

GENERAL HANDBOOK:
SERVING IN THE CHURCH OF JESUS
CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
SECTION 11: YOUNG WOMEN

&

OTHER INFORMATION FROM
THE GOSPEL LIBRARY FOR
YOUNG WOMEN CALLINGS

YOUNG WOMEN

11.1 PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION

The Young Women organization helps God's children prepare to return to His presence. As they strive to keep their covenants with God, young women will be “armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great glory” ([1 Nephi 14:14](#)).

11.1.1 PURPOSE

The Young Women organization helps young women make and keep sacred covenants and deepen their conversion to Jesus Christ and His gospel.

The purpose of a Young Women class is to help young women work together to accomplish the work of salvation and exaltation. In their classes, young women serve others, fulfill covenant responsibilities, build unity, and learn and live doctrine.

11.1.2 YOUNG WOMEN THEME

The Young Women theme can help each young woman understand her divine identity and become converted to Jesus Christ. Young women and their leaders repeat the theme at the beginning of Sunday meetings and at other Young Women gatherings. The theme reads as follows:

“I am a beloved daughter of heavenly parents, with a divine nature and eternal destiny.

“As a disciple of Jesus Christ, I strive to become like Him. I seek and act upon personal revelation and minister to others in His holy name.

“I will stand as a witness of God at all times and in all things and in all places.

“As I strive to qualify for exaltation, I cherish the gift of repentance and seek to improve each day. With faith, I will strengthen my home and family, make and keep sacred covenants, and receive the ordinances and blessings of the holy temple.”

11.1.3 CLASSES

Young women become members Of a Young Women class beginning in January of the year they turn 12.

Young women classes are organized by age-groups. An age-group is all young women who will turn the same age during a calendar year. A class may include more than one age-group. Young women progress to a new class in January of the year they turn the age of the young women in that new class.

Bishoprics and adult Young Women leaders prayerfully decide how to organize classes according to age. They consider leadership opportunities for young women. Each class, regardless of size, should have a president and, where possible, one or two counselors and a secretary. In units with sufficient young women, classes should be large enough so class presidencies have class members to serve.

Classes are referred to by the unifying title of “Young Women.” If a ward has more than one class, age-groups are used to distinguish classes.

11.2 Participating in the Work of Salvation and Exaltation

God invites all to come unto Christ and assist in His work by:

- Living the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Caring for those in need.
- Inviting all to receive the gospel.
- Uniting families for eternity.

Class presidencies, supported by adult leaders, counsel together about how to accomplish this work. For more information about the work of salvation and exaltation, study [chapter 1](#) of the General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

11.2.1 Living the Gospel of Jesus Christ

11.2.1.1 Roles of Parents and Leaders

Parents are responsible to teach their children the gospel and help them live it (see [Doctrine and Covenants 68:25–28](#)). The bishopric, Young Women leaders, and class presidencies support parents in this responsibility as follows:

- Encourage communication between young women and their families.
- Ensure that youth activities support and bless families.
- Help parents prepare their daughters for the temple endowment, full-time missionary service (if the young women desire), temple marriage, and motherhood.

Leaders should be sensitive to youth who lack family support for gospel living.

Parents and leaders strive to be good examples to the youth. They mentor youth in their efforts to become more like Jesus Christ. The Children and Youth program can help in these efforts (see ChildrenandYouth.ChurchofJesusChrist.org).

11.2.1.2 Gospel Learning

Young Women leaders and class presidencies encourage young women and their families to learn the gospel at home. Leaders study the gospel and share with the young women what they learn. They invite class members to share at church what they are learning at home.

Young Women classes meet on Sundays to strengthen faith, build unity, strengthen families and homes, and make plans to accomplish the work of salvation and exaltation. Class presidencies, supported by adult leaders, plan Sunday meetings.

Class meetings are held on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. They last 50 minutes. A member of the class presidency conducts. She leads the class in reciting the theme and counseling together about assignments and other matters.

A class member or adult leader then leads gospel instruction. Class presidencies counsel with adult leaders about who should teach. Meeting outlines are found in *Come, Follow Me—For Aaronic Priesthood Quorums and Young Women Classes* (see [ComeFollowMe.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](https://www.ComeFollowMe.ChurchofJesusChrist.org)).

If a ward has more than one Young Women class, they meet separately. However, they may meet together when there is a special need. Young women and young men may occasionally combine for a Sunday lesson, as directed by the bishopric.

Young women are encouraged to participate in seminary (see [15.1](#)).

11.2.1.3 Service and Activities

Class presidencies, supported by adult leaders, plan service and activities.

These should help accomplish the work of salvation and exaltation.

Service and activities should build testimonies, strengthen families, foster class unity, and provide opportunities to bless others. They should be balanced among four areas of personal growth: spiritual, social, physical, and intellectual.

Most youth activities are held at times other than on Sundays or Monday evenings. They are usually held weekly. In some areas, distance, safety, or other factors make weekly activities impractical. In these areas, activities may be held less often, but they should generally be held at least monthly.

Activities can be planned on the [Sample Service and Activity Planner](#), available on [ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#).

Some service and activities should include both young men and young women, especially for older youth.

Youth can benefit from socializing in larger groups. The youth in two or more wards may occasionally meet together for service and activities. Stakes or districts may occasionally plan service and activities for youth.

Adult leaders help ensure that activities are safe (see [safety.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#); see also [20.6.20](#) in this handbook). At least two responsible adult leaders should be present at all activities (see [11.6.1](#)).

For more information, see [YoungWomen.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#). See also [JustServe.org](#) where it is available. These resources provide service and activity ideas.

Annual Activities.

In addition to regular youth activities, young women may also participate in the following each year:

- A meeting for youth and their parents near the beginning of the year. It can be held for young men and young women separately or together. It can also be held at the ward or stake level. It is planned and led by the assistants to the bishop in the priests quorum and the presidency of the oldest Young Women class. Young women turning 12 during the year may receive their emblems of belonging during this meeting (see [11.6.3](#)). For more information, see ChildrenandYouth.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.
- A Young Women camp (see [Young Women Camp Guide](#)). Young women may participate in additional overnight camps, events, and activities throughout the year, where feasible.
- A ward or stake youth conference or a For the Strength of Youth (FSY) conference (see FSY.ChurchofJesusChrist.org for information about and funding for FSY conferences.)
- At least one activity emphasizing the standards in [For the Strength of Youth](#). This event could include both young men and young women. Parents may also be invited.

Age Requirements.

With their parents' approval, young women may attend overnight Young Women camps beginning in January of the year they turn 12. They may attend dances, youth conferences, and FSY conferences beginning in January of the year they turn 14. However, they should be at least 16 before dating (see *For the Strength of Youth* [2011], [4](#)).

Paying for Activities.

Activities, including supplies, are paid for by the ward budget. Travel and expenses should not be excessive.

As an exception, if the ward budget does not have enough money to pay for multiday activities, such as camps, leaders may ask participants to help pay for them. However, a young woman should not be prevented from participating if she cannot help pay. If more money is still needed, the bishop may authorize one fundraising activity each year (see [20.2.8](#)).

The bishopric ensures that the budget and activities for young women and young men are sufficient and equitable. Budget for the young women is based on the number of young women in the ward. Budget for Aaronic Priesthood quorums is based on the number of young men in the ward.

Activities for Youth through Web and Mobile Tools and Virtual Gatherings

Youth class, quorum, and adult leaders may use this document for help in planning Church-supported youth service activities as well as regular weekday and other large group activities. Resources can also be found for supporting personal development through technology.

Principles

Activities should be planned and carried out by quorum and class leaders, with support from adult leaders. Activities should:

- Focus on meeting individual, family, and local needs.
- Use technologies that are available in your area.
- Give consideration to youth who may not have digital access.
- Follow the principles and best practices found in "[Service and Activity Guidelines for Youth](#)."
- Follow all Church safety and other policies and best practices (see safety.ChurchofJesusChrist.org).

Safety Practices

The following best practices may be adapted to local circumstances, under the direction of local leaders.

- Counsel together and seek revelation for adapting activities so they can be held digitally. Youth will often have solutions.
- Follow online safety practices:
 - Use known and secure vendors and sites.
 - Avoid sharing personal information online—others' and your own.
 - Avoid sharing pictures of others without their permission.
 - Avoid opening attachments from unknown sources.
 - Don't send money or account information.
 - Follow Church standards in materials that are posted.
 - Ensure that leaders participate in all virtual activities.
 - Make parents aware of activities so they can be responsible for the online safety of their youth.
- Plan with digital interactions in mind. Not all in-person activities will be successful in a digital environment. Youth and adult leaders should consider activities that allow individual efforts to be shared or brought together online.

11.2.1.4 Personal Development

In their efforts to become more like the Savior, youth are invited to set goals to grow spiritually, socially, physically, and intellectually (see [Luke 2:52](#)). Youth seek inspiration to discover what they need to work on. With help from parents, they make plans, act on their plans, and reflect on what they learn. Leaders also offer support as needed. However, they should not track the young women's goals or progress. Parents and leaders may suggest goals, but they allow youth to seek their own inspiration about what goals to pursue.

Youth are encouraged to complete at least two goals in each of the four areas each year. They can use [Personal Development: Youth Guidebook](#) or the Gospel Living app to set and record goals. For more information, see [ChildrenandYouth.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#).

11.2.2 Caring for Those in Need

Young women should have regular opportunities to serve others in and with their families, during youth activities, and on their own. Ideas for service are available at [ChildrenandYouth.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#).

Where available, [JustServe.org](#) suggests opportunities for service in the community.

11.2.2.1 Ministering

Ministering is caring for others as the Savior would. Young women may receive ministering assignments beginning in January of the year they turn 14. For more information, see [chapter 21](#).

21.2.2 Ministering Assignments for Youth

Even before they receive ministering assignments, youth minister to others by serving them in Christlike ways. A youth's service as a ministering sister or brother can be a significant part of accomplishing the work of salvation and exaltation.

A young woman may serve as a ministering companion to a Relief Society sister when the young woman is willing and able. She may begin serving in the year she turns 14. The Relief Society presidency counsels with the young woman, her parents, and the Young Women presidency as they consider ministering assignments.

It is often a blessing to a sister to have a young woman minister to her. It can also be a blessing to the young woman.

A young man serves as a ministering companion to a Melchizedek Priesthood holder when he is ordained to the office of teacher or priest. The bishop determines whether the young man is worthy and prepared to be ordained. (See [10.1.3.2](#).) The elders quorum presidency counsels with the young man, his parents, and the bishopric as they consider ministering assignments.

In some cases, youth may be assigned as a third member of a ministering companionship. Leaders may assign the youth to help minister to some or all of the individuals and families assigned to the companionship.

Youth do not have ministering brothers or sisters assigned to them. They receive ministering care from their family's ministering brothers. Their class or quorum presidency and adult leaders also minister to them. If their parents are not members of the Church but are open to receiving ministering, the elders quorum presidency may assign ministering brothers to the family. Similarly, the Relief Society presidency may assign ministering sisters to the mother.

The Church's guideline that two responsible adults be present with youth does not apply to ministering companions. However, leaders use wisdom and seek inspiration when assigning youth as companions to adults. They also seek guidance from the bishop. When a youth is assigned to a companion who is not his or her parent, leaders confirm that the parents do not object to the assignment.

Adult companions should avoid situations that might be misunderstood. They use care in one-on-one situations. They help youth have a safe and rewarding experience with ministering.

11.2.3 Inviting All to Receive the Gospel

Young women invite all to receive the gospel as they “stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places” ([Mosiah 18:9](#)). Some ways they can do this are listed below:

- Set a good example as disciples of Jesus Christ.
- Share their testimonies with friends and family members.
- Minister to less-active members of their classes.
- Invite friends to attend church or youth activities.
- Invite friends to participate in the Children and Youth program. Leaders work closely with parents of these youth to help them understand the program and determine how they and their children would like to be involved.
- Invite friends to be taught by the missionaries.

Parents and leaders can help young women prepare to share the gospel throughout their lives. Some ways they can do this are listed below:

- Encourage young women to gain a personal testimony of Heavenly Father’s plan of happiness, the Atonement of Jesus Christ, and the restoration of His gospel.
- Provide opportunities to serve in the Church.
- Provide opportunities to teach the gospel in class meetings and other settings.

If young women desire to serve full-time missions, parents and leaders help them prepare. This includes teaching them about the blessings and expectations of full-time missionary work.

As part of this preparation, the bishopric or stake presidency may organize a missionary preparation class. The main resources for this class are the scriptures, [Missionary Standards for Disciples of Jesus Christ](#), and [Preach My Gospel](#). This class is not held during regular Sunday meetings.

Missionary.ChurchofJesusChrist.org provides additional resources that can help young women who desire to prepare to serve a mission.

See [chapters 23](#) and [24](#) for more information.

11.2.4 Uniting Families for Eternity

Young women can help unite families for eternity in many ways. Some of these ways are listed below:

- Honor their parents and set an example of Christlike living in their home.
- Prepare to have their own eternal family.
- Be worthy of a limited-use temple recommend.
- Prepare to receive temple ordinances, including eternal marriage.
- Learn about their extended families and ancestors (see [My Family: Stories That Bring Us Together](#)).
- Identify ancestors who need temple ordinances (see [FamilySearch.org](#)).
- Participate in baptisms and confirmations for the dead as often as circumstances allow.
- Participate in indexing (see [FamilySearch.org/indexing](#)).
- Serve as temple and family history consultants, as called by the bishopric (see [25.2.4](#)).

11.3 Ward Young Women Leadership

11.3.1 Bishopric

The bishop's foremost responsibility is to care for the young women and young men in his ward. He and his counselors learn their names and understand their home circumstances. They interview each young woman at least twice a year (see [31.1.7](#)).

The bishop has responsibility for the ward Young Women organization. He meets regularly with the Young Women president. He reports on Young Women matters in bishopric meetings.

The bishop and his counselors regularly participate in Young Women meetings, service, and activities. If there are multiple Young Women classes, the bishop may assign himself and his counselors to work with specific classes.

11.3.2 Adult Young Women Presidency

The bishop calls and sets apart an adult woman to serve as the ward Young Women president. If the unit is large enough, she recommends one or two adult women to be called as her counselors (see [chapter 30](#)). The bishopric considers her recommendations and extends the callings.

In a small unit, the Young Women president may be the only called adult leader in the Young Women organization. In this case, she works with parents to organize instruction and activities for the young women. She also ensures that at least two responsible adults are present at all meetings and activities. When possible, counselors and a secretary should be called.

If a branch does not have a Young Women president, the Relief Society president may organize instruction for the young women until a Young Women president is called.

The Young Women president has the following responsibilities. Her counselors assist her.

- Serve on the ward council. She serves as (1) a ward council member who helps address needs in the ward and find solutions and (2) a representative of the Young Women (see [7.6.1](#)).
- Serve as a member of the ward youth council (see [29.2.9](#)).
- Minister to individual young women.
- Submit recommendations to the bishopric for sisters to serve in Young Women.
- Teach other Young Women leaders and class presidencies their responsibilities.
- Counsel with young women about challenges that do not require the bishop or involve abuse (see [32.3](#) and [32.6.1.1](#)).
- Mentor class presidencies in their leadership responsibilities. Each class is assisted and overseen by a specific member of the Young Women presidency.
- Support young women who serve as companions to adult sisters in ministering (see [21.2.2](#)).
- Regularly hold Young Women presidency meetings and meet with the bishop.
- Oversee the records, reports, budget, and finances of the Young Women organization.

11.3.3 Secretary

If the unit is large enough, the Young Women president recommends to the bishop an adult sister to serve as Young Women secretary. The secretary may have the following responsibilities:

- Help the Young Women presidency prepare agendas for presidency meetings. She attends these meetings, takes notes, and keeps track of assignments.
- Instruct class secretaries and help them keep attendance records.
- Help the Young Women presidency (1) prepare a budget and (2) account for expenses.

11.3.4 Class Presidency and Secretary

11.3.4.1 Calling, Sustaining, and Setting Apart

Each Young Women class should have a class presidency. The Young Women presidency may recommend young women to serve as class presidents. Members of the bishopric prayerfully counsel together to determine whom to call.

A member of the bishopric calls a young woman to serve as a class president.

When there are enough young women to serve, she prayerfully considers class members to recommend as counselors and a secretary. The bishopric considers her recommendations and extends the callings. Before asking a young woman to serve in any of these callings, the bishopric member asks permission from the young woman's parents.

After extending these callings, a member of the bishopric presents the young women to their class for a sustaining vote. The bishop or an assigned counselor sets the young women apart.

A member of the bishopric announces these callings in sacrament meeting. He does not ask for a sustaining vote.

Shortly after class presidencies are set apart, a member of the bishopric should teach them their responsibilities. See "[Aaronic Priesthood Quorum and Young Women Class Presidency Orientation](#)" at YoungWomen.ChurchofJesusChrist.org; see also [chapter 4](#) of this handbook.

11.3.4.2 Responsibilities

Class presidents serve on the ward youth council (see [11.3.4.4](#)). Class presidencies also have the following responsibilities:

- Lead the class's efforts to participate in the work of salvation and exaltation (see [chapter 1](#)).
- Get to know and serve each young woman, including those who do not attend class meetings. Be aware of their needs and circumstances.
- Plan and conduct Sunday class meetings (see [11.2.1.2](#)).
- Plan and carry out class service and activities (see [11.2.1.3](#)).
- Regularly hold class presidency meetings (see [11.3.4.3](#)).

