

“Signal Fire” is a publication of the Royal Rangers Ministry of the North Texas District Council Assemblies of God.

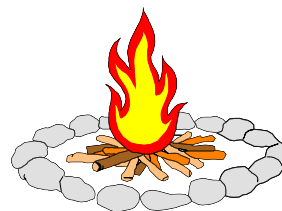
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Training Coordinator	Pending
Buckaroo/Straight Arrow Coordinator	Mark Oliver
FCF President	Gary Bierschwale
“Signal Fire” Editor	Mark Oliver

NEWS NEEDED

Is there anything specific you would like to learn more about? If you have some ideas or articles to place in the Signal Fire, the next deadline to receive news is February 21, 1999. Please send your information to: Mark Oliver, 8117 Cloverglenn Lane, Ft. Worth, TX 76123-2018 or moliver@csc.com.

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Hurst, TX.
Permit No. 200

North Texas District Council
Royal Rangers Ministry
P.O. Box 1188
Hurst, TX 76053-1188



North Texas District ROYAL RANGERS “Signal Fire”

January 1999

Commanders,

Praise the Lord for a great winter camp! I know some of you did not go and you were missed. We had about 400 show up in the rain at 4 of our camps, over 40 were saved and 30 filled with the Holy Spirit! Praise the Lord!! We collected \$1,585.00 for the large patches, that was great. I know the weather was bad, especially in the Southeast Division, but the rest of us had a good time. Commanders remember this is winter camping. The boys have requirements that can be done only at a winter camp. Remember winter camp this next November and get ready now.

I would also like to introduce you to our new Buckaroos/ Straight Arrows Coordinator Mark Oliver (who is also the editor of this newsletter). Mark has been in Rangers for over 12 years and has a real burden for our little guys. Be praying that with his help we will keep moving forward with our B/ SA.

We want to give a big THANKS to J.C. Spence for all his and Faye's time that they have given to this district. J.C. has asked to retire at the first of the year and we are honoring his request. I have asked him to be a consultant to Mark as long as he desires. I know we will miss you very much. Bless you J.C. and Faye.

In His Service,

1999 District Calendar

1999

January	29-30	South Central Regional Training Seminar (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma)
February	5-6	District Instructor Certification Seminar
	19-20	Academy of Ranger Training
	26-28	BSTC, Lakeview Campground
March	4-7	NTC, Lakeview Campground
	12-13	FCF Brush Poppin
	27	District Ranger of the Year Testing
April	23-24	District Commanders Conference
May	8	Work Day for Pow Wow
	15	Regional Ranger of the Year competition
June	4-6	Pow Wow
July	11-16	Sarge Training Academy
August	20-21	Academy of Ranger Training
September	10-11	Instructor Certification Seminar
	23-26	National Urban Leadership Conference, Lakeview Camp
	24-25	District Commanders Campout
October	3-9	Royal Ranger Week
	29-31	FCF Family Days
November	12-13	District Winter Camp
December	11	FCF Christmas Banquet

Mark your calendars now for these dates.

New Leaders Manual

There is a new revised edition of the Leaders Manual released this past October. The major change was the inclusion of the Standard and Gold track requirements for Pioneers and Trailblazers, and the advancement trail for Trail Ranger Challengers.

Royal Rangers South Central Regional Training Seminar

The seminar is going to be held at Faith Tabernacle, I-40 and Portland Ave. in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on January 29-30, 1999.

The cost is \$20.00 if you pre-register and \$22.00 if you register at the door. Please submit a separate registration form for each leader. Pre-registration must be postmarked by January 16, 1999 to qualify for the pre-registration discount, and to receive the free tie-tac.

(PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY)

Last name: _____ First Name: _____

Street or PO Box _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ District: _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

I will Bunk-in the Gym: ____ Yes ____ No
(men only--bring your own gear)

I will be eating the Sat. noon meal at the Gym: ____ Yes ____ No
(\$5.50, purchase your ticket at the seminar)

Will your wife be attending the ladies activities: ____ Yes ____ No

MAIL REGISTRATION FORM TO:

Jonathan Trower
PO Box 6211
Waco, TX 76706
Phone: 254-420-1941

Make checks payable to SCR Royal Rangers.

with their registration. The host church will provide the noon meal Saturday for the very reasonable price of \$5.50. You will be able to purchase your tickets for lunch when you register at the Seminar.

