



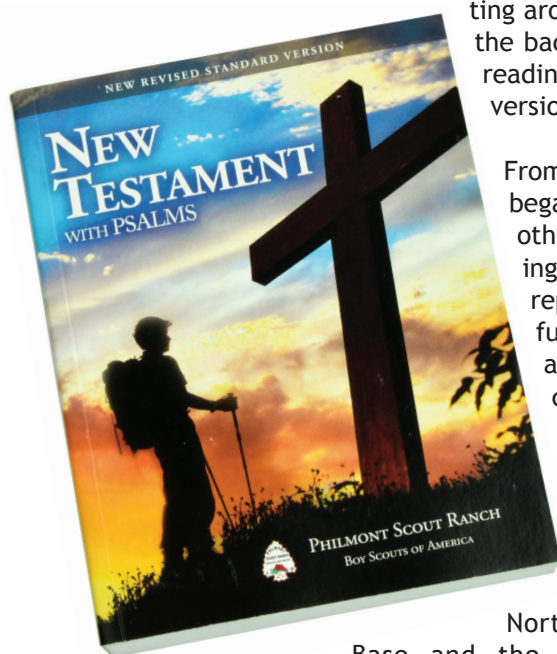
MCCS NEWS

MEMBERS OF CHURCHES OF CHRIST FOR SCOUTING

NEW TESTAMENTS DISTRIBUTED AT FOUR BSA HIGH ADVENTURE BASES

MCCS joined with four other religious scouting associations to fund New Testaments at all four BSA High Adventure bases this summer. MCCS trustee and 2014 and 2015 Philmont Chaplain Nathan Williams met with Philmont Chaplain Father Ray Fecteau of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting and together they discussed how discouraging it was that a "Protestant New Testament" was given to young people at the Protestant Services and that a "Catholic New Testament" was given to young people attending the Catholic services. Nathan Williams stated, "To us it seemed ridiculous that we could have two kids sitting around a campfire in the backcountry and not reading from the same version of the Bible."

From this idea, they began reaching out to other religious scouting organizations for representatives and funding to produce a single text that could be distributed at all the BSA High Adventure bases, including Philmont Scout Ranch, Florida Sea Base, Northern Tier Canoe Base and the Bechtel Summit Scout Reserve.



Base and the Bechtel Summit Scout Reserve.

One challenge was finding a version of the Bible that was suitable to all faith groups. Williams stated, "We chose the NRSV, New Revised Standard Version, because it was a modern translation that had participating scholars in the translation committees from across the Christian world. It had the broadest buy in and it is still the version most used by scholars in teaching at Christian colleges and universities."

The MCCS board of trustees approved supporting the project at the annual trustees meeting in February. MCCS funded approximately ten percent of the total cost of the project.

Thirty-thousand New Testaments were printed and distributed to the bases mid-summer. Each base received several thousand copies with a custom cover relative to that particular base and the grace associated with that base printed on the first page. Additionally, contact information was provided to each of the sponsoring organizations. Chaplains distributed the New Testaments at services.

Kent Barnett, MCCS Executive Director stated, "By participating in this, MCCS was able to directly reach out to young people and scouting leaders from throughout the country - even in locations where we did not have chaplains. I'm always excited about putting God's word in young people's hands, and it gives young people and leaders an additional way to get MCCS's contact information."



The MCCS board of trustees anticipates that this will be an ongoing yearly effort and is excited to be able to participate in providing New Testaments at all four BSA high Adventure bases. **If you would like to assist in funding this endeavor please contact MCCS Executive Director Kent Barnett.**

a note
from
Kent

Greetings! God continues to bless youth through the use of the Servant Leadership Series! The impact of the MCCS series is never so evident as when we receive testimonies from parents of youth completing the series. One such testimony recently came from a dad in Fort Worth, TX:

As a proud father, I wanted to let you know that my son put his Lord and Savior on in baptism this morning! I believe the Good Servant award scriptural material and working with a trusted counselor was an essential part of his decision process so that he could understand God's plan of salvation and be better prepared to commit his life to others.



Stories like this are common and validate the mission and future of MCCS! God continues to bless youth through the use of the Servant Leadership Series!

The wonderful thing about the MCCS curricula is that it is available for ALL boys and girls and their families involved in Boy Scouts of America (BSA), American Heritage Girls (AHG), Trail Life USA (TLUSA), and Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA). In addition, the curriculum can also be used in Bible classes with youth not involved in any of these organizations. Because MCCS is an INDEPENDENT organization, our awards and curricula are owned by us and therefore available for all youth to enjoy.

