SCOUTING PARADIGM SHIFT

The Blessing of Implementing the WHOLE Program of Scouting

Brad Harris

MY THOUGHTS

I have seen the magic of the Scouting program when properly implemented. I first observed this in Corvallis in 1981. Since 1981 I have witnessed thousands of positive interactions across the country, where Scouting was dynamic, vibrant and relevant.

I have also seen many Scouting programs that held no magic; parents and advisers casually approaching this inspired program as if it were just another assignment to be completed.

It is this gap, the Grand Canyon of potential between the “**magical**” and the “**mundane**” that concerns me.

Six summers in Boy Scout camps in California, Oregon and Colorado is where this gap was most revealed.

LATTER-DAY SAINT UNITS vs OTHERS

Church Policies That Make Us Unique

- LDS Leaders called
- Quorum Identity "13 yr old SPL"
- No Sunday activities
- Church pays registration
- Fundraising restrictions

Improper Applications that Widen the Gap

- Overemphasis on advancement
- Low tenure but improving
- Low attendance Roundtable, training, etc
- Less "skin in the game"
- "Rent-a-Dad" summer camp

Good news: No reason to have this gap anymore. Quantity of Scouting is down, but quality should go up. That means better prepared missionaries and covenant keepers.

SCOUTING OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

ADVANTAGES

- No “callings” - only men/women with boys in the program participate
- Fewer fundraising & travel restrictions
- 11 year-olds are 100% Scouts in the Troop
- Larger troops, older youth lead younger youth
- Grade versus age. Entire Webelos Den advances at same time
- You select adult leadership, youth elect youth leadership.

DISADVANTAGES

- You pay registration
- You recruit & support leadership

OUR CHALLENGE

DEVELOP A GROWTH MIND SET

LIONS, TIGERS & BEARS OH MY!

THINK BIG

AIMS & METHODS OF SCOUTING

AIMS OF SCOUTING

- Character
- Citizenship
- Fitness

METHODS OF SCOUTING

CUB SCOUTS

Ideals
Den
Advancement
Family Involvement
Neighborhood-centered
Uniform
Activities

SCOUTS BSA

Ideals
Patrol Method
Advancement
Outdoor Program
Adult Association
Personal Growth
Leadership
Uniform

Venturing

Ideals
Group Activities
Recognition
Adult Association
High Adventure
Teaching Others
Leadership