When class secretaries are called, they prepare agendas for meetings, take notes, and keep track of attendance.

Members of the Young Women presidency teach the class presidencies about their responsibilities (see [11.3.2](#)). Class advisers and specialists should actively help (see [11.3.5](#) and [11.3.6](#)).

11.3.4.3 Class Presidency Meeting

Young Women class presidencies meet regularly. The class president conducts these meetings. The adult Young Women leaders assigned to support the class presidency also attend. During these meetings, leaders counsel together and seek revelation about the Lord's will for their class. The agenda could include discussion of the following items:

- Accomplishing the work of salvation and exaltation
- Serving class members, with special attention to supporting new members and rescuing less-active members
- Reaching out to those of other faiths and beliefs
- Planning class meetings, service, and activities
- Leadership instruction from adult Young Women leaders or a member of the class presidency

11.3.4.4 Ward Youth Council

The purpose of the ward youth council is to help the youth bring others to Jesus Christ and to help accomplish the work of salvation and exaltation.

The bishop presides over the ward youth council. This council's members include:

- The bishopric.
- One of the bishop's assistants in the priests quorum, the teachers quorum president, and the deacons quorum president.
- The Young Women class presidents (or the entire class presidency if the ward has just one Young Women class).
- The Young Women president.

The ward youth council discusses ways to help others build testimonies, receive saving ordinances, keep covenants, and become consecrated followers of Jesus Christ (see [Moroni 6:4–5](#)). They counsel together about the needs of the young women and young men in the ward. They may discuss activities to meet these needs. However, detailed planning of activities should happen in quorum or class presidency meetings. See [29.2.9](#) for more information about the ward youth council.

29.2.9 Ward Youth Council Meeting

The bishop presides over the ward youth council. This council is composed of the bishopric, one of the bishop's priests quorum assistants, the teachers and deacons quorum presidents, the Young Women class presidency (if just one class) or presidents (if multiple classes), and the Young Women president.

The bishopric may invite others to attend the council's meetings as needed. These may include the other priests quorum assistant, counselors in quorum and class presidencies, quorum and class secretaries, counselors and secretary in the Young Women presidency, and the Aaronic Priesthood quorum advisers.

The purpose of the ward youth council is to help individuals build testimonies, receive saving ordinances, keep covenants, and become consecrated followers of Jesus Christ (see [Moroni 6:4–5](#)).

The council usually meets monthly. The bishop may conduct this meeting, or he may assign one of his counselors, one of his priests quorum assistants, or the president of the oldest Young Women class to conduct it. Before each meeting, the bishop reviews and approves the agenda with the person who will be conducting. The agenda may include the items shared with the ward council. These items could include ministering, spiritual and temporal welfare, missionary work, convert retention, activation, temple and family history work, and gospel learning and teaching (see [7.6.2](#)). The following items specific to youth may also be considered:

- Orient newly called quorum and class presidencies.
- Identify questions, concerns, and challenges facing youth. Counsel together about ways to address them.
- Plan ways to encourage individual youth to participate in Church meetings and activities, including seminary. Plan and report on fellowshipping efforts for youth who are less active, youth who recently have been baptized, and youth who are investigating the Church.
- Schedule and plan youth activities that are consistent with the needs that have been identified. These activities include combined Aaronic Priesthood–Young Women activities and ward youth conferences. Youth should have a primary role in planning and carrying out these activities.
- Evaluate past activities to see if the intended purposes were fulfilled.

These council meetings should provide leadership opportunities and instruction for youth.

11.3.5 Advisers

The Young Women presidency may recommend that the bishopric call Young Women advisers. Each adviser works with a specific age-group of young women. Each class should have only one adviser.

Advisers have the following responsibilities:

- Help the Young Women presidency with their responsibilities.
- Support and guide class presidencies as they learn and carry out their responsibilities.
- Teach Sunday lessons as needed. Help young women who have been invited to teach a lesson to effectively prepare and teach.
- Attend class activities.
- Attend ward Young Women presidency meetings as invited.

At least two responsible adult women should be present at each class meeting and activity. Advisers must complete the training at ProtectingChildren.ChurchofJesusChrist.org (see [11.6.1](#)).

11.3.6 Specialists

Where needed, the Young Women presidency may recommend that the bishopric call specialists to assist presidency members and advisers. In some cases, these callings may be limited to a particular event, such as a camp, a youth conference, or sports.

All specialists serve under the direction of the ward Young Women presidency.

Specialists must complete the training at ProtectingChildren.ChurchofJesusChrist.org (see [11.6.1](#)).

11.4 Helping Young Women Prepare to Join Relief Society

A young woman may join the Relief Society when she is 18. By age 19, each young woman should be fully participating in Relief Society. In some cases, a young woman may come into Relief Society earlier than her 18th birthday. Each young woman counsels with her parents and the bishop to decide what will best help her continue to strengthen her faith in Jesus Christ.

Parents and Young Women and Relief Society leaders work together to help each young woman successfully progress into Relief Society. These leaders provide ongoing opportunities for young women and Relief Society sisters to make connections and develop relationships.

11.6 Additional Guidelines and Policies

11.6.1 Safeguarding Youth

When adults are interacting with youth in Church settings, at least two responsible adults should be present. It may be necessary to combine classes to make this possible.

All adults who work with youth must complete the children and youth protection training within one month of being sustained (ProtectingChildren.ChurchofJesusChrist.org).

They repeat the training every three years thereafter.

For information about how these guidelines apply to ministering companions, see [21.2.2](#).

11.6.2 Young Women with Disabilities

Class presidencies give special care to young women who have disabilities.

For information about helping these young women, see disability.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

11.6.3 Children and Youth Emblems

Young women receive emblems as part of the Children and Youth program. Every young woman should receive an emblem of belonging from her class presidency when she becomes a member of Young Women. She also receives a copy of [Personal Development: Youth Guidebook](#). This could be done when the class presidency and adult Young Women leaders meet with her to welcome her to Young Women. It could also be done at an annual meeting for youth and their parents (see [11.2.1.3](#)).

In January of the year a young woman turns 18, she receives an additional emblem of belonging.

Young women may earn an emblem of achievement by striving to become more like the Savior.

For more information about emblems, see ChildrenandYouth.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

ADDITIONAL
GUIDELINES FOR
YOUNG WOMEN
CALLINGS FROM THE
GOSPEL LIBRARY

*Young Women:
Class
President*

YOUNG WOMEN CLASS PRESIDENT

From the Young Women General Presidency

Dear Young Women Class President,

We are so glad you accepted your call to serve as a class president. We know that Heavenly Father loves all of His daughters, and He loves you! He will bless you as you do your best to serve Him and the young women in your class.

This is an exciting time to serve in the Young Women organization. Our prophet, Russell M. Nelson, has asked you and your class members to actively participate in the work of salvation. Your time in the Young Women program is a time for you to:

- Seek personal revelation and respond to the promptings of the Holy Ghost.
- Act on the doctrine you are learning and the covenant you made at baptism to follow God's plan.
- Minister to other young women with Christlike love.
- Stand as a witness of God "at all times and in all things, and in all places" ([Mosiah 18:9](#)) as you help gather Israel and build the kingdom of God.

The Lord has called you as a class president because He has work for you to do. He trusts you to rely on Him for help as you serve your class. He loves you, and He will help you to feel His love for His precious daughters. Your love for the young women will touch their hearts, and they will be able to feel His love through you.

We know that this is the Lord's work. He will guide you and magnify your efforts as you give your time and love to the work. We pray that you will feel joy and peace as you serve the Lord to the best of your ability.

With love,

Bonnie H. Cordon
Michelle D. Craig
Becky Craven

The Young Women General Presidency

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

As you serve, you will feel that the Lord will be there to help you. Additionally, your counselors, secretary, and Young Women leaders will help you as you serve and minister to your class. As you seek the Lord's guidance, He will magnify your efforts in your calling and in other areas of your life. You will feel His love for you, for the young women you serve, and for their families. You will feel great joy as you serve Heavenly Father's precious daughters.

WHERE TO START

BEFORE YOU ARE SUSTAINED

- Seek guidance from the Spirit through prayer, scripture study, and fasting.
- Read “[Young Women](#),” chapter 11 in *General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* (ChurchofJesusChrist.org), especially the purpose and objectives of the Young Women organization (see [11.1.1](#)) and the [Young Women Theme](#). Also review [chapter 4](#) in the *General Handbook*, which gives guidance on principles of leadership.
- Seek to understand your responsibilities as a president and the responsibilities of your presidency (see *General Handbook*, [11.3.5–11.3.6](#)).

AFTER YOU ARE SUSTAINED AND SET APART

- With so many responsibilities, remember that being an honorable young woman at home is your first priority.
- Continue to pray for guidance about your service. Seek inspiration about how your counselors can share the responsibilities of your presidency.
- Meet with your bishop for an orientation and instruction about your calling. (See “[Quorum and Class Presidency Resources](#).”)
- Meet with your Young Women leaders and the previous Young Women class president to learn about specific things you may need to follow up on.
- Hold regular class presidency meetings. Work with your class secretary to prepare an agenda, and ask her to record notes and assignments. (See “[Plan and Conduct Presidency Meetings](#)” under “What Should I Focus On?”)
- Attend ward youth council meetings. (See “[Participate in Ward Youth Council Meetings](#)” under “What Should I Focus On?”)
- Get to know the members of your class. (See “[Know and Minister to Each Young Woman in Your Class](#)” under “What Should I Focus On?”)

WHAT SHOULD I FOCUS ON?

“Leaders encourage members to engage in God’s work by becoming ‘true followers of ... Jesus Christ’ ([Moroni 7:48](#))” (*General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, [4.1](#)). Your presidency’s focus is to help each young woman in your class increase her faith, strengthen her conversion to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and prepare to make and keep sacred covenants.

President Russell M. Nelson counseled: “Your commitment to follow the Savior by making covenants with Him and then keeping those covenants will open the door to every spiritual blessing and privilege available to men, women, and children everywhere. ... The end for which each of us strives is to be endowed with power in a house of the Lord, sealed as families, faithful to covenants made in a temple that qualify us for the greatest gift of God—that of eternal life” (“[As We Go Forward Together](#),” *Ensign*, Apr. 2018, 7).

LEAD IN THE SAVIOR’S WAY

You are a disciple of Jesus Christ. Discipleship includes loving, teaching, leading, and serving others. President Henry B. Eyring taught: “You are called to represent the Savior. Your voice to testify becomes the same as His voice, your hands to lift the same as His hands” (“[Rise to Your Call](#),” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2002, 76).

The following leadership principles will help your class presidency as you seek to bless the young women in your class:

- Prepare spiritually.
- Counsel together.
- Minister to others.
- Teach the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Administer the organization.

For more information, see *General Handbook*, [4.2](#).

KNOW AND MINISTER TO EACH YOUNG WOMAN IN YOUR CLASS

As you come to know and love the young women in your class, you can help them progress toward lifelong conversion to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Prayerfully counsel together as a presidency and with your Young Women leaders to decide who needs your time and attention. As you reach out to those you are inspired to serve, you will find that your love for each young woman increases. As you pray for the gift of charity, your heart will be filled with love for the Savior and for others (see [Moroni 7:46–48](#)).

Elder Dale G. Renlund taught: “In the Church, to effectively serve others we must see them through ... Heavenly Father’s eyes. Only then can we begin to comprehend the true worth of a soul. Only then can we sense the love that Heavenly Father has for all of His children. Only then can we sense the Savior’s caring concern for them. ... Only when we see through Heavenly Father’s eyes can we be filled with ‘the pure love of Christ’ [[Moroni 7:47](#)]” (“[Through God’s Eyes](#),” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2015, 94).

You can come to know and love the young women you serve by:

- Praying for each young woman.
- Getting to know each young woman's interests, strengths, and challenges.
- Giving special attention to the needs of new members or less-active members.
- Visiting class members in their homes to understand how you and the class presidency can assist parents in helping young women prepare for the temple endowment, temple marriage, and motherhood.
- Being a friend and showing love to each young woman in ways that are suited to her needs.
- Being willing to share your personal experiences and testimony of the gospel to help guide the young women in your class along the covenant path.

PLAN AND CONDUCT PRESIDENCY MEETINGS

Hold regular presidency meetings with your counselors, the class secretary, and your Young Women leaders. Work with the secretary to prepare an agenda for each meeting (see [Sample Presidency Meeting Agenda](#)). Ask her to record notes and assignments during these meetings. Suggested agenda items for presidency meetings are listed below:

- Receive leadership training from a member of the Young Women presidency or your class adviser. (See “[Quorum and Class Presidency Resources](#).”)
- Discuss ways to get to know your class members and minister to them with genuine friendship and simple service.
- Counsel together about upcoming Sunday Young Women meetings. Consider who should teach each lesson, including assigning class presidency members frequent opportunities to teach. (See “[Plan and Conduct Sunday Young Women Meetings](#)” below.)
- Plan service and activities that will bless and strengthen the young women you serve and bring unity to the class. (See “[Plan Young Women Service and Activities](#)” below.)
- Discuss how you, as class leaders, can help the young women you serve feel and recognize the Spirit, feel Heavenly Father’s love, and learn gospel principles.
- Identify ways you can demonstrate the joy of living the gospel and following the Savior’s example of “[increasing] in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man” ([Luke 2:52](#)) in all areas of your lives.
- Consider items to discuss in ward youth council meetings (see *General Handbook*, [29.2.9](#)). Also review counsel and assignments from previous ward youth council meetings. Discuss how you and your presidency are following the counsel and fulfilling the assignments.
- Review attendance records and discuss ways to encourage participation in class meetings and activities. Ensure that the class secretary turns in attendance records to the Young Women secretary or to your class adviser or specialist.
- Share and act on impressions you receive as you counsel together as a presidency (see [Doctrine and Covenants 8:2; 121:26](#)).

PLAN AND CONDUCT SUNDAY YOUNG WOMEN MEETINGS

Sunday Young Women meetings are sacred opportunities for you and the young women in your class to increase in knowledge and testimony of our Savior. In these meetings, you and the members of your class learn doctrine from the scriptures and general conference messages, discuss how the doctrine applies to your lives, and counsel together about how you can act on what you are learning.

For more information about Sunday meetings and to learn about the role of your presidency in planning, conducting, and teaching in these meetings, see “Using Come, Follow Me—For Aaronic Priesthood Quorums and Young Women Classes” on the [Come, Follow Me](#) website.

PLAN YOUNG WOMEN SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

“Activities strengthen [young women] by giving them a sense of belonging and mutual support. Activities should help [young women] feel connected to others their age, to their leaders, and to their families. Activities should also help [young women] see how living the gospel brings ‘the joy of the saints’ ([Enos 1:3](#))” (*General Handbook*, [20.1](#)).

Your presidency has the primary responsibility to plan and implement activities and events for your class, including regular opportunities for class members to serve others. Your Young Women leaders will guide and support you in your planning. They may also invite you to help plan and carry out other youth activities for the ward and stake. Involve other young women in your class in planning so all can contribute and gain experience.

As you plan activities, follow the guidelines in *General Handbook*, 11.8.1, and “[Service and Activities](#)” at [YoungWomen.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#). See also [ChildrenandYouth.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#), the annual [First Presidency safety letter](#), and the Church’s [Safety and Health website](#) ([ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#)).

Young women activities are held on a regularly scheduled day or evening other than Sunday or Monday. Plan activities that help the young women in your class:

- Strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ and progress along the covenant path.
- Serve others and develop spiritually, socially, physically, and intellectually (see [Luke 2:52](#)).
- Develop genuine friendships with each other outside of Sunday meetings.
- Find ways to apply gospel principles in their lives and live their covenants.
- Learn skills that will bless their families now and help them prepare for future service, including as wives and mothers.
- Have fun!

For more information about Young Women activities, see *General Handbook*, 11.8.1, and "[Service and Activities](#)" at YoungWomen.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

SUPPORT YOUNG WOMEN IN YOUR CLASS SERVING AS MINISTERING SISTERS

Beginning in January of the year they turn age 14, young women may be assigned by the Relief Society presidency to serve as companions to Relief Society sisters in ministering to the needs of women in the ward. Encourage and support the young women in your class who have accepted these assignments. Find opportunities through lessons and activities to prepare the young women in your class for this important work.

For more information about Young Women and ministering, see *General Handbook*, [11.3.5](#); [21.1](#); [21.3](#).

PARTICIPATE IN WARD YOUTH COUNCIL MEETINGS

"The Lord's Church is governed through councils" (*General Handbook*, [7.1](#)). You are a member of the ward youth council. You bring items before the council for discussion and offer input on matters presented by other youth leaders. The council meets monthly to discuss and plan how to "help individuals build testimonies, receive saving ordinances, keep covenants, and become consecrated followers of Jesus Christ" (*General Handbook*, [29.2.9](#)). (See also "[Ward Youth Council](#)" under "Who Do I Work With?")

If you are unable to attend a ward youth council meeting, invite one of your counselors to attend in your place.

WHO DO I WORK WITH?

CLASS MEMBERS

Build sincere relationships with the young women in your class to help them feel loved and help them come unto Christ. Encourage them to seek the guidance of the Spirit in fulfilling their sacred roles as young women.

YOUNG WOMEN CLASS PRESIDENCY AND SECRETARY

The counselors in your presidency and the class secretary will support and sustain you. Give your counselors and secretary opportunities to serve and grow by delegating responsibilities to them. As your presidency counsels together and seeks to follow the example of the Savior, you will gain insights and inspiration about how best to minister to one another and to those you serve. (See *General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, [11.3.5–11.3.6](#).)

