

NORTH TEXAS DISTRICT SMOKE SIGNALS

Shawnee Trail FCF Newsletter

2nd Qtr., 2014

<http://www.ntxrr.org/fcf/>

Newest Buckskin Members



From Left to Right - Samuel "Strong Tower" Peterson, Outpost 65; Reagan "Two Towers" Zaragoza, Outpost 65; Joshua "Fire Starter" Carson, Outpost 55; Jeff "Trail Blazer" Peterson, Outpost 65



From our FCF President

We have had an interesting 1st year as a new staff. It seemed every time we turned around our staff was coming under attack every way you could imagine - financially, physically, spiritually, and family. The interesting thing about that is I spent a lot of time praying and God kept reassuring me it would all work out. It did, as He promised it would. There was a huge learning curve and some very trying tiring times but we all made it through. I want to let you know that your staff prays for you, intercedes for all of you, and then serves as best they can to get the job done in excellence. It is not always easy; if it was everyone would. And it's not always perfect, but it is done in the spirit of servant leadership and with a higher purpose in mind.

My request to all of you is return the favor. Pray for your staff - FCF, district Royal Rangers, sectional Royal Rangers, church and national. Remember this maybe our "job," but it is volunteer and when you have staff members struggling it is tough.

We have a huge vision from God to increase our ACTIVE membership to 500 members. We need to prepare for this by recruiting new commanders. As Royal Rangers commanders we cannot do the lone wolf thing in our church; we need to push for help and pray for men to get on board with the vision. This world and this country needs more LIFELONG CHRISTLIKE SERVANT LEADERS. There is not an area of any community that has enough of these. We need to be excited that God has given us an excellent tool for getting this done, for raising up more men and more boys to this very calling to be the men, warriors and lifelong Christlike servant leaders of today and tomorrow.

I will say to those who still struggle with the "new" changes and the leadership. There is no higher calling then to reach all the men and boys we can to be lifelong Servant leaders that reflect the true nature of Christ. The concepts and manner in which we do this have been prayed over and studied and continue to be refined by our national staff. This is not an effort to dumb down the program but to better incorporate all areas of interest that men and boys have. If the advancement system was camping only, not every man or boy would benefit from FCF and our advancement system. You severely limit your ministry and the number of men and boys you can reach by only focusing on certain areas. Life is not as simple as it once was. Technology has changed our world and made it not only much smaller but also much more complicated. There is a huge need to teach leadership in technology. There are so many areas that men and boys can excel at that do not involve lighting a fire or camping, yet take the same discipline and dedication to master the skills; we need to teach these things. We need to help men and boys see that the "values" need to be in line with the "Christlike" constant. We all have a responsibility to ethical work and leadership practices because the temptations of the word are still there. So I say to you who are still trying to find a reason not to get on board: let's join together and help this generation, and the next, become the best leaders they can be for ours and their future.

Ron "Pure Heart" Goodnow, Shawnee Trail FCF Chapter President

Psalm 51:10 "...Create in me a Pure Heart Oh God and a steadfast Spirit...."

903 467 2138, ronfcfntx@gmail.com

Prospector's Gold Nugget

By Prospector

I told a friend if he shot a deer that I was interested in a deer hide to tan. Later, Tom gave me a call and said: "I got a deer are you interested in the hide?" I said: "yes can you also bring the brain so I can brain tan it?" After work Tom brought me the deer skin and brain. At this time it was very cold and the old Prospector was very busy so the deer skin went into a big bag and put in the shed. So many times we put things off not realizing it makes it harder to finish what we started.

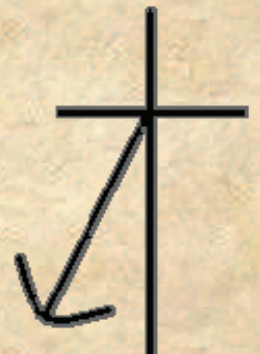
I talked with Jacob, one of our Adventure Rangers, and asked if he wanted to help tan a deer hide. I happened to have two skinning knives from Alaska that either were given to me or I traded for at one of our great Pow Wows in North Texas. First mistake, we waited too long to begin scraping the skin; the longer you wait the harder it becomes to scrape off the meat and fat on the hide. It brought to my mind that this was like having a bad habit or sin in your life. The longer you wait the harder it is to break the habit or stop the sin. We need to go to God while it is fresh on our minds; the more we let it linger the harder it is to get rid of it. Jacob and I stretched the hide on the bench the best we could and began scraping. It wasn't as easy as we both thought it would be, both of us made several holes in the skin and cut ourselves while trying to clean and scrape the skin. If only we would have started as soon as Tom brought to skin to me, oh how much easier it would have been. After several hours of scraping we decided we were done and again put the skin in the



bag. Mistake number two, we did not finish what we started and we stopped too soon. There was still some fat and meat on the skin (only a little). Again just like sin we must get rid of all of it and ask God for forgiveness and finish our repentance. Several days later I got a hold of Jacob to finish our task. We had to cook the brain and blend it so we could rub it into the deer hide. I pinned the deer hide on our wooden fence out back. Jacob came over and we got the brain ready to smear it into the hide. I don't believe Jacob will ever forget the experience with Prospector tanning the deer hide. It is stiff and has not turned out very great but I will use it as a hide to put some of Prospector's trades on at our camps. Jacob and I will both remember the "fun" in tanning a deer hide.