Since the last newsletter was published earlier this year, I have been busy promoting MCCS and its mission! In March, I was invited to attend the P.R.A.Y. annual workshop held in St. Louis. I was able to visit and develop stronger relationships with national representatives within the BSA, TLUSA, AHG, and GSUSA which is most valuable. I attended the National BSA Annual Meeting and participated in the National Religious Relationships committee meeting, along with several of the MCCS trustees who also serve on the committee.

I have been actively involved with Trail Life USA, attending two of their regional training meetings. One meeting was held in the Oklahoma City area hosted by the Memorial Road Church of Christ in Edmond and the other was in Knoxville, TN. I set up the MCCS exhibit and spoke at both events about the importance of boys utilizing the religious awards curricula and earning the awards. I am also pleased to share that I have been named as one of 15 TLUSA members to serve on the newly formed TLUSA Advisory Council. Being asked to participate on this advisory council is especially exciting as TLUSA is in the early stages of development, and it allows MCCS to be an active part of this process.

My wife, Denise, and I had the pleasure of attending the American Heritage Girls Conference in late June which included celebrating AHG's 20th anniversary. The conference was hosted by Anderson University in Anderson, Indiana. I manned the exhibit and was able to visit with many AHG leaders, parents, and girls about using the MCCS curricula and earning our religious awards.

The bottom line is, I want to meet or contact as many leaders and parents as possible to encourage them to have their youth studying the Bible, growing spiritually, and continuing to train to develop servant hearts for Christ!

MCCS is in the midst of its year-end fundraising efforts. Many of you are faithful friends who support MCCS year in and year out. I continue to be grateful for your sustaining financial support! I want to emphasize that we need NEW donors as well to help us grow MCCS and further its mission! If you believe in the MCCS ministry and our spiritual impact on youth, please pray about how you can financially support the ministry. MCCS needs and appreciates everyone's support!

Please mail checks using the below coupon or donate online at the link posted on our website www.goodservant.org!

In service to youth,

Kent

Kent Barnett
MCCS National Executive Director

SUPPORT MCCS'S MINISTRIES THROUGH YOUR PRAYERS AND DONATIONS!

MCCS encourages youth to grow spiritually through the use of our Servant Leadership Series Religious Awards. We also actively work to promote all types of scouting as valuable ministries that congregations can utilize to bring youth to Christ and to reach out to unchurched youth in their communities. Your donations and prayerful support allow this ministry to thrive. MCCS is an IRS 501(c)(3) institution. All gifts are deductible as provided by law. Please use the coupon below or donate online through the "About Us" link at www.goodservant.org.

Please accept my gift of \$ _____ to help Members of Churches of Christ for Scouting to continue to serve youth.

DONOR INFORMATION

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Phone _____

Email Address _____

Church Home _____

PLEASE CONSIDER MY GIFT TO BE IN ☐ HONOR ☐ MEMORY OF: _____

PLEASE SEND A GIFT NOTIFICATION TO:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Editors Note: On July 27th of this year the Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America changed the policy banning open homosexuals from serving as leaders in the Boy Scouts of America. MCCA did not endorse this change nor were we asked about it, but MCCA serves youth - period. We serve youth in all organizations that have a scouting heritage, and we serve youth who are independent of any youth organization. The below article appeared in the October 2015 edition of The Christian Chronicle and we feel it presents a fair view with a wide variety of opinions represented on this complex and challenging issue. The article is reprinted in full with permission of the author and The Christian Chronicle.

RESPONSES MIXED AS BOY SCOUTS ALLOW GAY YOUTHS, ADULT LEADERS

by Bobby Ross, Jr.- The Christian Chronicle

Piedmont, Okla. — Ken Richter loved the Boy Scout life.

Starting as a 7-year-old Cub Scout, Richter embraced the outdoor adventure, the leadership training and the character development.

"I loved to go camping and canoeing, and I made a lot of friends," said Richter, now 46 and minister for the Soldier Creek Church of Christ in this suburb of 6,500, about 25 miles northwest of Oklahoma City.

Later, his son, Caleb Richter, now a student at Oklahoma Christian University, advanced through Boy Scouts and earned an Eagle Scout award. Throughout his son's time in Scouting, Ken Richter served in adult leadership roles.

