

AARONIC
PRIESTHOOD
DEACON



FULFILLING OUR
DUTY TO GOD



***“Behold,
I am a
disciple of
Jesus Christ,
the Son
of God.”
3 Nephi 5:13***

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In this guidebook, the terms *stake president* and *bishop* refer also to *district president* and *branch president*, and the terms *stake* and *ward* refer also to *district* and *branch*.



***“That they are willing to take upon them the name of thy Son, and always remember him.”
D&C 20:77***

MESSAGE FROM THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

You live in a day of great challenges and opportunities. You have been called to make a difference in the world. As a son of God, with the power of the Aaronic Priesthood, you can be a wonderful force for good.

You can provide service, giving of your time, talents, and energies without thought of reward. You can fulfill priesthood duties, such as passing the sacrament, gathering fast offerings, and helping others. You can lift others by your example. You can strengthen yourself, building faith and testimony, living the gospel while you learn it and share it.

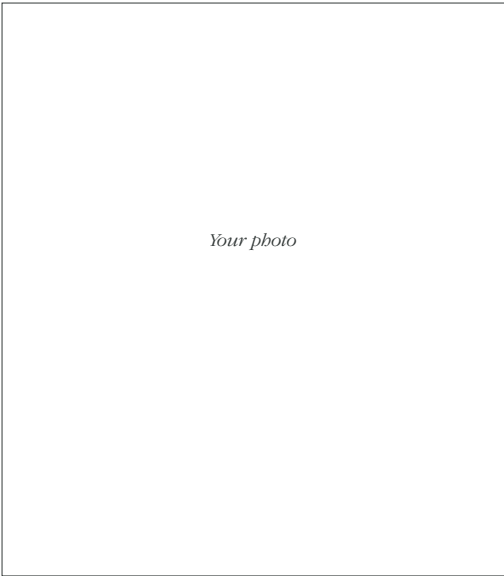
You have a responsibility to learn what Heavenly Father wants you to do and then to do your best to follow His will. This guidebook, along with *For the Strength of Youth*, will help you learn and do your duty to God. We hope you will earn the Duty to God Award and that it will become a symbol of your preparation to receive the Melchizedek Priesthood.

The Lord believes in you and has an important mission for you to do. He will help you as you turn to Him in prayer. Listen for the promptings of the Spirit. Obey the commandments. Make and keep covenants that will prepare you for the temple. Work with your parents and leaders as you set goals and strive to achieve them. You will feel a great sense of accomplishment as you fulfill your duty and prepare for the exciting challenges of the future.

The First Presidency



***“Thou art called to assist; which thing if ye do, and are faithful, ye shall be blessed both spiritually and temporally, and great shall be your reward.”
D&C 14:11***



This guidebook belongs to:

The Aaronic Priesthood was conferred upon me, and I was ordained a deacon on (date):

At (ward and stake):

By:

Who holds the priesthood office of:

THE PREPARATORY PRIESTHOOD

You're a deacon now. You have received the Aaronic Priesthood. It's an important step and is the beginning of many wonderful experiences and opportunities throughout your life. As you learn and do your priesthood duties, you will become better prepared for family and Church responsibilities. Always remember the purposes of the Aaronic Priesthood, which include:

- Become converted to the gospel of Jesus Christ and live its teachings.
- Serve faithfully in priesthood callings, and fulfill the responsibilities of priesthood offices.
- Give meaningful service.
- Prepare and live worthily to receive the Melchizedek Priesthood and temple ordinances.
- Prepare to serve an honorable full-time mission.
- Obtain as much education as possible.
- Prepare to become a worthy husband and father.
- Give proper respect to women, girls, and children.