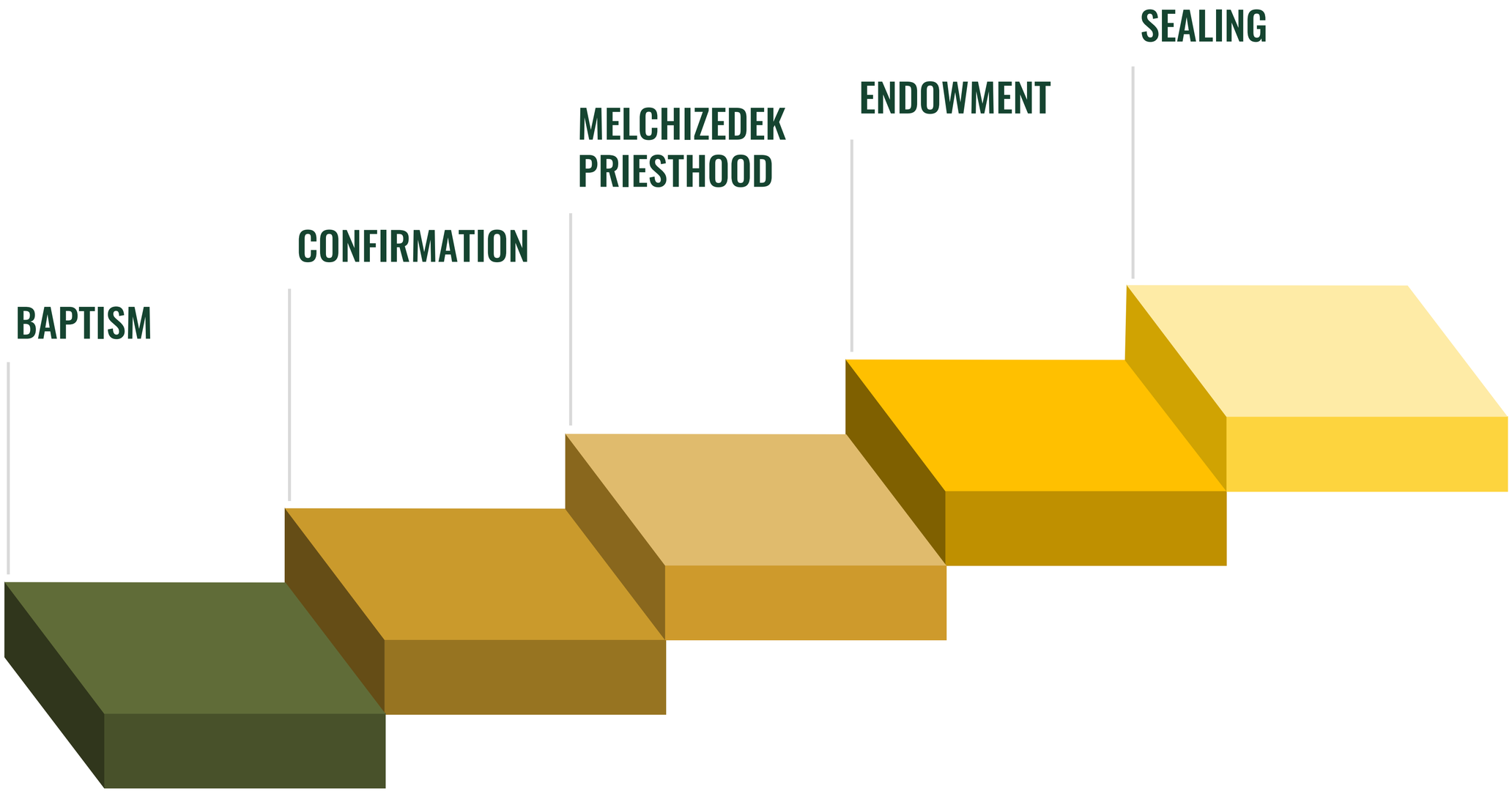
STRATEGIES/PROGRESSION OF SCOUTING

Cub Scouting - Grades K-5	Scouts BSA - Ages 11-17	Venturing - Ages 14-20
Den	Patrol	Crew
Advancement	Advancement	Recognition
Neighborhood and family centered	Outdoors	High adventure
Activities planned by adults	Activities planned by the PLC	Activities planned by the youth
The Ideals – Character, Citizenship, Fitness	The Ideals – Character, Citizenship, Fitness	The Ideals – Character, Citizenship, Fitness
Uniform	Uniform	
Leadership introduced	Leadership applied	Leadership and Teaching Others

SIX YEAR MISSION PREP PROGRAM VIA SCOUTING

Emphasis	Outcomes
Patrol Method – youth leadership & adult shadow leadership	Willing and able to take responsibility
Advancement – Scouts learn, are tested, reviewed & recognized	Persistent at overcoming obstacles & competent in life skills
Uniform – Sense of belonging	Able to work in a team for a common purpose
Leadership – National Youth Leadership Training	Leadership skills & experience
Scouting Ideals – Reciting & living Scout Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan	Prioritized Actions: 1. God, 2. Country and others, 3. Self
Outdoors – (40-50 nights camping away from home) – conducting reflections & seeking spiritual experiences	Spiritual strength & capacity to do hard things
Adult Association – Selecting inspired leaders, Scoutmaster conferences, using merit badge counselor list	Positive association with many adult mentors

THE PATH – THROUGH ORDINANCES OF SALVATION



THE POWER OF A MISSION

RETURN MISSIONARY

NON-RETURN MISSIONARY

	RETURN MISSIONARY	NON-RETURN MISSIONARY
Temple Marriage	92%	38%
Temple Recommend	76%	21%
Graduated College	35%	18%
Held Managerial Position	30%	12%

RETURNED MISSION PRESIDENTS SURVEY

In 2014 in the MTC we interviewed 17 recently returned mission presidents.

“What are the characteristics of successful missionaries?”

Top four answers:

1. They know how to work hard
2. They have made obedience a personal quest
3. They are good communicators
4. Have a testimony of Book of Mormon and gospel

Can Scouting, if properly applied, help with this?

INTERVIEW WITH MTC PRESIDENT NALLY (2015)

Wishes for three things from ALL missionaries before entering the MTC

1. A significant away from home experience before the mission
2. Work Ethic
3. Leadership Opportunities

Can Scouting, if properly applied, help with this?

INTERVIEWS WITH MISSIONARY DR. & MISSION PRES.

