



# TRAIL LIFE USA

## FAITH-BUILDING ACTIVITY OPTIONS FOR ADVENTURERS



*Trail Life USA is a Christ-centered outdoor adventure, leadership, and character development ministry. Within the operations of the local Troop, the primary statement/profession of Christian beliefs, faith, and/or doctrine is that belonging to the Charter Organization. As with any of its ministries, the Charter Organization should take steps to ensure the Troop appropriately reflects these beliefs. Furthermore, all Trail Life USA Charter Organizations and Registered Adult Members must concurrently adhere to the Christian principles stated in Trail Life USA’s Statements of Faith and Values.*

*For the Adventurers Freedom Award Faith-Building requirement, choose one option from the list below. The Adventurer Advisor and the Troop Chaplain must give prior approval before beginning any Faith-Building Activity. Activities must be completed in conformity with Youth Protection Guidelines.*

### Option 1: Christian Religious Recognitions

Earn one of the following approved age appropriate religious recognition awards with your church leader:

1. [National Catholic Committee of Trail Life USA](#) (NCCTL) - (Ages 14-16) *Christum Regnum (Christ The King)* or (Ages 16-18) *Sword Of Saint Michael* – currently in development
2. [Churches of Christ](#) (MCCS) - *Giving Servant*
3. [Eastern Orthodox](#) (EOCS) – *Alpha Omega* (if not earned as a Navigator)

### Option 2: Adventurers Worthy Life Award

Working with an adult mentor who is approved by your parent or guardian and your Advisor, complete an individualized or group discipleship program with a minimum duration of three months. All meetings with your adult mentor should be attended by you along with one or more peers, a parent, or family member. A minimum of two adults should be present at each meeting.

The program of at least three months includes regular meetings with your adult mentor for discussion and prayer and including the following three activities:

1. Participate in a mentored Bible study for at least twelve one-hour sessions.
2. Complete at least one of the following discipleship activities approved by your mentor:

- A. Read a Christian book and discuss it with your mentor. Possible topics include: spiritual growth, spiritual disciplines, church history, biographies of important church leaders, or apologetics.
  - B. Participate in a weekend Christian retreat.
  - C. Attend a Christian conference, seminar series, or focused study with a total duration of at least 10 hours (in addition to the twelve sessions in item one).
3. Complete at least one of the following reflection activities overseen and approved by your mentor:
- A. Publicly share your personal testimony or Christian walk with your Troop or Bible study group.
  - B. Write a short essay of reflections and insights on what you learned in this Worthy Life program, and discuss it with your mentor.
  - C. Make a significant presentation to your Troop or Patrol including important concepts learned during your study.
  - D. Create a video or display that highlights activities from your study and share it with your Troop or Bible study group.

### **Option 3: Trail Life USA *Band of Brothers***

Participate in Trail Life USA's Band of Brothers program for a year with regular attendance (grades 9-12). The purpose of the Band of Brothers is to provide a Christian discipleship focused program aimed at building young men spiritually through Bible study and faith mentorship. The Band of Brothers program has young men disciple other young men in Christian growth under the advisement of adult mentor(s). Mentors must be Christian adults who have signed the Trail Life USA Statement of Faith and Values. Activities must be completed in conformity with Youth Protection Guidelines.

#### **Youth Participation Requirements**

All youth must be professing Christians. This program is specifically for Christian young men that have a special heart for Jesus and a desire to take their walk to a higher level of Christian growth and discipleship. Youth participants must be approved by the Troopmaster and Adventurers Advisor.

#### **Group Structure**

- Each group should develop a list of "ground rules" to guide the group's discussions and conduct.
- Groups should meet at least twice monthly during the school year for approximately 90 minutes per meeting.
- Each group may include Trailmen from any Troops within an Area.
- The group meets outside of normal Troop meeting times.
- Groups should be small enough in size for everyone to participate (6-10).

#### **Programming**

- Each group selects their own discussion topics and meeting format. One suggested

format is a small group Bible study with a youth leader fostering discussion and dialogue.

- Each group, with adult advisement, will periodically determine their focus of study (a Christian book, a book of the Bible, topic or personality study from the Bible, a Bible study guide, etc.).
- Provide a social time at the beginning of each meeting.
- Provide meaningful corporate discussion time surrounding the study selected by the group.
- During meetings, groups may break up into smaller groups as accountability partners.
- Groups may plan additional events including fun, service, and spiritual with Mentor and Advisor approval.