

SAINTS GLOBAL

LEADER GUIDE

CHURCH HISTORY

SPIRITUAL CORE

Version 2026.1





PURPOSE & IDENTITY

SKILL BADGE PURPOSE

This skill badge is designed to help saints develop essential skills in church history. Through structured learning and hands-on activities, participants will gain practical experience and deepen their understanding of key concepts.

DEVELOPMENT CORE: SPIRITUAL

This badge develops spiritual attributes through focused activities and reflection. Saints will grow in this area while building practical skills.

CORE FOCUSES

- Understanding fundamental concepts and principles
- Developing practical application skills
- Building confidence through hands-on experience
- Connecting learning to daily life

TIME COMMITMENT

4-6 weeks (suggested)

RECOMMENDED AGE

12+ years



SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

SUPERVISION

Ensure appropriate adult supervision for all activities following Saints Global guidelines. Never leave youth unsupervised during badge activities.

PRIVACY

Respect personal experiences and information shared during activities. Maintain confidentiality and help youth understand appropriate boundaries.

ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY

Assess outdoor locations and weather conditions before activities. Ensure proper shelter, hydration, and protection from hazards appropriate to the environment.

FIRST AID

Maintain a first aid kit and ensure at least one leader is trained in basic first aid. Know the location of the nearest medical facility and have emergency contact information readily available.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Troopmaster:

Emergency:



THE DPAR METHOD

Saints Global uses the DPAR method for skill badge completion. As a leader, you should practice DPAR yourself when preparing to teach.

D

DISCOVER

Learn foundational knowledge and concepts. Research, study, and explore the topic.

YOUR ROLE AS LEADER:

- Immerse yourself in the material before teaching
- Study each requirement—understand what AND why
- Anticipate questions saints might ask

P

PLAN

Create a personal action plan with goals and timeline.

YOUR ROLE AS LEADER:

- Design your teaching approach for each requirement
- Gather materials and prepare discussion questions
- Consider how to adapt for different learning styles

A

ACT

Execute through hands-on practice with leader guidance.

YOUR ROLE AS LEADER:

- Shift from teacher to guide—step back
- Create safe space for practice and mistakes
- Model the skills yourself when helpful

R

REFLECT

Review what was learned and share experiences gained.

YOUR ROLE AS LEADER:

- Facilitate meaningful conversations
- Ask open-ended questions, listen more than speak
- Celebrate growth and help saints see their progress



STEP 1: DISCOVER

LEADER PREPARATION

- ☐ Review all DISCOVER requirements thoroughly
- ☐ Gather necessary resources and materials
- ☐ Prepare discussion questions and activities
- ☐ Identify potential challenges saints may face

STEP 1: DISCOVER — TEACHING GUIDE

Requirement 1a: Read Joseph Smith—History 1:5–17 and identify one problem Joseph could not solve without revelation.

HOW TO TEACH

- Read JS-H 1:5–17 aloud once without commentary
- Have the Saint identify the specific problem Joseph faced — which church, by what authority
- Discuss what reading the Bible alone could and could not settle
- Connect Joseph's question to a question the Saint has asked himself

Completion: Saint identifies one problem from JS-H 1:5–17 that Joseph could not solve without revelation.

Requirement 1b: Identify five major events in early Church history and explain why each mattered at the time.

HOW TO TEACH

- Suggest candidate events (First Vision, translation, Kirtland Temple, Missouri persecutions, Nauvoo, exodus)
- Have the Saint pick five and explain in his own words why each mattered in its time
- Discuss why distance from these events makes them easy to underestimate today
- Reinforce that historical context separates inherited belief from owned belief

Completion: Saint identifies five major early Church events and explains why each mattered at the time.

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STEP 1: DISCOVER — TEACHING GUIDE (CONTINUED)

Requirement 1c: Study one early Church leader and identify one trial that tested their faith and leadership.

HOW TO TEACH

- Help the Saint pick a leader beyond the prophets (Eliza R. Snow, Brigham Young, Emma Smith, Wilford Woodruff)
- Have the Saint identify the specific trial that tested faith and leadership
- Discuss what made the leader's response remarkable at that moment
- Reinforce that early leaders responded to hard things in real time, not from hindsight

Completion: Saint studies one early Church leader and identifies one trial that tested their faith and leadership.



STEP 2: PLAN

LEADER PREPARATION

- ☐ Review all PLAN requirements thoroughly
- ☐ Gather necessary resources and materials
- ☐ Prepare discussion questions and activities
- ☐ Identify potential challenges saints may face

STEP 2: PLAN — TEACHING GUIDE

Requirement 2a: Choose one Church history location connected to persecution, sacrifice, or revelation.

