

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

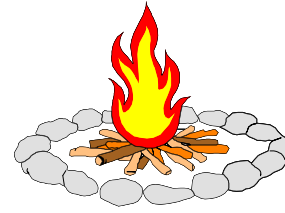
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NEWS NEEDED

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, 2000. Please send your information to: Mark Oliver, 8117 Cloverglan Lane, Ft. Worth, TX 76123-2018 or moliver@csc.com.

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



North Texas District ROYAL RANGERS “Signal Fire”

January 2000

Commanders,

2000 Wow!!! Did you think you would actually see it?

I want to thank each one of you that has given to the campgrounds and commanders supplement. Thanks, it makes a difference.

The campground is looking great. Restrooms will be complete by the end of this month. The water line is in. Things are happening all the time. Come down and join us on most weekends to finish up those little things.

I would like to invite you to be at the campgrounds January 22 for the dedication of the big lodge on the east side of the lake. It will be a big event with FCF and the cannon. Come, be in uniform (class B or FCF). We need to setup a village and promote Royal Rangers at this event. You will get a free meal out of it!!

In His Service,

Paul Patterson

2000 District Calendar

January	7-8	District Staff Meeting
	28-29	Regional Seminar, San Antonio
February	4-5	Instructor Certification Seminar
	18-19	Academy of Ranger Training, Lakeview
March	10-11	FCF Brush Poppin'
	25	District Ranger of the Year
April	28-29	District Commanders Conference
May	6	Work Day for Pow Wow
	20	Sarge SIT Camp Regional Ranger of the Year
June	2-4	District Pow Wow
	17	Sarge SIT Camp
July	9-14	Sarge Training Academy
	17-21	FCF National Rendezvous
August	18-19	Academy of Ranger Training, Lakeview
September	8-9	Instructor Certification Seminar
	14-17	NULC, San Antonio
	29-30	Divisional Commanders Campout
October	12-15	NTC - Lakeview
	27-29	FCF Family Days
November	10-11	District Winter Camp
December	9	FCF Family Banquet

National Training Camp (NTC) is designed to prepare and train commanders to take their boys camping. This camp is a unique experience for every commander. No other Royal Rangers training camp offered will come close to the soul-searching and bonding that takes place at an NTC. Evening council fires and daytime devotionals meet trainees where they are at and challenge them spiritually. The senior guide illustrates that trainees still have what it takes to work with boys. Safety is the number one concern and is stressed throughout the camp. Classes include instruction in tools, knots, lashing, nature, etc. The NTC in the South Central Region in 2000 will be held at Lakeview Camp near Dallas, Texas October 12-15.

National Urban Leadership Conference (NULC) is designed:

- to give commanders at every level of Royal Rangers the necessary training to reach, teach, and keep boys for Christ;
- to provide leadership development and outstanding fellowship;
- to challenge the commander to develop leadership qualities;
- to enable him/her to acquire a greater understanding of the diverse needs of today's youth;
- to provide instruction on accepting and working with children from different ethnic and social backgrounds.

The NULC will provide ideas for teaching and administration as they apply to the Royal Rangers ministry through various workshops and hands-on ministry in an urban setting.

The NULC, because of its great potential to train children's workers, can be used to help other youth workers in the church -- e.g., Missionettes sponsors, youth workers, and Sunday school teachers.

The 2000 NULC for the South Central Region will be held September 14-17, 2000 at the Latin American Bible Institute in San Antonio, Texas. The conference will begin Thursday evening and will conclude Sunday morning. A series of workshops will be held that will prepare leaders to start effective ministries in the urban areas of their community. Saturday will include hands-on ministry in an inner-city portion of San Antonio. Application forms will be available at the regional seminar, and will be available on the regional web site at . You can also contact our regional training coordinator, Jonathan Trower, at 254-420-1941 or trower@mis.baylor.edu for additional information.

The cost of attending seminar is \$20 if you pre-register by January 15, 2000, or \$22 if you register at the door. If you pre-register, you will receive a free seminar tote bag at the seminar.

