



# NEW LBB SITE

## FIRST TWO MEETINGS



This is your “Kit” on how to conduct your first two meetings of your new **Life Builder Boys** program. These guidelines parallel the instructions on how most weekly meetings should go, found on pages 5-7 of your leadership manual **Time To Build**. Read over the notes below carefully, confer with all the leaders who will be involved (especially those who will have active roles), then commit to prayer the importance of being prepared for the highest success!

This is it – your one chance to make a great first impression!! Let’s plan together how you can make this night one of the best for every boy who attends. You want your first two meetings of your new program to be satisfying for every man and boy present, when all the boys will be introduced to you and to Life Builder Boys for the first time.

- ✓ Be sure that everything is in place well ahead of starting time:
- ✓ Room is ready with adequate chairs and space
- ✓ Plenty of **Welcome To Your New Adventure** fliers printed (always make more than you think you need – boys have a way of ‘appearing out of nowhere’)
- ✓ Every leader is informed of the role he is to play.

Be specific about everything. If you wait to decide and assign duties to your men after you have a room full of boys it will test the limits of every man. Make this a ‘great’ night, not a night that ‘grates’ (nerves can only take so much!!) Plan to have light refreshments for closings.

## FIRST MEETING -----

**PRE-MEETING PREP** Since boys are attending their first Life Builder Boy’s meeting with you, plan to write down names and contact information (address, phone number) on as many as you can as they arrive. Have sign-up sheets ready. You may have other opportunities during your meeting, but it may be difficult if your ‘opening night’ is a large one. Do what you can to establish records early. Then try to always know from meeting to meeting who is there, which will be very important as you work towards achievements! But do be prompt to start on time - this first meeting and every meeting hereafter.

After this first night your crew members will know where to gather or be seated. This time just have a general seating arrangement so that everyone can be in place as you begin to explain their exciting new program. Sitting on the floor is acceptable for some, or for all. If you are meeting at a time when the rest of the church is not in session, consider using the church sanctuary (boys tend to understand the importance of respectful order in this holy place.) Future meetings should be in a casual, comfortable setting where possible (though some churches may only have the one room in which to meet.)

----- L I F E ----- (15 - 20 minutes) -----

When you are ready to begin, call the boys to order by crying out,

**“LET’S BUILD SOMETHING GREAT!!”**

Remind the boys they are to be still and quiet now. Then pass out “WELCOME TO YOUR NEW ADVENTURE” fliers (boys can share for now if more need to be printed later - keep the pace going steady!)

- ✓ Have boys look at the cover image of our LBB Patch. Read our six goals circling around it: “New Friends - Excitement - Faith Building - New Skills - Challenging - Adventure”
- ✓ **Recite our motto** Everyone says it together. This will be their first time so do it slowly.
- ✓ **Recite our theme verse** Crew Chief should lead each part first with boys repeating after.

**“For we are his workmanship”**

**“Created in Christ Jesus unto good works”**

**“Which God hath before ordained”**

**“That we should walk in them - Ephesians 2:10”**

- ✓ **Devotion** Encourage the boys to listen carefully as you share a short devotional message.

**A powerful storm hit the east coast of the United States, causing mighty waves to beat angrily along the shore all night long. In the morning an elderly man walked from his home nearby to see what damage may have come to the beachfront. Sand and shells were everywhere and seaweed covered the beach.**

**As he stood there watching with concern a young boy was noticed darting up and down the beach, picking up things and tossing them back into the sea. The man moved closer and realized that it was starfishes, which the storm had washed ashore, that the little boy was tossing with all his might.**

**“Hey there, young man,” he said, “You know there are far too many! Why, the whole beach is full of ‘em. Can’t much matter what you’re trying to do there!”**

**The little boy paused and just stared at the old man while still holding another starfish in his hand. Then he abruptly turned to the sea, tossed yet one more with all his might, and announced in a strong, proud voice, “Well, it sure matters to this one!”**

**You see, boys...you may think that you are small and unimportant, but each one of us matters to God. And even if it seems like the whole world is going the wrong way, washed up and hopeless, let Jesus put His hands around you and toss you back into his sea of forgiveness!**

(You are welcome to share a few, brief, personal words if you feel so led. But do close soon with a thoughtful prayer. Boys will remember more when your words are less!!)

----- **B U I L D E R** ----- (25 - 30 minutes) -----

After prayer, have the boys turn to the inside of their brochures and you begin reading on page 2 where it says “**You are about...**” (Read to the end of this first paragraph.)

Ask the boys about the picture of the footsteps and the Bible. Now ask, “**Where do we learn about God’s will - what he wants us to do, how he wants us to be?**” (answer: the Bible)

Continue reading the second paragraph (doing so with enthusiasm.) Ask, “**So, what will you call me?**” (answer: Crew Chief) “**And teams of boys are called?**” (answer: a Crew)

Read now about the ages for Apprentice, Journeyman, & Journeyman Senior. Afterward, have the boys move into these three age groups, sitting together as a “crew” for the first time. Your assortment of boys on this first night may not have ones for all three ages. If small enough you may be starting your ministry as a single crew. Just be sure everyone understands that these “Levels” are based on their ages, not how long they participate in your program.