“The Priesthood of Aaron . . . is an appendage to the greater, or the Melchizedek Priesthood, and has power in administering outward ordinances.”
D&C 107:13–14

*“To warn,
expound,
exhort, and
teach, and
invite all to
come unto
Christ.”
D&C 20:59*

YOUR DUTY TO GOD

The Duty to God program will help you achieve the purposes of the Aaronic Priesthood. As a deacon, you can earn a Duty to God certificate by completing the requirements in this guidebook. You can also earn certificates as a teacher and priest. If you earn all 3 certificates, you will earn the Duty to God Award. To earn the certificate as a deacon, you must complete the following:

- Priesthood Duties and Standards (page 11)
- Family Activities (page 12)
- Quorum Activities (page 14)
- Personal Goals in each of 4 categories:
 - Spiritual Development (page 16)
 - Physical Development (page 19)
 - Educational, Personal, and Career Development (page 21)
 - Citizenship and Social Development (page 23)
- Duty to God Service Project (page 26)
- My Personal Journal (page 27)

Ask your parents and quorum leaders for help in setting these goals. Set your goals prayerfully. Be sure to choose challenging goals that will help you reach your potential. As you work on a requirement, you might ask yourself: How will this help me on my mission? How will it prepare me for the temple?

How will it strengthen my testimony? How will it help me serve others or help my parents? Your annual interview with your bishop is a good time to review your goals.

The 4 areas of personal development are:



***“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.”
Luke 2:52***



AARONIC PRIESTHOOD AND SCOUTING

Scouting is full of adventure, challenge, and responsibility. We encourage you to participate in Scouting. Many of the Scouting requirements can fill goals and requirements of the Duty to God certificates.

As a Scout, you are encouraged to:

- Learn and live the Scout Oath, Law, Motto, and Slogan.
- Achieve rank advancements.
- Earn merit badges.
- Earn the Eagle Scout Award.

Both the gospel and Scouting teach us to be prepared in “every needful thing” (Doctrine and Covenants 88:119). As you participate in Duty to God and Scouting, you’ll develop character, learn valuable skills, and become a better member of your family and community.

You are also encouraged to earn the Scouting On My Honor Award. You can do this by completing the requirements for the Duty to God certificate for deacons and achieving the Scout rank of Star in the United States (or equivalent Scouting award in other countries).



DUTY TO GOD CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for earning the Duty to God certificate for deacons are outlined below.

Priesthood Duties and Standards

Do all of the following regularly:

1. Keep the commandments.
2. Live the standards in *For the Strength of Youth*.
3. Have daily personal prayer.
4. Read the scriptures.
5. Attend sacrament meeting, priesthood meeting, and other Church meetings.
6. Keep the Word of Wisdom.
7. Pay a full tithe.
8. Pass the sacrament.
9. Gather fast offerings.
10. Perform other assigned priesthood duties.

*“To watch over the church, to be standing ministers unto the church.”
D&C 84:111*

***“Widows
and orphans
shall be
provided for,
as also the
poor.”
D&C 83:6***



Family Activities

Do all of the following. Have a parent initial each goal when you complete it.

_____ 1. Develop the habit of reading the scriptures daily. During your 2 years as a deacon, read 1 Nephi through Mosiah in the Book of Mormon. Share with your family a few of the prophetic statements about Jesus Christ.

_____ 2. Read *For the Strength of Youth*, and discuss with your parents the importance of standards and values.

_____ 3. Under the direction of your parents, organize and teach at least 4 family home evening lessons each year. You may want to consider using topics from *For the Strength of Youth*.

_____ 4. Keep a written record of your family history. Ask a parent or the ward family history consultant to help you prepare a 4-generation pedigree chart.

_____ 5. With the help and permission of a parent, prepare at least 2 meals for your family. Where possible, also wash and iron your clothes for 1 month.

_____ 6. Read the twelfth article of faith, and briefly describe to your parents the structure and major functions of your national government.

_____ 7. Perform at least 2 service projects for your family each year.



“This is the testimony, last of all, which we give of him: That he lives!”
D&C 76:22

Quorum Activities

Do all of the following. Have a priesthood leader initial each goal when you complete it.

_____ 1. Read the Prophet Joseph Smith’s testimony in Joseph Smith—History 1:1–20, and discuss it with a priesthood leader.