The mission should NOT be the first time a young man/woman has:

- Been away from home for an extended period-of-time
- Worked from sunup to sundown
- Cooked their own meal
- Shopped for groceries to make that meal
- Cooked a few different meals on a stovetop *(no microwave)*
- Washed dishes by hand *(no dishwasher)*
- Done their own laundry
- Gotten up early (by 6am)
- Read the Book of Mormon - cover to cover
- Walked more than 10 miles in same day
- Bicycled more than 20 miles in same day
- Balanced the use of electronic devices
- Approached strangers at the door or on the street
- Taught a spiritual lesson from Preach My Gospel

Can Scouting, if properly applied, help with this?

“Anxiety and depression and obsessive-compulsive disorder are the three main reasons we are seeing people coming home from missions - and the inability to handle new stressors.

Let's say you are someone who can handle a stress level of seven, and you live your life at a stress level of six by going to your room and listening to your iPod or going to the gym or playing [video games] or whatever you do to handle stress. Then you add a new stress or rigor to your life. How many kids have worked a 13-hour day? They get above a level seven, and they don't know how to get back to a six”

– Jonathan Sandberg
Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy at BYU

“Depression and suicide have skyrocketed since 2011. It’s not an exaggeration to describe iGen as being on the brink of the worst mental health crisis in decades. Much of this deterioration can be traced to their phones, and to social media. There is compelling evidence that the devices we’ve placed in young people’s hands are having profound effects on their lives—and making them seriously unhappy…

Teens who spend more time than average on screen activities are more likely to be unhappy, and those who spend more time than average on non-screen activities are more likely to be happy.

There’s not a single exception. All screen activities are linked to less happiness, and all non-screen activities are linked to more happiness.”

– Jean Twenge

Psychology Professor at San Diego State University

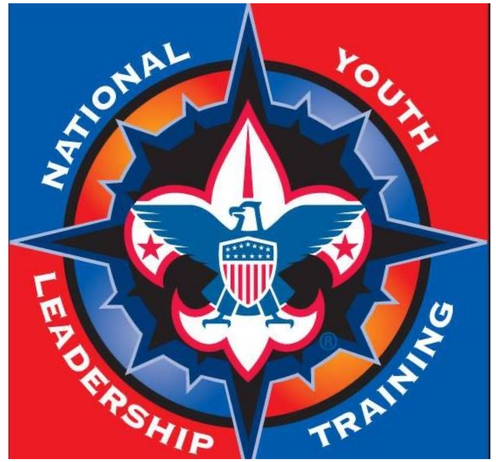
“Using gaming (video games) as an outlet worsens anxiety issue – kids’ ability to deal with reality diminishes”

“Even an hour a day is too much!”

– President Martino
President of the Provo Missionary Training Center

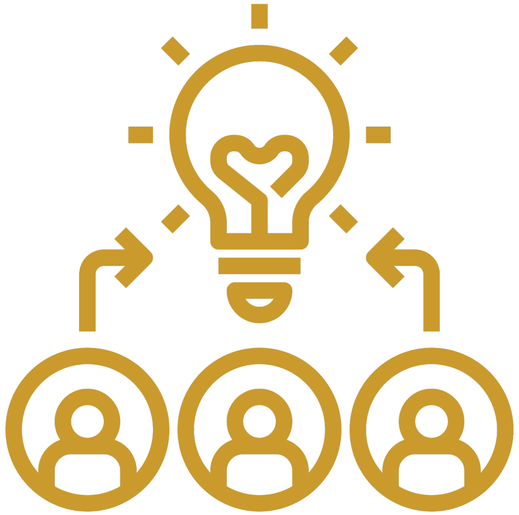
HOLY HABITS: WORKING WITH YOUTH

- Annual planning retreat
- Shadow Leadership
- Planned Privations
  - *We're raising the "wimp generation"*
  - *Frequent Outdoor experiences – spiritual antennae tuned*
- Leadership training – NYLT
- Conduct reflections



HOLY HABIT: ANNUAL PLANNING RETREAT

- Overnight activity away from the city, gadgets, wireless, etc. Do “fun” things & plan activities for the year
- Brainstorm – get youth input
- Plan big activities & monthly themes
- Spiritual antennae should be tuned to assure each activity has a spiritual/testimony building purpose
- An adult & a youth in charge of each activity
- Come down from the mountain with an annual plan that parents can put in their schedules & on the refrigerator
- The youth will feel ownership



HOLY HABIT: SHADOW LEADERSHIP

- Patrol Method
- Patrol Leaders Council
  - *Scoutmaster is advocate from the PLC to the Troop Committee*
  - *Scoutmaster is messenger from the Troop Committee to the PLC*
- Recognize Priesthood Keys

HOLY HABIT: PLANNED PRIVATIONS

Alma 26:28-29 – Sons of Mosiah

28 And now behold, we have come, and been forth amongst them; and we have been patient in our sufferings, and we have suffered every privation; yea, we have traveled from house to house, relying upon the mercies of the world—not upon the mercies of the world alone but upon the mercies of God.