WARD YOUNG WOMEN PRESIDENCY AND OTHER LEADERS

The Young Women presidency and other leaders serve as resources to help you fulfill your calling. They will provide ongoing support and encouragement. You can counsel with them when you are unsure what to do.

BISHOPRIC

You will meet with the bishopric as you attend ward youth council and on other occasions, as invited. You can help them understand the needs of your class members and their families by reporting on your presidency's efforts to minister to them.

WARD YOUTH COUNCIL

You are a member of the ward youth council. As a member of the council, you have the responsibilities outlined in *General Handbook*, [29.2.9](#). (See also "[Participate in Ward Youth Council Meetings](#)" under "What Should I Focus On?") A ward youth council meeting should be a revelatory experience. Elder David A. Bednar taught the following about ward council meetings, and the principle also applies to ward youth council meetings: "We've been talking about a revelatory experience with the members of the ward council. And if members of councils, if members of families, as they come together, would think in terms of 'I'm preparing to participate in a revelatory experience with my family' instead of going to a meeting—a revelatory experience with the members of the ward council—I think we would prepare and act much differently" (in M. Russell Ballard, in "[Panel Discussion](#)" [worldwide leadership training meeting, Nov. 2010], [broadcasts.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#)).

*Young Women:
Class
Counselor*

YOUNG WOMEN CLASS COUNSELOR

From the Young Women General Presidency

Dear Counselor in a Young Women Class Presidency,

We are so glad you accepted your call to serve as a counselor in a class presidency. We know that Heavenly Father loves all of His daughters, and He loves you! He will bless you as you do your best to serve Him and the young women in your class.

This is an exciting time to serve in the Young Women organization. Our prophet, Russell M. Nelson, has asked you and your class members to actively participate in the work of salvation. Your time in the Young Women program is a time for you to:

- Seek personal revelation and respond to the promptings of the Holy Ghost.
- Act on the doctrine you are learning and the covenant you made at baptism to follow God's plan.
- Minister to other young women with Christlike love.
- Stand as a witness of God "at all times and in all things, and in all places" ([Mosiah 18:9](#)) as you help gather Israel and build the kingdom of God.

The Lord has called you as a class counselor because He has work for you to do. He trusts you to rely on Him for help as you serve your class. He loves you, and He will help you to feel His love for His precious daughters. Your love for the young women will touch their hearts, and they will be able to feel His love through you.

We know that this is the Lord's work. He will guide you and magnify your efforts as you give your time and love to the work. We pray that you will feel joy and peace as you serve the Lord to the best of your ability.

With love,

Bonnie H. Cordon
Michelle D. Craig
Becky Craven
The Young Women General Presidency

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

As you serve, you will feel that the Lord will be there to help you. Additionally, the other members of the class presidency, the secretary, and your Young Women leaders will help you as you serve and minister to your class. As you seek the Lord's guidance, He will magnify your efforts in your calling and in other areas of your life. You will feel His love for you, for the young women you serve, and for their families. You will feel great joy as you serve Heavenly Father's precious daughters.

WHERE TO START

BEFORE YOU ARE SUSTAINED

- Seek guidance from the Spirit through prayer, scripture study, and fasting.
- Read “[Young Women](#),” chapter 11 in *General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* (ChurchofJesusChrist.org), especially the purpose and objectives of the Young Women organization (see [11.1.1](#)) and the [Young Women Theme](#). Also review [chapter 4](#) in the *General Handbook*, which gives guidance on principles of leadership.
- Seek to understand your responsibilities as a counselor in a Young Women class presidency and the responsibilities of your presidency (see *General Handbook*, [11.3.5–11.3.6](#)).

AFTER YOU ARE SUSTAINED AND SET APART

- With so many responsibilities, remember that being an honorable young woman at home is your first priority.
- Continue to pray for guidance about your service.
- Meet with your bishop for an orientation and instruction about your calling. (See “[Quorum and Class Presidency Resources](#).”)
- Counsel with the Young Women class president about your responsibilities and how she would like you to support her. Give the president your best counsel on matters you discuss and then support the decisions she makes.
- Participate in class presidency meetings. (See “[Participate in Presidency Meetings](#)” under “What Should I Focus On?”)
- Attend ward youth council meetings when invited by the Young Women class president. (See “[Participate in Ward Youth Council Meetings as Invited](#)” under “What Should I Focus On?”)
- Get to know the members of your class. (See “[Know and Minister to Each Young Woman in Your Class](#)” under “What Should I Focus On?”)

WHAT SHOULD I FOCUS ON?

“Leaders encourage members to engage in God’s work by becoming ‘true followers of ... Jesus Christ’ ([Moroni 7:48](#))” (*General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, [4.1](#)). Your presidency’s focus is to help each young woman in your class increase her faith, strengthen her conversion to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and prepare to make and keep sacred covenants.

President Russell M. Nelson counseled: “Your commitment to follow the Savior by making covenants with Him and then keeping those covenants will open the door to every spiritual blessing and privilege available to men, women, and children everywhere. ... The end for which each of us strives is to be endowed with power in a house of the Lord, sealed as families, faithful to covenants made in a temple that qualify us for the greatest gift of God—that of eternal life” (“[As We Go Forward Together](#),” *Ensign*, Apr. 2018, 7).

LEAD IN THE SAVIOR’S WAY

You are a disciple of Jesus Christ. Discipleship includes loving, teaching, leading, and serving others. President Henry B. Eyring taught: “You are called to represent the Savior. Your voice to testify becomes the same as His voice, your hands to lift the same as His hands” (“[Rise to Your Call](#),” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2002, 76).

The following leadership principles will help your class presidency as you seek to bless the young women in your class:

- Prepare spiritually.
- Counsel together.
- Minister to others.
- Teach the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Administer the organization.

For more information, see *General Handbook*, [4.2](#).

KNOW AND MINISTER TO EACH YOUNG WOMAN IN YOUR CLASS

As you come to know and love the young women in your class, you can help them progress toward lifelong conversion to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Prayerfully counsel together as a presidency and with your Young Women leaders to decide who needs your time and attention. As you reach out to those you are inspired to serve, you will find that your love for each young woman increases. As you pray for the gift of charity, your heart will be filled with love for the Savior and for others (see [Moroni 7:46–48](#)).

Elder Dale G. Renlund taught: “In the Church, to effectively serve others we must see them through ... Heavenly Father’s eyes. Only then can we begin to comprehend the true worth of a soul. Only then can we sense the love that Heavenly Father has for all of His children. Only then can we sense the Savior’s caring concern for them. ... Only when we see through Heavenly Father’s eyes can we be filled with ‘the pure love of Christ’ [[Moroni 7:47](#)]” (“[Through God’s Eyes](#),” *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2015, 94).

You can come to know and love the young women you serve by:

- Praying for each young woman.
- Getting to know each young woman’s interests, strengths, and challenges.
- Giving special attention to the needs of new members or less-active members.
- Visiting class members in their homes to understand how you and the class presidency can assist parents in helping young women prepare for the temple endowment, temple marriage, and motherhood.
- Being a friend and showing love to each young woman in ways that are suited to her needs.
- Being willing to share your personal experiences and testimony of the gospel to help guide the young women in your class along the covenant path.

PARTICIPATE IN PRESIDENCY MEETINGS

Participate in regular presidency meetings with the other members of your class presidency, the class secretary, and your Young Women leaders. Suggested agenda items for presidency meetings are listed below (see [Sample Presidency Meeting Agenda](#)):

- Receive leadership training from a member of the Young Women presidency or your class adviser. (See “[Quorum and Class Presidency Resources](#).”)
- Discuss ways to get to know your class members and minister to them with genuine friendship and simple service.
- Counsel together about upcoming Sunday Young Women meetings. Consider who should teach each lesson, including assigning class presidency members frequent opportunities to teach. (See “[Help Plan and Conduct Sunday Young Women Meetings](#)” below.)
- Plan service and activities that will bless and strengthen the young women you serve and bring unity to the class. (See “[Help Plan Young Women Service and Activities](#)” below).
- Discuss how you, as class leaders, can help the young women you serve feel and recognize the Spirit, feel Heavenly Father’s love, and learn gospel principles.
- Identify ways you can demonstrate the joy of living the gospel and following the Savior’s example of “[increasing] in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man” ([Luke 2:52](#)) in all areas of your lives.
- Consider items to discuss in ward youth council meetings (see *General Handbook*, [29.2.9](#)). Also review counsel and assignments from previous ward youth council meetings. Discuss how you and your presidency are following the counsel and fulfilling the assignments.
- Review attendance records and discuss ways to encourage participation in class meetings and activities.
- Share and act on impressions you receive as you counsel together as a presidency (see [Doctrine and Covenants 8:2; 121:26](#)).

HELP PLAN AND CONDUCT SUNDAY YOUNG WOMEN MEETINGS

Sunday Young Women meetings are sacred opportunities for you and the young women in your class to increase in knowledge and testimony of our Savior. In these meetings, you and the members of your class learn doctrine from the scriptures and general conference messages, discuss how the doctrine applies to your lives, and counsel together about how you can act on what you are learning.

For more information about Sunday meetings and to learn about the role of your presidency in planning, conducting, and teaching in these meetings, see “Using Come, Follow Me—For Aaronic Priesthood Quorums and Young Women Classes” on the [Come, Follow Me](#) website.

HELP PLAN YOUNG WOMEN SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

“Activities strengthen [young women] by giving them a sense of belonging and mutual support. Activities should help [young women] feel connected to others their age, to their leaders, and to their families. Activities should also help [young women] see how living the gospel brings ‘the joy of the saints’ ([Enos 1:3](#))” (*General Handbook*, [20.1](#)).

Your presidency has the primary responsibility to plan and implement activities and events for your class, including regular opportunities for class members to serve others. Your Young Women leaders will guide and support you in your planning. They may also invite you to help plan and carry out other youth activities for the ward and stake. Involve other young women in your class in planning so all can contribute and gain experience.

As you plan activities, follow the guidelines in *General Handbook*, 11.8.1, and “[Service and Activities](#)” at [YoungWomen.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#). See also [ChildrenandYouth.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#), the annual [First Presidency safety letter](#), and the Church’s [Safety and Health website](#) ([ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#)).

Young women activities are held on a regularly scheduled day or evening other than Sunday or Monday. Plan activities that help the young women in your class:

- Strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ and progress along the covenant path.
- Serve others and develop spiritually, socially, physically, and intellectually (see [Luke 2:52](#)).
- Develop genuine friendships with each other outside of Sunday meetings.
- Find ways to apply gospel principles in their lives and live their covenants.
- Learn skills that will bless their families now and help them prepare for future service, including as wives and mothers.
- Have fun!

For more information about Young Women activities, see *General Handbook*, 11.8.1, and "[Service and Activities](#)" at YoungWomen.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

SUPPORT YOUNG WOMEN IN YOUR CLASS SERVING AS MINISTERING SISTERS

Beginning in January of the year they turn age 14, young women may be assigned by the Relief Society presidency to serve as companions to Relief Society sisters in ministering to the needs of women in the ward. Encourage and support the young women in your class who have accepted these assignments. Find opportunities through lessons and activities to prepare the young women in your class for this important work.

For more information about Young Women and ministering, see *General Handbook*, [11.3.5](#); [21.1](#); [21.3](#).

PARTICIPATE IN WARD YOUTH COUNCIL MEETINGS AS INVITED

"The Lord's Church is governed through councils" (*General Handbook*, [7.1](#)). Your Young Women class president may invite you to attend a ward youth council meeting when she is absent. The council meets monthly to discuss and plan how to "help individuals build testimonies, receive saving ordinances, keep covenants, and become consecrated followers of Jesus Christ" (*General Handbook*, [29.2.9](#)). (See also "[Ward Youth Council](#)" under "Who Do I Work With?")

WHO DO I WORK WITH?

CLASS MEMBERS

Build sincere relationships with the young women in your class to help them feel loved and help them come unto Christ. Encourage them to seek the guidance of the Spirit in fulfilling their sacred roles as young women.

YOUNG WOMEN CLASS PRESIDENCY AND SECRETARY

As a counselor in a Young Women class presidency, you work under the direction of the class president. You support and sustain her as you accept and prayerfully fulfill responsibilities she may delegate to you. You also seek inspiration so that you can use your unique gifts to bless the young women in your class. As your presidency counsels together and seeks to follow the example of the Savior, you will gain insights and inspiration about how best to minister to one another and to those you serve. (See *General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, [11.3.5–11.3.6](#).)

WARD YOUNG WOMEN PRESIDENCY AND OTHER LEADERS

The Young Women presidency and other leaders serve as resources to help you fulfill your calling. They will provide ongoing support and encouragement. You can counsel with them when you are unsure what to do.

BISHOPRIC

Your class president will meet with the bishopric as she attends ward youth council and on other occasions as invited. She can help them understand the needs of your class members and their families by reporting on your presidency's efforts to minister to them.

WARD YOUTH COUNCIL

Attend ward youth council meetings when your Young Women class president invites you to go in her absence. (See "[Participate in Ward Youth Council Meetings as Invited](#)" under "What Should I Focus On?")

A ward youth council meeting should be a revelatory experience. Elder David A. Bednar taught the following about ward council meetings, and the principle also applies to ward youth council meetings: "We've been talking about a revelatory experience with the members of the ward council. And if members of councils, if members of families, as they come together, would think in terms of 'I'm preparing to participate in a revelatory experience with my family' instead of going to a meeting—a revelatory experience with the members of the ward council—I think we would prepare and act much differently" (in M. Russell Ballard, in "[Panel Discussion](#)" [worldwide leadership training meeting, Nov. 2010], [broadcasts.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#)).

*Young Women:
Class
Secretary*

YOUNG WOMEN CLASS SECRETARY

FROM THE YOUNG WOMEN GENERAL PRESIDENCY

Dear Young Women Class Secretary,

We are so glad you accepted your call to serve as a class secretary. We know that Heavenly Father loves all of His daughters, and He loves you! He will bless you as you do your best to serve Him and the young women in your class.

This is an exciting time to serve in the Young Women organization. Our prophet, Russell M. Nelson, has asked you and your class members to actively participate in the work of salvation. Your time in the Young Women program is a time for you to:

- Seek personal revelation and respond to the promptings of the Holy Ghost.
- Act on the doctrine you are learning and the covenant you made at baptism to follow God's plan.
- Minister to other young women with Christlike love.
- Stand as a witness of God "at all times and in all things, and in all places" ([Mosiah 18:9](#)) as you help gather Israel and build the kingdom of God.

The Lord has called you as a class secretary because He has work for you to do. He trusts you to rely on Him for help as you serve your class. He loves you, and He will help you to feel His love for His precious daughters. Your love for the young women will touch their hearts, and they will be able to feel His love through you.

We know that this is the Lord's work. He will guide you and magnify your efforts as you give your time and love to the work. We pray that you will feel joy and peace as you serve the Lord to the best of your ability.

With love,

Bonnie H. Cordon
Michelle D. Craig
Becky Craven

The Young Women General Presidency

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

As you serve, you will feel that the Lord will be there to help you. Additionally, the class presidency and your Young Women leaders will help you as you serve and minister to your class. As you seek the Lord's guidance, He will magnify your efforts in your calling and in other areas of your life. You will feel His love for you, for the young women you serve, and for their families. You will feel great joy as you serve Heavenly Father's precious daughters.

WHERE TO START

BEFORE YOU ARE SUSTAINED

- Seek guidance from the Spirit through prayer, scripture study, and fasting.
- Read “[Young Women](#),” chapter 11 in *General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* (ChurchofJesusChrist.org), especially the purpose and objectives of the Young Women organization (see [11.1.1](#)) and the [Young Women Theme](#). Also review [chapter 4](#) in the *General Handbook*, which gives guidance on principles of leadership.
- Seek to understand your responsibilities as a secretary and the responsibilities of the class presidency (see *General Handbook*, [11.3.5–11.3.6](#)).

AFTER YOU ARE SUSTAINED AND SET APART

- With so many responsibilities, remember that being an honorable young woman at home is your first priority.
- Continue to pray for guidance about your service.
- Counsel with your Young Women class president about your responsibilities and how she would like you to support her.
- Assist your Young Women class president in preparing agendas for presidency meetings (see [Sample Presidency Meeting Agenda](#)). In these meetings, take notes and keep track of assignments. (See “[Participate in Presidency Meetings](#)” under “What Should I Focus On?”)
- Get to know the members of your class. (See “[Know and Minister to Each Young Woman in Your Class](#)” under “What Should I Focus On?”)

WHAT SHOULD I FOCUS ON?

“Leaders encourage members to engage in God’s work by becoming ‘true followers of ... Jesus Christ’ ([Moroni 7:48](#))” (*General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, [4.1](#)). Your presidency’s focus is to help each young woman in your class increase her faith, strengthen her conversion to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and prepare to receive future ordinances and make and keep sacred covenants.

President Russell M. Nelson counseled: “Your commitment to follow the Savior by making covenants with Him and then keeping those covenants will open the door to every spiritual blessing and privilege available to men, women, and children everywhere. ... The end for which each of us strives is to be endowed with power in a house of the Lord, sealed as families, faithful to covenants made in a temple that qualify us for the greatest gift of God—that of eternal life” (“[As We Go Forward Together](#),” *Ensign*, Apr. 2018, 7).