_____ 2. Explain to a priesthood leader the law of the fast and how fast offerings are used. Read Isaiah 58 and Doctrine and Covenants 59.

_____ 3. As assigned by a priesthood leader, give at least one 3- to 5-minute talk each year in a priesthood or sacrament meeting.

_____ 4. Discuss with a priesthood leader the history and purposes of the Aaronic Priesthood and quorums.

_____ 5. Participate in at least 2 deacons quorum service projects each year.

_____ 6. Participate in baptisms for the dead, if possible. If not, talk with a priesthood leader about the temple and what it means to Latter-day Saints.

_____ 7. Write a half-page explanation of the purpose of the sacrament. You can refer to Matthew 26:26, Doctrine and Covenants 20:75–79, or the Topical Guide.



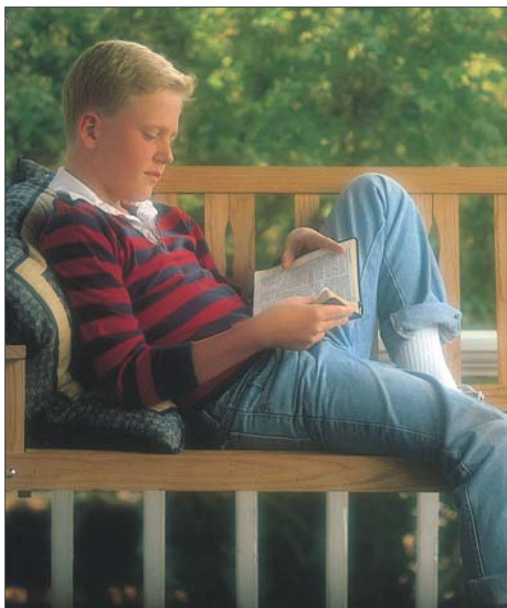
*“Therefore,
O ye that
embark in
the service
of God, see
that ye
serve him
with all your
heart, might,
mind and
strength,
that ye may
stand blame-
less before
God at the
last day.”
D&C 4:2*

Personal Goals

To earn a Duty to God certificate in the 2 years you are a deacon, you must complete 8 or more personal goals under each of the 4 categories that follow. If these suggested goals do not fit your needs or abilities, you can modify the requirements with the approval of your parents and Aaronic Priesthood leaders. Discuss your goals with your parents and a priesthood leader.

Have a parent or priesthood leader initial each goal when you have completed it. Keep a summary of your progress on page 32.

*“Wherefore,
you can tes-
tify that you
have heard
my voice,
and know
my words.”
D&C 18:36*



Spiritual Development

Complete 8 or more goals from this category. You can select from the goals listed below or write your own. These goals should help you strengthen your testimony, learn your priesthood duties, and understand the doctrines of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

_____ 1. Identify 4 scriptures that testify of Christ, and talk about them with a parent or priesthood leader.

_____ 2. Read “The Family: A Proclamation to the World” and “The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles.” Review them with a parent or priesthood leader.

_____ 3. Recite from memory the Articles of Faith to a parent or a priesthood leader.

_____ 4. Read Doctrine and Covenants 20:38–60, and talk with a parent or a priesthood leader about the duties of a deacon.

_____ 5. At least once each year, bear your testimony.

_____ 6. Read an account of one of your ancestors, or learn about an ancestor from one of your relatives. Report what you learned in family home evening or in a quorum meeting.

_____ 7. Complete additional family history work, such as a family group record showing your parents as children with the other members of their families. Share this information with a parent or a priesthood leader.

_____ 8. If you do not already have one, start a journal, and write in it regularly for 2 months.

_____ 9. Set up a plan to be spiritually and financially prepared to go on a mission at age 19.

_____ 10. Make a list of skills you will need to become a successful missionary. Talk to a parent or priesthood leader about how you can learn these skills.