But now, the preacher oversees Troop 24:7 of Trail Life USA. That alternative national organization formed in 2013 after the Boy Scouts of America changed its youth membership policy to state that no youth may be denied membership based on sexual orientation.

Twenty-one Churches of Christ in 12 states — including Richter's congregation — have chartered Trail Life troops, according to Mark Hancock, CEO of Trail Life USA.

"We do not provide or track specific histories, as the origin of a troop could be argued," Hancock told The Christian Chronicle. "But I can tell you that roughly 50 percent of our troops report to have been formerly BSA troops."

TO STAY OR GO?

Two years after the youth membership policy change, the Boy Scouts' national executive board recently voted to remove its restriction on openly gay adult leaders.

However, the decision preserves the right of church-sponsored units "to select adult leaders in line with their religion's beliefs on sexual orientation," according to Scouting magazine.

The decision "had to be done to save the organization," said Nathan Williams, administrative officer for Abilene, Texas-based Members of Churches of Christ for Scouting (MCCA). He cited legal and political challenges facing the Boy Scouts.

"My personal advice is that now more than ever we need Churches of Christ to affirm their existing units and to stand up and charter new ones or help units that have lost their chartering partners," said Williams, a 1989 Eagle Scout involved in Scouting for 34 years.

"We are not to be a people who live in a spirit of fear and apprehension," he added. "Instead, we are called to be God's people reaching out to disadvantaged and lost in our communities. Scouting is still one of the best ways I know to get people to come in the side door of your church building on a Tuesday night so that you can build a relationship ... to get them to come in the front door on Sunday morning."

The cornerstone of MCCA is its Servant Leadership Awards program, which emphasizes development of Christian values, character and work ethics, executive director Kent Barnett said.

That awards curriculum serves organizations including the Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts of the USA, the American Heritage Girls and Trail Life USA.

MCCA doesn't track the number of churches that sponsor troops, so the organization can't say how many have dropped Boy Scouts units over the youth and adult policy changes.

"There's been a decline," said Barnett, whose association with the Boy Scouts stretches back 47 years. "I don't know if there's been a huge decline."

SOUL SEARCHING FOR CHURCHES

In Michigan, the Detroit-area Walled Lake Church of Christ stopped chartering Cub Scout packs but let the Scouts keep using its building as a community group, minister and elder Roger Woods said.

The gay youths policy conflicted with the church's core values, and leaders feared future potential future legal action if the congregation maintained its official ties, Woods said.

"I know many Churches of Christ who have hung in there, and I understand their reasoning," Woods said.

"Our culture's focus on personal rights is forcing churches to do deep soul searching. How do we interact with the community without condoning their values?"

The Boy Scouts pledge to defend the legal rights of units "that select their leaders based on good-faith religious beliefs." However, Trail Life USA warns that church-sponsored Boy Scout units could face detrimental litigation and adverse publicity.

The Chisholm Hills Church of Christ in Florence, Ala., has a 30-year relationship with Boy Scout Troop 284 — one the church plans to maintain given the continuing freedom to choose adult leaders who meet its biblical standards.

"We still believe that it's important to have men who are Christians, who are great leaders in the church and the community, impacting the lives of these young men and helping them to be productive, spiritually minded citizens," Chisholm Hills minister Charles Abernathy said.

Back in Piedmont, Richter said the Boy Scouts' inclusion of gay youths wasn't the only factor contributing to the formation of Trail Life Troop 24:7.

"Trail Life has more of a faith-based or Christian-based foundation," said Richter, whose troop serves 22 boys. "That appealed to a lot of us."

The troop's number refers to Jeremiah 24:7: "I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart."

Trail Life Troop 24:7 has contributed to a dozen baptisms, including several boys immersed on a whitewater rafting trip last year, Richter said.

"I had always thought about being baptized, but I had procrastinated," said Jadon Barker, 14, who came to Trail Life from the Boy Scouts.

"It showed me it doesn't have to be done in a church with a bunch of people watching," added Colin Penrod, 15, another of those baptized. "You can just do it in the middle of the river."

"Like Jesus," Barker said.