The host hotel is the San Antonio Airport Hilton on I-410. If you have not yet made your reservation, you can do so by calling the host hotel, the San Antonio Airport Hilton, between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Their telephone number is 1-877-377-7227. When you make your reservation be sure you mention that you are with the Royal Rangers to get the conference rate. The cost of the room is \$69.00 for 1-4 persons. 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 San Antonio. If you prefer, men can stay at the host church for free, as long as you bring your own cot and bedding.

If you have questions about this year's seminar, you can contact the regional training coordinator, Jonathan Trower, at 254-420-1941 or trower@mis.baylor.edu. In addition, you can get additional information on the regional web site at www.royalrangers.net/scr.

GMA Staff Assistants Wanted

Any GMA recipients that would like to assist the SCR staff at the Regional Seminar are invited to join us as GMA Staff Assistants. They will help with the presentation of the colors, collecting the offering, assisting with classroom setup, registration, and other aspects of the seminar. The GMA Staff Assistants were a great help last year, and we would like to encourage their assistance again this year. If you are a GMA, or if you know of a GMA who would like to assist at the seminar, contact Jonathan Trower at 254-420-1941 or trower@mis.baylor.edu, or indicate it on the seminar registration form.

Auction Items Needed

Every year at Regional Seminar, we hold an auction that helps fund the operations of the region for the next year. We are again asking for donations of items that we can auction off at this year's seminar. Items can be donated before the seminar, or they may be dropped off at the regional booth at the seminar. All donations are tax deductible. For more information, you can contact our regional finance officer, John Permenter, at 214-478-7716 or jspcpa@flash.net.

2000 Ranger of the Year Testing

It's that time of the year to start preparing your boys for the 2000 Ranger of the Year testing. Every year, we try to encourage as many sections and churches as possible to participate in the competition. Ranger of the Year testing is a great way for boys to test their knowledge. Commanders, please do not keep the boys from your outpost from competing in the sectional Ranger of the Year testing. This could be the one thing that gets your boys motivated again. 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.

This year's District Ranger of the Year testing will be held at Evangel Temple in Wichita Falls. The church is located at 3800 Barnett and Kell Street. 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. Each sectional commander will receive directions to this church.

Please contact me if you have any specific questions or if you can assist with the 2000 Ranger of the Year testing.

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

A.R.T. Camp

Commanders, you are invited to attend the first Academy of Ranger Training (ART) to be held for the new year. It will be held February 18-19 at Lakeview. The cost is \$20. All classes will start at 7 pm, so please arrive early. This camp is more than just the LTC camp-out. There will also be advanced training classes for commanders who are interested in learning about inclement weather camping, rope making, and flag and ceremony. All of the ART classes are for adults only. There are no classes scheduled for boys.

This ART will also include Buckaroos/Straight Arrows LTC classes. You will attend classes such as...nature study, compass, fire craft, tool craft, rope craft, crafts, and day camp planning. Facilities will be available for ladies taking the B/SA LTC.

There will be a First Aid class given at the end of the ART starting at 3 pm (Saturday evening) so the LTC students can qualify to complete the LTC. CPR will begin at 6 pm. The cost of these classes are \$2 for first aid, and \$12 for CPR. The CPR manual will cost you \$14 if you would like to purchase one.

There will be a Black Powder Instructor course for anyone who would like to become a certified Black Powder Instructor. This class will begin Friday evening and will get over Saturday afternoon. This will be a class that will take the entire camp to complete, and will cost an estimated \$75 to complete.

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.

If you are currently teaching an LTC class, you must contact Sammy Kellum at 972-790-2879 by February 15th. You will need to provide him with a count of commanders, along with names, of who will be attending the standard or B/SA LTC camp. Also, if you have any young bucks in your outpost and they would like to assist teaching a class, please contact Sammy Kellum.

2000 South Central Regional Seminar

The 2000 Regional Seminar is quickly approaching. We are looking forward to a great time of worship, fellowship and training at this year's seminar, which will be held at First Assembly of God in San Antonio, Texas. Friday night in our evening service the Gulf Latin District praise and worship team will be leading a time of worship. Following this National Commander Rich Mariott will be speaking.

