

Appendix D: Sample Philosophy Statements:

Below are two Philosophy statements provided to the NAD AY Honors Taskforce in recent years. How will your Philosophy Statement be even better?

Business Philosophy and Purpose (2015)

Several opportunities exist for owning and operating a business of some kind, especially small and micro business. It could be easy for one to focus on the financial benefits of such a venture and not pay as much attention to the responsibilities and obligations involved.

This business honor aspires to educate Pathfinders about financial, moral, and ethical issues involved in starting and operating a business. It promotes responsibility, cooperation, service and dedication by encouraging the youth to work together to initiate a business, plan for its success, and execute the plan. The skills taught and practiced can be applied to the business as well as one's personal life.

The honor will focus on four main educational areas 1) starting and operating a business 2) developing management and leadership skills 3) making profits and investing the money, and 4) reinforcing the importance of giving back to God and to the community.

The Pathfinders will learn about the basic terms used, and the principles and methods involved in starting, owning, and operating a profitable business. Individually or collectively, they will brainstorm ideas for possible products and/or services. They will select the most feasible for a business that fits their resources and needs, devise a plan and implement it. All the activities will be founded on Christian business principles.

Blacksmithing Philosophy & Purpose (2014)

The purpose of the beginning blacksmithing honor is to expose the student to the art of blacksmithing and allow the student to have a hands on introduction to working with iron. In completing the honor, the student will develop increased self-confidence, patience, and ingenuity. Furthermore, they will have a sense of accomplishment having hand crafted a truly useful item.

Over the last several years a great void has been created between the value of hands-on technical art skills and scientific book knowledge. This honor was developed so that teens can have fun and be exposed to a skill that they can choose to develop further if they would like. It exposes them to an art form that is useful, and a possible career option.

While many modern honors utilize the skills and experiences of kids who are primarily urban or suburban this one is different. Many rural participants will find the skills very easy, while some suburban ones will find it a rather different experience than they are used

to. This honor can be earned by a variety of learners and is especially appealing to those Pathfinders with learning difficulties such as dyslexia and Asperger's.

“God desires His workers to look to Him as the giver of all they possess, to remember that all they have and are comes from Him who is wonderful in counsel and excellent in working. The delicate touch of the physician's hand, his power over nerve and muscle, his knowledge of the delicate organism of the body, are the wisdom of divine power, to be used in behalf of suffering humanity. The skill with which the carpenter uses the hammer, the strength with which the blacksmith makes the anvil ring, come from God. He has entrusted with talents, and He desires them to look to Him for counsel. Thus they may use His gifts with unerring aptitude, testifying that they are workers together with God” R&H April 9, 1901.

Activity:

Print out **Appendix B - Building a Philosophy State, List of Objective, and Statement of Value**. Underline, circle, and comment on WHICH of the current expectations were done by these authors (even though they didn't have the guidance you do)? How could they have clarified, explained, or provided better support?

Now it is your turn....