

VANGUARD SCOUTING

RELIGIOUS AWARDS
REQUIREMENTS FOR
LATTER-DAY SAINT SCOUTS



RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS REFERENCE BOOKLET
2022 VERSION

VANGUARD DUTY TO GOD AWARD



SCOUT YOUTH (*Ages 11 through 17*)



ADULTS

VANGUARD DUTY TO GOD AWARD

The **Vanguard Duty to God Award** is the religious award for members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and their friends who are registered with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) or a Scouting organization approved by the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM). Registered youth must be ages 11 through 17; registered adults are ages 18 and above.

To earn this award, Scouts and adults should first discuss the requirements for the Vanguard Duty to God Award with a parent (**for youth**), a local Church leader, or a Scout leader. Before you begin to work on the award, you should also obtain a personal journal. This can either be a special journal or a simple spiral notebook. You can then begin working on the requirements and electives for this award.

Do not be in too much of a hurry to earn or “run through” the award. This award is designed to help strengthen your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and increase your understanding of the importance of doing your duty to God. As you work on and complete certain requirements, write your feelings in your personal journal and talk to a parent (for youth), or Scout leader (as indicated in the requirement or elective). Adults may speak to a registered Scout leader, a Church leader, or a spouse. As you complete each requirement, note in the table on the Vanguard Duty to God Tracking Sheet (at the end of this booklet) the date the requirement or elective was completed and the initials of the individual (Scout Leader, Church leader, or spouse) that reviewed your experience.

Once you have completed all requirements for the Vanguard Duty to God Award:

Youth: Speak with a parent about what you have learned and have them sign in the appropriate location at the bottom of the Tracking Sheet.

Adults: Speak to your Scout or Church leader about what you have learned and have them sign in the appropriate location on the Tracking Sheet.

After signing your application, your Scout leader will submit your application through an online form at <https://bit.ly/vanguardaward> and will receive instructions about how to place an order for your award.

Once your Scout leader has received your Vanguard Duty to God Award medallion and certificate from Vanguard International Scouting Association, your award can then be presented at a future Scouting event or court of honor.



1) Building Faith and Testimony – A Scout Is Reverent

Requirements

1. Faith increases as one reads, searches, and ponders the scriptures regularly. Reverence, the twelfth point of the Scout Law, is strengthened as we increase our faith in Jesus Christ. Read the Book of Mormon and, as you read, mark special passages that impress you. As you read, write in your journal your feelings about the Savior.
2. You may be asked if you believe in Christ and if your church is considered Christian. To clarify the beliefs of the Church concerning Jesus Christ, in 2000 the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles issued a proclamation titled “The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles.” Read this document and discuss with a parent, leader, or spouse the important doctrines included in this testimony of our modern-day Apostles concerning Jesus Christ. Write in your journal your feelings as you read “The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles.” You might even consider committing all or parts of it to memory.
3. The *Come, Follow Me* resource manual teaches us that “The aim of all gospel learning is to deepen our conversion and help us become more like Jesus Christ.” Read four consecutive lessons from the current *Come, Follow Me* resource manual and write in your journal your impressions and how gospel study strengthens your faith and testimony of Jesus Christ.

Electives (*Choose and complete two of the following*)

1. We strengthen our understanding of our duty as we share with and teach others. Teach someone from your troop or family what it means to have faith and how that helps you more effectively do your duty to God. Write in your journal what you learned as you prepared for and taught this concept of service.
2. While you are on a campout with your troop or family, spend some “alone time” and read Joseph Smith—History 1. Then write in your journal your feelings about the First Vision and how young Joseph must have felt on that day.
3. Read the sections on Faith and Testimony in *True to the Faith: A Gospel Reference* and in your personal journal identify at least two things you can do to strengthen your faith in Jesus Christ and your testimony of the restored Church. Apply those two things in your life for two weeks and then write about your progress in your journal.
4. **Youth:** Complete at least one year of seminary. Record in your journal how your faith and testimony have grown during that year.

2) Living the Gospel – Doing Your Duty to God

Requirements

1. The Scout Oath and Scout Law describe standards, objectives, and expectations for Scouts, while the booklet *For the Strength of Youth* sets forth standards for Latter-day Saints. Read the booklet *For the Strength of Youth* and discuss with one or both of your parents or your Scout leader how the Scout Oath and Scout Law support the standards outlined there.
2. Attend your Church meetings regularly (including sacrament meeting, priesthood meeting or Young Women and Sunday School) and participate actively in your ward youth activities. Memorize the youth theme scripture for the current year.

