



GUIDE

Family Orientation Handbook & Seeker Field Book

Parent information, participant expectations, first-year calendar, Seeker workbook, and at-home challenges

MISSION

To disciple boys into godly men by teaching them to know God's voice, walk His path, and guide others through Scripture, skill, and service.

“Show me Thy ways, O LORD; teach me Thy paths.” Psalm 25:4

How to Use This Document

Leadership may print the Parent Handbook section for each household and the Seeker Field Book section for each participant. Complete local contact and policy blanks before distribution.

What It Contains

- Plain-language Guide overview for parents
- Calendar, ranks, staff/bead meaning, safety, communication and what-to-bring guidance
- Participant expectations and family acknowledgment
- Seeker workbook pages and twelve at-home challenge trackers

AUTHORITY AND ADAPTATION

The original Guide 2026 ministry vision and October 2026 Launch Kit govern this material. Pastoral leadership, church policy, the church insurer, and applicable law control whenever a local requirement differs. Replace blank local-policy fields before use.

Parent Handbook

What Is Guide?

Guide is a church-owned discipleship and mentorship ministry for boys and young men ages 6-18. It helps boys learn to know God's voice, walk His path, and guide others through Scripture, practical skill, and service. Guide strengthens the home, church, and youth ministry; it replaces none of them.

What Families Can Expect

- One formal gathering per month, usually the second Saturday
- One milestone event each quarter
- Outdoor campouts in fall and spring, plus an indoor USS Alabama overnight in July (subject to venue confirmation)
- Simple at-home Scripture, skill and service challenges
- Age-appropriate cohorts for teaching; ranks are not age grades
- Fathers encouraged to participate and approved Covenant Guides for boys needing mentors
- Advancement based on demonstrated growth, not attendance or competition

First-Year Calendar

Date	Theme	Main activity
Oct. 10, 2026	Know the Way	Guide identity, square knot, trail markers
Nov. 14, 2026	Prepared for the Path	Day pack, weather, hydration, first-aid basics
Dec. 12, 2026	Light in the Darkness	Fire triangle, fire circle, campfire conduct
Jan. 9, 2027	Built on Truth	Bible navigation and emergency shelter
Feb. 13, 2027	Serve with Strength	Hand-tool identification and safe work zones

Date	Theme	Main activity
Mar. 13, 2027	Walk Together	Team course, knots, carrying, compass headings
Apr. 10, 2027	Read the Signs	Compass, cardinal direction, pacing, map symbols
May 8, 2027	Tend the Flame	Fire lays, readiness-based ignition, outdoor cooking
June 12, 2027	Walk the Path	Outdoor skills circuit: shelter, cooking, navigation
July 10, 2027	Ready to Help	Scene safety, first aid scenarios, emergency action
Aug. 14, 2027	Leave It Better	Stewardship, conservation, cleanup, trail care
Sept. 11, 2027	Show the Way	Teach-back, skill demonstrations, ceremony

Ranks, Staffs, and Beads

Seeker - The Compass

One who is learning to listen and follow. Focus: Foundations of faith, discipline, safety and respect. Key Scripture: Isaiah 55:6.

Pathfinder - The Map

One who walks with intention. Focus: Basic outdoor skills, responsibility and obedience. Key Scripture: Proverbs 3:6.

Wayfinder - The Binoculars

One who leads himself and assists others. Focus: Leadership, teaching and accountability. Key Scripture: Psalm 32:8.

Guide - The Lantern

One who walks first so others may follow. Focus: Mentorship, servant leadership and testimony. Key Scripture: 1 Timothy 4:12.

Every participant begins as a Seeker. Seeker typically takes 2-6 months, but readiness is demonstrated rather than automatic. After completing Seeker requirements and receiving mentor, leader, and pastoral approval, a boy receives the official Guide walking staff at a ceremony.

