

Band of Brothers

High School Program – Grades 9-12

The purpose of the Band of Brothers is to provide a Christian discipleship focused program aimed at building young men spiritually through Bible study and faith mentorship. As an intermediate experience in discipleship, the Band of Brothers program has young men disciple other young men in Christian growth and learning under the guidance of adult mentors. While the programming is intended for discipleship among young men, adult mentors play a role of guiding each Band of Brothers group.

Intended Grades

This program is for grades nine through twelve.

Leadership Requirements

Mentors must be Christian adults who have signed the Trial Life USA Statement of Faith and Values. Adult leaders must be approved by the Troop Committee or the Charter Organization Representative of the hosting troop.

Youth Participation Requirements

All youth must be Christians who have signed the Trial Life USA Statement of Faith and Values. This program is specifically for Christian young men that have a special heart for Jesus and a desire to take their walk to a higher level of Christian growth and discipleship. Further, all youth participants must be approved by the Troopmaster and Adventurers Advisor.

Youth leaders are those in grades eleven and twelve that have a demonstrated maturity in their faith. At least two letters of recommendation must be provided by adults, explaining the youth's commitment to his faith and maturity required to disciple younger boys. Further, a youth leader must be approved by the Troopmaster and Adventurers Advisor specifically as a youth leader within the Band of Brothers.

Meeting Structure

- The format of conducting a meeting is entirely up to each group's preferences. It is suggested that a typical small group Bible study be used, with a leader prompting the group with questions and guiding the group through its discussions. The goal is to foster discussion and dialogue, not a lecture from the leaders.
- At the inception of each group, the group should develop and agree upon a list of “ground rules” that help to guide the group's discussions and conduct.
- Groups of no more than 20 are encouraged. Further, when possible, smaller subgroups of 2 or 3 should be formed to provide a more intimate setting for boy to boy mentoring. Each smaller group will include one youth mentor.
- Groups should meet at least bi-weekly.
- Each group may include boys and adults from a single troop or multiple troops within an area.
- The only meeting time requirement is that the group meets outside of normal troop meeting times.
- Each meeting will last approximately 90 minutes, but could often go longer depending upon the topic and discussion, so plan accordingly.

Programming

Programming for the Band of Brothers is intentionally less structured than the Manhood Journey. This provides each group the flexibility to focus on their own topics for discussion. The key components of developing a structure specific to your group are as follows:

- Begin your group with reading the following article that is available at <http://www.bandofbrothers.org/brotherhood>. This provides a strong inspirational discussion as to the purpose of joining a Band of Brothers group.
- Each group, with adult guidance, will determine their focus of study (a Christian book, a book of the Bible, topic or personality study from the Bible, a Bible study guide, etc.). You can also find material available at the site listed above.
- Provide a social time of no more than 10 minutes at the beginning of each meeting.
- Provide for at least 60 minutes of corporate discussion time surrounding the study selected by the group.
- Provide a time for your small groups to gather, approximately 20 minutes.

Length of Programming

The Band of Brothers experience is intended to be broken up into two, two-year periods. The first two years that a boy is in Band of Brothers, he is taught, mentored and gains in discipleship. The second two year period is when a youth will act as the teacher, mentor and disciple to the younger boys.

Regarding the focus of study, it is recommended that each study be no more than four months in length. This will allow boys to complete studies timely and help to provide a fresh variety of topics.

Each Band of Brothers group is also expected to plan events outside of their normal meeting time at least bi-monthly. These events should include fun, service and spiritual experiences. “Outside” events are selected by the youth, but must be approved by the adult mentor. These events allow for Christian fellowship and further focus on Christ in our lives in other settings where fun, service, and fellowship can be combined.