LEAD IN THE SAVIOR’S WAY

You are a disciple of Jesus Christ. Discipleship includes loving, teaching, leading, and serving others. President Henry B. Eyring taught: “You are called to represent the Savior. Your voice to testify becomes the same as His voice, your hands to lift the same as His hands” (“[Rise to Your Call](#),” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2002, 76).

The following leadership principles will help your class presidency as you seek to bless the young women in your class:

- Prepare spiritually.
- Counsel together.
- Minister to others.
- Teach the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Administer the organization.

For more information, see *General Handbook*, [4.2](#).

KNOW AND MINISTER TO EACH YOUNG WOMAN IN YOUR CLASS

As you come to know and love the young women in your class, you can help them progress toward lifelong conversion to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Prayerfully counsel together with the class presidency and your Young Women leaders to decide who needs your time and attention. As you reach out to those you are inspired to serve, you will find that your love for each young woman increases. As you pray for the gift of charity, your heart will be filled with love for the Savior and for others (see [Moroni 7:46–48](#)).

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You can come to know and love the young women you serve by:

- Praying for each young woman.
- Getting to know each young woman’s interests, strengths, and challenges.
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- Visiting class members in their homes to understand how you and the class presidency can assist parents in helping young women prepare for the temple endowment, temple marriage, and motherhood.
- Being a friend and showing love to each young woman in ways that are suited to her needs.
- Being willing to share your personal experiences and testimony of the gospel to help guide the young women in your class along the covenant path.

PARTICIPATE IN PRESIDENCY MEETINGS

Participate in regular presidency meetings with the members of your class presidency and your Young Women leaders. Help prepare agendas for presidency meetings, take notes, and keep track of assignments (see [Sample Presidency Meeting Agenda](#)). Suggested agenda items for presidency meetings are listed below:

- Receive leadership training from a member of the Young Women presidency or your class adviser. (See “[Quorum and Class Presidency Resources](#).”)
- Discuss ways to get to know your class members and minister to them with genuine friendship and simple service.
- Counsel together about upcoming Sunday Young Women meetings. Consider who should teach each lesson, including assigning class presidency members frequent opportunities to teach. (See “[Help Plan Sunday Young Women Meetings as Requested](#)” below.)
- Plan service and activities that will bless and strengthen the young women you serve and bring unity to the class. (See “[Help Plan Young Women Service and Activities as Requested](#)” below.)
- Discuss how you, as class leaders, can help the young women you serve feel and recognize the Spirit, feel Heavenly Father’s love, and learn gospel principles.
- Identify ways you can demonstrate the joy of living the gospel and following the Savior’s example of “[increasing] in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man” ([Luke 2:52](#)) in all areas of your lives.
- Consider items to discuss in ward youth council meetings (see *General Handbook*, [29.2.9](#)). Also review counsel and assignments from previous ward youth council meetings. Discuss how you and the presidency are following the counsel and fulfilling the assignments.
- Review attendance records and discuss ways to encourage participation in class meetings and activities. Turn in attendance records to the Young Women secretary or your Young Women class adviser or specialist. (See “[Ensure That Accurate Records Are Kept](#)” below.)
- Share and act on impressions you receive as you counsel together with the class presidency (see [Doctrine and Covenants 8:2; 121:26](#)).

HELP PLAN SUNDAY YOUNG WOMEN MEETINGS AS REQUESTED

Sunday Young Women meetings are sacred opportunities for you and the young women in your class to increase in knowledge and testimony of the Savior. As the class secretary, you keep attendance records for these meetings. The class presidency may give you additional assignments to help with planning and carrying out Sunday meetings.

For more information about Sunday meetings and to learn about the role of your presidency in planning, conducting, and teaching in these meetings, see “Using Come, Follow Me—For Aaronic Priesthood Quorums and Young Women Classes” on the [Come, Follow Me](#) website.

HELP PLAN YOUNG WOMEN SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES AS REQUESTED

“Activities strengthen [young women] by giving them a sense of belonging and mutual support. Activities should help [young women] feel connected to others their age, to their leaders, and to their families. Activities should also help [young women] see how living the gospel brings ‘the joy of the saints’ ([Enos 1:3](#))” (*General Handbook*, [20.1](#)).

Your class presidency has the primary responsibility to plan and implement activities and events for your class, including regular opportunities for class members to serve others. Support the class presidency in their responsibility by accepting and fulfilling assignments they give you.

As you help plan activities, follow the guidelines in *General Handbook*, 11.8 and [chapter 20](#). See also [ChildrenandYouth.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#), the annual [First Presidency safety letter](#), and the Church’s [Safety and Health website](#) ([ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#)).

Young women activities are held on a regularly scheduled day or evening other than Sunday or Monday. Plan activities that help the young women in your class:

- Strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ and progress along the covenant path.
- Serve others and develop spiritually, socially, physically, and intellectually (see [Luke 2:52](#)).
- Develop genuine friendships with each other outside of Sunday meetings.
- Find ways to apply gospel principles in their lives and live their covenants.
- Learn skills that will bless their families now and help them prepare for future service, including as wives and mothers.
- Have fun!

For more information about Young Women activities, see *General Handbook*, 11.8.1, and "[Service and Activities](#)" at YoungWomen.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

SUPPORT YOUNG WOMEN IN YOUR CLASS SERVING AS MINISTERING SISTERS

Beginning in January of the year they turn age 14, young women may be assigned by the Relief Society presidency to serve as companions to Relief Society sisters in ministering to the needs of women in the ward. Encourage and support the young women in your class who have accepted these assignments. Find opportunities through lessons and activities to prepare the young women in your class for this important work.

For more information about Young Women and ministering, see *General Handbook*, [11.3.5](#); [21.1](#); [21.3](#).

ENSURE THAT ACCURATE RECORDS ARE KEPT

Keeping Church records is a scriptural mandate (see [Moroni 6:4](#); [Doctrine and Covenants 20:81–83](#); [21:1](#)). Your responsibilities for keeping your Young Women class records include the following:

- Keep attendance records for Sunday meetings. Prepare reports as requested. Submit attendance records to the Young Women secretary or to your class adviser or specialist.
- Use these records and reports to help your Young Women class presidency better understand the strengths and needs of the class.
- Make sure that your Young Women class presidency is aware of young women who will be entering the class.

WHO DO I WORK WITH?

CLASS MEMBERS

Build sincere relationships with the young women in your class to help them feel loved and help them come unto Christ. Encourage them to seek the guidance of the Spirit in fulfilling their sacred roles as young women. Keep track of class members who might not attend regularly, and suggest the class presidency take time during presidency meetings to discuss how they can reach out to these individuals.

YOUNG WOMEN CLASS PRESIDENCY

As a Young Women class secretary, you work under the direction of your Young Women class president. You support and sustain her as you accept and prayerfully fulfill responsibilities she may delegate to you. You also seek inspiration so that you can use your unique gifts to bless the young women in your class. As you counsel together with your Young Women class presidency and seek to follow the example of the Savior, you will gain insights and inspiration about how best to minister to those you serve. (See *General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, [11.3.5–11.3.6](#).)

WARD YOUNG WOMEN PRESIDENCY AND OTHER LEADERS

The Young Women presidency and other leaders serve as resources to help you fulfill your calling. They will provide ongoing support and encouragement. You can counsel with them when you are unsure what to do.

BISHOPRIC

Your class president will meet with the bishopric as she attends ward youth council and on other occasions as invited. She can help them understand the needs of your class members and their families by reporting on your presidency's efforts to minister to them.

*Young Women:
President*

YOUNG WOMEN PRESIDENT

From the Young Women General Presidency

Dear Young Women President,

Thank you for accepting the call to serve in Young Women. We are excited for you to begin this wonderful journey. We know that Heavenly Father loves His daughters dearly, and He loves you! He will bless you as you draw nearer to Him and help the young women you serve do the same.

This is a glorious time to serve in the Young Women organization. President Russell M. Nelson has lifted our vision to a higher and holier way to serve, and he has called on our youth to be active participants in the work. As you ponder your new responsibilities, you will realize that your calling is not a list of things to do *for* young women. It is an opportunity to guide and nurture young women as they become covenant women of God. Their time in the Young Women program is a time for them to gain confidence in their ability to:

- Seek personal revelation and respond to the promptings of the Holy Ghost.
- Act on the doctrine they are learning and the covenant they made at baptism to follow God's plan.
- Minister to one another with Christlike love.
- Stand as witnesses of God "at all times and in all things, and in all places" ([Mosiah 18:9](#)) as they actively engage in gathering Israel and building the kingdom of God.

You have the important task of mentoring class presidencies. These capable young women have been called by revelation and set apart by priesthood authority. They need the experience and opportunity to lead. Teach them how to serve under the direction of the Spirit. Nurture them as they learn to lead in the Savior's way. Help them succeed.

Your love for the young women will touch their hearts. Because of your love, they will be better able to recognize the love of their Father in Heaven and their Savior, Jesus Christ.

We know that this is the Lord's work and that He will assist you. Heavenly Father will help you to see His precious daughters as He sees them. He will direct you and magnify your efforts as you devote your time and love to the work. We pray that you will feel the joy of working with young women and the peace of serving the Lord to the best of your ability.

With love,
Bonnie H. Cordon
Michelle D. Craig
Becky Craven
The Young Women General Presidency

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

You have been called to minister to the young women in your ward. As a newly called Young Women president, you will likely feel a range of emotions about your responsibilities. Remember that you are not alone. This calling is a partnership with the Lord. As you seek the Lord's guidance in serving the young women in your ward, He will magnify your efforts at home and in your calling. You will feel His love for you, for the young women, and for their families. You will feel great joy as you serve Heavenly Father's precious daughters.

WHERE TO START

BEFORE YOU ARE SUSTAINED

- Counsel with the bishop about where to begin. Discuss your thoughts and impressions about potential counselors and a secretary, and recommend sisters to call.
- Seek guidance from the Spirit through prayer, scripture study, fasting, and, if possible, temple attendance.
- Read "[Young Women](#)," chapter 11 in *General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* (ChurchofJesusChrist.org), especially the purpose and objectives of the Young Women organization (see [11.1.1](#)) and the [Young Women Theme](#) (see [11.1.2](#)). Also review [chapters 1–4](#) in the *General Handbook*, which summarize the doctrinal foundation of God's plan and give more guidance.
- Seek to understand your responsibilities as a Young Women president and the responsibilities of your presidency (see *General Handbook*, [11.3.2–11.3.3](#)).

AFTER YOU ARE SUSTAINED AND SET APART

- With so many responsibilities, remember that your family is your first priority.
- Continue to pray for guidance about your service. Seek guidance about how your counselors can share the responsibilities of your presidency.
- Counsel with the Young Women advisers and class presidents to learn about the strengths and needs of each young woman.
- Hold regular Young Women presidency meetings. Work with the Young Women secretary to prepare an agenda, and ask her to record notes and assignments. (See "[Plan and Conduct Presidency Meetings](#)" under "What Should I Focus On?")

- Attend regular class presidency meetings. Work with the class president and secretary to schedule meetings and create agendas (see [Sample Presidency Meeting Agenda](#)). (See “[Attend Class Presidency Meetings](#)” under “What Should I Focus On?”)
- Participate in other leadership meetings, such as ward council and ward youth council meetings. (See “[Participate in Ward Council and Ward Youth Council Meetings](#)” under “What Should I Focus On?”)
- Access reports and lists on [Leader and Clerk Resources \(LCR\)](#) or in the Member Tools mobile app to help your presidency get to know members of the Young Women and be aware of the strengths and needs of the organization.
- Under the direction of the bishop, participate in training from the stake Young Women presidency and in other training as available.
- To ensure the safety of children and youth, complete the training course found at [ProtectingChildren.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#). You are required to renew this training every three years.
- Study the principles in [Teaching in the Savior's Way](#) (2016).

WHAT SHOULD I FOCUS ON?

“Leaders encourage members to engage in God’s work by becoming ‘true followers of ... Jesus Christ’ ([Moroni 7:48](#))” (*General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, [4.1](#)). Your presidency’s focus is to help each young woman in your ward increase her faith, strengthen her conversion to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and prepare to receive future ordinances and make and keep sacred covenants.

In President Russell M. Nelson’s first address as President of the Church, he counseled: “Your commitment to follow the Savior by making covenants with Him and then keeping those covenants will open the door to every spiritual blessing and privilege available to men, women, and children everywhere. ... The end for which each of us strives is to be endowed with power in a house of the Lord, sealed as families, faithful to covenants made in a temple that qualify us for the greatest gift of God—that of eternal life” (“[As We Go Forward Together](#),” *Ensign*, Apr. 2018, 7).

LEAD IN THE SAVIOR’S WAY

You are a disciple of Jesus Christ. Discipleship includes loving, teaching, leading, and serving others. President Henry B. Eyring taught: “You are called to represent the Savior. Your voice to testify becomes the same as His voice, your hands to lift the same as His hands” (“[Rise to Your Call](#),” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2002, 76).

The following leadership principles will help your Young Women presidency and the class presidencies as you seek to bless the young women you serve:

- Prepare spiritually.
- Counsel together.
- Minister to others.
- Teach the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Administer the organization.

For more information, see *General Handbook*, [4.2](#).

TEACH IN THE SAVIOR'S WAY

Every lesson and activity is an opportunity for young women to learn the truths of the gospel and how to apply those truths to their daily lives. Work with class presidencies to create a setting where the Spirit can teach. Help the young women recognize the promptings of the Holy Ghost, and invite them to act on what they hear and feel.

- As a presidency, oversee efforts to improve learning and teaching in Young Women. Review upcoming lessons and activities the class presidencies have planned, and discuss how to improve gospel learning and teaching in Young Women. “Members of the ward Sunday School presidency serve as specialists in the ward’s efforts to improve learning and teaching” (*General Handbook*, [13.5](#)). Counsel with them as you seek to improve teaching in Young Women.
- Instruct and mentor Young Women advisers and young women who are invited to teach a lesson or a portion of a lesson. Help them gain confidence in their ability to teach by the Spirit.
- Participate in teacher council meetings. In these meetings, teachers discuss the principles in [Teaching in the Savior’s Way](#). At least one member of your presidency and the Young Women advisers should attend these meetings (see *Teaching in the Savior’s Way*, [3](#)).

KNOW AND MINISTER TO EACH YOUNG WOMAN

As you come to know and love the young women you are called to serve, you can help them progress toward lifelong conversion to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Prayerfully counsel together as a Young Women presidency and with the class presidencies to decide who needs your time and attention. As you reach out to those you are inspired to serve, you will find that your love for each young woman increases. As you pray for the gift of charity, your heart will be filled with love for the Savior and for others (see [Moroni 7:46–48](#)).

Elder Dale G. Renlund taught: “In the Church, to effectively serve others we must see them through a parent’s eyes, through Heavenly Father’s eyes. Only then can we begin to comprehend the true worth of a soul. Only then can we sense the love that Heavenly Father has for all of His children. Only then can we sense the Savior’s caring concern for them. ... Only when we see through Heavenly Father’s eyes can we be filled with ‘the pure love of Christ’ [[Moroni 7:47](#)]” (“[Through God’s Eyes](#),” *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2015, 94).

You can come to know and love the young women you serve by:

- Praying for each young woman.
- Getting to know each young woman’s interests, strengths, and challenges.
- Giving special attention to the needs of new members or less-active members.

- Showing love to each young woman in ways that are suited to her needs.
- Counseling with each young woman's parents to learn ways you can help their daughter increase in faith and find joy in living the gospel of Jesus Christ (see *General Handbook*, [11.2](#)).
- Being willing to share your personal experiences and testimony of the gospel to help guide the young women along the covenant path.

GUIDE AND SUPPORT YOUNG WOMEN CLASS PRESIDENCIES

One of your most important responsibilities as a Young Women presidency is to guide and support the young women serving in class presidencies. Young Women class presidencies are called of God and have been set apart by those who hold priesthood authority; because of this, they serve with priesthood power. You have the opportunity to shepherd these young women as they learn to seek and act upon revelation as leaders, to counsel together as a presidency, and to minister to those they have been called to serve. You will mentor them as they learn to act under the direction of the bishopric and participate as members of the ward youth council.

The call to serve in a class presidency is the first calling that many young women receive. Some class leaders, especially those who are new to the Young Women program, may need a lot of help from your presidency. They may need to begin by sharing responsibility with an adult leader or by having responsibility for just a portion of an activity or lesson. As young women gain experience, they will gain confidence and skill as leaders and will be able to take on more responsibility.

A brief leadership training should be a part of each class presidency meeting (see "[Quorum and Class Presidency Resources](#)"), but the most valuable training will come as the young women work with you and see you lead in the Savior's way. Remember that as you guide class presidencies, you are preparing the future leaders of homes, communities, and the Church—it is a glorious work.

Class presidencies have the primary responsibility to plan Sunday Young Women meetings as outlined in [Come, Follow Me: For Aaronic Priesthood Quorums and Young Women Classes](#) (see "[Oversee Sunday Young Women Meetings](#)" below). They also have the primary responsibility to plan and implement service and activities (see "[Oversee Young Women Programs, Events, and Activities](#)" below). To do this effectively, class presidencies will need to identify the needs of class members. Encourage them to prayerfully ponder questions such as the following:

- What would help the young women in our ward better understand and live the gospel?
- How can we help them feel the love of the Lord and discover the blessings of following Him?
- What interests and goals do the young women have? What skills do they need to learn for the future?

- How can we bless each young woman in a way that builds and supports her family as well?
- What can we do to build unity among the young women?
- How can we reach out to those who do not attend regularly?

