

YOUTH VOICES

SERVING IN THE PRIESTHOOD



"We serve in our callings because we have been **called by the Lord** through our quorum presidencies or bishop. Thinking about why we serve helps us serve our fellow members. Serving in a calling is something that no priesthood holder should back down from, no matter how daunting the task may seem."

Jayden B., 15, Australia

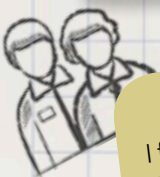


"We give priesthood service because it's our privileged duty that **God entrusted to us** here on earth. I serve not only because I love the priesthood and love serving but also because while I serve I **feel even closer to my Heavenly Father.**"

Ryan H., 18, California, USA

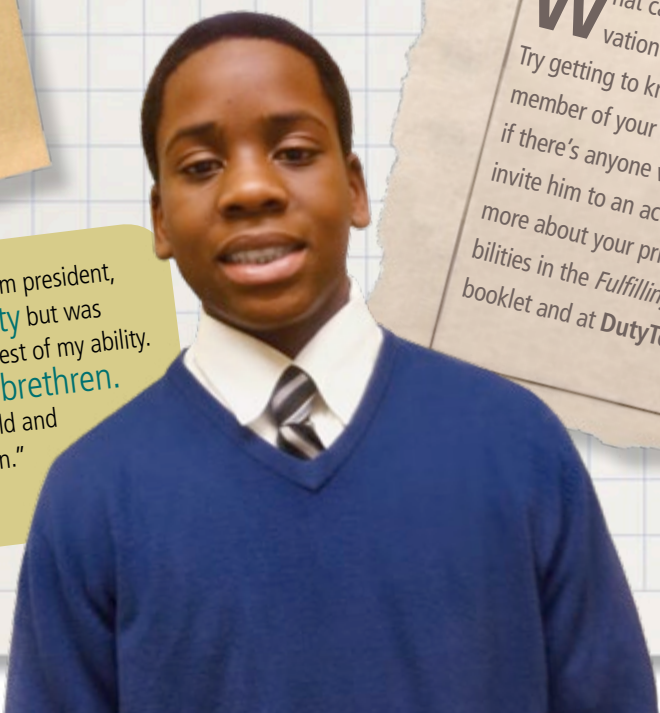
As you learn about your priesthood duties, it's important to know not just **what** your duties are but **why** it's important to do them (see President Dieter F. Uchtdorf's address on this subject at lds.org/go/123Why). If you don't understand why you serve, then you probably won't be as motivated to serve. And it's much easier to serve with motivation. As Gary F., 15, from Utah, USA, explains, "While it's good to be doing what you're supposed to do, it helps to know why you're doing it. When you understand why, you want to work harder and do more because you're doing it for an important cause and not just because you're expected to or are supposed to be serving."
So why do you serve? Here's what several young men had to say. Share your thoughts at lds.org/go/123Serve.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?
What can you do to find more motivation in your priesthood service? Try getting to know each individual member of your quorum better. Find out if there's anyone who isn't coming and invite him to an activity. You can learn more about your priesthood responsibilities in the *Fulfilling My Duty to God* booklet and at DutyToGod.Lds.org.



"When I was ordained as deacons quorum president, I found this to be a **great responsibility** but was determined to carry out this calling to the best of my ability. I was **excited to serve my fellow brethren.** Priesthood power is a wonderful gift to hold and has motivated me to serve in any way I can."

Eghosa O., 16, England



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Mormon Messages for Youth Video
 See how one young man sought to fulfill his priesthood duty by reaching out to one of his quorum members in the short video "My Duty to God" at lds.org/go/123Duty.



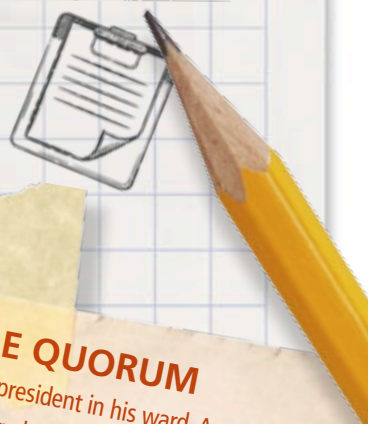
THE WHY OF PRIESTHOOD SERVICE

"From the newest ordained deacon to the most senior high priest, we all have lists of *what* we could and should do in our priesthood responsibilities. The *what* is important in our work, and we need to attend to it. But it is in the *why* of priesthood service that we discover the fire, passion, and power of the priesthood. The *what* of priesthood service teaches us what to do. The *why* inspires our souls. The *what* informs, but the *why* transforms."

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, "The *Why* of Priesthood Service," *Ensign*, May 2012, 59.

"Understanding why I give priesthood service helped me become a **better missionary** while acting as deacons quorum president. As new people joined my quorum, I got to **teach them** how a deacon should act and **help them** with their duties. The more I serve, the greater my understanding and desire to serve others become."
 Lynden A., 14, England (on left, his brother Mikaeel, 11)

"When I was called as the teachers quorum president in my ward last year, I was inspired to focus many of my efforts on directing other young men in the Scouting program. I wish to **inspire the other young men to yearn for the blessings and lessons** found in the great experience of Scouting. I hope that my actions can serve as a guide for the future young men in my ward."
 Joseph Z., 17, Maryland, USA



"The more I can do to magnify my calling and serve the Lord, the happier I can be. For every act of service done in my calling, it seems as though the Lord blesses me tenfold. My calling has also been **a blessing to the lives of others**. I know that because of my service in the Church, my family is blessed and brought closer together. Service in a calling can literally transform your life and **bring sincere, true happiness** to you and everyone else around you. My calling has inspired me to do more and to serve a mission, and for that I am eternally grateful."
 Joshua N., 16, Utah, USA

BRINGING THE WHOLE QUORUM
While serving as deacons quorum president in his ward, Austin C. from Idaho, USA, was issued a challenge by a visiting authority to get his entire quorum to attend Sunday meetings. He took that challenge seriously. He says, "I had regular meetings with my quorum presidency. We would meet at my house, start with a prayer, talk about the members of the quorum, and then go on visits. We weren't always warmly received, but we were persistent. Each week we . . . reported to our quorum advisers. . . . They stood ready to help us, but they let us plan the activities and make things happen."
 After several months, Austin's persistence and the efforts of the rest of his quorum finally paid off. Austin was able to send a letter to the visiting authority to report, "All of the less-active deacons are coming to church. I am starting to get an idea of the kind of work I will be involved in on my mission. Thank you for the challenge. I will continue to work with others that I know and share the gospel with them."
 For more on this story, visit lds.org/go/123Austin.