Saturday morning National FCF President Fred Deaver will bring the morning devotional. Then, Commander Mariott will be spending 90 minutes talking about his vision for Royal Rangers in the new millennium and presenting the outline for the new Royal Rangers programs. Commander Mariott came to the national Royal Rangers office with a mandate from the executives of the Assemblies of God to revamp Royal Rangers in certain ways. If you want to hear what is being proposed and why, then you definitely need to attend this session. Most of us won't have a better chance to hear directly from our national commander about the changes that will be coming in Royal Rangers in the next few years.

Following the presentation by Commander Mariott, we will have a series of classes to provide additional training for you. The list of classes that we plan on offering includes:

- Fundraising for Your Outpost
- Running an Urban Outpost
- Liability/Protecting Kids in Your Outpost
- Motivating Boys to Advance
- Buckaroos/Straight Arrows Crafts
- Pokemon and Other "Modern" Kids Trends
- Ministering to Inner-City Boys
- Senior Commanders
- Buckaroos Meetings
- Straight Arrows Meetings
- Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship

Seminar is for everyone – senior commanders, commanders, lieutenant commanders, junior commanders, outpost councilmen, and pastors. Special activities are planned for spouses who are not planning on attending the seminar. They are welcome to attend the Friday evening service. Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. they will meet at the host hotel for breakfast and a devotion. Following that, they are planning a day of shopping and sightseeing in San Antonio.

issues in their lives that need to be resolved. Their conscience bothers them. God convicts them. We as Christians who are used to the light not only see things that need to be cleaned up but can enjoy the cleanliness that is revealed by the light. A light emanates from each Christian. The question is what kind of light do we give out? Are we merely a reflection of something else or are we projecting the true and living God in a way to draw the lost to Him, the light, from the darkness of sin?

Randy Woods
Deputy District Commander
Decade of Harvest Coordinator

1999 Service Awards

Have you earned an award for 1999? 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. After you send the forms in, plan to attend the Commanders Conference & Awards Ceremony on April 28-29 to receive your awards.

Brush Poppin' 2000

It is the season of falling leaves in the new century, 1800, and your smokehouse is getting empty. If you don't go on a hunting trip and get some meat, it could be a long hungry winter for you and your family. After cutting some wood to keep your family warm and doing a few other chores to get the homestead ready for the winter, you decide to take off on a hunting trip with a brigade of neighbors and the older males of your family. You pack a few things in your basket pack, grab your smoothbore from the mantle, hug your wife and girls like there is no tomorrow, and set off on your hunting trip.

It has been a rewarding hunting trip. You have venison, pig, and turkey to put into the smokehouse! It has been only one week and you and your brigade members are ready to get home to their wives and family. You pack your horses and mules and head for home. You come to one of your brigade members first to help him unload his share of the hunt. As you approach the cabin... you notice the front door open and off it's hinges! Your friend rushes in and finds his cabin in shambles! He cannot find his wife and family, but he finds blood on the floor and two broken arrows of a tribe from up north! As your brigade looks around, you find a trail of moccasins leading east towards your cabin! You mount your stead and travel the three miles quickly! As you come over the hill you see smoke... as you get closer you see it is your cabin! You jump off your stead and run to the barn... you cannot find your family, but you find another trail of moccasins leading to the north.

You gather your brigade together and set off after the renegades! You are running low on supplies and you are tired, but you must face all the hazards of the wild to get your family back! Can you survive the elements and make the right decisions... time will tell.

Come to the 2000 Brush Poppin' and finish this story that has been laid out in front of you! The cost will be \$10 per member and will be at Lakeview Camp in FCF Village. You will need all the necessary gear to accomplish this expedition. There will be an inspection of your gear before you embark on this trip and you had better be accurate or you will loose points! You will also gain or loose points for the proper gear brought to survive. Brigades will be eight or less. You can build your brigades before you get to camp or we will build them for you after you get there. Brush Poppin is March 10-11 and your trek will start whenever your brigade is ready on Saturday morning. Come and see if you can out wit the elements and the renegades!