29 And we have entered into their houses and taught them, and we have taught them in their streets

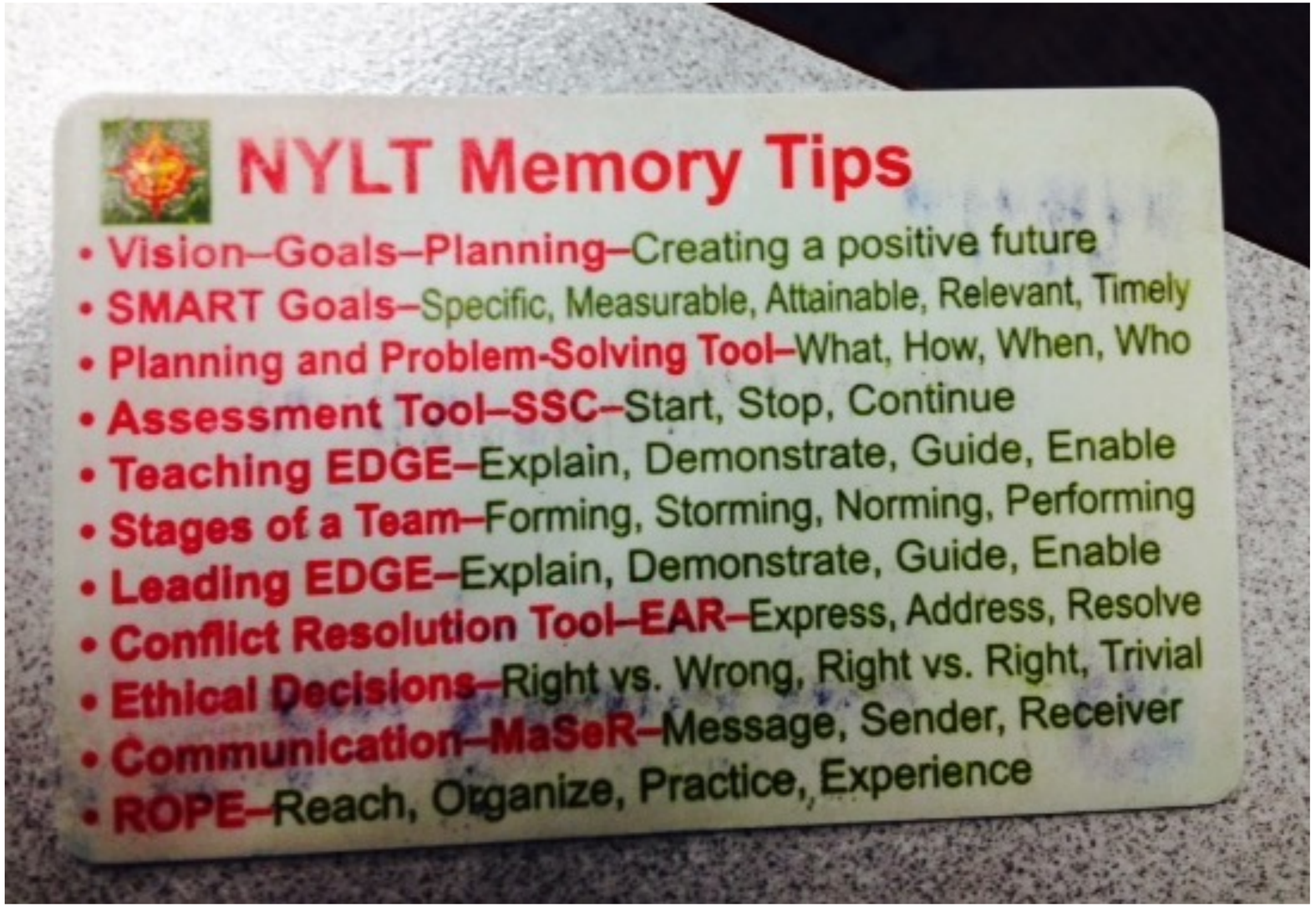
Privation – the loss or absence of a quality or attribute that is normally present

HOLY HABIT: PLANNED PRIVATIONS

Can Scouting become a series of mini planned privations, designed to prepare youth for future hardships (the mission)?