WHAT'S NOT CHANGING

- "The values of 'duty to God' and 'a Scout is reverent' found in the Scout Oath and Scout Law remain central to Scouting."
- "Chartered organizations will continue to select their adult leaders. Only religious chartered organizations may continue to use religious beliefs as criteria for selecting adult leaders, including in matters of sexuality. The BSA will defend religious chartered organizations that select their leaders based on good-faith religious beliefs."
- "The youth membership policy, adopted in 2013 and stating that no youth may be denied membership in the BSA based on sexual orientation, remains unchanged."
- "Everyone who is a registered member of the BSA agrees to follow national policies and comply with the BSA's behavioral standards."

SOURCE: Scouting, official BSA magazine

MCCS AWARD RECIPIENTS



WEBELO ALEX KING OF MADISON, ALABAMA EARNED HIS JOYFUL SERVANT AWARD.



TRAILMAN DONOVAN SCOTT OF KNOXVILLE, TENNESSE, EARNED THE JOYFUL SERVANT AWARD.



SIBLINGS (L TO R) BOY SCOUT THOMAS BURKE, AHG PATRIOT MOLLY BURKE AND WEBELO ROBERT BURKE OF PURCELLVILLE, VIRGINIA WERE AWARDED THEIR JOYFUL, GIVING, AND LOVING SERVANT AWARDS RESPECTIVELY.

WEBELO XAVIER WILEY FROM STONE MOUNTAIN, GEORGIA, EARNED THE LOVING SERVANT AWARD.



AHG PATRIOT LINDSAY BITGOOD FROM BURKE, VIRGINIA, EARNED THE GIVING SERVANT AWARD.



BOY SCOUT MITCHELL KELLY OF TROOP 50 IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS, EARNED THE GOOD SERVANT AWARD. MITCHELL IS PICTURED WITH HIS YOUTH MINISTER AND GOOD SERVANT COUNSELOR, MATTHEW MORGAN AT THE SOUTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS.



WEBELOS FROM PACK 54 CHARTERED BY EZELL HARDING CHRISTIAN SCHOOL IN ANTIOCH, TENNESSEE, WERE AWARDED THEIR JOYFUL SERVANT AWARDS ALONG WITH THEIR ARROWS OF LIGHT AS THEY CROSSED OVER INTO BOY SCOUTS. PICTURED (L TO R) ARE CUBMASTER WILL TIDWELL, SAM TIDWELL, JAMES HEIMAN, KALEB SILESHI, TY FREUDENTHAL AND DEN LEADER DONN FREUDENTHAL. WILL IS THE MINISTER AT THE UNA CHURCH OF CHRIST.

MCCS AWARDS 2015 SCHOLARSHIPS

In 2015, MCCS awarded its third set of scholarships to deserving young applicants from all over the nation. The MCCS scholarship committee had a very tough job narrowing it down to the four scholarship recipients.

In order to be considered for the scholarship all awardees must have earned the top award in their area of scouting (BSA Eagle Scout, Venturing Silver or Summit, AHG Stars and Stripes, GSUSA Gold or TLUSA Freedom) and either the MCCS Giving or Good Servant awards. Two of this year's recipients have earned all four of the MCCS Servant Leadership Awards. Scholarship Chairman, Dr. Dan Tullos, Professor of Communication Science and Disorders at Harding University stated:

We received a great group of applications this year. It is always reassuring to see the other accomplishments of those individuals who have earned both the top award in their branch of scouting and either the Good Servant or the Giving Servant. They are all making significant contributions to their congregations and we expect great things from them in the future.

In 2013, MCCS was able to prayerfully fulfill one of our longtime goals. The trustees decided that it was time to step out in faith and provide college scholarships to deserving young people involved in the scouting movement who had been active in earning MCCS's top-level Servant Leadership Awards. That year we dedicated the annual funds that came from our endowment to providing scholarships.

In 2014, we established a separate endowment to help us in this new endeavor to continue to serve youth and we added to that endowment thanks to a significant bequest from the estate of Geneva Huff. Upon consultation with her family MCCS determined that fifty thousand dollars of her bequest would be dedicated to MCCS Scholarships for deserving scouts with thirty thousand going to the new scholarship endowment and twenty thousand going to fund immediate scholarship needs over the next few years. The Huffs had a long history dedicated to education. The trustees are very thankful for this bequest that provides one more way for MCCS to serve young people and encourage them to earn the top-level Servant Leadership Awards.