Also at this camp we will be taking nominations for North Texas District FCF President, Vice president, Scout, and Asst. Scout. Yes its time to vote for a new President. You have to be present to make a nomination, so come out and take care of business and lets get God's man to lead this great group into 2000! Bring a nice gift to throw on a love blanket that we can bless our young bucks with. We always like to give the young bucks that show-up at this camp some great plunder to take home with them! See you there!

If you have any questions regarding this camp, please call Gary Bierschwale at 972-442-1325.

SARGE TRAINING ACADEMY

1999 is coming to a close. Reflecting back over 1999 many goals have been set and accomplished. We had our first NTC at the camp, Light for the Lost banquet at Sarge, Pow Wow speaker from Australia. The First Aid Station about finished. Putting the last few touches on the Commanders Lodge. Rest rooms are being built. I'd say Royal Rangers in this District has done exceptionally well. It's the support you as a commander give to make our District Royal Rangers ministry look good.

The Year 2000 will be a busy year for the District Royal Rangers ministry. Completion of all the restrooms and the lodge. Many activities have been scheduled throughout the year. Try to make as many events as possible. This training will help you and your outpost build a bigger and stronger camping program.

Call your attention to the commanders conference. Please write this date in your date book to attend. Many awards are given in recognition of all the hard work you have done through out the year.

Sarge' is a training camp for boys! Age 9 - 17. Last year we had over 150 boys in training. Your boys will experience one of the biggest highlight of his camping in his life. See the District Web page for more information about this exciting camp.

We do need adult help to train these boys who come to help. If you would like to make a difference in a boys life contact the District Royal Rangers office or Dwain Klopfenstein at 817 281 0081. We can use all the GOOD help get.

Don't forget Pow Wow and all the FCF EVENTS for all you Frontiersman. You'll have blast!

Are you a reflection or a projection?

I have watched a full moon rise over the Lakeview Camp many times. I always enjoy the soft light as it shines across the lake. It reminds me that God is still in control regardless of circumstances. I also think of how our lives as Christians are like the moonlight. As the moon is a reflection of the sun, so should our lives be reflective of the light of God – His Son, Jesus. We can't see the sun but we know it is there because of the moon glow. We can't see God but we know He is still there. I reasoned if people saw the reflection of God in my life, I must be where God wants me to be. Maybe, I could be admired for the reflection I gave.

But I have changed my mind on the previous thinking. I still enjoy the full moon and hope I reflect God's light. I began to realize that in order to reflect the sunlight; the moon had to do absolutely nothing but be in the right place at the right time. No effort is required of the moon. This is the attitude of many weak Christians. I have been forgiven but don't make me pray or do anything!

We really need to have a light that comes from within. We, then, become a projector. Like a projector, the light bulb is inside but the electrical source is outside. The Holy Spirit lives within if we ask. As powerful Christians, our light (the Holy Spirit) comes from within and is no longer external. We are no longer a reflection of God but a projection of God. As a moth is drawn to a bright light, we, as powerful Christian witnesses, can draw the lost to God because they see God, not us or a reflection.

No one complains about moonlight hurting his or her eyes but a projector can. If people are used to being in the dark, without God, the light reveals

vices.

The boys went through various training throughout the day, earning beads for prizes to be awarded later. The training was set up so the boys could learn and work on advancements. We had a potluck supper and enjoyed a feast of many different foods.

Again the highlight came at the Council Fire where we had a feast with the Master. Pastor Matthew Sanchez invited men and boys to be prayed for and receive the Holy Spirit. Men and boys were slain all around the Council fire being set free of what was holding them down in this world. Men and boys cried unto the Lord and their needs and prayers were answered as they humbled themselves to the KING of KINGS and LORD of LORDS! The Council fire didn't officially end, campers left as their needs were met or they felt released, some stayed still seeking to be baptized by the Holy Spirit. I say to the brother keep seeking the Baptizer, He will show up, you just need to be there.