As class presidencies pray for and get to know the young women they serve, they will be better prepared to plan Sunday meetings and Young Women service and activities. Understanding class members' needs will guide their ministering efforts as a presidency, and they will discover the joy of representing the Savior and caring for others as He would.

For more information about helping Young Women class presidencies, see [Leading in the Savior's Way: Leadership Lessons for Young Women Class Presidencies](#) and [other training resources](#) on YoungWomen.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

PLAN AND CONDUCT PRESIDENCY MEETINGS

Hold regular presidency meetings with the other members of the Young Women presidency and the Young Women secretary. Work with the secretary to prepare an agenda for each meeting. Ask her to record notes and assignments during these meetings. Suggested agenda items for presidency meetings are listed below:

- Read and discuss scripture passages and instructions from Church leaders that relate to your responsibilities as Young Women leaders. Relevant sections of the [General Handbook](#) may be helpful.
- Counsel together about the strengths and needs of each young woman and her family. Counsel about how you can help the young women prepare to receive future ordinances and make and keep sacred covenants.
- Consider ways to minister to Young Women leaders or young women who need strengthening. You might consider reaching out to them in ways such as a visit or a conversation.
- Identify ways to prepare and support Young Women class presidencies as they fulfill their assignments to lead and minister to the young women they serve.
- Review upcoming lessons and activities that have been planned by class presidencies, and discuss how you can help the lessons and activities be successful. Discuss ways to improve gospel teaching and learning in Young Women.
- Prayerfully counsel together to recommend individuals to your bishopric for callings in Young Women. Make the calling of class presidencies a priority.

- Review counsel and assignments from the bishopric and from leadership meetings. Plan ways to follow the counsel and fulfill the assignments.
- Review the Young Women budget and expenditures.
- Review attendance records and discuss ways to encourage participation in Young Women meetings and activities.
- Share and act on the impressions you receive as you counsel together as a presidency (see [Doctrine and Covenants 8:2; 121:26](#)).

ATTEND CLASS PRESIDENCY MEETINGS

Your presidency can help the young women in each class presidency develop as leaders by meeting with them regularly. In these meetings you should communicate clear and loving expectations for the young women, help the young women understand their callings, teach them how to lead, and express your trust in their ability to lead.

Class presidency meetings should be conducted by the class president, with guidance from a member of the Young Women presidency as needed. Help class presidents and secretaries prepare agendas for the meetings (see [Sample Presidency Meeting Agenda](#)). In these meetings, class presidencies may:

- Receive leadership training from a member of the Young Women presidency or a Young Women adviser (see "[Quorum and Class Presidency Resources](#)").
- Discuss ways to get to know the class members and minister to them with genuine friendship and simple service.
- Counsel together about upcoming Sunday Young Women meetings, considering who will conduct each meeting, who should teach each lesson, and which items need to be discussed in the "Counsel Together" segment of the meeting (see "[Oversee Sunday Young Women Meetings](#)" below).
- Plan service and activities that will bless and strengthen the young women and bring unity to the class (see "[Oversee Young Women Programs, Events, and Activities](#)" below).
- Discuss how they, as class leaders, can help the young women feel and recognize the Spirit, feel Heavenly Father's love, and learn gospel principles.
- Identify ways they can demonstrate the joy of living the gospel and following the Savior in all areas of their lives.
- Consider items to discuss in ward youth council meetings (see *General Handbook*, [29.2.9](#)). Also review counsel and assignments from previous ward youth council meetings. Discuss how they are following the counsel and fulfilling the assignments.

Depending on the number of Young Women classes in your ward, you and your counselors may each oversee a class, meeting with and guiding that class's presidency. Young Women advisers also attend class presidency meetings for the class to which they are assigned.

OVERSEE SUNDAY YOUNG WOMEN MEETINGS

Sunday Young Women meetings are sacred opportunities for young women to increase in knowledge and testimony of our Savior. A member of the class presidency conducts each meeting, leads the young women in reciting the [Young Women theme](#) (see *General Handbook*, [11.1.2](#)), and leads the "Counsel Together" discussion that begins each lesson. A member of the Young Women presidency, a Young Women adviser, or an invited young woman teaches the lesson. Young women may also be invited to teach a portion of a lesson. When young women are invited to teach, Young Women leaders or their parents help them prepare. (See *General Handbook*, [11.6](#).)

Lessons in Young Women classes focus on gospel topics listed in [Come, Follow Me—For Aaronic Priesthood Quorums and Young Women Classes](#). Young women learn doctrine from the scriptures and general conference messages, discuss how the doctrine applies to their lives, and counsel together about how they can act on what they are learning.

Seek to create a safe environment that invites the Spirit for young women and their leaders. When adults are teaching young women in Church settings, at least two responsible adults should be present. Ensure that all leaders are familiar with and follow Church policies and guidelines on preventing and responding to abuse, as outlined in "[Preventing and Responding to Abuse](#)."

For more information on Sunday meetings, see "[Using Come, Follow Me—For Aaronic and Priesthood Quorums and Young Women Classes](#)" on the Come, Follow Me website (ChurchofJesusChrist.org).

OVERSEE YOUNG WOMEN PROGRAMS, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES

"Activities strengthen [young women] by giving them a sense of belonging and mutual support. Activities should help [young women] feel connected to others their age, to their leaders, and to their families. Activities should also help [young women] see how living the gospel brings 'the joy of the saints' ([Enos 1:3](#))" (*General Handbook*, [20.1](#)).

Class presidencies have the primary responsibility to plan and implement activities and events. You and other Young Women leaders prepare, guide, and support class presidencies so they may succeed. Remember that less-experienced presidencies will need more support. Encourage class presidencies to involve other young women in planning so all can contribute and gain experience.

Youth and adult leaders plan service and activities following the guidelines in *General Handbook*, 11.8.1, and "[Service and Activities](#)" at YoungWomen.ChurchofJesusChrist.org. See also the annual [First Presidency safety letter](#) and the Church's [Safety and Health website](#) (ChurchofJesusChrist.org).

YOUNG WOMEN ACTIVITIES

Young women activities are held on a regularly scheduled day or evening other than Sunday or Monday. Help class presidencies plan activities that:

- Help strengthen young women's faith in Jesus Christ and help them progress along the covenant path.
- Provide a variety of opportunities for the young women to serve others and develop spiritually, socially, physically, and intellectually (see [Luke 2:52](#)).
- Encourage the young women to develop genuine friendships with each other outside of Sunday meetings.
- Help the young women find ways to apply gospel principles in their lives.
- Teach skills that will help the young women bless their families now and in the future.
- Allow the young women to have fun!

For more information about Young Women activities, see *General Handbook*, 11.8.1, and "[Service and Activities](#)" at YoungWomen.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The Children and Youth personal development program is a home-centered program to help youth improve spiritually, intellectually, physically, and socially. Young Women leaders can support young women and their families in this program by encouraging young women as they set and work toward their goals. Young Women leaders can also encourage class presidencies to plan Sunday meetings and weekday activities that will help the young women grow in these areas and reach their goals. (For more information, see ChildrenandYouth.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.)

YOUNG WOMEN EVENTS

- **Standards events:** These events emphasize moral values and eternal goals. They help youth understand and commit to living gospel standards. For more information, see *General Handbook*, 11.8.5.
- **Bishopric youth discussions:** The bishopric plans and carries out bishopric youth discussions, which may be held with all the youth or with a certain age-group, and which can address specific needs as determined by the bishopric. For more information, see *General Handbook*, 11.8.2.
- **Young Women camp:** Camp gives young women a unique spiritual experience away from worldly influences. See *General Handbook*, 11.8.6, and the [Young Women Camp Guide](#) for more information.
- **For the Strength of Youth (FSY) conference:** This is a multistake youth activity held every other year for young women and young men ages 14 through 18. It is held under the direction of the Area Presidency, and Area Seventies oversee the planning and implementation of the events. Stake and ward leaders help youth register and arrange transportation. For more information, see the Church's [FSY website](#) (ChurchofJesusChrist.org).
- **Youth conference:** Young women and young men ages 14 through 18 may participate together in a ward or stake youth conference in years when an FSY conference is not held in their area. For more information, see *General Handbook*, [20.4](#), and the Church's [youth conference website](#) (ChurchofJesusChrist.org).

SUPPORT YOUNG WOMEN SERVING AS MINISTERING SISTERS

Beginning in January of the year they turn age 14, young women may be assigned by the Relief Society presidency to serve as companions to Relief Society sisters in ministering to the needs of women in the ward. Encourage and support young women in these assignments. Help the young women find opportunities through lessons and activities to prepare for this important work.

PARTICIPATE IN WARD COUNCIL AND WARD YOUTH COUNCIL MEETINGS

“The Lord’s Church is governed through councils” (*General Handbook*, [7.1](#)). As the Young Women president, you are a member of the ward council and the ward youth council. You bring items before these councils for discussion and offer input on matters presented by other ward leaders. These councils meet regularly to discuss and plan how to support members in:

- Building testimonies.
- Receiving saving ordinances.
- Keeping covenants.
- Becoming consecrated followers of Jesus Christ.

You assist the ward council and ward youth council in responding to the needs of individuals and families in the ward. Share insights you gain through ministering to the young women to help the ward council and ward youth council accomplish their purposes.

If you are unable to attend a council meeting, invite one of your counselors to attend in your place.

ENCOURAGE YOUNG WOMEN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORK OF SALVATION AND EXALTATION

Young women will be blessed as they participate in the work of salvation and exaltation, including temple, family history, and missionary work. Counsel with your presidency about ways you can encourage the Young Women in your ward to participate in the work of salvation and exaltation. Also consider how participating in the work of salvation and exaltation can help your presidency minister to individual girls in your ward.

See [2020 Temple and Family History Leadership Instruction](#) (ChurchofJesusChrist.org).

ENSURE THAT ACCURATE RECORDS ARE KEPT

Keeping Church records is a scriptural mandate (see [Moroni 6:4](#); [Doctrine and Covenants 20:81–83](#); [21:1](#)). Your responsibilities for keeping the Young Women records include the following:

- Work with the Young Women secretary to oversee the records, reports, and finances of the Young Women organization.
- Ensure that the records and reports are accurate and that the Young Women secretary submits them on time to the ward clerk (see [Leader and Clerk Resources](#)).
- Use these records to help you and your counselors learn about the participation of young women in Young Women meetings and activities.
- With the help of the Young Women secretary, create and maintain an annual budget and record of expenses for Young Women.

WHO DO I WORK WITH?

YOUNG WOMEN IN THE WARD

Build sincere relationships with the young women in your ward to help them feel loved and help them come unto Christ. Encourage them to seek the guidance of the Spirit in fulfilling their sacred roles as young women.

YOUNG WOMEN PRESIDENCY AND SECRETARY

You serve in a presidency with two counselors. The counselors in your presidency and the Young Women secretary will support and sustain you. Give your counselors and secretary opportunities to serve and grow by delegating responsibilities to them. As your presidency counsels together and seeks to follow the example of the Savior, you will gain insights and inspiration about how best to minister to one another and to those you serve. (See *General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, [11.3.2–11.3.3](#).)

BISHOPRIC

The bishop holds the priesthood keys to direct the Lord's work in the ward. Through these keys, you have been given authority to direct the work of the Young Women organization in your ward. You meet regularly with the bishop to counsel about Young Women. In these meetings you discuss the needs of the young women and their families. You may also recommend ward members for the bishopric to call to serve in the Young Women organization. (See *General Handbook*, [11.3.1](#).)

YOUNG WOMEN CLASS PRESIDENCIES

When young women are set apart to serve in a class presidency, they receive authority through priesthood keys to minister to the young women in their class, plan and carry out activities, and lead discussions and lessons. Support class presidencies as they fulfill these responsibilities. Help them love and serve each young woman in their class.

ADVISERS AND OTHERS WHO SERVE IN YOUNG WOMEN

You or one of your counselors meets with Young Women advisers and specialists before they begin serving to ensure that they have the instruction and resources they need to fulfill their callings. You also provide ongoing guidance and support for Young Women advisers and specialists. (For information about callings in Young Women, see *General Handbook*, [11.3.4](#).)

AARONIC PRIESTHOOD QUORUM ADVISERS AND SPECIALISTS

Work with the Aaronic Priesthood quorum advisers and specialists to coordinate service and activities for the youth you serve.

WARD COUNCIL AND WARD YOUTH COUNCIL

You are a member of the ward council and the ward youth council. As a member of these councils, you have the responsibilities outlined in *General Handbook*, [11.4.1–11.4.2](#).

Council meetings should be revelatory experiences. Elder David A. Bednar taught the following about ward council meetings, and the same principle applies to ward youth council meetings: “We’ve been talking about a revelatory experience with the members of the ward council. And if members of councils, if members of families, as they come together, would think in terms of ‘I’m preparing to participate in a revelatory experience with my family’ instead of going to a meeting—a revelatory experience with the members of the ward council—I think we would prepare and act much differently” (in M. Russell Ballard, in “[Panel Discussion](#)” [worldwide leadership training meeting, Nov. 13, 2010], [broadcasts.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#)).

If you are unable to attend a ward council meeting, invite one of your counselors to attend in your place.

PARENTS OF YOUNG WOMEN

“Parents have the first responsibility for the spiritual and physical welfare of their children (see [Doctrine and Covenants 68:25–28](#)). The bishopric and Young Women leaders support but do not replace parents in this responsibility” (*General Handbook*, [11.2](#)). Counsel with each young woman’s parents to better understand their daughter’s needs, interests, talents, and abilities. Encourage young women to talk with their parents, especially about how they can help each other keep the commandments and prepare for temple ordinances.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PRESIDENCY

“Members of the ward Sunday School presidency serve as specialists in the ward’s efforts to improve learning and teaching” (*General Handbook*, [13.5](#)). Counsel with them as you seek to improve teaching in Young Women.

STAKE YOUNG WOMEN PRESIDENCY

The stake Young Women presidency will be a resource to you, providing support and ongoing encouragement. In stake Young Women training meetings, you will receive instruction to help in your service.

*Young Women:
Counselor*

YOUNG WOMEN COUNSELOR

From the Young Women General Presidency

Dear Counselor in the Young Women Presidency,

Thank you for accepting the call to serve in Young Women. We are excited for you to begin this wonderful journey. We know that Heavenly Father loves His daughters dearly, and He loves you! He will bless you as you draw nearer to Him and help the young women you serve do the same.

This is a glorious time to serve in the Young Women organization. President Russell M. Nelson has lifted our vision to a higher and holier way to serve, and he has called on our youth to be active participants in the work. As you ponder your new responsibilities, you will realize that your calling is not a list of things to do for young women. It is an opportunity to guide and nurture young women as they become covenant women of God. Their time in the Young Women program is a time for them to gain confidence in their ability to:

- Seek personal revelation and respond to the promptings of the Holy Ghost.
- Act on the doctrine they are learning and the covenant they made at baptism to follow God's plan.
- Minister to one another with Christlike love.
- Stand as witnesses of God "at all times and in all things, and in all places" ([Mosiah 18:9](#)) as they actively engage in gathering Israel and building the kingdom of God.

You have the important task of mentoring class presidencies. These capable young women have been called by revelation and set apart by priesthood authority. They need the experience and opportunity to lead. Teach them how to serve under the direction of the Spirit. Nurture them as they learn to lead in the Savior's way. Help them succeed.

Your love for the young women will touch their hearts. Because of your love, they will be better able to recognize the love of their Father in Heaven and their Savior, Jesus Christ.

We know that this is the Lord's work and that He will assist you. Heavenly Father will help you to see His precious daughters as He sees them. He will direct you and magnify your efforts as you devote your time and love to the work. We pray that you will feel the joy of working with young women and the peace of serving the Lord to the best of your ability.

With love,
Bonnie H. Cordon
Michelle D. Craig
Becky Craven
The Young Women General Presidency

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

You have been called to minister to the young women in your ward. As a newly called counselor in the Young Women presidency, you will likely feel a range of emotions about your responsibilities. Remember that you are not alone. This calling is a partnership with the Lord. As you seek the Lord's guidance in serving the young women in your ward, He will magnify your efforts at home and in your calling. You will feel His love for you, for the young women, and for their families. You will feel great joy as you serve Heavenly Father's precious daughters.

WHERE TO START

BEFORE YOU ARE SUSTAINED

- Counsel with the member of the bishopric who called you about where to begin.
- Seek guidance from the Spirit through prayer, scripture study, fasting, and, if possible, temple attendance.
- Read "[Young Women](#)," chapter 11 in *General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* (ChurchofJesusChrist.org), especially the purpose and objectives of the Young Women organization (see [11.1.1](#)) and the [Young Women Theme](#) (see [11.1.2](#)). Also review [chapters 1–4](#) in the *General Handbook*, which summarize the doctrinal foundation of God's plan and give more guidance.
- Seek to understand your responsibilities as a counselor in the Young Women presidency and the responsibilities of your presidency (see *General Handbook*, [11.3.2–11.3.3](#)).