_____ 11. Invite at least 2 friends to a Mutual activity, Sunday meeting, or family home evening.



***“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”
Matthew 5:16***



_____ 12. Write a letter to your parents, your grandparents, or a ward or stake leader. Thank them for their example and positive influence on you.

_____ 13. _____

Physical Development

Complete 8 or more goals from this category. You can select from the goals listed below or write your own. These goals should help you develop good health habits, become more physically fit, learn teamwork, and practice safety.

_____ 1. Run 2 kilometers or 1¼ miles, and set a goal for steady improvement.

_____ 2. Develop and begin a 1-year plan to improve your personal physical fitness.

_____ 3. Swim 50 meters, using 2 different strokes.

_____ 4. Learn to float on your back in the water for at least 2 minutes.

_____ 5. Learn how to rescue someone who is drowning.

_____ 6. Hike 10 kilometers or 6 miles in 1 day.

_____ 7. Prepare the equipment for an overnight camping trip. Show that you can set up a tent, cook on an open fire or on a camp stove, build a latrine, and restore the surroundings to how they were before your stay.

_____ 8. While camping, show that you know the proper way to build a cooking fire or set up a camp stove. Teach someone else how to build a fire, emphasizing 5 safety rules.

***“O, remember, my son, and learn wisdom in thy youth; yea, learn in thy youth to keep the commandments of God.”
Alma 37:35***



_____ 9. Learn a new game or sport.

_____ 10. Play on a sports team in your quorum, ward, school, or community.

_____ 11. Learn the rules of play, and officiate for a sport of your choice.

_____ 12. Explain to a parent or priesthood leader the rules of safe bicycle riding. Complete a 30-kilometer or 20-mile ride.

_____ 13. _____

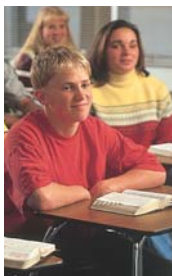


Educational, Personal, and Career Development

Complete 8 or more goals from this category. You can select from the goals listed below or write your own. These goals should help you become more self-reliant, develop talents, and gain leadership qualities.

- _____ 1. Make a plan to improve basic reading, writing, and arithmetic skills, and follow the plan for at least 3 months.
- _____ 2. Choose 2 careers you may be interested in doing someday. Find out what educational or other requirements you would need for them, and interview someone in each position to learn what you must do to prepare for these careers.
- _____ 3. Visit a government office. After your visit, explain to a parent or priesthood leader the function of the office.
- _____ 4. Learn how to purify water and to wash and prepare fresh fruits and vegetables.
- _____ 5. Learn emergency treatment for electrical shock, near drowning, serious burns, broken bones, heat exhaustion, and serious falls.
- _____ 6. Attend a cultural event such as a church, school, or community play, music program, or musical.
- _____ 7. Learn to play a musical instrument.

***“And also that every man should . . . enjoy the good of all his labour; it is the gift of God.”
Ecclesiastes 3:13***



_____ 8. Perform a musical selection in sacrament meeting or another church or community meeting.

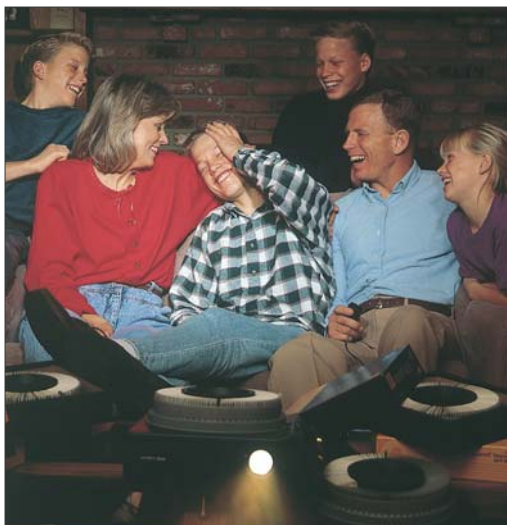
_____ 9. Develop and follow a financial budget for 3 months.