Bead	Meaning
White / bone	Defined Scripture / spiritual set
Wood / dark brown	Defined practical skill group
Black / dark green	Leader-recommended service pattern

What Guide Is Not

- Not a competition or race through ranks
- Not permission for private mentoring or secret communication
- Not a replacement father, church service, youth group, or family authority
- Not thrill-seeking with fire, tools, camp, or outdoors
- Not an automatic award system

Safety and Communication

- [] Approved leaders and two-deep accountability
- [] Controlled check-in and authorized checkout
- [] Parent-visible communication through approved channels
- [] Medical, accommodation and custody information reviewed privately
- [] Activity-specific boundaries, instructors, PPE and stop-work
- [] Event-specific transport and overnight permissions
- [] Prompt incident, parent and pastoral communication according to policy

Ministry Director/contact: _____

Safety Lead/contact: _____

Approved parent communication channel: _____

Weather decision time/source: _____

Meeting site: _____

Pickup procedure: _____

What to Bring to Monthly Gatherings

- Closed-toe shoes
- Weather-appropriate modest clothing
- Labeled water bottle
- Bible
- Required event-specific gear only
- Medication / emergency items only through parent and church procedure
- Teachable spirit and readiness to serve

Do Not Bring Unless Specifically Approved

Personal knives/tools, fire starters, weapons, electronics, medication carried outside policy, food that bypasses allergy controls, valuables, prank items, or unauthorized guests.

Family Acknowledgment

- ☐ We reviewed the Guide mission, schedule, ranks, staff/lead meaning and participant expectations.
- ☐ We understand advancement is demonstrated and awards are not guaranteed by attendance or age.
- ☐ We will report medical, accommodation, custody, pickup and contact changes.
- ☐ We will use approved communication and respect controlled check-in/out.
- ☐ We understand mentor matching remains group-based, parent-visible and under church authority.
- ☐ We received the required forms and know overnight events/transport require specific permissions.

Participant name: _____

Parent/guardian name: _____

Parent signature/date: _____

Participant signature/date: _____

Leader witness/date: _____

SEEKER FIELD BOOK

Learning to listen and follow



My name: _____

My father / Covenant Guide: _____

My entry date: _____

My cohort: _____

My Guide Identity

Mission

Guide disciples boys into godly men by teaching them to know God's voice, walk His path, and guide others through Scripture, skill, and service.

Motto

Know the Way. Show the Way.

Oath

As a Guide, I commit myself before God and His church to seek His ways, walk in truth, and live with integrity. I will honor those who guide me, protect and serve those entrusted to me, and use my strength to lead others toward Christ.

Creed

- A Guide listens before he leads.
- A Guide walks the path he points to.
- A Guide grows strong to serve, not to rule.
- A Guide does not walk alone, and he leaves no one behind.
- A Guide answers first to God.

My Seeker Path

- ☐ I can say Psalm 25:4 and explain it.

Leader/date/evidence: _____

- ☐ I know the Guide motto, oath and creed.

Leader/date/evidence: _____

- ☐ I completed orientation with my parent/mentor.

Leader/date/evidence: _____

- ☐ I follow group and outdoor safety rules.

Leader/date/evidence: _____

- ☐ I can demonstrate two approved knots.

Leader/date/evidence: _____

- ☐ I can identify five local trees or plants.

Leader/date/evidence: _____

- ☐ I participated in service and can explain why Guides serve.

Leader/date/evidence: _____

- ☐ I show willingness to learn, accept correction, care for property and help others.

Leader/date/evidence: _____

- ☐ I reviewed my progress with my father/mentor.

Leader/date/evidence: _____

My Two Knots

Knot 1

Name: _____

Purpose: _____

Safety check: _____

Steps in my own words: _____

Leader observation/date: _____

Knot 2

Name: _____

Purpose: _____

Safety check: _____

Steps in my own words: _____

Leader observation/date: _____

Five Local Trees or Plants

No.	Name	How I recognized it	Leader/date
1	_____	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	_____
4	_____	_____	_____
5	_____	_____	_____