Electives (*Choose and complete two of the following*)

1. Tithing is an important principle of obedience and you should pay a full tithe. Read Malachi 3:8–11 and then record in your journal the ways the Lord “opens the windows of heaven” when we pay our tithes and offerings. Include ways that you have been blessed as you have paid a full tithe. Discuss with a parent or leader how tithes and other “offerings” are used to strengthen the work of the Lord.
2. Scouting teaches us to “Do a Good Turn Daily.” Ministering to others is a vital part of gospel living. Read one general conference talk on ministering. Discuss with a parent or leader how you can minister to someone in your troop, ward, branch, or neighborhood. Minister to someone by reaching out to lift them, strengthen them, and help them.
3. Music has always been an important part of Scouting and of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Learn two hymns by memory, pass them off to a parent or leader, and write in your journal the names of the hymns and a summary of their primary message.
4. Scouting values and Church teachings complement and reinforce each other. Identify at least one general conference talk that teaches the importance of living each point of the Scout Law. In your journal, note the attribute (for example, A Scout Is Trustworthy), the name of the speaker, the date of the talk, and a quote or two from that talk that encourages you to acquire that attribute or character trait.

3) Family Relationships and Family History – A Scout Is Kind. A Scout Is Obedient.

Requirements

1. You can be instrumental in strengthening your family today and preparing to raise a righteous family yourself. Read “The Family: A Proclamation to the World.” Discuss three things you can do to strengthen your own family. For three weeks make a special effort to strengthen your relationship with a family member by showing love through your actions. Write notes of encouragement, pray for this family member, find ways to be helpful, and verbally express your love. Record your experience and feelings in your journal.

2. Personal and family histories bring families together over generations. Your personal and family history begins with YOU! In your journal, or in another separate journal, begin your personal history. Write about your life this far, including your family, your friends, your experiences at church, your Scouting adventures, your school life, and other experiences you have had. Include five stories about experiences that you have had in your life and what you have learned from those experiences.

Electives (*Choose and complete two of the following*)

1. **Youth:** Earn the Family Life Merit Badge. If you are not part of the Boy Scouts of America, accomplish the requirements described in the BSA merit badge pamphlet or another comparable award for your National Scout Organization.

Adults: Find and take a name to the temple, preferably from your own family tree. Participate in either a baptism, initiatory, endowment, or sealing ordinance for this person.

2. **Youth:** Earn the Genealogy Merit Badge. If you are not part of the Boy Scouts of America, accomplish the requirements described in the BSA merit badge pamphlet or another comparable award for your National Scout Organization.

Adults: Evaluate how you can take the next step in family history research for your family. Capture a relative’s memories while they are available. Determine if your immediate family’s records are up to date and accurate on FamilySearch.org. Make changes that are needed.

4) Missionary Preparation – The Scout Motto: “Be Prepared”

Requirements

1. Memorize Doctrine and Covenants 4. Discuss with a parent or leader some of the key phrases in that section. Write in your journal two things you can do to increase your “...desires to serve God...” so you can be called to serve the Lord.
2. Read and study the five essential doctrines of Christ as taught in Chapter 3 of *Preach My Gospel: A Guide to Missionary Service*. Discuss with a leader or parent your personal feelings about these teachings and how you plan to keep all the commitments in these lessons.
3. Learn to lead music as a preparation for missionary service. Review the pages in *Hymns of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* about leading music and, with a parent or leader, lead one hymn in 2/4 (or 6/8) time, one hymn in 3/4 time, and one hymn in 4/4 time. If you need additional assistance, talk with the ward or branch music director or someone else who knows how to lead music.

Electives (*Choose and complete two of the following*)

1. Memorize six Articles of Faith in a language other than your native language.
2. Learn to iron a shirt or blouse. Check with your mother or another person in your troop who know how to iron shirts. If you need additional help, go online. There are a number of helpful video clips providing instruction for ironing a shirt or blouse.
3. **Youth:** Earn the Cooking Merit Badge. As a missionary, it is important that you be prepared for full-time missionary service by acquiring certain life skills.

Adults: Improve your cooking skills. Learn to cook something you have not previously prepared and share the item with someone else.