Sunday, everyone left was invited to Southlake Assembly of God to be blessed by Pastor Calhoun. Pastor took the time to pray over all the Commanders. Thank you Pastor, May God Bless you as you have blessed us on the 14th of November.

In the Master Rangers Service,
Commander Lee

Don't forget the compass program. Your support of \$10.00 per month will help out the on-going expenses of the District Royal Rangers Camp. Send in your pledge To District Royal Rangers Acct. # 1114608. Thanks for your support.

See you at camp,
Dwain Klopfenstein, Deputy District Commander

Sarge Training Academy is closer than you think. We had an excellent camp in '99 and the new millennium will be better in all ways. The dates this year are July 9-15. There are 5 camps for all ages and advancements of the khaki boys. Pioneer Training camp for boys 9-11 who are new to Rangers and need basic training in skills, Advanced Merits Camp for boys 10 and older who are needing to earn advanced merits toward their Gold Medal of Achievement, Junior Leadership Training Camp, Advanced Junior Training Camp, and Junior Training Trails. Start making preparations now for fundraisers, days off, whatever is necessary. It takes a lot of men to staff this camp, but the impact it has on boys' lives is indescribable and it's because men like you take the time to give to their lives. If you have any questions, please contact me. Let's start getting our boys ready for a camp experience they won't forget, and for us to help in whatever way possible.

Jeff Kersey
Asst. Sarge Training Academy Coordinator
817-534-4740, jkersey@itexas.net

Divisional Winter Camp Updates

Our **Northeast "Minuteman" Division** enjoyed a wonderful time of food, fun and fellowship again this year. As the outpost arrived at camp, it was obvious that we were in for a great time as a U.S. Marshall and deputies came by pretending to look for an outlaw named Bart Johnson who was wanted for armed robbery and murder.

The men and boys enjoyed a fresh pot of fellowship stew and a Christian Cowboy Video called "Treasure at Eagle Mountain." Our camp speaker, Pastor Michael McDaniel, came dressed in his FCF outfit and began the pageant by lighting the fire with flint and steel and warming up some vittles. Each scene of the drama was separated by campfire and praise and worship songs. Sure enough, the outlaw came wanting the frontiersman's horse and was not going to accept "no" for an answer. The U.S. Marshall was quick to respond and a real shootout with real guns "and blanks" took place. Bad Bart Johnson refused to give up and was about to take a boy hostage when the Marshall and deputies had to shoot. The speaker then began his message on being ready. We had a wonderful time and boys responded to the call to repentance and salvation.

On Saturday, the boys accepted the mission of a "Rescue Challenge" with a compass. They had to find the jet pilot, bandage his wounds, build a campfire, cook hotdogs, build a travois and carry the pilot back to camp. All seven churches successfully completed the course and received a trophy.

We want to thank all the commanders of the following churches who came and gave of themselves to make this camp so successful:

Church

Hope Christian Fellowship
Pinetree Assembly of God
Chandler Assembly of God
Troup Assembly of God
Longview Assembly of God
Christian Life Assembly of God
Whitehouse Assembly of God
New Life Fellowship

Section

Tyler
Longview
Tyler
Tyler
Longview
Tyler
Tyler
Tyler

We are seeing God do great things in our Division and are looking forward to the New Year.

Reaching Boys of the Minuteman Division for Christ,

Jody Fauss

Northeast Divisional Commander

Once again the **Division One "Soaring Eagles"** had a Mountain top experience! We had 149 in attendance, 105 boys and 44 Commanders. Pastor Allen Phillips preached on setting oneself free Friday night. Boys and Commanders came forward to be set free. The devil lost many captives on the night of November 12th. The council fire burned the chains that had men and boys bound. Christ set free the captive as freedom rang around the campfire.

We awoke to no frost but a crisp beautiful "Free" day in Christ!

After the pledges to our flags we gathered to climb up the mountaintop again with Pastor Calhoun's devotion! He then invited everyone to his Church, Southlake Assembly, just a few miles away for Sunday ser-