

# FamilySearch Support

Binding Hearts Together

**Building strong relationships with priesthood leaders & family history workers in your area**

In this session, we hope to:

**Provide clarity about family history roles**

**Offer suggestions and ideas**

**Help you in your calling!!!**



Support organization consists of over 800 church service missionaries

We handle nearly 30,000 contacts a month, many from consultants and priesthood leaders

Feel free to contact us!

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e-mail: [support@familysearch.org](mailto:support@familysearch.org)



Dispelling misconceptions about family history work

Understanding our roles

Finding joy in the work

Developing mutual feelings of respect and appreciation



Common misconceptions about family history work

Bishops (wards) and stake presidents (stakes) have the primary responsibility for administrating and coordinating family history work

High priest group leaders oversee family history work in the ward; high council advisors propel family history work at the stake level. These brethren report progress to the Bishop / Stake President who oversee the effort.



Common misconceptions about family history work

There is a calling titled stake and/or ward family history consultant

Consultants have the title of family history consultant, called at the ward level. Consultants may serve at the family history center assigned to their stake, within their ward or both.



Common misconceptions about family history work

The family history center should be the primary location of service for family history consultants

Where possible, consultants are encouraged to visit the homes of the members. There, consultants can help members to find ancestors and perform ordinance work



Role definition is found in Section 9,  
Church Handbook of Instructions

High Council Advisor

High Priest Group Leader

Family History Center Director

Family History Consultant

## High Council Advisor Role

Under the direction of stake presidency, oversight of Stake family history and Extraction efforts

Reporting of family history progress to stake presidency

Instruction of priesthood leadership in their family history responsibilities



## High Council Advisor Suggestions:

Receive frequent reports from ward high priest group leaders about family history efforts in each ward

Meet with family history center director and stake extraction director (together or separately) frequently

Encouragement of high council and stake leadership to be personally involved in family history work



High Priest Group Leader Role:

Direct responsibility for coordinating family history work in the ward

Identification of families to work with the consultants

An understanding of ward and stake name extraction and indexing efforts

## High Priest Group Leader Suggestions:

Review family names and progress with the Priesthood Executive Committee (esp. with bishopric and ward mission leader)

Receive a report from stake extraction director regarding # of names indexed and arbitrated from their unit

Seek counsel from the high council advisor

Help consultants understand their expectations and where they can go for support

## Family History Center Director Suggestions

Work closely with stake extraction director regarding usage of the center and other stake family history efforts

Help priesthood leaders become more involved in the work by teaching them how, rather than reminding them of their responsibility

Request to have the wife of a priesthood leader to serve in the center 😊



## Family History Consultant Suggestions

Invite members into your home for Family Home Evening, or spend time in the homes of the members helping them feel of the joy of the work

Help members prepare ordinances for stake / ward temple events

Ask the High Priest Group Leader for a few moments in ward council meeting or for sacrament meeting speaking assignments



## Where do we find our joy in the work?

1 Nephi 8:12 - And as I partook of the fruit thereof it filled my soul with exceedingly great [joy](#); wherefore, I began to be [desirous](#) that my family should partake of it also; for I knew that it was [desirable](#) above all other fruit.

Our role (both priesthood and consultant) is to help others find the joy associated with performing ordinance work in the temples of the Lord



Groups of members to share the joy of family history work:

