

“The Mormon Church, though regional in extent and not to be counted among community resources over the greater part of the country, deserves to be mentioned for the very complete program it conducts for its youth. This is administered through a Young Men’s and a Young Women’s Mutual Improvement Association, serving 140,000 young people of all ages. There are 30,000 between the ages of 17 and 24 and an additional 8,400 from 25 to 35. The Mutual Improvement Associations are concerned with all aspects of the lives of their members. Much recreation and wholesome amusement is provided. There are indoor and outdoor sports of all kinds. Dramatics and public speaking are integral parts of local programs and there is a well-trained choral group of youth in each church.

The attracting power of the church organization of this denomination is impressively demonstrated by the fact that 55 percent of their total membership is present at the weekly meetings. Mormon churches are real community centers, often well equipped for the purpose. The maintenance of so elaborate and beneficial a program for young people is in part made possible by the fact that Mormons practice tithing, a financing method that has been relinquished by most other denominations. However, the energy and forethought with which Mormons have provided for the recreational life and other experiences affecting the well being of their youth is a conspicuous example of what a church can do for its young people if determination is present.”

C. Gilbert Wrenn and D. L. Harley, *Time on their Hands: A Report of Leisure, Recreation and Young People* (Washington, D.C.: American Council on Education, 1941), 140

