

SAMPLE GROUP ORGANIZATION

Groups that conduct pioneer treks generally start their preparations at least a year in advance. Some groups have the Young Men and Young Women Presidencies head the pioneer trek committee. However, many Stake Presidents call a special couple or individual to be the trek chairman because of the time, energy and commitment in planning the experience. This couple will need to work closely with the stake leaders to accomplish what is needed for the youth of their stake. Groups have frequently said that the key to the success of their trek was having the right people called to the right positions. The following is an example of an organization chart; each group should design their committees to fit their needs.

Stake President

High Councilman (over the youth)

Stake Young Men & Young Women Presidency/Pioneer Trek Committee Chairman Sample Trek Committees

<p>Publicity/Registration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-trek Activities Advertising & Recruiting Pre & Post Trek Fireside Pioneer Clothing Patterns Registration/Medical Forms Others as Needed 	<p>Trail Boss/Ma & Pa Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know the Route Establish Communication Train the Ma's & Pa's Prepare Spiritually Prepare Physically Family Discussions Conduct Training Trek Trail & In Camp Leadership Others as Needed 	<p>Medical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical Histories Medical Release Forms Emergency Action Plans First Aid Kits Help Train Ma's & Pa's Plan Communication Support on the Trail/Camp Others as Needed
<p>Program/Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare Activities Spiritual Experiences Help Train Ma's & Pa's Hoedown PA-System Solo Time/Letters Others as Needed 	<p>Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect Cooking Equipment Plan Menus Buy Food Help Train Ma's & Pa's Separate Family Meals Prepare Group Meals Others as Needed 	<p>Transportation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrange Transportation/Bus Movement of Water Trailers Movement of portable toilets Movement of Tents, Stoves Support Staff Equipment Transportation of youth gear Others as Needed
<p>Clothing/Music</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pioneer style clothing Assist in making or finding clothing/patterns Coordinating with wards Organize Music on Trek Others as Needed 	<p>Historical/Photography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ancestral Research Provide Pioneer Stories Record Experiences Pictures & Filming Post Trek Fireside Video Others as Needed 	<p>Equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide Equipment Lists Help Ma's/Pa's get Equipment Support Camp Equipment Trash Removal Others as Needed

Find ways to involve the youth council in this process. They can be involved in the publicity, activities, clothing, music, historical, and food committees by helping to plan and carry out firesides or giving input toward the types of activities that are part of the experience.

WARD ORGANIZATION

Ward organization could be designed in a similar manner to the stake organization, with the Bishopric and the Young Men's and Young Women's Leaders over individuals in the different committees and two youth representatives.

OTHER POSSIBLE POSITIONS

Dance Instructor

Someone is called to teach the youth prior to the trek how to dance. They are also in charge of the hoedown during the trek.

Family History Coordinator

They coordinate Family History Research and temple work for the youth prior to the pioneer trek. All trek participants are invited to do temple work for one of their ancestors. They also encourage everyone to have a story to share about their ancestor.

Music Leader

He or she prepares the songs for the firesides and the song books used on the trail. They work with the youth to prepare special numbers for firesides before and during trek.

Story Telling Coordinator

They research stories for the handcart companies or wagon trains that teach the principles that the trek is focused around. They can also assign each individual a handcart pioneer that they learn about along the trail. They prepare stories and scripts for different vignettes during the trek.

Ward Coordinators

Many groups have a person in each ward that the trek committee keeps informed about the pre-trek activities, collecting registrations, and solo letters from parents.

PIONEER TREK KEY POSITIONS

Chairman

Organizes the different committees and works with the Stake President, and the Stake YM and YW Presidencies to establish an appropriate itinerary. They give assignments, maintain communication between all of the committees and answer questions that might arise throughout the process.

Trail Boss

The Trail Boss speaks at the pre-trek fireside, and leads meetings during the trek and at the post-trek fireside. He knows the trek route, and determines the pace for the handcarts. He maintains communication between the trekkers and the support staff. He must be in good physical condition and feel comfortable leading a large group of people in the outdoors. It is also important that he can relate to the youth. Many times stakes will have their Stake Presidency serve this position.