4. Learn about the beliefs and practices of a world religion other than The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. You may learn about the religion from that religion’s web page or by talking to a friend who is a member of that religion who is in your school, troop, or neighborhood. After you have completed your study, in your

journal identify (1) those things that the religion has in common with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; (2) how the two religions differ in their doctrines, beliefs, and practices; and (3) how understanding information about other religions will help prepare you to serve a mission for the Lord.

4) Missionary Preparation – The Scout Motto: “Be Prepared”

Resources for Requirements and Electives

Requirement 1: Doctrine and Covenants Section 4:

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/dc-testament/dc/4?lang=eng>



The Importance of Memorization: “If one wishes to improve his speech and be an inspiration to his friends, let him read the scriptures with such concentration as to impress upon his memory the best of what he reads. To store in one’s memory select passages from the scriptures and to add daily to that store is to live constantly in the presence of the best. That which we value enough to memorize becomes part of us. What we share with others will help others to share their lives. Let us keep the account current by daily review and constant additions. Let us never miss an opportunity to cast a lovely thought into the heart of a friend.”

-Attributed to President Hugh B. Brown

Requirement 2: *Preach My Gospel: A Guide to Missionary Service*

https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/bc/content/shared/content/english/pdf/language-materials/36617_eng.pdf



• “The Doctrine of Christ.” D. Todd Christofferson. April 2012 general conference.

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2012/04/the-doctrine-of-christ?lang=eng>



5) Church History and Organization – A Scout Is Loyal. A Scout Is Obedient.

Requirements

1. General conference editions of the Church magazines include pictures of the current General Authorities and General Officers of the Church. You can also find biographical information about each online at the Church's website. With a parent or leader, identify each member of the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve by name and describe one story or characteristic about each that has impressed you.
2. Speaking on the importance of the Restoration and the role of Joseph Smith in that work, John Taylor wrote: "Joseph Smith, the Prophet and Seer of the Lord, has done more, save Jesus only, for the salvation of men in this world, than any other man that ever lived in it." Read Doctrine and Covenants 135:3 and the "The Restoration of the Fulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ: A Bicentennial Proclamation to the World." After studying those carefully, record in your journal your testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith and the Restoration.

Electives (Choose and complete one of the following)

1. Participate in a local pioneer "trek" or other multi-day focus on Church history or visit a particular Church historic site. Write in your journal each day about your experiences, your feelings, and how that experience helped you appreciate the strength and sacrifices of the early pioneers. If you do not live close to a Church historic site, select an ancestor or pioneer in Church history and read about sacrifices in his or her life and then write in your journal how you felt as you read about that person's life and the sacrifices that were made.
2. Read a general conference talk about succession in the Church when the President of the Church dies. Discuss the process with a parent or leader. In your journal write about your feelings for the current President of the Church.

6) Service – A Scout Is Helpful

Requirements

1. Read Mosiah 2:17 and describe in your journal how King Benjamin's words relate to us today.
2. Identify ways that you can improve your community by serving on a regular basis (at least twice each month) for a period of two months. Write in your journal how you felt as you served in your community. This may include volunteering at a local service organization with your family (see www.justserve.org); volunteering to babysit for a young family so the mother can go shopping or the parents can go out on a date; or regularly cleaning up an area of your community, such as a park, a ball field, or school playground.
3. Teach a Scout the importance of service and help them reach out and provide some service to a person or group in need. Write in your journal how you felt as you shared with that Scout your feelings about the blessing of service and always looking for opportunities of Doing a Good Turn Daily (the Scout Slogan).



Vanguard Duty to God Award: Tracking Sheet

Category	Requirements (Date & Initials)			Electives (Date & Initials)	
1) Building Faith & Testimony					
2) Living the Gospel					
3) Family Relationships & Family History					
4) Missionary Preparation					
5) Church History & Organization					
6) Service					

Candidate Information

Name: _____

Youth: Age: _____ Unit Type: _____

Unit Number: _____

BSA Council: _____

I have completed the requirements and electives for the Vanguard Duty to God Award

Candidate Signature and Date

Youth: Parent Signature and Date

Scout Leader, Church Leader, or Spouse Signature and Date

Instructions to Candidate: When you have completed this form, give it to your Scout leader who will review what you have learned and will submit an application for your award. It will then be presented to you at a court of honor or another appropriate time.

Instructions to Scout Leader: Conduct a reflection interview with the candidate and submit the application for the award online. Ideas for how to do a reflection interview and a link for submitting this application can be found at <https://vanguardscouting.org/religious-awards/>

