

Notice

Date: July 15, 2019

To: General Authorities; General Officers; Area Seventies;
Stake, Mission, and District Presidents; Bishops and
Branch Presidents

From: Priesthood and Family Department (1-801-240-2134)

Subject: Children and Youth Update

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Website for Leaders

A website is now available for stake presidents and bishops to help them prepare for the Children and Youth effort, which will begin on January 1, 2020, in units where members speak ASL, Cantonese, Cebuano, English, French, German, Hiligaynon, Ilokano, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, Samoan, Spanish, Tagalog, and Tongan. The website is found at ChildrenandYouthLeaders.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

This website includes the following resources and information:

- **Introductory presentation.** As will be announced in area council meetings, Area Seventies will share this presentation in coordinating council meetings. Stake presidents will then share the same presentation with bishops and branch presidents. The presentation is currently available in English, with additional languages to follow. It is an overview for leaders in advance of the presentation for members scheduled for September 29, 2019. Additional resources and instructions for the September 29 meeting will be provided in early September. In stakes scheduled to hold stake conference on September 29, 2019, stake presidents should identify a later date for wards to review this presentation as soon as possible.
- **Introductory guides (PDFs).** Introductory guides for parents and leaders and for children and youth are available in English, with additional languages available soon. Printed copies and instructions for distributing these items will be provided at a later date.
- **Schedule.** A schedule of upcoming events, information releases, and language availability for items related to the Children and Youth effort is posted and also attached to this notice.
- **What is the same and what is different from current programs?** Information that provides a broad view of some of the features of current efforts that will remain the same and some features that will change in 2020 is posted and also attached to this notice.

Personal Progress, Duty to God, Faith in God, and Scouting Programs

The Church will discontinue its participation in Scouting on December 31, 2019, and the Personal Progress, Duty to God, and Faith in God programs will be discontinued on that date.

Young women who wish to receive the Young Womanhood Recognition, young men who wish to complete the Duty to God program, and children who wish to complete the Faith in God program should complete the requirements before January 1, 2020. As an exception, if children or youth need additional time, the awards will be available to order until March 1, 2020. Anyone who wishes to participate in Scouting may participate in Scouting groups in their local community.

Schedule of Upcoming Events, Information Releases, and Language Availability

Enclosure to the July 15, 2019, notice
“Children and Youth Update”

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- July 15, 2019** Presentation and resources are available in English at ChildrenandYouthLeaders.ChurchofJesusChrist.org for Area Seventies and stake presidents to use in coordinating council and bishops’ training meetings. In coming weeks, this presentation will be available in Cebuano, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Samoan, Spanish, Tagalog, and Tongan. Some video clips in some languages may be available only in script format to be read.
- September 2019** Resources will be available at ChildrenandYouthLeaders.ChurchofJesusChrist.org for stake presidents and bishops to use in the September 29 introduction meeting. A notice including instructions for this meeting will be sent to leaders.
- September 29, 2019** **Children and Youth: A Special Broadcast Featuring President M. Russell Ballard.** Printed materials to be distributed will be available in the following languages: Cebuano, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Samoan, Spanish, Tagalog, and Tongan. Videos to be shown during the meeting will be available in the printed-material languages and also in ASL, Cantonese, Ilokano, Hiligaynon, and Mandarin.
- In stakes scheduled to hold stake conference on September 29, 2019, stake presidents should identify a later date for wards to review this presentation as soon as possible.
- ChildrenandYouth.ChurchofJesusChrist.org will be updated for members and will be available in Cebuano, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Samoan, Spanish, Tagalog, and Tongan.
- Early October 2019** A notice will be sent to leaders with additional information on uniformity and adaptation and name changes for activities and meetings.
- November 17, 2019** **Children and Youth: A Face to Face Event with Elder Gerrit W. Gong.** This live event will be broadcast in ASL, Cantonese, Cebuano, English, French, German, Hiligaynon, Ilokano, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, Samoan, Spanish, Tagalog, and Tongan.
- Answers to frequently asked questions will be available at ChildrenandYouth.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

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- November–
December
2019** Printed copies of *Personal Development: Children’s Guidebook* and *Personal Development: Youth Guidebook* will be shipped to units.
The Gospel Living mobile app will be available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese and will become available in additional languages.
- January 1,
2020** Wards and stakes with materials available in their language will begin the new effort for children and youth. These languages include ASL, Cantonese, Cebuano, English, French, German, Hiligaynon, Ilokano, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, Samoan, Spanish, Tagalog, and Tongan.
- March 1,
2020** Additional wards and stakes with materials available in their language will begin the new effort for children and youth. Copies of printed materials, broadcasts, and the website ChildrenandYouth.ChurchofJesusChrist.org will be available in additional languages, including Albanian, Arabic, Armenian, Bislama, Bulgarian, Cambodian, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Estonian, Fijian, Finnish, Greek, Haitian, Hungarian, Indonesian, Kekchi, Kiribati, Latvian, Lithuanian, Malagasy, Malay, Marshallese, Mongolian, Norwegian, Polish, Romanian, Swahili, Swedish, Tahitian, Thai, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese.

What Is the Same and What Is Different from Current Programs?

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“For years, Church leaders have been preparing a new initiative to teach and provide leadership and development opportunities to all children and youth, to support families, and to strengthen youth everywhere as they develop faith in the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This new approach is intended to help all girls and boys, young women and young men discover their eternal identity, build character and resilience, develop life skills, and fulfill their divine roles as daughters and sons of God. The initiative is designed to allow local leaders, families, and even the young people themselves to customize their efforts, while providing service opportunities and activities, fostering healthy relationships, and supporting communities.”

Announcement, May 8, 2018

The New Effort Begins on January 1, 2020

The new Children and Youth effort formally begins on January 1, 2020. Stakes and wards will operate current programs and current resources will be available until then. Information provided in this and future communications is intended to help parents, leaders, children, and youth prepare to begin the new effort in January 2020.

Changes

The table below provides a broad view of some of the features of current efforts that will remain the same and some features that will change in 2020.

Largely Unchanged Features	Selected New Features
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Primary, Young Women, Young Men, and Sunday School organizations—with adult leaders and quorum and class presidencies—will continue as a core foundation to this new emphasis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The following programs and resources for children and youth of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will be retired: Faith in God for Girls, Faith in God for Boys, Personal Progress, Scouting (where applicable), and Duty to God.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Families and individuals will study Come, Follow Me at home and at church.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Seminary students will begin studying the same book of scripture as the Come, Follow Me curriculum.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activities and service efforts for Primary, as well as activities, service efforts, overnight camps, conferences, and other multiday activities for youth will be held as appropriate for local circumstances. The guidelines for these activities have not changed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activities should be based on helping children and youth grow spiritually, socially, physically, and intellectually.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children and youth will be encouraged to set and achieve personal goals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children and youth choose their own goals to help them grow spiritually, socially, physically, and intellectually.

Additional Details

Additional details will be shared via ChildrenandYouth.ChurchofJesusChrist.org between now and January 2020.