Company Captains

Company Captains are used with large stakes to help with communication on and off the trail. They are individuals who are assigned to watch over their own company of 4 or 5 handcarts. They work closely with the Trail Boss to keep him informed about the condition of their company. They also relay information back and forth from the Ma's and Pa's to the Trail Boss. They can also help with activities on the second day. The Company Captains need to be in good physical condition, feel comfortable in the outdoors, and enjoy working with the youth.

Trail Walkers

Many times the Stake Presidency or the Stake Young Men's or Young Women's leaders want to be able to move about among the youth along the trail, so they go as Trail Walkers. Sometimes they join a family and help pull if the family is really struggling or walk with individual youth that are struggling with health or attitude problems.

Support Staff

The support staff includes all the individuals who work behind the scenes to make sure that everyone on the trek has food, equipment, water, and portable toilets. They coordinate with the Trail Boss on breaks, meals, and camp sites. The medical team which is part of the support staff generally has at least one or two people walking the trail and have a vehicle following out of sight in case someone is injured. Those involved in carrying out the different activities along the trail and in camp are part of the staff. There is also generally someone who is the historian who writes down and takes pictures or videos of different events along the trail. They should dress in pioneer clothing.

Ma's and Pa's

Ma's and Pa's are usually married couples or single adults. They receive a great deal of training in food preparation, safety/first aid, procession events, and games or activities that will help the youth strengthen their testimony. Good Ma's and Pa's do not do everything for the youth but instruct the youth in a way that encourages the family to work together for a good experience.

Trek Families

The youth are divided into families of 6-10 depending on the size of handcarts and the number of available handcarts. Generally, the youth are divided from their friends and family, with a variety of ages and physical and spiritual strength. Sometimes adults go as youth in the families, or as grandparents or uncles and aunts. Including the Ma's and Pa's, there are usually 10-12 people per trek family with an equal number of boys and girls if possible.

Big Brother and Big Sister

Each family has a big brother and big sister who act as the family leaders during the trek. Generally, these are the older youth (Priests and Laurels) who are assigned to help Ma and Pa. For example, Ma and Pa will ask the big brother and sister to organize the family and direct the loading of the cart. They may be called on to lead scripture study or prepare a Family Home Evening one of the nights.

Youth

Trek participants are usually 14-18 years old.

SAMPLE GROUP ORGANIZATION ON THE TRAIL

Stake President

Youth High Council Representative.

Trek Chairman

Trail Boss/Support Staff

(100 in each company; 4 companies)

Red Company	Blue Company	Yellow Company	Green Company
(30 per group, 5 groups)	(20 per group, 5 groups)	(20 per group, 5 groups)	(20 per group, 5 groups)
Red Group Leader 1	Blue Group Leader 1	Yellow Group Leader 1	Green Group Leader 1
Family 1	Family 1	Family 1	Family 1
Family 2	Family 2	Family 2	Family 2
Red Group Leader 2	Blue Group Leader 2	Yellow Group Leader 2	Green Group Leader 2
Family 1	Family 1	Family 1	Family 1
Family 2	Family 2	Family 2	Family 2
Red Group Leader 3	Blue Group Leader 3	Yellow Group Leader 3	Green Group Leader 3
Family 1	Family 1	Family 1	Family 1

Family 2	Family 2	Family 2	Family 2
Red Group Leader 4	Blue Group Leader 4	Yellow Group Leader 4	Green Group Leader 4
Family 1	Family 1	Family 1	Family 1
Family 2	Family 2	Family 2	Family 2
Red Group Leader 5	Blue Group Leader 5	Yellow Group Leader 5	Green Group Leader 5
Family 1	Family 1	Family 1	Family 1
Family 2	Family 2	Family 2	Family 2

OR

(40 people in each company: 10 Companies)

Company Captain 1	Company Captain 2	Company Captain 3	Company Captain 4	Company Captain 5
Family 1	Family 1	Family 1	Family 1	Family 1
Family 2	Family 2	Family 2	Family 2	Family 2
Family 3	Family 3	Family 3	Family 3	Family 3
Family 4	Family 4	Family 4	Family 4	Family 4
Company Captain 6	Company Captain 7	Company Captain 8	Company Captain 9	Company Captain 10
Family 1	Family 1	Family 1	Family 1	Family 1
Family 2	Family 2	Family 2	Family 2	Family 2
Family 3	Family 3	Family 3	Family 3	Family 3
Family 4	Family 4	Family 4	Family 4	Family 4