AFTER YOU ARE SUSTAINED AND SET APART

- With so many responsibilities, remember that your family is your first priority.
- Continue to pray for guidance about your service.
- Counsel with the Young Women president about your responsibilities and how she would like you to support her. Give the president your best counsel on Young Women matters and then support the decisions she makes.
- Participate in Young Women presidency meetings. (See "[Participate in Presidency Meetings](#)" under "What Should I Focus On?")
- Attend regular class presidency meetings. Work with the class president to schedule meetings and create agendas (see [Sample Presidency Meeting Agenda](#)). (See "[Attend Class Presidency Meetings](#)" under "What Should I Focus On?")
- Participate in ward council and ward youth council meetings when invited by the Young Women president. (See "[Participate in Ward Council and Ward Youth Council Meetings as Invited](#)" under "What Should I Focus On?")
- Access reports and lists on [Leader and Clerk Resources \(LCR\)](#) or in the Member Tools mobile app to help your presidency get to know members of the Young Women and be aware of the strengths and needs of the organization.
- Under the direction of the bishop, participate in training from the stake Young Women presidency and in other training as available.
- To ensure the safety of children and youth, complete the training course found at [ProtectingChildren.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#). You are required to renew this training every three years.
- Study the principles in [Teaching in the Savior's Way](#) (2016).

WHAT SHOULD I FOCUS ON?

“Leaders encourage members to engage in God’s work by becoming ‘true followers of ... Jesus Christ’ ([Moroni 7:48](#))” (*General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, [4.1](#)). Your presidency’s focus is to help each young woman in your ward increase her faith, strengthen her conversion to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and prepare to receive future ordinances and make and keep sacred covenants.

In President Russell M. Nelson’s first address as President of the Church, he counseled: “Your commitment to follow the Savior by making covenants with Him and then keeping those covenants will open the door to every spiritual blessing and privilege available to men, women, and children everywhere. ... The end for which each of us strives is to be endowed with power in a house of the Lord, sealed as families, faithful to covenants made in a temple that qualify us for the greatest gift of God—that of eternal life” (“[As We Go Forward Together](#),” *Ensign*, Apr. 2018, 7).

LEAD IN THE SAVIOR’S WAY

You are a disciple of Jesus Christ. Discipleship includes loving, teaching, leading, and serving others. President Henry B. Eyring taught: “You are called to represent the Savior. Your voice to testify becomes the same as His voice, your hands to lift the same as His hands” (“[Rise to Your Call](#),” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2002, 76).

The following leadership principles will help your Young Women presidency and the class presidencies as you seek to bless the young women you serve:

- Prepare spiritually.
- Counsel together.
- Minister to others.
- Teach the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Administer the organization.

For more information, see *General Handbook*, [4.2](#).

TEACH IN THE SAVIOR'S WAY

Every lesson and activity is an opportunity for young women to learn the truths of the gospel and how to apply those truths to their daily lives. Work with class presidencies to create a setting where the Spirit can teach. Help the young women recognize the promptings of the Holy Ghost, and invite them to act on what they hear and feel.

- As a presidency, oversee efforts to improve learning and teaching in Young Women. Review upcoming lessons and activities the class presidencies have planned, and discuss how to improve gospel learning and teaching in Young Women. "Members of the ward Sunday School presidency serve as specialists in the ward's efforts to improve learning and teaching" (*General Handbook*, [13.5](#)). Counsel with them as you seek to improve teaching in Young Women.
- Instruct and mentor Young Women advisers and young women who are invited to teach a lesson or a portion of a lesson. Help them gain confidence in their ability to teach by the Spirit.
- Participate in teacher council meetings. In these meetings, teachers discuss the principles in *Teaching in the Savior's Way*. At least one member of your presidency and the Young Women advisers should attend these meetings (see *Teaching in the Savior's Way*, [3](#)).

KNOW AND MINISTER TO EACH YOUNG WOMAN

As you come to know and love the young women you are called to serve, you can help them progress toward lifelong conversion to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Prayerfully counsel together as a Young Women presidency and with the class presidencies to decide who needs your time and attention. As you reach out to those you are inspired to serve, you will find that your love for each young woman increases. As you pray for the gift of charity, your heart will be filled with love for the Savior and for others (see [Moroni 7:46–48](#)).

Elder Dale G. Renlund taught: "In the Church, to effectively serve others we must see them through a parent's eyes, through Heavenly Father's eyes. Only then can we begin to comprehend the true worth of a soul. Only then can we sense the love that Heavenly Father has for all of His children. Only then can we sense the Savior's caring concern for them. ... Only when we see through Heavenly Father's eyes can we be filled with 'the pure love of Christ' [[Moroni 7:47](#)]" ("[Through God's Eyes](#)," *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2015, 94).

You can come to know and love the young women you serve by:

- Praying for each young woman.
- Getting to know each young woman's interests, strengths, and challenges.
- Giving special attention to the needs of new members or less-active members.
- Showing love to each young woman in ways that are suited to her needs.
- Counseling with each young woman's parents to learn ways you can help their daughter increase in faith and find joy in living the gospel of Jesus Christ (see *General Handbook*, [11.2](#)).
- Being willing to share your personal experiences and testimony of the gospel to help guide the young women along the covenant path.

GUIDE AND SUPPORT YOUNG WOMEN CLASS PRESIDENCIES

One of your most important responsibilities as a Young Women presidency is to guide and support the young women serving in class presidencies. Young Women class presidencies are called of God and have been set apart by those who hold priesthood authority; because of this, they serve with priesthood power. You have the opportunity to shepherd these young women as they learn to seek and act upon revelation as leaders, to counsel together as a presidency, and to minister to those they have been called to serve. You will mentor them as they learn to act under the direction of the bishopric and participate as members of the ward youth council.

The call to serve in a class presidency is the first calling that many young women receive. Some class leaders, especially those who are new to the Young Women program, may need a lot of help from your presidency. They may need to begin by sharing responsibility with an adult leader or by having responsibility for just a portion of an activity or lesson. As young women gain experience, they will gain confidence and skill as leaders and will be able to take on more responsibility.

A brief leadership training should be a part of each class presidency meeting (see "[Quorum and Class Presidency Resources](#)"), but the most valuable training will come as the young women work with you and see you lead in the Savior's way. Remember that as you guide class presidencies, you are preparing the future leaders of homes, communities, and the Church—it is a glorious work.

Class presidencies have the primary responsibility to plan Sunday Young Women meetings as outlined in [Come, Follow Me—For Aaronic Priesthood Quorums and Young Women Classes](#) (see "[Help Oversee Sunday Young Women Meetings](#)" below). They also have the primary responsibility to plan and implement service and activities (see "[Help Oversee Young Women Programs, Events, and Activities](#)" below). To do this effectively, class presidencies will need to identify the needs of class members. Encourage them to prayerfully ponder questions such as the following:

- What would help the young women in our ward better understand and live the gospel?
- How can we help them feel the love of the Lord and discover the blessings of following Him?
- What interests and goals do the young women have? What skills do they need to learn for the future?
- How can we bless each young woman in a way that builds and supports her family as well?
- What can we do to build unity among the young women?
- How can we reach out to those who do not attend regularly?

As class presidencies pray for and get to know the young women they serve, they will be better prepared to plan Sunday meetings and Young Women service and activities. Understanding class members' needs will guide their ministering efforts as a presidency, and they will discover the joy of representing the Savior and caring for others as He would.

For more information about helping Young Women class presidencies, see [Leading in the Savior's Way: Leadership Lessons for Young Women Class Presidencies](#) and [other training resources](#) on YoungWomen.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

PARTICIPATE IN PRESIDENCY MEETINGS

Participate in regular presidency meetings with the other members of the Young Women presidency and the Young Women secretary. Suggested agenda items for presidency meetings are listed below:

- Read and discuss scripture passages and instructions from Church leaders that relate to your responsibilities as Young Women leaders. Relevant sections of the [General Handbook](#) may be helpful.
- Counsel together about the strengths and needs of each young woman and her family. Counsel about how you can help the young women prepare to receive future ordinances and make and keep sacred covenants.
- Consider ways to minister to Young Women leaders or young women who need strengthening. You might consider reaching out to them in ways such as a visit or a conversation.
- Identify ways to prepare and support Young Women class presidencies as they fulfill their assignments to lead and minister to the young women they serve.
- Review upcoming lessons and activities that have been planned by class presidencies, and discuss how you can help the lessons and activities be successful. Discuss ways to improve gospel teaching and learning in Young Women.
- Prayerfully counsel together to recommend individuals to your bishopric for callings in Young Women. Make the calling of class presidencies a priority.
- Review counsel and assignments from the bishopric and from leadership meetings. Plan ways to follow the counsel and fulfill the assignments.
- Review the Young Women budget and expenditures.
- Review attendance records and discuss ways to encourage participation in Young Women meetings and activities.
- Share and act on the impressions you receive as you counsel together as a presidency (see [Doctrine and Covenants 8:2; 121:26](#)).

ATTEND CLASS PRESIDENCY MEETINGS

Your presidency can help the young women in each class presidency develop as leaders by meeting with them regularly. In these meetings you should communicate clear and loving expectations for the young women, help the young women understand their callings, teach them how to lead, and express your trust in their ability to lead.

Class presidency meetings should be conducted by the class president, with guidance from a member of the Young Women presidency as needed. Help class presidents prepare agendas for the meetings (see [Sample Presidency Meeting Agenda](#)). In these meetings, class presidencies may:

- Receive leadership training from a member of the Young Women presidency or a Young Women adviser (see "[Quorum and Class Presidency Resources](#)").
- Discuss ways to get to know the class members and minister to them with genuine friendship and simple service.
- Counsel together about upcoming Sunday Young Women meetings, considering who will conduct each meeting, who should teach each lesson, and which items need to be discussed in the "Counsel Together" segment of the meeting (see "[Help Oversee Sunday Young Women Meetings](#)" below).
- Plan service and activities that will bless and strengthen the young women and bring unity to the class (see "[Help Oversee Young Women Programs, Events, and Activities](#)" below).
- Discuss how they, as class leaders, can help the young women feel and recognize the Spirit, feel Heavenly Father's love, and learn gospel principles.
- Identify ways they can demonstrate the joy of living the gospel and following the Savior in all areas of their lives.
- Consider items to discuss in ward youth council meetings (see *General Handbook*, [29.2.9](#)). Also review counsel and assignments from previous ward youth council meetings. Discuss how they are following the counsel and fulfilling the assignments.

Depending on the number of Young Women classes in your ward, each member of the Young Women presidency may oversee a class, meeting with and guiding that class's presidency. Young Women advisers also attend class presidency meetings for the class to which they are assigned.

HELP OVERSEE SUNDAY YOUNG WOMEN MEETINGS

Sunday Young Women meetings are sacred opportunities for young women to increase in knowledge and testimony of our Savior. A member of the class presidency conducts each meeting, leads the young women in reciting the [Young Women theme](#) (see *General Handbook*, [11.1.2](#)), and leads the “Counsel Together” discussion that begins each lesson. A member of the Young Women presidency, a Young Women adviser, or an invited young woman teaches the lesson. Young women may also be invited to teach a portion of a lesson. When young women are invited to teach, Young Women leaders or their parents help them prepare. (See *General Handbook*, [11.6](#).)

Lessons in Young Women classes focus on gospel topics listed in [Come, Follow Me—For Aaronic Priesthood Quorums and Young Women Classes](#). Young women learn doctrine from the scriptures and general conference messages, discuss how the doctrine applies to their lives, and counsel together about how they can act on what they are learning.

Seek to create a safe environment that invites the Spirit for young women and their leaders. When adults are teaching young women in Church settings, at least two responsible adults should be present. Ensure that all leaders are familiar with and follow Church policies and guidelines on preventing and responding to abuse, as outlined in “[Preventing and Responding to Abuse](#).”

For more information on Sunday meetings, see “[Using Come, Follow Me—For Aaronic and Priesthood Quorums and Young Women Classes](#)” on the Come, Follow Me website (ChurchofJesusChrist.org).

HELP OVERSEE YOUNG WOMEN PROGRAMS, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES

“Activities strengthen [young women] by giving them a sense of belonging and mutual support. Activities should help [young women] feel connected to others their age, to their leaders, and to their families. Activities should also help [young women] see how living the gospel brings ‘the joy of the saints’ ([Enos 1:3](#))” (*General Handbook*, [20.1](#)).

Class presidencies have the primary responsibility to plan and implement activities and events. You and other Young Women leaders prepare, guide, and support class presidencies so they may succeed. Remember that less-experienced presidencies will need more support. Encourage class presidencies to involve other young women in planning so all can contribute and gain experience.

Youth and adult leaders plan service and activities following the guidelines in *General Handbook*, [11.8.1](#), and “[Service and Activities](#),” YoungWomen.ChurchofJesusChrist.org. See also the annual [First Presidency safety letter](#) and the Church’s [Safety and Health website](#) (ChurchofJesusChrist.org).

YOUNG WOMEN ACTIVITIES

Young women activities are held on a regularly scheduled day or evening other than Sunday or Monday. Help class presidencies plan activities that:

- Help strengthen young women's faith in Jesus Christ and help them progress along the covenant path.
- Provide a variety of opportunities for the young women to serve others and develop spiritually, socially, physically, and intellectually (see [Luke 2:52](#)).
- Encourage the young women to develop genuine friendships with each other outside of Sunday meetings.
- Help the young women find ways to apply gospel principles in their lives.
- Teach skills that will help the young women bless their families now and in the future.
- Allow the young women to have fun!

For more information about Young Women activities, see *General Handbook*, 11.8.1, and "[Service and Activities](#)" at YoungWomen.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The Children and Youth personal development program is a home-centered program to help youth improve spiritually, intellectually, physically, and socially. Young Women leaders can support young women and their families in this program by encouraging young women as they set and work toward their goals. Young Women leaders can also encourage class presidencies to plan Sunday meetings and weekday activities that will help the young women grow in these areas and reach their goals. (For more information, see ChildrenandYouth.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.)

Young Women Events

- **Standards events:** These events emphasize moral values and eternal goals. They help youth understand and commit to living gospel standards. For more information, see *General Handbook*, 11.8.5.
- **Bishopric youth discussions:** The bishopric plans and carries out bishopric youth discussions, which may be held with all the youth or with a certain age-group, and which can address specific needs as determined by the bishopric. For more information, see *General Handbook*, 11.8.2.
- **Young Women camp:** Camp gives young women a unique spiritual experience away from worldly influences. See *General Handbook*, 11.8.6, and the [Young Women Camp Guide](#) for more information.

- **For the Strength of Youth (FSY) conference:** This is a multistake youth activity held every other year for young women and young men ages 14 through 18. It is held under the direction of the Area Presidency, and Area Seventies oversee the planning and implementation of the events. Stake and ward leaders help youth register and arrange transportation. For more information, see the Church's [FSY website](https://www.ChurchofJesusChrist.org) (ChurchofJesusChrist.org).
- **Youth conference:** Young women and young men ages 14 through 18 may participate together in a ward or stake youth conference in years when an FSY conference is not held in their area. For more information, see *General Handbook*, [20.4](#), and the Church's [youth conference website](https://www.ChurchofJesusChrist.org) (ChurchofJesusChrist.org).

SUPPORT YOUNG WOMEN SERVING AS MINISTERING SISTERS

Beginning in January of the year they turn age 14, young women may be assigned by the Relief Society presidency to serve as companions to Relief Society sisters in ministering to the needs of women in the ward. Encourage and support young women in these assignments. Help the young women find opportunities through lessons and activities to prepare for this important work.

PARTICIPATE IN WARD COUNCIL AND WARD YOUTH COUNCIL MEETINGS AS INVITED

“The Lord’s Church is governed through councils” (*General Handbook*, [7.1](#)). The Young Women president may invite you to attend ward council or ward youth council meetings when she is absent. These councils meet regularly to discuss and plan how to support members in:

- Building testimonies.
- Receiving saving ordinances.
- Keeping covenants.
- Becoming consecrated followers of Jesus Christ.

ENCOURAGE YOUNG WOMEN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORK OF SALVATION AND EXALTATION

Young women will be blessed as they participate in the work of salvation and exaltation, including temple, family history, and missionary work. Counsel with your presidency about ways you can encourage the Young Women in your ward to participate in the work of salvation and exaltation. Also consider how participating in the work of salvation and exaltation can help your presidency minister to individual girls in your ward.

See [2020 Temple and Family History Leadership Instruction](https://www.ChurchofJesusChrist.org) (ChurchofJesusChrist.org).

WHO DO I WORK WITH?

YOUNG WOMEN IN THE WARD

Build sincere relationships with the young women in your ward to help them feel loved and help them come unto Christ. Encourage them to seek the guidance of the Spirit in fulfilling their sacred roles as young women.

YOUNG WOMEN PRESIDENCY AND SECRETARY

As a counselor in the Young Women presidency, you work under the direction of the Young Women president. You support and sustain her as you accept and prayerfully fulfill responsibilities she may delegate to you. You also seek inspiration so that you can use your unique gifts to bless the young women and their leaders. As your presidency counsels together and seeks to follow the example of the Savior, you will gain insights and inspiration about how best to minister to one another and to those you serve. (See *General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, [11.3.2–11.3.3](#).)

BISHOPRIC

The bishop holds the priesthood keys to direct the Lord's work in the ward. Through these keys, you have been given authority to help direct the work of the Young Women organization in your ward.

YOUNG WOMEN CLASS PRESIDENCIES

When young women are set apart to serve in a class presidency, they receive authority through priesthood keys to minister to the young women in their class, plan and carry out activities, and lead discussions and lessons. Support class presidencies as they fulfill these responsibilities. Help them love and serve each young woman in their class.

ADVISERS AND OTHERS WHO SERVE IN YOUNG WOMEN

As assigned by the Young Women president, meet with Young Women advisers and specialists before they begin serving to ensure that they have the instruction and resources they need to fulfill their callings. As assigned, you also provide ongoing guidance and support for Young Women advisers and specialists. (For information about callings in Young Women, see *General Handbook*, [11.3.4](#).)