_____ 10. Read at least 4 issues of a Church magazine.

_____ 11. Learn computer and keyboarding skills. Demonstrate these skills by typing family history information in Personal Ancestral File or another similar program.

_____ 12. Read the Word of Wisdom in Doctrine and Covenants 89, and explain to a parent or priesthood leader what is meant by “and shall find wisdom and great treasures of knowledge, even hidden treasures.”

_____ 13. _____



*“Verily I say, men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness.”
D&C 58:27*

Citizenship and Social Development

Complete 8 or more goals from this category. You can select from the goals listed below or write your own. These goals should help you serve others, improve social skills, and become a better member of your family, ward, community, and nation.

_____ 1. Explain to a parent or priesthood leader how to be a friend, maintain a friendship, and resolve conflicts between friends.

_____ 2. Be a friend to someone who may feel left out, and invite him to a quorum or Mutual activity.

*“For inas-
much as ye
do it unto
the least of
these, ye do
it unto me.”
D&C 42:38*



_____ 3. Show a parent or a priesthood leader that you know how to use proper manners while eating, greeting acquaintances in formal and informal settings, greeting a person of authority, and introducing a speaker at a public event.

_____ 4. Teach your family to play a new game or sport.

_____ 5. Explain to a parent or priesthood leader what it means to obey, honor, and sustain the law.

_____ 6. Participate in a cultural event such as a school play or musical.

_____ 7. Learn and practice proper dance etiquette.

_____ 8. Explain Luke 6:31, and tell a parent or priesthood leader about when and how you have applied its teachings.

_____ 9. Help organize and carry out a quorum or ward youth activity.

_____ 10. With your quorum, clean up or repair a part of your neighborhood.

_____ 11. Participate in 4 family, quorum, or ward social activities.

_____ 12. Sing with a church, school, or community choir.

_____ 13. _____

***“And that same soci-ality which exists among us here will exist among us there, only it will be coupled with eternal glory.”
D&C 130:2***

“And behold, I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom; that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God.”

Mosiah 2:17



DUTY TO GOD SERVICE PROJECT

Giving service to others is one of the purposes of the Aaronic Priesthood. Choose a service project that benefits your family, ward, stake, or community. You should plan, prepare, and carry out the project. The project needs to be approved by your parents and quorum adviser.

If you earn the Eagle Scout Award, the Eagle service project may count for both the Eagle Scout Award and the deacon Duty to God service project. You are encouraged to involve other members of your quorum in completing the project.

MY PERSONAL JOURNAL

One of the best goals you can set is to keep a journal. It becomes more and more interesting and valuable as you grow older. It will give you a lifelong record of your growth and accomplishments. It is a place to record your spiritual impressions and feelings. To earn the Duty to God certificate for deacons, you must fill in the journal section of this guidebook. But you can actually write much more than just these pages. You can use your journal, a notebook, or additional paper.



YOUR DUTY TO GOD RECORD SHEET

Check or initial the appropriate box as you complete each section. Your bishop will sign your Completion of Duty to God page when you have completed the requirements in the following areas. Then you can receive your Duty to God certificate.

Priesthood Duties and Standards	
Family Activities	
Quorum Activities	
Personal Goals	
Spiritual Development	
Physical Development	
Educational, Personal, and Career Development	
Citizenship and Social Development	
Duty to God Service Project	
My Personal Journal	



COMPLETION OF DUTY TO GOD

Name

has completed all the requirements necessary
to receive the Duty to God for Deacons certificate.
He has faithfully performed his priesthood duties
and lived the standards of

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
He has performed service, built faith and testimony,
and prepared himself to be ordained
to the office of teacher in the Aaronic Priesthood.

Signature of bishop or branch president

Date

*And now my beloved brethren,
I have said these things unto you
that I might awaken you
to a sense of your duty to God,
that ye may walk blameless before him,
that ye may walk after
the holy order of God,
after which ye have been received.*

Alma 7:22

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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