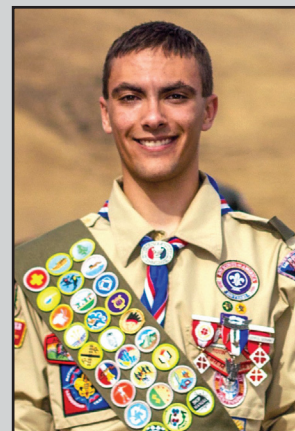
To date MCCS has awarded \$16,000 in scholarships to fifteen students. The MCCS Board of Trustees is thankful that it has the opportunity to serve young people in their educational pursuits and prays that we will continue to be able to provide young people with scholarships that will enhance their futures. We are excited that our scholarship endowment is growing. If you would like to contribute to the scholarship endowment please contact MCCS Executive Director Kent Barnett.

2015 AWARDEES



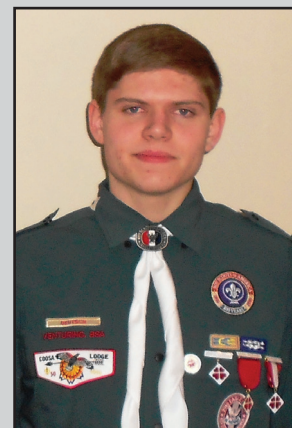
HANNAH JOHNSON OF EDMOND, OKLAHOMA, EARNED THE GIVING SERVANT AWARD. HANNAH WAS THE FIRST AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS STARS AND STRIPES RECIPIENT IN OKLAHOMA. SHE IS ATTENDING HARDING UNIVERSITY IN SEARCY, ARKANSAS.

EAGLE SCOUT GARREN WEISS OF LIVERMORE, CALIFORNIA, EARNED ALL OF THE YOUTH SERVANT LEADERSHIP RELIGIOUS AWARDS. HE IS ATTENDING PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY IN MALIBU, CALIFORNIA.



EAGLE SCOUT JACOB MOSELY OF ROGERS, ARKANSAS, EARNED THE GIVING SERVANT AWARD. HE IS ATTENDING FREED-HARDEMAN UNIVERSITY IN HENDERSON, TENNESSEE.

EAGLE SCOUT ALLEN KING, OF MADISON, ALABAMA, EARNED ALL OF THE YOUTH SERVANT LEADERSHIP RELIGIOUS AWARDS. HE IS A CADET AT THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY IN COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO.



SAVE THE DATE!

MCCS FALL WORKSHOP

Everyone, mark your calendar for October 27-30, 2016! MCCS has reserved the Latimer Reservation near Spencer, Tennessee on the beautiful Cumberland Plateau. It is within a day's drive for many Boy Scout, American Heritage Girls, Girl Scout, and Trail Life USA leaders who live in the central and southern United States. The MCCS workshop is also open to others living elsewhere! It is an estimated 2½ hour drive from the Nashville International Airport to Latimer.



During the three day weekend workshop, participants will learn more about MCCS and its mission. Activities will involve brainstorming and planning for the future of MCCS while determining how it can more effectively grow its relationship with these youth organizations. The weekend will be a time to have lots of fellowship and fun! A committee of middle Tennessee MCCS members and trustees, along with Kent Barnett, are planning the workshop. Watch for an itinerary in the next newsletter!

Latimer Reservation offers not only a charming country atmosphere, but also the opportunity to enjoy God's creation of the Cumberland Plateau. Check it out at www.latimerbsa.org. Outstanding facilities will allow for a productive workshop and comfortable housing. Spouses are welcome to attend, too. During this early stage of planning, the cost is estimated to be around \$125 per person for food, lodging, and supplies. Now that's a bargain!

If you want more information, please call or email Kent at 325-370-1679 or kent.barnett@goodservant.org.



FAITHFUL SERVANT AWARDS



DANA MOORE AND JASON CARTER WERE AWARDED THE FAITHFUL SERVANT AWARD. DANA IS THE AHG TROOP COORDINATOR FOR THE TROOP CHARTERED BY THE BEVERLY HEIGHTS CHURCH IN CHRIST, HOOKS, TEXAS. JASON IS THE TLUSA POINTMAN AND TROOP CHARTERED ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TROOP CHARTERED BY THE HAMPTON CHURCH OF CHRIST IN TEXARKANA, TEXAS.



TOM BANKS PRESENTED PAULA MCCLAIN OF COTTONTOWN, TENNESSEE, THE FAITHFUL SERVANT AWARD. PAULA HAS FOUGHT AND OVERCOME SERIOUS ILLNESS OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS. HER MINISTER WRITES, "SHE IS A STRONG EXAMPLE TO THE PEOPLE OF OUR CHURCH OF WHAT THE LORD CAN DO WHEN HIS PEOPLE PRAY TO HIM AND WHEN ONE OF HIS PEOPLE WORKS TOWARD A GOAL."