AARONIC PRIESTHOOD QUORUM ADVISERS AND SPECIALISTS

Work with the Aaronic Priesthood quorum advisers and specialists to coordinate service and activities for the youth you serve.

WARD COUNCIL AND WARD YOUTH COUNCIL

Attend ward council and ward youth council meetings when the Young Women president invites you to go in her absence.

Council meetings should be revelatory experiences. Elder David A. Bednar taught the following about ward council meetings, and the same principle applies to ward youth council meetings: “We’ve been talking about a revelatory experience with the members of the ward council. And if members of councils, if members of families, as they come together, would think in terms of ‘I’m preparing to participate in a revelatory experience with my family’ instead of going to a meeting—a revelatory experience with the members of the ward council—I think we would prepare and act much differently” (in M. Russell Ballard, in “[Panel Discussion](#)” [worldwide leadership training meeting, Nov. 13, 2010], broadcasts.ChurchofJesusChrist.org).

PARENTS OF YOUNG WOMEN

“Parents have the first responsibility for the spiritual and physical welfare of their children (see [Doctrine and Covenants 68:25–28](#)). The bishopric and Young Women leaders support but do not replace parents in this responsibility” (*General Handbook*, [11.2](#)). Counsel with each young woman’s parents to better understand their daughter’s needs, interests, talents, and abilities. Encourage young women to talk with their parents, especially about how they can help each other keep the commandments and prepare for temple ordinances.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PRESIDENCY

“Members of the ward Sunday School presidency serve as specialists in the ward’s efforts to improve learning and teaching” (*General Handbook*, [13.5](#)). Counsel with them as you seek to improve teaching in Young Women.

STAKE YOUNG WOMEN PRESIDENCY

The stake Young Women presidency will be a resource to you, providing support and ongoing encouragement. In stake Young Women training meetings, you will receive instruction to help in your service.

*Young Women:
Secretary*

YOUNG WOMEN SECRETARY

From the Young Women General Presidency

Dear Young Women Secretary,

Thank you for accepting the call to serve in Young Women. We are excited for you to begin this wonderful journey. We know that Heavenly Father loves His daughters dearly, and He loves you! He will bless you as you draw nearer to Him and help the young women you serve do the same.

This is a glorious time to serve in the Young Women organization. President Russell M. Nelson has lifted our vision to a higher and holier way to serve, and he has called on our youth to be active participants in the work. As you ponder your new responsibilities, you will realize that your calling is not a list of things to do *for* young women. It is an opportunity to guide and nurture young women as they become covenant women of God. Their time in the Young Women program is a time for them to gain confidence in their ability to:

- Seek personal revelation and respond to the promptings of the Holy Ghost.
- Act on the doctrine they are learning and the covenant they made at baptism to follow God's plan.
- Minister to one another with Christlike love.
- Stand as witnesses of God "at all times and in all things, and in all places" ([Mosiah 18:9](#)) as they actively engage in gathering Israel and building the kingdom of God.

Your love for the young women will touch their hearts. Because of your love, they will be better able to recognize the love of their Father in Heaven and their Savior, Jesus Christ.

We know that this is the Lord's work and that He will assist you. Heavenly Father will help you to see His precious daughters as He sees them. He will direct you and magnify your efforts as you devote your time and love to the work. We pray that you will feel the joy of working with young women and the peace of serving the Lord to the best of your ability.

With love,

Bonnie H. Cordon
Michelle D. Craig
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The Young Women General Presidency

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

You have been called to minister to the young women in your ward. As a newly called Young Women secretary, you will likely feel a range of emotions about your responsibilities. Remember that you are not alone. This calling is a partnership with the Lord. As you seek the Lord's guidance in serving the young women in your ward, He will magnify your efforts at home and in your calling. You will feel His love for you, for the young women, and for their families. You will feel great joy as you serve Heavenly Father's precious daughters.

WHERE TO START

BEFORE YOU ARE SUSTAINED

- Counsel with the member of the bishopric who called you about where to begin.
- Seek guidance from the Spirit through prayer, scripture study, fasting, and, if possible, temple attendance.
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- Seek to understand your responsibilities as a Young Women secretary and the responsibilities of the Young Women presidency (see *General Handbook*, [11.3.2–11.3.3](#)).

AFTER YOU ARE SUSTAINED AND SET APART

- With so many responsibilities, remember that your family is your first priority.
- Continue to pray for guidance about your service.
- Counsel with the Young Women president about your responsibilities and how she would like you to support her.
- Assist the Young Women president in preparing agendas for presidency meetings. In these meetings, take notes and keep track of assignments. (See "[Participate in Presidency Meetings](#)" under "What Should I Focus On?")
- Access reports and lists on [Leader and Clerk Resources \(LCR\)](#) or in the Member Tools mobile app to help your presidency get to know members of the Young Women and be aware of the strengths and needs of the organization.
- Under the direction of the bishop, participate in training from the stake Young Women presidency and in other training as available.
- To ensure the safety of children and youth, complete the training course found at ProtectingChildren.ChurchofJesusChrist.org. You are required to renew this training every three years.

WHAT SHOULD I FOCUS ON?

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- Prepare spiritually.
- Counsel together.
- Minister to others.
- Teach the gospel of Jesus Christ.
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For more information, see *General Handbook*, [4.2](#).

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- Praying for each young woman.
- Getting to know each young woman’s interests, strengths, and challenges.
- Giving special attention to the needs of new members or less-active members.
- Showing love to each young woman in ways that are suited to her needs.
- Counseling with each young woman’s parents to learn ways you can help their daughter increase in faith and find joy in living the gospel of Jesus Christ (see *General Handbook*, [11.2](#)).
- Being willing to share your personal experiences and testimony of the gospel to help guide the young women along the covenant path.

GUIDE AND SUPPORT YOUNG WOMEN CLASS SECRETARIES

Under the direction of the Young Women president, you guide and support the young women serving as class secretaries. Young Women class secretaries are called of God and have been set apart by those who hold priesthood authority; because of this, they serve with priesthood power. You instruct class secretaries in their duties and oversee their work in keeping attendance records for the class they serve (see *General Handbook*, [11.3.3](#)). You also mentor them as they learn to prepare agendas (see [Sample Presidency Meeting Agenda](#)), take notes in meetings, and support their presidency members.

The call to serve as a class secretary may be the first calling a young woman receives. Some class secretaries, especially those who are new to the Young Women program, may need a lot of help from you. As young women gain experience, they will gain confidence and skill as leaders and will be able to take on more responsibility.

For more information about helping Young Women class secretaries, see [Leading in the Savior’s Way: Leadership Lessons for Young Women Class Presidencies](#) and [other training resources](#) on [YoungWomen.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#).

PARTICIPATE IN PRESIDENCY MEETINGS

Participate in regular presidency meetings with the members of the Young Women presidency. Help prepare agendas for presidency meetings, take notes, and keep track of assignments. Suggested agenda items for presidency meetings are listed below:

- Read and discuss scripture passages and instructions from Church leaders that relate to your responsibilities as Young Women leaders. Relevant sections of the [General Handbook](#) may be helpful.
- Counsel together about the strengths and needs of each young woman and her family. Counsel about how you can help the young women prepare to receive future ordinances and make and keep sacred covenants.
- Consider ways to minister to Young Women leaders or young women who need strengthening. You might consider reaching out to them in ways such as a visit or a conversation.
- Identify ways to prepare and support Young Women class presidencies as they fulfill their assignments to lead and minister to the young women they serve.
- Review upcoming lessons and activities that have been planned by class presidencies, and discuss how you can help the lessons and activities be successful. Discuss ways to improve gospel teaching and learning in Young Women.
- Prayerfully counsel together to recommend individuals to your bishopric for callings in Young Women. Make the calling of class presidencies a priority.
- Review counsel and assignments from the bishopric and from leadership meetings. Plan ways to follow the counsel and fulfill the assignments.
- Review the Young Women budget and expenditures.
- Review attendance records and discuss ways to encourage participation in Young Women meetings and activities.
- Share and act on the impressions you receive as you counsel together with the presidency (see [Doctrine and Covenants 8:2; 121:26](#)).

HELP OVERSEE YOUNG WOMEN PROGRAMS, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES

“Activities strengthen [young women] by giving them a sense of belonging and mutual support. Activities should help [young women] feel connected to others their age, to their leaders, and to their families. Activities should also help [young women] see how living the gospel brings ‘the joy of the saints’ ([Enos 1:3](#))” (*General Handbook*, [20.1](#)).

Class presidencies have the primary responsibility to plan and implement activities and events. You and other Young Women leaders prepare, guide, and support class presidencies so they may succeed. Remember that less-experienced presidencies will need more support. Encourage class presidencies to involve other young women in planning so all can contribute and gain experience.

Youth and adult leaders plan service and activities following the guidelines in *General Handbook*, 11.8.1, and “[Service and Activities](#)” at [YoungWomen.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#). See also the annual [First Presidency safety letter](#) and the Church’s [Safety and Health website](#) ([ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#)).

YOUNG WOMEN ACTIVITIES

Young women activities are held on a regularly scheduled day or evening other than Sunday or Monday. Help class presidencies plan activities that:

- Help strengthen young women’s faith in Jesus Christ and help them progress along the covenant path.
- Provide a variety of opportunities for the young women to serve others and develop spiritually, socially, physically, and intellectually (see [Luke 2:52](#)).
- Encourage the young women to develop genuine friendships with each other outside of Sunday meetings.
- Help the young women find ways to apply gospel principles in their lives.
- Teach skills that will help the young women bless their families now and in the future.
- Allow the young women to have fun!

For more information about Young Women activities, see *General Handbook*, 11.8.1, and “[Service and Activities](#)” at [YoungWomen.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#).

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The Children and Youth personal development program is a home-centered program to help youth improve spiritually, intellectually, physically, and socially. Young Women leaders can support young women and their families in this program by encouraging young women as they set and work toward their goals. Young Women leaders can also encourage class presidencies to plan Sunday meetings and activities that will help the young women grow in these areas and reach their goals. (For more information, see [ChildrenandYouth.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#).)

YOUNG WOMEN EVENTS

- **Standards events:** These events emphasize moral values and eternal goals. They help youth understand and commit to living gospel standards. For more information, see *General Handbook*, 11.8.5.
- **Bishopric youth discussions:** The bishopric plans and carries out bishopric youth discussions, which may be held with all the youth or with a certain age-group, and which can address specific needs as determined by the bishopric. For more information, see *General Handbook*, 11.8.2.
- **Young Women camp:** Camp gives young women a unique spiritual experience away from worldly influences. See *General Handbook*, 11.8.6, and the [Young Women Camp Guide](#) for more information.
- **For the Strength of Youth (FSY) conferences:** This is a multistake youth activity held every other year for young women and young men ages 14 through 18. It is held under the direction of the Area Presidency, and Area Seventies oversee the planning and implementation of the events. Stake and ward leaders help youth register and arrange transportation. For more information, see the Church's [FSY website](#) (ChurchofJesusChrist.org).
- **Youth conference:** Young women and young men ages 14 through 18 may participate together in a ward or stake youth conference in years when an FSY conference is not held in their area. For more information, see *General Handbook*, 20.4, and the Church's [youth conference website](#) (ChurchofJesusChrist.org).

SUPPORT YOUNG WOMEN SERVING AS MINISTERING SISTERS

Beginning in January of the year they turn age 14, young women may be assigned by the Relief Society presidency to serve as companions to Relief Society sisters in ministering to the needs of women in the ward. Encourage and support young women in these assignments. Help the young women find opportunities through lessons and activities to prepare for this important work.

ENCOURAGE YOUNG WOMEN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORK OF SALVATION AND EXALTATION

Young women will be blessed as they participate in the work of salvation and exaltation, including temple, family history, and missionary work. Counsel with your presidency about ways you can encourage the Young Women in your ward to participate in the work of salvation and exaltation. Also consider how participating in the work of salvation and exaltation can help your presidency minister to individual girls in your ward.

See [2020 Temple and Family History Leadership Instruction](#) (ChurchofJesusChrist.org).

ENSURE THAT ACCURATE RECORDS ARE KEPT

Keeping Church records is a scriptural mandate (see [Moroni 6:4](#); [Doctrine and Covenants 20:81–83](#); [21:1](#)). Your responsibilities for keeping the Young Women records include the following:

- Work with the Young Women president to oversee the records, reports, and finances of the Young Women organization.
- Compile attendance reports and other records and reports as requested. Review these reports with the Young Women president, and submit them on time to the ward clerk (see [Leader and Clerk Resources](#)).
- Use these records to help the Young Women presidency learn about the participation of young women in Young Women meetings and activities.
- Make sure that the Young Women presidency is aware of young women who will soon be entering Young Women.
- Help the Young Women president create and maintain an annual budget and record of expenses for Young Women.

WHO DO I WORK WITH?

YOUNG WOMEN IN THE WARD

Build sincere relationships with the young women in your ward to help them feel loved and help them come unto Christ. Encourage them to seek the guidance of the Spirit in fulfilling their sacred roles as young women.

YOUNG WOMEN PRESIDENCY

As a Young Women secretary, you work under the direction of the Young Women president. You support and sustain her as you accept and prayerfully fulfill responsibilities she may delegate to you. You also seek inspiration so that you can use your unique gifts to bless the young women and their leaders. As you counsel together with the Young Women presidency and seek to follow the example of the Savior, you will gain insights and inspiration about how best to minister to one another and to those you serve. (See *General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, [11.3.2](#).)

BISHOPRIC

The bishop holds the priesthood keys to direct the Lord's work in the ward. Through these keys, you have been given authority to support the work of the Young Women organization in your ward.

YOUNG WOMEN CLASS PRESIDENCIES

When young women are set apart to serve in a class presidency, they receive authority through priesthood keys to minister to the young women in their class, plan and carry out activities, and lead discussions and lessons. Support class presidencies as they fulfill these responsibilities. Help them love and serve each young woman in their class. As the Young Women secretary, you instruct class secretaries in the work of keeping class attendance records and other duties.

PARENTS OF YOUNG WOMEN

“Parents have the first responsibility for the spiritual and physical welfare of their children (see [Doctrine and Covenants 68:25–28](#)). The bishopric and Young Women leaders support but do not replace parents in this responsibility” (*General Handbook*, [11.2](#)). Counsel with each young woman's parents to better understand their daughter's needs, interests, talents, and abilities. Encourage young women to talk with their parents, especially about how they can help each other keep the commandments and prepare for temple ordinances.

STAKE YOUNG WOMEN PRESIDENCY

The stake Young Women presidency will be a resource to you, providing support and ongoing encouragement. In stake Young Women training meetings, you will receive instruction to help in your service.

*Young Women:
Advisor or
Specialist*

YOUNG WOMEN ADVISOR OR SPECIALIST

[\(YOUNG WOMEN CAMP GUIDE\)](#)

From the Young Women General Presidency

Dear Young Women Adviser or Specialist,

Thank you for accepting the call to serve in Young Women. We are excited for you to begin this wonderful journey. We know that Heavenly Father loves His daughters dearly, and He loves you! He will bless you as you draw nearer to Him and help the young women you serve do the same.

This is a glorious time to serve in the Young Women organization. President Russell M. Nelson has lifted our vision to a higher and holier way to serve, and he has called on our youth to be active participants in the work. As you ponder your new responsibilities, you will realize that your calling is not a list of things to do for young women. It is an opportunity to guide and nurture young women as they become covenant women of God. Their time in the Young Women program is a time for them to gain confidence in their ability to:

- Seek personal revelation and respond to the promptings of the Holy Ghost.
- Act on the doctrine they are learning and the covenant they made at baptism to follow God's plan.
- Minister to one another with Christlike love.
- Stand as witnesses of God "at all times and in all things, and in all places" ([Mosiah 18:9](#)) as they actively engage in gathering Israel and building the kingdom of God.

You will be assigned by the Young Women presidency to work with a specific Young Women class, and you will have the important task of mentoring the class presidency. These capable young women have been called by revelation and set apart by priesthood authority. They need the experience and opportunity to lead. Teach them how to serve under the direction of the Spirit. Nurture them as they learn to lead in the Savior's way. Help them succeed.

Your love for the young women will touch their hearts. Because of your love, they will be better able to recognize the love of their Father in Heaven and their Savior, Jesus Christ.

We know that this is the Lord's work and that He will assist you. Heavenly Father will help you to see His precious daughters as He sees them. He will direct you and magnify your efforts as you devote your time and love to the work. We pray that you will feel the joy of working with young women and the peace of serving the Lord to the best of your ability.

With love,
Bonnie H. Cordon
Michelle D. Craig
Becky Craven
The Young Women General Presidency

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

You have been called to minister to the young women in your ward. As a newly called Young Women adviser or specialist, you will likely feel a range of emotions about your responsibilities. Remember that you are not alone. This calling is a partnership with the Lord. As you seek the Lord's guidance in serving the young women in your ward, He will magnify your efforts at home and in your calling. You will feel His love for you, for the young women, and for their families. You will feel great joy as you serve Heavenly Father's precious daughters.