If you have not yet made your hotel reservation, you can do so by calling the host hotel, the Best Western Saddleback Inn. Their telephone number is 1-800-228-3903. When you make your reservation ask for the Royal Rangers block #9685 -- this will ensure the reservation is booked correctly. The cost of the room is \$55.00 for 1-4 persons. They also have a number of suites available for \$70.00 per night (normal rate is \$160.00). Be sure to make reservations early to assure the special rate. The special rate will also be available if you want to stay an extra day in Oklahoma City.

There will also be special activities for the ladies Saturday at the hotel. Joyce Deaver (Fred Deaver's wife) will present a devotion Saturday morning. Following that, the ladies will participate in a session in both the morning and afternoon devoted to crafts (until approximately 3:00 p.m.) The cost of the materials for the crafts will be approximately \$6.00. If your wife would be interested in joining in these activities, please indicate that on the registration form.

If you have questions about the Seminar, you may contact Jonathan Trower, the regional training coordinator, at 254-420-1941 or by e-mail at Jonathan_Trower@Baylor.edu. You may also get up-to-the-minute information on the Seminar on the Region's web site at <http://www.royalrangers.net/scr>

We look forward to seeing you in January at the Seminar!

Reg. Training Seminar Silent Auction

There will be a silent and live auction at this year's 1999 Regional Training Seminar. If you have items for either the live or silent auction, please contact John Permenter, at jspcpa@flash.net or call 214-478-7716. Each donation will entitle you to a charitable contribution deduction on your personal tax return. Hope to see you in OK City. Thanks.

1999 Ranger of the Year Testing

It's that time of the year to start preparing your boys for the 1999 Ranger of the Year testing. We would like to get as many churches as possible to participate in this coming year's competition. Ranger of the Year testing is a great way for boys to test their knowledge. Commanders please do not keep your boys from participating in this testing because you feel they are not smart enough. This could be the one thing that gets your boys motivated again. If you will send a boy out on a football field so he can learn to play, why not allow him the opportunity to test his Royal Rangers knowledge. For both of these, boys only get better by practicing. As you prepare for this year's sectional testing, remember that you need to send one boy from each age group who best represents his outpost.

By each outpost participating in their Sectional testing, this will ensure we have a good turnout at the district testing. We would like to see each section represented at district testing by sending their top boy from each age group to the competition.

We are currently in need for a church for next year's District Ranger of the Year testing. We would like to hold it in the Dallas - Fort Worth area so if your church has plenty of rooms for testing and a sanctuary we can use, I would like to hear from you. In addition to the church, we also need at least 80 leaders to assist with our testing. It's only with your assistance that we can make this testing a success for our boys.

Please contact me if you have any specific questions or can assist with the 1999 Ranger of the Year testing.

Robert Johnson (HAlexan648@aol.com), 940-723-6210

A.R.T. Camp

Commanders, will you please raise your hand if you know all there is to know about Royal Rangers? I doubt if anyone could raise his or her hand at that!

So to help you get going in that direction...I would like to invite you to the Academy of Ranger Training being held February 19-20 1999. All of the A.R.T. classes are for adults only. There are no classes scheduled for boys at this A.R.T.

There will be classes on all phases of Royal Rangers camp craft: tool craft, fire craft, rope craft, council fires, nature study, compass, and lashing.

Also a few "advanced" classes will be held for you that almost raised your hand including pioneering, advanced rope craft, advanced cooking, and other classes in the works.

For the Straight Arrows/Buckaroos leaders there will be classes such as...nature study, compass, fire craft, tool craft, rope craft, and lashing all geared toward the younger Rangers.

There will be a First Aid class given at the end of the A.R.T. (on Saturday evening) so the L.T.C. students can qualify to complete the L.T.C. This is one of only two times each year the L.T.C. camp is held so as Regional Training Coordinator Jonathan Trower says "you can freeze with us in February, or fry with us in August." (I suggest the cooler of choices. No bugs!)

And last but not least, there will be a Black Powder course for all you FCF members that have not earned your shooters card. This will be a class that will take the entire camp to complete, but well worth your time if you need the card.

We have some very good teachers for these classes and believe that you will be motivated and have something that you can use no matter if you have yet to go on your first Ranger camp -out, or you have been on many camps. Come join us for a great time of learning and fellowship.

FCF Vice President, Terry "Sky Hawk" Gibbs

Contact your Section Commander or FCF staff for more info.