OTHER AWARDS



EAGLE SCOUT MATT BROWN (PICTURED SECOND FROM THE RIGHT) WAS PRESENTED THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD (DSA) DURING THE NATIONAL ORDER OF THE ARROW CONFERENCE (NOAC). THE OA CELEBRATED THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY THE FIRST WEEK OF AUGUST. MATT SERVED AS THE NATIONAL OA CHIEF IN 2013. MATT LIVES IN NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE. HE ALSO EARNED THE GOOD SERVANT RELIGIOUS AWARD. PICTURED WITH MATT (L TO R) ARE: MICHAEL THOMPSON (VICE CHAIR OF RECOGNITION), RAY CAPP (NATIONAL CHAIRMAN), DAVID GARRETT (VICE CHAIR OF TRAINING), MATT BROWN, AND IAN ROMANE (WHO PRESENTED MATT HIS AWARD).



FAITHFUL SERVANT CHUCK FORSYTHE, MINISTER AT XENIA CHURCH OF CHRIST IN XENIA, OHIO, WAS AWARDED THE SILVER BEAVER BY THE BSA TECUMSEH COUNCIL. THE SILVER BEAVER IS THE HIGHEST AWARD THAT A LOCAL COUNCIL CAN BESTOW ON A VOLUNTEER.

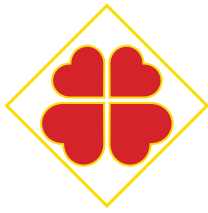


ANDREW HOSKINS OF JONESTOWN, TEXAS, WAS ONE OF THE FIRST THIRTY TRAILMEN TO BE AWARDED THE FREEDOM AWARD. ANDREW, WHO IS A GIVING SERVANT AWARDEE, IS RECEIVING HIS FREEDOM AWARD FROM TRAIL LIFE USA CEO MARK HANCOCK, AND BOARD PRESIDENT JOHN STEMBERGER. ANDREW TRAVELLED TO WASHINGTON D.C. AND WAS PRESENTED HIS AWARD AT THE TRAIL LIFE FREEDOM FIRST EVENT IN SEPTEMBER.

MCCS HIKING STAFF MEDALLIONS

MCCS has hiking staff medallions. These are heavy brass medallions that will last a lifetime and show your proud association with MCCS. They are solid brass with the red, black and white of the MCCS patch emblem overlayed. This is a great gift to accompany an award presentation or to say thank you to a counselor or mentor. They are 1½ inches in height. They will be a great addition to your wooden hiking staves and will shine prominently on a TLUSA Trailman's standard. We are pleased to be able to offer these for \$10 each, 3 for \$25, or in bulk 10 for \$70. This price is inclusive of shipping and handling. If you would like to order these please contact MCCS.





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IS IT TIME TO LEVEL UP?

MCCS loves it when a young person completes one of our servant leadership awards, but we do not want their Bible study to stop there. We provide curricula that will enrich a young person's spiritual walk throughout their formative years. The Servant Leadership series is designed to help and reinforce an attitude of prayer and Bible study in young people that will create a pattern of spiritual growth that will last a lifetime.

The Servant Leadership Series includes:

- Loving Servant - Grades 1-3
- Joyful Servant - Grades 4-6
- Good Servant - Grades 6-8
- Giving Servant - Grades 9-12 & Venturers

The curricula are designed to be used in a one-on-one format or in a group setting where one counselor works with several youth. Each curriculum level can also be adapted to serve as a Bible Class curriculum. All young people will benefit from the habits that they develop in these programs. They do not have to be enrolled in a scouting program to participate.

Go to www.goodservant.org to order the Servant Leadership Series, and look for more information about the programs.

ARE YOU ON THE MAP?

Please help us populate our "Unit Locator" tool on our goodservant.org website. We want to register every Church of Christ affiliated unit in the nation on this page so that we can help individuals find church based units in their areas. If you have a local scouting unit (BSA, AHG, TLUSA or GSUSA) that is church chartered, sponsored, or affiliated including church parents' group and Christian schools please register it and put it on the map for others to find. Please include contact information and meeting details in the description.

This is a great resource to help potential recruits find you and to help MCCS communicate and assist your unit.