Finally, talk about the stripes that they earn. There will be more about Skill and Service Award patches in your next meeting, but for this first night point out to them that there are honor stripes they can earn. And for the hardest workers, one day they can become Master Builders!

The rest of their brochure will be covered in the next meeting, though the boys will certainly look ahead. Tell them this is the end of the “lesson” part and now you’re doing something fun!

----- **B O Y S** ----- (15 minutes - closing) -----

Before boys rise to enjoy a little ‘recreational reward’ be sure to state that kindly behavior and fair play will be strictly expected. Tell them that this is their first, important opportunity to show just how sincerely they want to be a part of something this good! And ‘good’ is just what we are counting on from them!!

**Game: “The Red Hot Shoe”**

You need to ‘borrow’ a small shoe from one of the boys for each ‘team’ you are going to have. Divide all boys (ages mixed together) into two teams of 8 or more (if possible.) Larger “Sites” may have additional teams, but number of boys per team must be the same.

Have teams lined up in columns (2<sup>nd</sup> boy facing the 1<sup>st</sup> boy’s back.) Crew Chief(s) will hand a shoe to the head of each line. That boy (and all others) can only ‘clasp’ it between their wrists (no part of the palm or fingers making contact.) As quickly as they have control of the shoe the first boy turns and passes it to the 2<sup>nd</sup> (who also can only hold it this same way.) As he does he says loudly, “**RED HOT – PLEASE TAKE!!**” If the shoe is dropped it is picked up only by the same boy who was attempting to pass it (and only by his wrists, which now becomes even more difficult!) When the shoe reaches the end of one of the lines, that team wins.

However, you may decide to increase the excitement (or because teams are shorter in number) to have the shoe returned back up the line and the round is not over until it reaches the first boy again. Play more than once if time allows. Be sure the boys understand to remain in place until you announce that the meeting has ended - parents can wait - end in prayer together!!

**DEPARTURE**     Remind all the boys the importance of bringing their fliers back to the next meeting. Be sure to praise them for an excellent time together and tell them how much you are already looking forward to next time!

Remember the “Departure Chores” outlined on p.8 of **Time To Build**. Let this first meeting end as well as it started. Congratulations will be in order to all of your team: be sure to lift one another up. This is truly your beginning of something of eternal value!!

Be sure that everything is in place well ahead of starting time:

## **SECOND MEETING -----**

**PRE-MEETING PREP**     As boys arrive begin collecting their ‘Brochures’ from your previous meeting and cut out the Pledge/Permission ‘ticket’ part of page three. Every boy needs to have one on file! If boys have forgotten or ‘lost’ their brochure you need to be prepared to give them another. Stress the importance of having this filled in by their parent or guardian! Each ‘Site’ will have to make its own decision about this, whether to limit or restrict a boy’s participation until he meets this responsibility. Younger boys will always have greater difficulty ‘remembering’ (a measure of patience will be needed.) But having some documentation showing guardian approval on every boy is necessary so that your authority and their accountability are agreed upon. Do the best you can with this. Remember the suggestions given in **Time To Build** p.5 about having some activities available for early arriving boys.

----- **L I F E** ----- (15 - 20 minutes) -----

Get started with **“LET’S BUILD SOMETHING GREAT!!”**

- ✓ **Recite our motto**
- ✓ **Recite our theme verse**
- ✓ **Devotion**     Begin with an excited, attention getting voice:

Have you ever seen a sand castle that was just awesome – big in size and perfect in detail? They have contests in places like California and Florida where teams of people build huge ones of every kind, sometimes taking many days to complete. How about you? Ever make one yourself? But what happens if you build it at low tide and then the tide comes back in? Or, what happens if it begins to rain real hard? How many times have you made a nice one, gone home for the day, then come back to find that somebody stepped all over it? Anyone here have an experience like any of these? Even the big, fancy ones in those contests will only last a few days!!!

Jesus told his followers that everyone who hears his sayings but doesn’t do them is like a foolish man who built his house upon the sand. When the rain descended, floods came and the wind blew. It beat on the house and it fell. Great was the fall of it! [from Mat 7:26-27] None of us wants to lose everything – or, really, anything – so why don’t we just do what the Lord tells us to? Most of the time it is because we just don’t know what that is!