1998 Service Awards

Have you earned an award for 1998?? Enclosed are the forms for the awards that commanders are eligible to earn. THE DEADLINE FOR SENDING THE AWARD FORMS TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE IS MARCH 15. Please note \$10.00 for the first year medals and \$2.00 for additional year pins is due when you send in the forms.

1999 South Central Regional Training Seminar

The date for the South Central Regional Training Seminar is quickly approaching. The Seminar will be held January 29-30, 1999 at Faith Tabernacle in Oklahoma City, OK. We invite all commanders, outpost councilmen, and pastors to join us for the Seminar this year. The emphasis for this Seminar will be on urban ministry, though there will be classes available on a variety of topics.

The Seminar begins Friday evening, January 29, at 7:00 in the sanctuary of Faith Tabernacle. During this service, we will be blessed by the ministry of the Merits, a Southern Gospel singing group from Arkansas. After the service, we will have a time of fellowship in the church gym. If your spouse is accompanying you to Oklahoma City for the weekend, they are welcome to join us for this service.

Saturday, the morning session will begin at 8:00 with Rev. Freddie Espinoza as our special speaker. Commander Espinoza is the district commander for the Southern Pacific Latin American District, vice-president of the National Royal Rangers Council, and pastor of Gospel Temple in East Los Angeles, California. Fred Deaver will also bring a word of greeting. Class sessions will begin at 9:30, and will conclude at 4:45. Lunch is scheduled from 12:30-1:45, and we plan to hold the auction during that time. The classes scheduled for Saturday include:

- Outpost Councilmen LTC (5 hour course)
- Urban Commanders Training Guide (5 hour course)
- Gangs
- Challengers
- GMA/Awards Ceremonies
- Health and Fitness for Royal Rangers and Commanders
- Ministering to Inner-City Boys
- Buckaroos/Straight Arrows Field Days
- Computers, the Internet, and Your Outpost
- The Family
- Buckaroos Meetings
- Straight Arrows Meetings
- Ministering to Disabled/Handicapped Children

The cost of the Seminar is \$20.00 if you pre-register by January 16, 1999, or \$22.00 if you register at the door. As an extra incentive, those who pre-register will receive a free tie-tac

Division One Update

Once again God moved in a mighty way at our Division 1 Winter Camp. There were a total of 90 men and boys registered (65 boys and 25 men). We also had some visitors.

The first night Pastor Flynn preached and did a wonderful job. He touched the gathered crowd in a mighty way. 2 boys gave their life to Jesus for the first time. 12 or so rededicated their lives to Christ and several were filled with the Holy Ghost. One boy from Burkburnet had been seeking the infilling of the Holy Spirit for several years and was finally blessed Friday night.

The Camp went well Saturday. Commanders brought gifts for the boys, and we had over 40 gifts. The boys with the most beads choose a gift first. They earned beads by completing different events or receiving a bead from a Commander for doing something special. This worked very well. The gifts ranged from a folding chair, 3 man tents, flashlights, pocketknives, hats, bolo slides, etc. The camp officially closed at the end of the flag lowering.

Saturday night skits went well and then a Pastor from Abundant Worship Center brought the word at the council fire. Again hearts were touched. Another boy came forward to give his life to Christ for the first time. Boys came forward to serve the Master Ranger. At least 3 boys were slain in the Spirit. Miracles happened again - Praise God!

I would like to say a special thanks to Roger Stewart for setting up this beautiful campsite for us and thanks to the Lion's Club for letting us use it!

The 'Name Our Division' contest was extended through June 1999, so start thinking of a good name and scripture. God Bless, Div. 1 - Commander Lee

NTC and BSTC

If you plan to attend, please make sure you send your applications in as soon as possible. This will be the first time North Texas has held both of these camps and they will be filling up very quickly. If you need an application form, please contact your Sectional Commander, or you may find an electronic version at www.royalrangers.net/ntd

Southwest "Rough Riders" Division

Greetings! I know that in the busy Holiday Season God blessed each and every one of you, and I trust that all of you had a wonderful Christmas. I would like to thank everyone who made it out and braved Winter Camp this year. We had a great time and it only misted a little. We had about 85 campers who enjoyed the games, activities, history, and devotions. Commander Randy Woods spoke about when doing a good work it is better to be criticized for mistakes than to get criticized for doing nothing. Several responded, and I believe that God did a work in some hearts and lives. A very BIG Thank You to Commander Woods for that word and for being Camp Commander. Once again the forecast was much worse than the weather. Commanders, remember that if we thoroughly prepare for rain on our campouts we can have a good camp even if it rains.