Outdoor Safety in My Words

If a leader says STOP, I will: _____

Before touching a tool, I will: _____

Before entering a fire area, I will: _____

If I am lost or separated, I will: _____

If someone is hurt or unsafe, I will: _____

My Service Reflection

Service project/date: _____

What I did: _____

Who it helped: _____

What was difficult: _____

How I used strength to serve: _____

What Scripture teaches about service: _____

Leader / mentor observation: _____

My Progress Review

One way I grew in Scripture: _____

One skill I can now demonstrate: _____

One way I served: _____

One correction that helped me: _____

My next step: _____

Father / Covenant Guide comments: _____

Leader recommendation/date: _____

Month 1: Know the Way

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 25:4

This month's skill: Guide identity, square knot, trail markers. Character/service focus: Respect, listening, leaving no one behind.

Before the Next Gathering

- ☐ Review or memorize Psalm 25:4.
- ☐ Practice one safe part of the monthly skill with my parent/mentor.
- ☐ Complete one unseen act of service.

What I Learned

Scripture in my own words: _____

The safety rule I must remember: _____

The part I can demonstrate: _____

Who I helped: _____

Who helped me: _____

What I will do differently: _____

Parent / mentor initials/date: _____

Leader follow-up: _____

Month 2: Prepared for the Path

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 22:3

This month's skill: Day pack, weather, hydration, first-aid basics. Character/service focus: Preparation as responsibility.

Before the Next Gathering

- [] Review or memorize Proverbs 22:3.
- [] Practice one safe part of the monthly skill with my parent/mentor.
- [] Complete one unseen act of service.

What I Learned

Scripture in my own words: _____

The safety rule I must remember: _____

The part I can demonstrate: _____

Who I helped: _____

Who helped me: _____

What I will do differently: _____

Parent / mentor initials/date: _____

Leader follow-up: _____

Month 3: Light in the Darkness

SCRIPTURE

John 8:12

This month's skill: Fire triangle, fire circle, campfire conduct. Character/service focus: Testimony and Christmas service.

Before the Next Gathering

- [] Review or memorize John 8:12.
- [] Practice one safe part of the monthly skill with my parent/mentor.
- [] Complete one unseen act of service.

What I Learned

Scripture in my own words: _____

The safety rule I must remember: _____

The part I can demonstrate: _____

Who I helped: _____

Who helped me: _____

What I will do differently: _____

Parent / mentor initials/date: _____

Leader follow-up: _____

Month 4: Built on Truth

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 7:24-25

This month's skill: Bible navigation and emergency shelter. Character/service focus: Discipline and finishing well.

Before the Next Gathering

- [] Review or memorize Matthew 7:24-25.
- [] Practice one safe part of the monthly skill with my parent/mentor.
- [] Complete one unseen act of service.

What I Learned

Scripture in my own words: _____

The safety rule I must remember: _____

The part I can demonstrate: _____

Who I helped: _____

Who helped me: _____

What I will do differently: _____

Parent / mentor initials/date: _____

Leader follow-up: _____

Month 5: Serve with Strength

SCRIPTURE

Galatians 5:13

This month's skill: Hand-tool identification and safe work zones. Character/service focus: Unseen service and humility.

Before the Next Gathering

- [] Review or memorize Galatians 5:13.
- [] Practice one safe part of the monthly skill with my parent/mentor.
- [] Complete one unseen act of service.

What I Learned

Scripture in my own words: _____

The safety rule I must remember: _____

The part I can demonstrate: _____

Who I helped: _____

Who helped me: _____

What I will do differently: _____

Parent / mentor initials/date: _____

Leader follow-up: _____

Month 6: Walk Together

SCRIPTURE

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

This month's skill: Team course, knots, carrying, compass headings. Character/service focus: Encouragement under pressure.

Before the Next Gathering

- [] Review or memorize Ecclesiastes 4:9-10.
- [] Practice one safe part of the monthly skill with my parent/mentor.
- [] Complete one unseen act of service.

