Local youth groups received a glimpse into a doctor's life during a recent trip to the Ohio State University Medical Center.

Members of Boy Scout Troop 19 of Worthington and youth group members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Powell became doctors in training Wednesday, March 18, at the medical center’s Clinical Skills Education and Assessment Center.

The assessment center opened in 2004 as a training tool to give Ohio State students a break from books and lectures with simulations of actual patient-care facilities.

“The idea is, it’s a safe learning environment, but hopefully it feels real,” said Sara Calvey, program manager for the assessment center.

First-year medical student Russell Legg knows the facility well from an ultrasound class he took at the assessment center.

Several church members study at the medical center as students or residents and organized the evening tour for their fellow churchgoers.

The assessment center includes 14 patient encounter rooms, which resemble small examination rooms equipped with two-way mirrors.

Actors participate in mock doctor-patient encounters in the rooms with students while experienced doctors watch and take notes through the mirrors.

Dr. James Clarke, who is in his final year
of residency at the medical center, gave a
tour of the encounter rooms and demon-
strated some basic examination skills.
Across the hall, a large room contained
virtual reality equipment and “human sim-
ulators,” or life-sized dummies, to provide
instruction on suturing, ECG monitoring,
endotracheal intubation, ultrasound en-
doscopy and other common procedures.
Some of the braver Boy Scouts and
church members jumped up on the hospital
beds and allowed Clarke and Legg to con-
duct ultrasounds on their hearts and stom-
achs – with the results broadcast on
flat-screen TVs above the beds.
Calvey helped another group to manipu-
late a probe through a fake torso in a mini-

mally invasive surgery simulator.
As the probe was moved around in the
stomach of the torso, corresponding images
of intestines were displayed on a computer
screen above the table.
Calvey said the simulator helps students
to develop necessary hand-eye coordina-
tion.
Some of the Boy Scouts used the oppor-
tunity to earn merit badges for learning
CPR from Boy Scout leader and fourth-year
medical student Matt Swenson.
“This was them saying, ‘Hey, we can do
something cool with where we go to work
every day,” said Theron Selph, who is part
of the church’s youth leadership.