Thank you to Commander Jerry Haynes for his great service as Austin Sectional Commander. We would also like to congratulate Commander Mark Chapman on his appointment as the new Austin Sectional Commander.

Well, once again, I am trusting that you had a wonderful holiday Season, and I am looking forward to working with each of you again in the New Year. Let's make it a good one.

In Christ,
Ken W. Farley
Southwest Divisional Commander

SARGE TRAINING ACADEMY

Sarge Training Academy offers top notch training for boys from Pioneers through Challengers (ages 9-17) by providing the resources, instruction, and counseling needed to reach the highest potential in Royal Rangers. The academy provides this opportunity by applying the self-reliant method of camping. It is important for boys to do things for themselves, to gain confidence in their abilities, and to gain satisfaction of doing something for others.

Each patrol will be assigned an area for camping and will use the patrol method for giving assignments. Patrols will prepare balanced and nutritious meals. Each patrol member will have many opportunities at cooking, fire building, and cleaning up on a rotating basis. There is no better training for boys than this kind of experience. If you want your Royal Rangers to learn more about the patrol method and building patrol spirit and pride, enroll them in the Sarge Training Academy.

Camp Dates are July 11-14, 1999 for PTC and July 11-16 for JLTC, AJTC, JTT, and AMC.

<u>Camp</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Ages</u>
PTC	Pioneer Training Camp	9-11
JLTC	Junior Leadership Training Camp	12-17
AJTC	Advanced Junior Training Camp	12-17
JTT	Junior Training Trails	12-17
AMC	Advanced Merit Camp	10 ½- 17

PTC - Commanders!! Would you like for your Pioneers to go to a District Royal Rangers training camp? We have a 3 ½ day camp for them this summer. He will learn all the basic camping skills, which will help him to earn his advancements quickly. Each boy will return to his outpost excited about what he has learned at this camp. This can make a difference in your outpost. Camp space will be limited. Let's get them enrolled now while space is available.

AMC - This camp is designed for boys to work on their merits, which helps them earn the Gold Medal of Achievement. Most of the required awards are offered at this camp. If your Royal Rangers need a boost in this area, this camp will be beneficial to them. You must be 10 ½ or have completed PTC to attend.

JLTC - This is a structured camp for Trailblazers. Boys learn to discipline themselves to use the patrol system in getting their assigned daily projects completed. Also the camp has a Senior Guide, which is the liaison between the camp commander and the

patrols.

AJTC - This is a camp for all those boys who have completed JLTC. This camp is designed to prepare boys for leadership in the outpost. Each boy will be given opportunity to instruct in one or more classes.

JTT - This camp is designed for backpacking. Boys will carry all his personal gear, food, and water over a given trail for a five-day trip. This camp is packed with fun, adventure, and excitement in the mountains of New Mexico. The mountain scenic view will be indescribable. This can be a once in a lifetime experience for a boy. Since this camp will be held at a National Park in New Mexico, all the boys attending this camp will be interviewed by the Camp Commander at Pow Wow.

More information about Sarge Training Academy will be in the next issue of the Signal Fire in April 1999, but start planning now on getting your boys prepared to attend one of these camps.

Please consider helping at these camps. For more information, please contact Dwain Klopfenstein at 817-281-0081.

Northeast Division Report

Last year it snowed and this year it rained but the Northeast "Minutemen" division had a great camp. What do you do when the weatherman is predicting flash floods and you've scheduled a campout? You have a camp IN! That's right. We had 85 campers join together from the Tyler and Longview Sections at our winter camp. We were blessed to be camping at Calvary Commission in Lindale. They opened their auditorium up to the campers. The camp began with a fellowship stew on Friday Night. The presence of the Lord was there in a special way at the council fire as 20 boys came forward for prayer with the commanders. One commander told me that 15 of his boys surrendered their hearts to the Lord. Since this was the very first camp-out that many of the boys had been on, we offered 5 different classes for the boys including fire craft, lashing, compass, cooking and tool craft. We are grateful to God for what He is doing in the lives of the boys through the Royal Rangers ministry. Let's continue to pray and expect great things from our Great God.

Jody Fauss, Northeast Divisional Commander