WHERE TO START

BEFORE YOU ARE SUSTAINED

- Seek guidance from the Spirit through prayer, scripture study, fasting, and, if possible, temple attendance.
- Read "[Young Women](#)," chapter 11 in *General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* (ChurchofJesusChrist.org), especially the purpose and objectives of the Young Women organization (see [11.1.1](#)) and the [Young Women Theme](#) (see [11.1.2](#)). Also review [chapters 1–4](#) in the *General Handbook*, which summarize the doctrinal foundation of God's plan and give more guidance.
- Seek to understand your responsibilities as a Young Women adviser or specialist (see *General Handbook*, [11.3.4](#); [11.3.7](#)).

AFTER YOU ARE SUSTAINED AND SET APART

- With so many responsibilities, remember that your family is your first priority.
- Continue to pray for guidance about your service.
- Obtain a list of young women in your class from the Young Women secretary. Counsel with the Young Women presidency and the class presidency to learn about the strengths and needs of each young woman in your class.
- Attend regular class presidency meetings. (See "[Attend Class Presidency Meetings](#)" under "What Should I Focus On?")
- As invited, attend ward Young Women presidency meetings. (See "[Participate in Young Women Presidency Meetings as Invited](#)" under "What Should I Focus On?")
- As invited, attend the Young Women president's meetings with the bishop (see *General Handbook*, [11.4.4](#)).
- Under the direction of the bishop, participate in training from the stake Young Women presidency and in other training as available.
- To ensure the safety of children and youth, complete the training course found at [ProtectingChildren.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#). You are required to renew this training every three years.
- Study the principles in [Teaching in the Savior's Way](#) (2016).

WHAT SHOULD I FOCUS ON?

“Leaders encourage members to engage in God’s work by becoming ‘true followers of ... Jesus Christ’ ([Moroni 7:48](#))” (*General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, [4.1](#)). Your focus is to help each young woman in your ward increase her faith, strengthen her conversion to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and prepare to receive future ordinances and make and keep sacred covenants.

In President Russell M. Nelson’s first address as President of the Church, he counseled: “Your commitment to follow the Savior by making covenants with Him and then keeping those covenants will open the door to every spiritual blessing and privilege available to men, women, and children everywhere. ... The end for which each of us strives is to be endowed with power in a house of the Lord, sealed as families, faithful to covenants made in a temple that qualify us for the greatest gift of God—that of eternal life” (“[As We Go Forward Together](#),” *Ensign*, Apr. 2018, 7).

LEAD IN THE SAVIOR’S WAY

You are a disciple of Jesus Christ. Discipleship includes loving, teaching, leading, and serving others. President Henry B. Eyring taught: “You are called to represent the Savior. Your voice to testify becomes the same as His voice, your hands to lift the same as His hands” (“[Rise to Your Call](#),” *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2002, 76).

The following leadership principles will help you and the Young Women class presidency you work with as you seek to bless the young women you serve:

- Prepare spiritually.
- Counsel together.
- Minister to others.
- Teach the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Administer the organization.

For more information, see *General Handbook*, [4.2](#).

TEACH IN THE SAVIOR’S WAY

Every lesson and activity is an opportunity for young women to learn the truths of the gospel and how to apply those truths to their daily lives. Help create a setting where the Spirit can teach. Help the young women recognize the promptings of the Holy Ghost, and invite them to act on what they hear and feel.

- Study the lessons in [Come Follow Me—For Aaronic Priesthood Quorums and Young Women Classes](#).
- Prayerfully prepare and teach the lessons the class presidency invites you to teach (see “[Assist with Sunday Young Women Meetings](#)” below).
- Instruct and mentor young women who are invited to teach a lesson or a portion of a lesson. Help them gain confidence in their ability to teach by the Spirit.
- Participate in teacher council meetings. In these meetings, teachers discuss the principles in [Teaching in the Savior’s Way](#). All Young Women advisers and specialists should attend these meetings (see [Teaching in the Savior’s Way](#), [3](#)).

KNOW AND MINISTER TO EACH YOUNG WOMAN IN YOUR CLASS

As you come to know and love the young women you are called to serve, you can help them progress toward lifelong conversion to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Prayerfully counsel together with the Young Women presidency and with your class presidency to decide who needs your time and attention. As you reach out to those you are inspired to serve, you will find that your love for each young woman increases. As you pray for the gift of charity, your heart will be filled with love for the Savior and for others (see [Moroni 7:46–48](#)).

Elder Dale G. Renlund taught: “In the Church, to effectively serve others we must see them through a parent’s eyes, through Heavenly Father’s eyes. Only then can we begin to comprehend the true worth of a soul. Only then can we sense the love that Heavenly Father has for all of His children. Only then can we sense the Savior’s caring concern for them. ... Only when we see through Heavenly Father’s eyes can we be filled with ‘the pure love of Christ’ [[Moroni 7:47](#)]” (“[Through God’s Eyes](#),” *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2015, 94).

You can come to know and love the young women you serve by:

- Praying for each young woman.
- Getting to know each young woman’s interests, strengths, and challenges.
- Giving special attention to the needs of new members or less-active members.
- Showing love to each young woman in ways that are suited to her needs.
- Under the direction of the Young Women presidency, counseling with each young woman’s parents to learn ways you can help their daughter increase in faith and find joy in living the gospel of Jesus Christ (see *General Handbook*, [11.2](#)).
- Being willing to share your personal experiences and testimony of the gospel to help guide the young women along the covenant path.

GUIDE AND SUPPORT THE YOUNG WOMEN CLASS PRESIDENCY

One of your most important responsibilities as a Young Women adviser or specialist is to guide and support the young women serving in the class presidency. Young Women class presidencies are called of God and have been set apart by those who hold priesthood authority; because of this, they serve with priesthood power. You have the opportunity to shepherd these young women as they learn to seek and act upon revelation as leaders, to counsel together as a presidency, and to minister to those they have been called to serve. You will mentor them as they learn to act under the direction of the bishopric and participate as members of the ward youth council.

The call to serve in a class presidency is the first calling that many young women receive. Some class leaders, especially those who are new to the Young Women program, may need a lot of help from you. They may need to begin by sharing responsibility with an adult leader or by having responsibility for just a portion of an activity or lesson. As young women gain experience, they will gain confidence and skill as leaders and will be able to take on more responsibility.

A brief leadership training should be a part of each class presidency meeting (see "[Quorum and Class Presidency Resources](#)"), but the most valuable training will come as the young women work with you and see you lead in the Savior's way. Remember that as you guide the class presidency, you are preparing the future leaders of homes, communities, and the Church—it is a glorious work. Class presidencies have the primary responsibility to plan Sunday Young Women meetings as outlined in *Come, Follow Me—For Aaronic Priesthood Quorums and Young Women Classes* (see "[Assist with Sunday Young Women Meetings](#)" below). They also have the primary responsibility to plan and implement service and activities (see "[Assist with Young Women Programs, Events, and Activities](#)" below). To do this effectively, class presidencies will need to identify the needs of class members. Encourage them to prayerfully ponder questions such as the following:

- What would help the young women in our ward better understand and live the gospel?
- How can we help them feel the love of the Lord and discover the blessings of following Him?
- What interests and goals do the young women have? What skills do they need to learn for the future?
- How can we bless each young woman in a way that builds and supports her family as well?
- What can we do to build unity among the young women?
- How can we reach out to those who do not attend regularly?

As the class presidency prays for and gets to know the young women they serve, they will be better prepared to plan Sunday meetings and Young Women service and activities. Understanding class members' needs will guide their ministering efforts as a presidency, and they will discover the joy of representing the Savior and caring for others as He would.

For more information about helping Young Women class presidencies, see [Leading in the Savior's Way: Leadership Lessons for Young Women Class Presidencies](#) and [other training resources](#) on YoungWomen.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

ATTEND CLASS PRESIDENCY MEETINGS

You can help the young women in your class presidency develop as leaders by meeting with them regularly. A member of the Young Women presidency also attends these meetings, and you work under her direction. In these meetings you should communicate clear and loving expectations for the young women, help the young women understand their callings, teach them how to lead, and express your trust in their ability to lead.

Class presidency meetings should be conducted by the class president, with guidance from a member of the Young Women presidency as needed. The Young Women presidency member assigned to your class may ask you to help the class president prepare agendas for the meetings (see [Sample Presidency Meeting Agenda](#)). In these meetings, the class presidency may:

- Receive leadership training from a member of the Young Women presidency (see "[Quorum and Class Presidency Resources](#)"). The Young Women presidency member over your class may sometimes assign you to present this training.
- Discuss ways to get to know the class members and minister to them with genuine friendship and simple service.
- Counsel together about upcoming Sunday Young Women meetings, considering who will conduct each meeting, who should teach each lesson, and which items need to be discussed in the "Counsel Together" segment of the meeting (see "[Assist with Sunday Young Women Meetings](#)" below).
- Plan service and activities that will bless and strengthen the young women and bring unity to the class (see "[Assist with Young Women Programs, Events, and Activities](#)" below).
- Discuss how they, as class leaders, can help the young women feel and recognize the Spirit, feel Heavenly Father's love, and learn gospel principles.
- Identify ways they can demonstrate the joy of living the gospel and following the Savior in all areas of their lives.
- Consider items to discuss in ward youth council meetings (see *General Handbook*, [29.2.9](#)). Also review counsel and assignments from previous ward youth council meetings. Discuss how they are following the counsel and fulfilling the assignments.

PARTICIPATE IN YOUNG WOMEN PRESIDENCY MEETINGS AS INVITED

Participate in ward Young Women presidency meetings as invited by the Young Women presidency. In these meetings, counsel with the Young Women presidency about how you can minister to the young women and support the class presidencies.

ASSIST WITH SUNDAY YOUNG WOMEN MEETINGS

Sunday Young Women meetings are sacred opportunities for young women to increase in knowledge and testimony of our Savior. A member of the class presidency conducts each meeting, leads the young women in reciting the [Young Women theme](#) (see *General Handbook*, [11.1.2](#)), and leads the “Counsel Together” discussion that begins each lesson. A member of the Young Women presidency, a Young Women adviser, or an invited young woman teaches the lesson. Young women may also be invited to teach a portion of a lesson. When young women are invited to teach, Young Women leaders or their parents help them prepare. (See *General Handbook*, [11.6](#).)

Lessons in Young Women classes follow the outlines in [Come, Follow Me—For Aaronic Priesthood Quorums and Young Women Classes](#). Young women learn doctrine from the scriptures and general conference messages, discuss how the doctrine applies to their lives, and counsel together about how they can act on what they are learning.

Seek to create a safe environment that invites the Spirit for young women. When adults are teaching young women in Church settings, at least two responsible adults should be present. Follow Church policies and guidelines on preventing and responding to abuse, as outlined in “[Preventing and Responding to Abuse](#).”

For more information on Sunday meetings, see “Using *Come, Follow Me—For Aaronic Priesthood Quorums and Young Women Classes*” on the [Come, Follow Me](#) website (ChurchofJesusChrist.org).

ASSIST WITH YOUNG WOMEN PROGRAMS, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES

“Activities strengthen [young women] by giving them a sense of belonging and mutual support. Activities should help [young women] feel connected to others their age, to their leaders, and to their families. Activities should also help [young women] see how living the gospel brings ‘the joy of the saints’ ([Enos 1:3](#))” (*General Handbook*, [20.1](#)).

Class presidencies have the primary responsibility to plan and implement activities and events. You and other Young Women leaders prepare, guide, and support class presidencies so they may succeed. Remember that less-experienced presidencies will need more support. Encourage class presidencies to involve other young women in planning so all can contribute and gain experience.

Youth and adult leaders plan service and activities following the guidelines in *General Handbook*, 11.8.1, and “[Service and Activities](#)” at [YoungWomen.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#). See also the annual [First Presidency safety letter](#) and the Church’s [Safety and Health website](#) (ChurchofJesusChrist.org).

YOUNG WOMEN ACTIVITIES

Young women activities are held on a regularly scheduled day or evening other than Sunday or Monday. Help class presidencies plan activities that:

- Help strengthen young women's faith in Jesus Christ and help them progress along the covenant path.
- Provide a variety of opportunities for the young women to serve others and develop spiritually, socially, physically, and intellectually (see [Luke 2:52](#)).
- Encourage the young women to develop genuine friendships with each other outside of Sunday meetings.
- Help the young women find ways to apply gospel principles in their lives.
- Teach skills that will help the young women bless their families now and in the future.
- Allow the young women to have fun!

For more information about Young Women activities, see *General Handbook*, 11.8.1, and "[Service and Activities](#)" at YoungWomen.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The Children and Youth personal development program is a home-centered program to help youth improve spiritually, intellectually, physically, and socially. Young Women leaders can support young women and their families in this program by encouraging young women as they set and work toward their goals. Young Women leaders can also encourage class presidencies to plan Sunday meetings and weekday activities that will help the young women grow in these areas and reach their goals. (For more information, see ChildrenandYouth.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.)

YOUNG WOMEN EVENTS

- **Standards events:** These events emphasize moral values and eternal goals. They help youth understand and commit to living gospel standards. For more information, see *General Handbook*, 11.8.5, and [True to the Faith](#).
- **Bishopric youth discussions:** The bishopric plans and carries out bishopric youth discussions, which may be held with all the youth or with a certain age-group, and which can address specific needs as determined by the bishopric. For more information, see *General Handbook*, 11.8.2.
- **Young Women camp:** Camp gives young women a unique spiritual experience away from worldly influences. See *General Handbook*, 11.8.6, and the [Young Women Camp Guide](#) for more information.
- **For the Strength of Youth (FSY) conference:** This is a multistake youth activity held every other year for young women and young men ages 14 through 18. It is held under the direction of the Area Presidency, and Area Seventies oversee the planning and implementation of the events. Stake and ward leaders help youth register and arrange transportation. For more information, see the Church's [FSY website](#) (ChurchofJesusChrist.org).
- **Youth conference:** Young women and young men ages 14 through 18 may participate together in a ward or stake youth conference in years when an FSY conference is not held in their area. For more information, see *General Handbook*, [20.4](#), and the Church's [youth conference website](#) (ChurchofJesusChrist.org).

SUPPORT YOUNG WOMEN SERVING AS MINISTERING SISTERS

Beginning in January of the year they turn age 14, young women may be assigned by the Relief Society presidency to serve as companions to Relief Society sisters in ministering to the needs of women in the ward. Encourage and support young women in these assignments. Help the young women find opportunities through lessons and activities to prepare for this important work.

WHO DO I WORK WITH?

YOUNG WOMEN IN THE WARD

Build sincere relationships with the young women in your ward to help them feel loved and help them come unto Christ. Encourage them to seek the guidance of the Spirit in fulfilling their sacred roles as young women.

YOUNG WOMEN PRESIDENCY AND SECRETARY

As a Young Women adviser or specialist, you work under the direction of the Young Women president and provide support to the Young Women presidency. You also seek inspiration so that you can use your unique gifts to bless the young women and the other leaders. As you counsel together with the Young Women presidency and secretary and seek to follow the example of the Savior, you will gain insights and inspiration about how best to minister to those you serve.

(See *General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, [11.3.2–11.3.3](#).)

YOUNG WOMEN CLASS PRESIDENCY

When young women are set apart to serve in a class presidency, they receive authority through priesthood keys to minister to the young women in their class, plan and carry out activities, and lead discussions and lessons. Support your class presidency as they fulfill these responsibilities. Help them love and serve each young woman in the class.

OTHER YOUTH LEADERS

The Young Women presidency may request that you work with other Young Women advisers, specialists, or Aaronic Priesthood leaders to coordinate events or activities.

PARENTS OF YOUNG WOMEN

“Parents have the first responsibility for the spiritual and physical welfare of their children (see [Doctrine and Covenants 68:25–28](#)). The bishopric and Young Women leaders support but do not replace parents in this responsibility” (*General Handbook*, [11.2](#)). Counsel with each young woman’s parents to better understand their daughter’s needs, interests, talents, and abilities. Encourage young women to talk with their parents, especially about how they can help each other keep the commandments and prepare for temple ordinances.

HYPERLINKS TO ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

LEADERSHIP LESSONS FOUND IN THE GOSPEL LIBRARY

[LESSON 1: PREPARING FOR AND CONDUCTING MEETINGS](#)

[LESSON 2: COUNSELING TOGETHER](#)

[LESSON 3: THE WORK OF SALVATION AND EXALTATION](#)

[LESSON 4: PLANNING SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES](#)

[LESSON 5: MINISTERING](#)

MORE RESOURCE LINKS

[CHILDREN AND YOUTH DISCOVER PAGE](#)

[SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH](#)

[GOSPEL LIVING APP](#)

[YOUNGWOMEN.CHURCHOFJESUSCHRIST.ORG](#)

[AARONICPRIESTHOODQUORUMS.CHURCHOFJESUSCHRIST.ORG](#)

Quorum and Class Presidency Resources

Orientation Guide

[Aaronic Priesthood Quorum and Young Women Class Presidency Orientation](#)

Planning Documents

[Sample Presidency Meeting Agenda](#)
[Service and Activity Guidelines for Youth](#)
[Service and Activity Planner](#)
[Detailed Service and Activity Plan](#)

Leadership Lessons

Lessons to help youth learn and implement leadership principles.

- [Lesson 1: Preparing for and Conducting Meetings](#)
- [Lesson 2: Counseling Together](#)
- [Lesson 3: The Work of Salvation and Exaltation](#)
- [Lesson 4: Planning Service and Activities](#)
- [Lesson 5: Ministering](#)

Additional instruction for [Aaronic Priesthood quorum presidencies](#) and [Young Women class presidencies](#) can be found under “Ward or Branch Callings” on ChurchofJesusChrist.org.

(Refer to pages 24 - 105 of this document for the additional instruction for young women.)