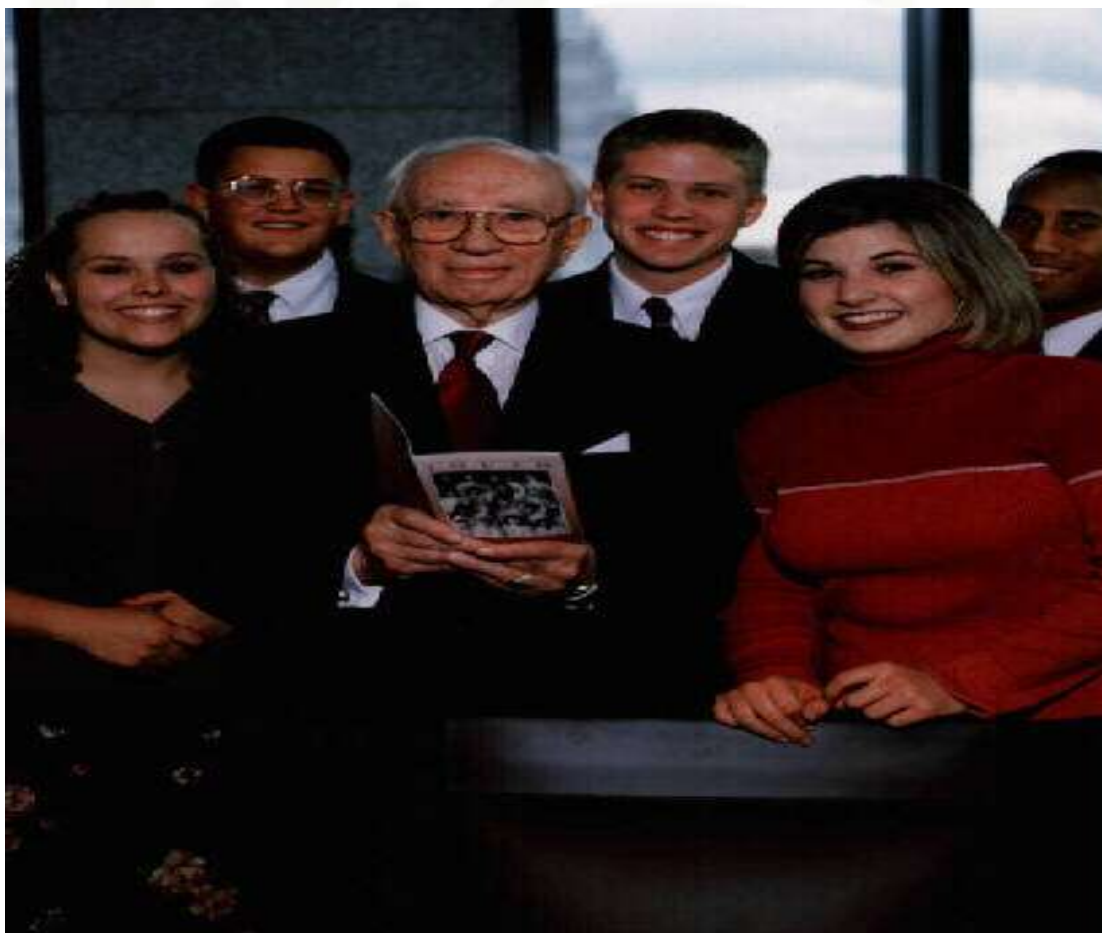
## **New members of the church**

Consultants can fulfill the three things new members need: a friend, an opportunity to serve and nourishment through the good word of God

High priest group leaders and ward mission leaders can discuss consultants working with new members in Priesthood Executive Committee meeting (PEC)