Examples of mini planned privations in Scouting

HOLY HABIT: LEADERSHIP TRAINING



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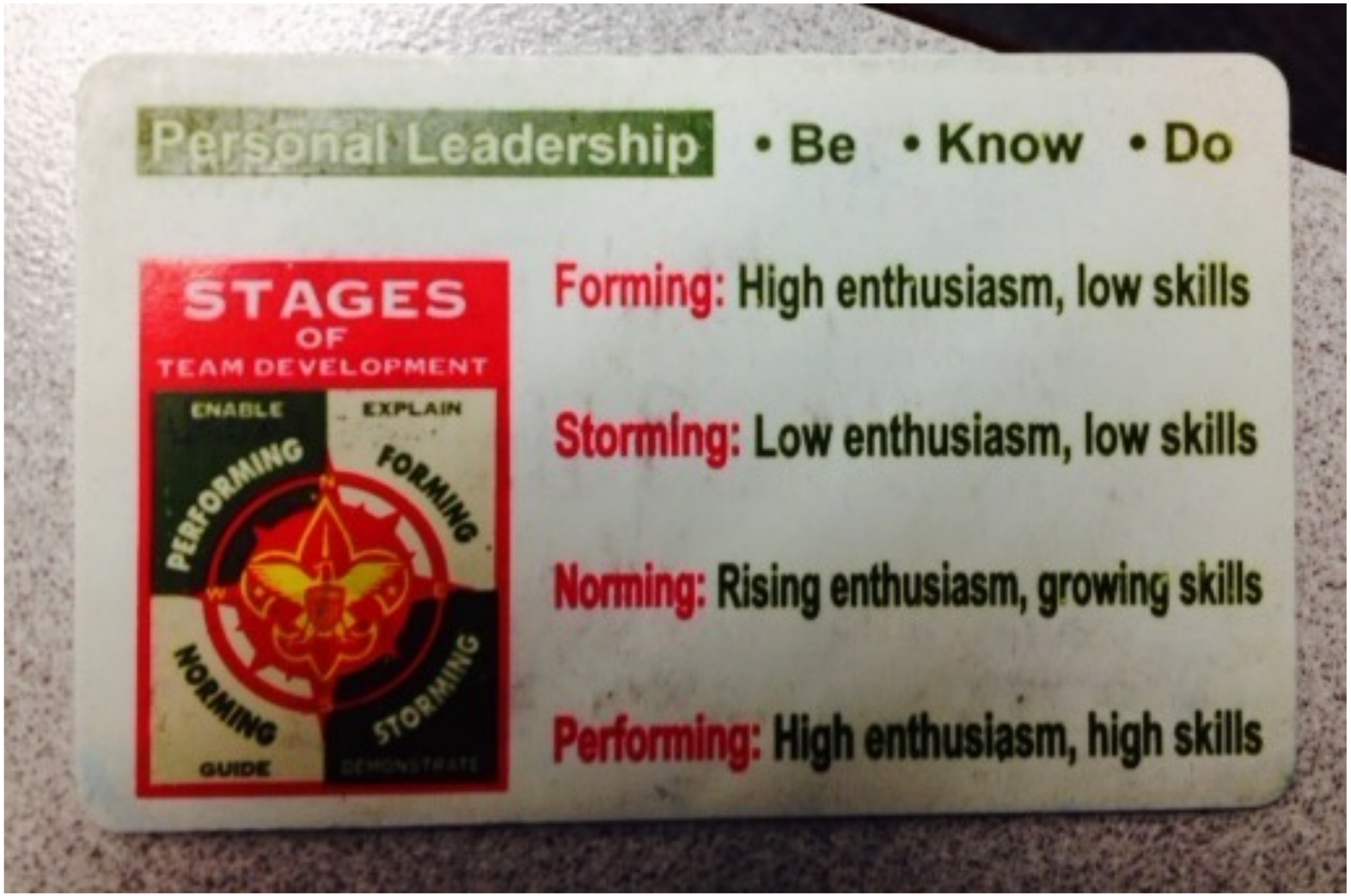

HOLY HABIT: CONDUCT REFLECTIONS

1. The reflection should be conducted immediately after the event
2. Ask 0pen-ended questions. **Roses** (What went well), **Buds** (What did we learn?), and **Thorns** (What could we have done better?)
3. Make a rule, no putdowns are allowed. Every response is welcome & valid
4. End with a spiritual application

Alma declared:

“All things denote there is a God; yea even the earth, and all things that are upon the face of it, ... do witness that there is a Supreme Creator. *(Alma 30:44)*

Utah Lake Experience

QUESTIONS?