**This is one of the best reasons to be a Life Builder Boy: to learn about the Lord, about His Word, and about ourselves! Let's say our Theme Verse - one part at a time!**

- **“For we are his workmanship” - that means God is making something good with us.**
- **“Created in Christ Jesus unto good works” - so we can do something good, too!**
- **“Which God hath before ordained” - it was always His plan, even from the beginning!!**
- **“That we should walk in them, Ephesians 2:10” - this is our whole reason for all we do!!!**

**So, every time we open our meeting, and say our Verse, let's remember that God has a good reason to have us here in LIFE BUILDER BOYS - to build in us something great !!!**

----- **B U I L D E R** ----- (25 - 30 minutes) -----

**Divide into Crews** In this meeting you are going to divide the boys into their Crews (if there are at least 3 boys in each age group. Otherwise, you can combine them in what ever way works best.) Boys will now be known as either an Apprentice, a Journeyman, or a Journeyman Senior. You may want to already have a plan on how they will now sit together as a crew. Let them know that soon they will have a uniform shirt with a Life Builder Boy's patch on the left sleeve and a Level patch on the right shirt representing which of these three groups they are in. (You may decide to wait a few more weeks before expecting anyone to get a shirt for this purpose until it is clear each boy is going to 'stick with the program'.)

**Discuss our motto** - what it means to “LIVE THE WORD” and “LIGHT THE WORLD” Use your own words or let a few boys tell you what they think it means.

**Talk about page 3** in their “Welcome...” fliers (have extra copies ready in case they forgot to bring theirs.) The top paragraph is about **Skill Kits**. Read it through and then ask, **“What are some of the things you would like to learn and do together?”**

Have them look at the patches in the center of the page. Tell them they earn one of these as they complete their study which usually takes about 6 to 8 meetings - **“So, you gotta come faithfully to every meeting so you won't miss anything!”** Ask the boys which patch or patches they like best. Tell them there will be many, many more and that they will be able to help us plan which new ones to make. Remind them of anything special that was suggested earlier and that you will pass that on to the Life Builder Boys leaders at the National Office.

**Read to the end of p. 3 and challenge them.** The last paragraph is meant as a “pledge of faithful participation” Read it to them slowly, purposefully, with eye contact. Have them respond with a hearty “YES” before filling in the place of your meeting (usually the name of your church) and signing their name at the bottom (be sure to have plenty of pens ready.) Tell them to take this home to their parent or guardian who fills in the back side with their name. But do remember to bring it back - signed!!

----- **BOYS** ----- (15 minutes - closing) -----

**Game: “The Crab Race”**

Boys will be in teams of three to six and should be grouped according to height (rather than age.) Allowing boys to team up with friends is fine, but you may find it better to assign them to avoid hurt feelings by those who end up ‘left out’ or ‘last picked’. It is possible to have 1 or 2 boys that do not ‘complete’ a team so try including available men with oldest, tallest ones or choose to have more than one race where these ‘leftover’ boys join with others to challenge the ‘winner’. Plenty of space is needed, so clear the room of furniture or move this game outside. (This race could be done in a circle around the perimeter of the room with moveable furniture going to the center.)

Team members get into position by turning their backs inward (towards each other) and locking arms at elbows, forming a small circle (“the crab”). As they make their way around the ‘track’ teams should revolve so that each member gets a chance to lead (‘spinning crabs’ are always more fun!). The objective is simple: come in first. But the challenge includes co-operation within the team as each boy will, in turn, be backwards to the direction of travel.

It may be wiser to have teams compete in pairs indoors, but outdoors all teams could go at once. Be sure to caution the boys that this is not a ‘contact sport’ (running over another ‘crab’ may disqualify you!) Add laps if space is limited, and extra races as time allows.

As time runs out and you prepare for a departing prayer, remind your crewmen that we all depend on each other to get us through to the end of this ‘spiritual race course’ we are on!

**DEPARTURE** Remind all the boys the importance of bringing their signed booklets back to the next meeting. Be sure to praise them for an excellent time together and tell them how much you are already looking forward to next time! Get all the men and oldest boys to help with ‘Departure Chores.’

**Closing thoughts** -----

**Any boy who has been difficult to handle** could show improvement soon. Time tends to help heal. Fun experiences, especially learning successes, have a molding benefit and a boy who starts out as a ‘poor fit’ may turn into something ‘per-fect’. Give every boy a chance to prove himself. It will amaze you!

**Award new boys their sleeve patches soon** after they complete these two introduction lessons. It helps them to enjoy quickly their first recognition for a ‘job well-done’. They will continue to co-operate and your program will ‘populate’ (grow)! Plan for a ceremony - maybe Sunday morning church time which can also draw un-churched parents into a service with you.

**Boys who join later** need to go through their ‘Welcome flier’ with the help of a Crew Chief or capable older boy. Let them do this during the “Boys” recreation time in last part of meeting so they can benefit from the devotions and Skill lesson. Best if you can have 2 or more doing it at the same time so they can share in their responses. The sound of boys having fun nearby will actually help them ‘want’ to get this done ‘right’ and ‘quickly’.