What I Learned

Scripture in my own words: _____

The safety rule I must remember: _____

The part I can demonstrate: _____

Who I helped: _____

Who helped me: _____

What I will do differently: _____

Parent / mentor initials/date: _____

Leader follow-up: _____

Month 7: Read the Signs

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 30:21

This month's skill: Compass, cardinal direction, pacing, map symbols. Character/service focus: Spiritual discernment.

Before the Next Gathering

- [] Review or memorize Isaiah 30:21.
- [] Practice one safe part of the monthly skill with my parent/mentor.
- [] Complete one unseen act of service.

What I Learned

Scripture in my own words: _____

The safety rule I must remember: _____

The part I can demonstrate: _____

Who I helped: _____

Who helped me: _____

What I will do differently: _____

Parent / mentor initials/date: _____

Leader follow-up: _____

Month 8: Tend the Flame

SCRIPTURE

2 Timothy 1:6

This month's skill: Fire lays, readiness-based ignition, outdoor cooking. Character/service focus: Stewardship of responsibility.

Before the Next Gathering

- [] Review or memorize 2 Timothy 1:6.
- [] Practice one safe part of the monthly skill with my parent/mentor.
- [] Complete one unseen act of service.

What I Learned

Scripture in my own words: _____

The safety rule I must remember: _____

The part I can demonstrate: _____

Who I helped: _____

Who helped me: _____

What I will do differently: _____

Parent / mentor initials/date: _____

Leader follow-up: _____

Month 9: Walk the Path

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 23:4

This month's skill: Outdoor skills circuit: shelter, cooking, navigation. Character/service focus: Courage, teamwork, service.

Before the Next Gathering

- [] Review or memorize Psalm 23:4.
- [] Practice one safe part of the monthly skill with my parent/mentor.
- [] Complete one unseen act of service.

What I Learned

Scripture in my own words: _____

The safety rule I must remember: _____

The part I can demonstrate: _____

Who I helped: _____

Who helped me: _____

What I will do differently: _____

Parent / mentor initials/date: _____

Leader follow-up: _____

Month 10: Ready to Help

SCRIPTURE

Luke 10:33-34

This month's skill: Scene safety, first aid scenarios, emergency action. Character/service focus: Calm compassion.

Before the Next Gathering

- [] Review or memorize Luke 10:33-34.
- [] Practice one safe part of the monthly skill with my parent/mentor.
- [] Complete one unseen act of service.

What I Learned

Scripture in my own words: _____

The safety rule I must remember: _____

The part I can demonstrate: _____

Who I helped: _____

Who helped me: _____

What I will do differently: _____

Parent / mentor initials/date: _____

Leader follow-up: _____

Month 11: Leave It Better

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 2:15

This month's skill: Stewardship, conservation, cleanup, trail care. Character/service focus: Faithful care for creation/property.

Before the Next Gathering

- [] Review or memorize Genesis 2:15.
- [] Practice one safe part of the monthly skill with my parent/mentor.
- [] Complete one unseen act of service.

What I Learned

Scripture in my own words: _____

The safety rule I must remember: _____

The part I can demonstrate: _____

Who I helped: _____

Who helped me: _____

What I will do differently: _____

Parent / mentor initials/date: _____

Leader follow-up: _____

Month 12: Show the Way

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:16

This month's skill: Teach-back, skill demonstrations, ceremony. Character/service focus: Leadership as testimony.

Before the Next Gathering

- [] Review or memorize Matthew 5:16.
- [] Practice one safe part of the monthly skill with my parent/mentor.
- [] Complete one unseen act of service.

What I Learned

Scripture in my own words: _____

The safety rule I must remember: _____

The part I can demonstrate: _____

Who I helped: _____

Who helped me: _____

What I will do differently: _____

Parent / mentor initials/date: _____

Leader follow-up: _____

My Seeker Staff Ceremony Record

The walking staff is earned after Seeker completion. It begins unmarked and represents trust and responsibility. It is for use and testimony, not display alone.

Seeker requirements completed: _____

Father / Covenant Guide recommendation: _____

Leader review: _____

Pastoral approval: _____

Ceremony date: _____

Staff inventory ID: _____

Prayer / memory from the ceremony: _____