HOW TO TEACH

- Suggest candidate sites (Sacred Grove, Carthage, Far West, Liberty Jail, Winter Quarters)
- Have the Saint pick one tied to a question he wants answered
- Discuss what makes a physical site teach differently than a textbook does
- Reinforce that places anchor history to real ground the Saint can walk

Completion: Saint selects one Church history location connected to persecution, sacrifice, or revelation.

Requirement 2b: Select two primary historical sources connected to that location or event.

HOW TO TEACH

- Distinguish primary sources (journals, letters, contemporaneous accounts) from secondary writing
- Have the Saint find both sources before the visit, not after
- Discuss reading primary sources charitably without losing critical thinking
- Reinforce that primary sources correct what textbooks flatten

Completion: Saint selects two primary historical sources connected to the chosen location or event.

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STEP 2: PLAN — TEACHING GUIDE (CONTINUED)

Requirement 2c: Prepare three questions about faith, leadership, or opposition you want answered.

HOW TO TEACH

- Have the Saint write his three questions in his own voice, not borrowed phrasing
- Discuss the difference between a closed question and an open one
- Pick the most honest question of the three and sharpen it together
- Reinforce that the question shapes what the visit will teach him

Completion: Saint prepares three questions about faith, leadership, or opposition to be answered through study.



STEP 3: ACT

LEADER PREPARATION

- ☐ Review all ACT requirements thoroughly
- ☐ Gather necessary resources and materials
- ☐ Prepare discussion questions and activities
- ☐ Identify potential challenges saints may face

STEP 3: ACT — TEACHING GUIDE

Requirement 3a: Visit the site or complete a virtual tour and record five observations that made the history feel real.

HOW TO TEACH

- Have the Saint look for things a textbook would not mention — smells, scale, weather, names on graves
- Discuss what changed for him at the site that a description could not have given
- Require five specific observations, not impressions
- Reinforce that physical witness can aid spiritual witness

Completion: Saint visits the site or completes a virtual tour and records five specific observations that made the history feel real.

Requirement 3b: Read both primary sources and identify one detail that corrected a misunderstanding.

HOW TO TEACH

- Read both primary sources side by side and underline points of disagreement
- Have the Saint identify one detail that corrected an assumption he had
- Discuss how to hold tension between sources without picking a side too soon
- Reinforce that being corrected by sources is part of honest study

Completion: Saint reads both primary sources and names one detail that corrected a prior misunderstanding.

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STEP 3: ACT — TEACHING GUIDE (CONTINUED)

Requirement 3c: Teach one Church history event to another person, focusing on faith under pressure.

HOW TO TEACH

- Pick the audience first (younger sibling, peer, family), then shape the lesson
- Have the Saint deliver the lesson once aloud before the real delivery
- Discuss focusing on faith under pressure as the angle, not chronology
- Reinforce that teaching shows what the Saint has actually learned

Completion: Saint teaches one Church history event to another person, focused on faith under pressure.

Requirement 3d: Explain how one historical decision affected the Church long-term.

HOW TO TEACH

- Pick a decision with a clear before/after (Word of Wisdom, polygamy ending, temple recommend interview)
- Walk the decision in context — what alternatives existed at the time
- Have the Saint trace the effect to a present-day practice he experiences
- Reinforce that decisions then shape practice now

Completion: Saint explains how one historical Church decision affected the Church long-term.



STEP 4: REFLECT

LEADER PREPARATION

- ☐ Review all REFLECT requirements thoroughly
- ☐ Gather necessary resources and materials
- ☐ Prepare discussion questions and activities
- ☐ Identify potential challenges saints may face

STEP 4: REFLECT — TEACHING GUIDE

Requirement 4a: Explain how Church history shows that God allows opposition rather than preventing it.

HOW TO TEACH

- Give the Saint a moment of silent reflection before answering
- Ask for a specific event he studied where opposition produced something
- Discuss how this differs from saying opposition is good
- Avoid correcting the Saint's reflection — listen and affirm

Completion: Saint explains how Church history shows God allowing rather than preventing opposition.

Requirement 4b: Bear testimony of the Restoration and modern prophets.

HOW TO TEACH

- Begin with a brief personal example to model honest testimony
- Ask the Saint to speak from what he knows, not what he should say
- Discuss how studying the history strengthened or complicated his testimony
- Keep the connection grounded in the Saint's own study

Completion: Saint bears testimony of the Restoration and modern prophets.



RESOURCES & CONTACT

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- Saints Global Resource Library — Online materials and guides
- DPAR Method Quick Reference — Printable guide for leaders
- Child and Youth Program Guidebook — LDS Church Official Documentation for Children and Youth
- For the Strength of Youth — A Guide for Making Choices

SAINTS GLOBAL CONTACT INFORMATION

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Thank you for leading Saints Global!

Your dedication makes a difference in the lives of our children and youth.