>7. Grow our Membership, initially operate Vanguard International from funds raised through membership fees and operate in a financially stable manner.</p>	<p><u>Progress Report:</u> Vanguard International has, to this point, been supported financially solely by the membership fees of its charter, lifetime and annual members. We currently have 112 Charter Members, 24 Lifetime Members and 49 Annual Members. This has been sufficient for us to purchase office supplies and shipping costs; design and order an initial supply of Vanguard patches, <i>Be Prepared</i> booklets and neckerchiefs; and design and produce an initial store of medallions for the Light and Truth Award and Vanguard Religious Award. We have sufficient funds to continue our operation into the foreseeable future, with the exception of special projects, which we anticipate funding through special donor-supported fund raising. These special projects include our Website Revision during the first two quarters of 2021, a social and billboard media blitz during the first two quarters of 2021, Philmont Vision Conference in July 2021, and preparations for participation in the 2023 World Scout Jamboree. We also anticipate several membership drives that will require some limited donor-supported funding as we continue to grow and support the needs of Latter-day Saints in Scouting.</p> <p>We actually received a single non-membership-fee related donation from a generous Charter Member of Vanguard who is very supportive of the mission of Vanguard, even though not a Latter-day Saint himself.</p>

Eagle Scout Service Project Resource Effort. We became aware that in 2020, as a result of the pandemic, many community service organizations either dried up or the community contact (with whom Scouts had worked previously to set up Eagle Service Projects) had been eliminated. Some Eagle Scouts had contact over 15 organizations with regard to potential Eagle Projects – with no positive results. Therefore, as an aid to those Scouts looking for potential Eagle projects, we started an Eagle Scout Service Project Resource List, providing contact information that would be helpful to Scouts in lining up Eagle projects. We anticipate expanding that in 2021.

In addition to the above, we have rounded out a full Vanguard Operations Team with individuals from throughout the country to represent Latter-day Saint Scouts, registered Scouters and Scouting families and help build our efforts to support involvement in Scouting by Latter-day Saints worldwide. The following organization chart is reflective of our growth in 2020:



Vanguard Projections for 2021

We are excited about the growth and progress experienced during our first 12 months of existence and look forward to another year of growth and service in 2021. Our priorities for the next twelve months are as follows:

1. Increase Visibility, Recognition and Impact of Vanguard. As noted above, at the end of the year, we determined that there are still many across the country who do not even know of the existence of Vanguard and its mission; nor are they aware of the option for Latter-day Saints to continue in Scouting. It will be one of our highest priorities in 2021 to get the message to the end of the row and increase our presence on social media and the recognizability of Vanguard's name and mission.
2. Membership Growth. Double the membership of Vanguard through an aggressive program of service to the Latter-day Saint Scouting community and increased communication to our members and potential members, as well as working with others in Scouting to sponsor a media blitz to improve the image of Scouting generally, especially in the Western Region, where there are still many Latter-day Saints involved in Scouting. We also believe that our improved visibility through our monthly newsletter will have an impact on our growth.
3. Religious Awards for Latter-day Saint Scouts and Scouters. We are excited about the number of Vanguard Religious Awards (both adult and youth) that have been awarded in 2020 and look forward to significantly increasing the number of awards given during 2021.
4. Improved Internet and Social Media Presence. We are excited about the progress that is underway already to significantly improve our internet presence and effective presence in and use of social media to serve Latter-day Saints in Scouting. We have developed a Vanguard Digital Technology Team and anticipate the report of that group by February 15, 2021.
5. Vanguard Vision Conference, July 3-10, Philmont Scout Ranch. We look forward to an exciting and successful Vanguard Vision Conference for Latter-day Saint Scouters and their families on July 3 – 10, 2021. It is our goal to have a minimum of 60 participants in the Vanguard Vision educational program.¹
6. Vanguard Virtual Educational Programs. We are excited to sponsor two virtual Vanguard Educational Forums in 2021 – one during Scout Week in February

¹ At the time of the publication of this annual report, due to COVID-19 conditions and limitations, it was yet unknown if we will, indeed, be able to have a live conference at Philmont Training Center in 2021. As a result of those conditions a number of Scouting events for 2021 have already be cancelled, including the 2021 Jamboree.

2021 and the other during the fall. These will feature very well-known Latter-day Saint Scouters speaking about the impact Scouting continues to have in the lives of Latter-day Saints. More information is forth-coming in the next couple of weeks.

7. Vanguard Eagle Scout Resource. During the pandemic, many community organizations either “dried up” or the position of relating to community members (such as Eagle Scouts searching for project potential) was eliminated. Therefore, we have and will continue to expand our Eagle Scout Resource list, providing information to Eagle Scouts regarding resources and contacts for potential community-based Eagle Scout Service Projects.

We are excited to move forward in this new year – 2021 – to continue to provide additional and more effective support to Latter-day Saints in Scouting. By virtue of our Charter, Vanguard is an international organization, providing support to Latter-day Saints in Scouting worldwide. We have, indeed, provided some limited support in Japan and Latin America through our website. However, that has been and will remain intentionally limited during 2021 in order to allow us to stabilize the organizational cadence and rhythm domestically prior to our international expansion. We have, nevertheless, recruited Rudy Erb a dedicated Scouter from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma to develop our expansion internationally. Rudy is working directly with Vanguard Associate Commissioner, Trevor Bender to develop our Vanguard International Expansion Service Plan, which will be considered by the Vanguard Operations Team and Board during the 3rd Quarter of 2021 and rolled out on January 1, 2022.

Again, we express appreciation to our members, our board, our operations team, the BSA National Key 3 and all those who have help us have such a successful year. Thank you for entrusting us with this great mission of supporting Latter-day Saint Scouts, registered leaders and Scouting families worldwide.

Vanguard Operations Team

Vanguard International Scouting Association

Disclaimer: Vanguard International Scouting Association is an independent nonprofit organization, organized under the laws of the state of Utah, serving the needs and interests of Latter-day Saint Scouts, registered leaders and Scouting families; and is not sponsored by, affiliated with, or supported by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (“The Church”) in any way, either directly or indirectly. The Church is not responsible for and does not provide, approve or verify for accuracy any of the information contained in any *Vanguard International Scouting Association* materials, educational or otherwise.