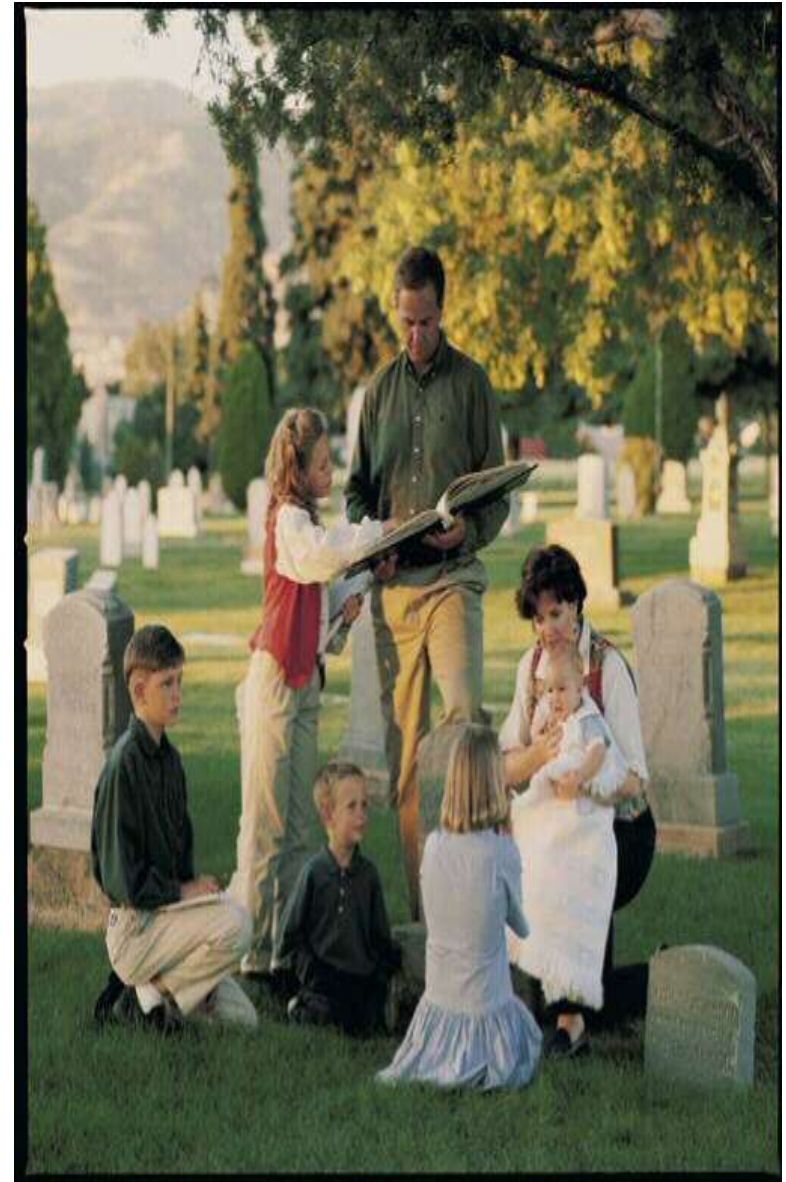


**Youth – Can be very involved in internet-based family history work, particularly indexing and new FamilySearch.**

The logo for FamilySearch Indexing, featuring a stylized tree icon above the text "FAMILYSEARCH™" in a serif font, with "INDEXING" in a smaller, spaced-out serif font below it.The logo for FamilySearch, featuring a stylized tree icon above the text "FAMILYSEARCH" in a serif font, set against a dark blue background.

**Prospective elder families** – A primary source of concern for priesthood leaders, consultants can help these families by bringing a greater desire to attend the temple into the home.

**Families that have previously enjoyed the blessings of the temple** – priesthood leaders might encourage consultants to help these families rekindle a desire to attend the temple



How can we engage the priesthood in the work?

Understand that many priesthood leaders have never felt the joy of personal family history work themselves. We can help them to get started!

Personally assist priesthood leaders in their personal research and name submission efforts



How can we engage the priesthood in the work?

Recognize that family history is one of many priorities that priesthood leaders carry, whereas family history may be the only church calling and responsibility we have.

Unite family history work & temple attendance more firmly in your home units



## **Additional Suggestions for family history work**

Provide a report on the progress of family history in the unit

Ask to align with other ward or stake initiatives (missionary work, home teaching, etc..)

Ask for opportunities to offer sacrament meeting messages around family history work, do the same for Sunday School lessons

Spend more time in the homes of the families

**Joy in family history work comes from serving others, whether it be other members, priesthood leaders and those beyond the veil**

Questions and Answers

Thank you for attending!