MANHOOD JOURNEY

Middle School Program – Grades 6 to 8
The purpose of the Manhood Journey is to provide a Christian discipleship focused program aimed at building young men spiritually through Bible study and faith mentorship. As an introductory experience in discipleship, the Manhood Journey requires no formal training in ministry. The curriculum will guide the group along the trail of Bible study and discipling. While the programming is intended for fathers and their sons, other adults who play a trusted role in a boy's life may and are encouraged to participate in lieu of a boy's father if necessary.

Intended Grades
This program is for grades six through eight.

Leadership Requirements
Leaders must be Christian adult leaders who have signed the Trail Life USA Statement of Faith and Values. Adult leaders must be approved by the Troop Committee or the Charter Organization Representative of the hosting Troop.

Other Parent / Adult Participation Requirements
Every effort should be made to include the boy participating with his actual dad in this program. The program will allow the father and son to grow together spiritually. But in any event, each boy should be accompanied by a father, male guardian, or male adult leader. The study guides are intended for a boy to work together with his father or appropriate stand-in. Non-leader men must be in a trusted role within a boy's life. For boys that do not have a father to participate with them, a Trail Life USA Trail Guide or other leader can work through the adult / youth mentorship portions of the program together. In keeping with the “no-one-on-one” leadership policy, it would be advantageous to have 2 boys working with a Trail Guide. In the program, under no circumstance shall an adult male be alone with a youth that is not his son. That includes driving to and from Manhood Journey meetings. This rule is sacrosanct and cannot be violated. It is the responsibility of all involved including the Charter Organization, the Troop Leadership, and the Manhood Journey participants to ensure that this does not occur.
Youth Participation Requirements
All youth are welcome to participate regardless of a profession of faith. However, a participating youth must be an active member of Trail Life USA.

Meeting Structure
- The format of conducting a meeting is entirely up to each group's preferences. It is suggested that a typical small group Bible study be used, with a leader prompting the group with questions and guiding the group through its discussions. The goal is to foster discussion and dialogue, not a lecture by the adult leaders.
- At the inception of each group, the group should develop and agree upon a list of “ground rules” that will guide the group's discussions and conduct.
- Groups of no more than 15 are encouraged.
- Groups should meet at least bi-weekly.
- Each group may include boys and adults from a single troop or multiple troops within an area.
- The only meeting time requirement is that the group meets outside of normal troop meeting times.
- Each meeting will last at least an hour, but could often go longer depending upon the topic and discussion, so plan accordingly.

Programming
The Manhood Journey is a third-party developed ministry. It already has a complete set of robust curriculum available.

The Leader Survival Guide and all 6 Modules of the program are available online at http://store.manhoodjourney.org/trail-life for FREE to Trail Life USA members using the following Coupon Code at check-out.

trail-life-module-coupon


Length of Programming
The entire Manhood Journey is a two year experience, with each module intended to contain six weeks of material. If a group were to meet bi-weekly, that's a full 72 weeks content. That would include meeting year round, not including in the summer. The pace of completion is completely up to each group's discretion, with the goal of completing three modules in a year. Also keep in mind that each module includes opportunities for service projects and faith experiences. Be sure to plan your time accordingly so that your group takes advantage of these opportunities to put their faith and what they learn in action.