

New Family History Consultants & Priesthood Leaders ~ Getting Started ~

“This is the work of salvation. It’s not just indexing; it’s not just searching for names. These are people, sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father. We are here to participate in the work of salvation in inviting all of these people to come unto Christ and receive the saving ordinances of the gospel. That’s who we are; that’s why we are here on the earth. I don’t know of a greater blessing than ultimately realizing that God trusts us and depends on us to do His work. It’s a remarkable spiritual experience when you do the work for your own ancestors and you take your family names to the temple to perform the ordinance work.” (Elder David Bednar)

- Register for an LDS Account: you will need your membership number and birth date.
- Register for your calling: Priesthood: priesthood.familysearch.org
Consultants: consultants.familysearch.org
- Understanding your calling: Handbook 2: Section 5.4
- Implementing temple and family history work: To Turn the Hearts Guide & videos

Publications (three colors) Red, Blue, Green

- Member’s Guide to Temple and Family History Work (Red)
- Family History Consultant’s Guide to Temple and Family History Work (Blue)
- Instructor’s Guide to Temple and Family History Work & videos (Green)

Work with Leaders

- The Bishop directs the work of salvation.
- The High Priests Group Leader reports in priesthood executive committee and ward council meetings on temple & family history activities. He coordinates ward council efforts and directs the work of the family history consultants. He meets with the consultants regularly to provide them names to contact, discuss progress in helping members, encourage completion of online training and to provide counsel.
- Family History Consultants help members find ancestors and prepare names for temple ordinances. If ward leaders are not providing names of people in the ward to work with, then please consider ways to turn the hearts of your ward leaders by:
 - Helping them work on their own family history
 - Help them print a fan chart and/or a name cloud chart to hang in their home

Work with Members

- Meet with new members soon after baptism to introduce them to family history.
- Exercise good judgment and discretion when dealing with sensitive family matters.
- Help members take names to the temple without pressing them to be genealogists.
- If consultants do not have assignments from ward leaders, ponder and pray on how to take the initiative and reach out to ward members, including youth, by:
 - Responding to invitations from quorum and auxiliary leaders to teach lessons on temple and family history work.
 - Speak in sacrament meeting, hold a ward or youth fireside, teach fifth Sunday lessons.
 - Include the consultant names and contact information in sacrament meeting program and on the ward bulletin board.
 - Include family history tips and new or interesting information in the sacrament meeting program.

Training

- Internet Learning for Consultants and Priesthood Leaders – start with Core Training
 - Familysearch.org/serve
- Family History Consultants who do not work in a family history center do NOT need to be experts in family history research. However they should work and communicate well with others. It will be very helpful to be comfortable using the resources at FamilySearch.org and helping others use them. Training videos and tutorials found on FamilySearch.org – click on 'Help' tab. These FamilySearch resources include:
 - Temple name submission
 - Family Tree (transitioning from new.familysearch.org)
 - Historical record collections
 - Family pedigrees
 - Research wiki
 - Indexing worldwide records
 - Digitized books
 - Family history library catalog

Tips for Consulting

- Please focus on the member's family rather than your own. Your family stories and accomplishments will not inspire them – help members find their own family stories.
- Ask the member what *they* want to accomplish.
- Begin where they are – help the member learn in a manner consistent with their abilities, interests and needs.
- Focus on what a member *does* know rather than on what they *do not* know.
- Do not do all the work for members – you will help them begin and continue.
- The spirit of criticism from an expert will kill the enthusiasm of a beginner.
- Be prayerful, the Lord will help you as you strive to fulfill your responsibilities as a new consultant.
- Patience – patience – patience

Getting Help

- **Mesa FamilySearch Library:** www.mesafsl.org or 480-964-1200 – English & Spanish
Providing links to AZ obituary index, AZ births & deaths, AZ cemeteries, websites, webinars, webcasts on-site free classes and more.
- **FamilySearch Support:** <https://familysearch.org/help/contact> (send email or chat online) or 1-866-406-1830
The call center is open 24/7 and is a toll-free number. FamilySearch support is available for everyone, church members and community members alike, and will answer questions on indexing, research, PAF, any FamilySearch product, any family history question.
- **BYU Family History Site:** <https://familyhistory.byu.edu/Pages/Home.aspx>
Free Religion 261 online lessons, Immigrant ancestors project, Script tutorials, Area-specific research guides, etc.

*You will want to be careful not to open the hydrant when a member asks for a sip.
(Elder L. Whitney Clayton)*