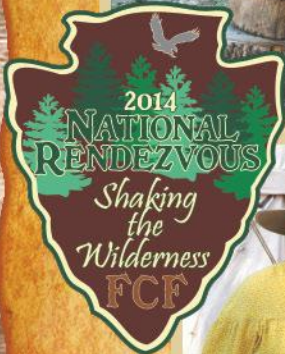
I said all this to take us to a scripture, 1 John 1:9-10, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us."

In His Service,
Prospector

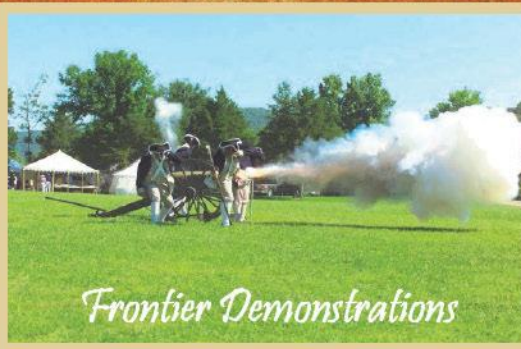




Discerning Eagle and Grey Owl invite you to take part in the most exciting Rendezvous in the history of the FCF. Make plans now to attend!



www.nationalfcf.org



Frontier Demonstrations

*Craftsman's Fair
Shooting Extravaganza
Rendezvous Vendors
Chapter & Territory Competitions
Hawk & Knife
Strong Heart Award*

Registration for Young Bucks and Old Timers

Register online by 5/14/2014 and receive a commemorative FCF hat pin:

\$76 chartered / \$89 non-chartered.

Register by 6/14/2014:

\$84 chartered / \$99 non-chartered.

Register online after 6/14/2014:

\$93 chartered / \$109 non-chartered.

Onsite registration will be available for \$129, though registration items cannot be guaranteed.

Chartered outposts receive a 15% discount on pre-registration. (Meal plans & on-site registration excluded.)

Rendezvous Café

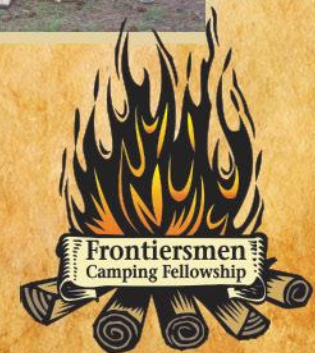
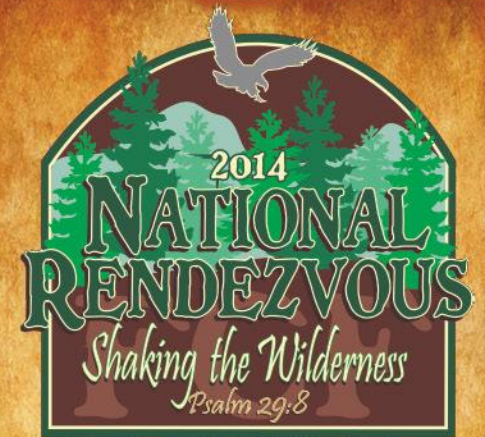
All Meal Deal includes 14 meals for \$99.

Daily Meal Plan includes 3 meals for \$25/day.

Must order meal plan online by 6/27/2014.

No onsite meal purchases will be available.

National Royal Rangers Ministries
1445 N. Boonville Ave., Springfield, MO 65802-1894



National FCF Rendezvous
July 14 - 18, 2014
Camp Eagle Rock



EVENTS

Craftsman's Fair

From its beginning, the Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship, has featured skilled craftsmen. Rendezvous will showcase these talented members. From clothing to hand forged tools and from powder horns to beaded moccasins, members can submit handcrafted items in six categories. The top three entries for both Young Bucks and Old Timers in each category will earn a winner's ribbon. The top three overall entries will be recognized as "Best in Show." Get busy on your entries today!

Hawk & Knife

The Hawk & Knife events will be a buzz of activity throughout the Rendezvous. There will be two 15-station trails to test your expertise and ten targets set up for "handles".

Shooting Extravaganza

All the black powder shooting events will test your ability to shoot fast and straight. Expect some new twists on old shooting standards with some fantastic prizes for those who shine.

Frontier Games & Trades

Participate in games and activities that were present on the American Frontier. Learn how to hammer forge a nail or tan a beaver hide. Relax with a game of corn cob darts or Indian stick ball.

Rendezvous Vendors

Check out a variety of frontier wares from our vendors. Pick up a calico shirt or a new tomahawk handle.

INVITATION

The 2014 National FCF Rendezvous will be the most exciting and colorful FCF event ever. You won't want to miss this special brand of fellowship, camaraderie, and competition with your FCF brethren from across the country. You will have the opportunity to hear from some great speakers and join in an amazing time of worship. Be apart of the undaunted brotherhood of the FCF.

THEME

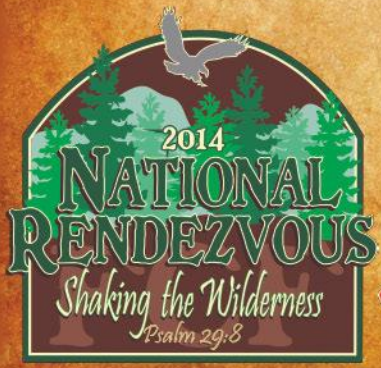
"The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness..."
Psalm 29:8

VITTLES

The Rendezvous Café is back. So, if you don't feel like fixing meals at your campsite, you can enjoy your meals at the Café, which will offer fine frontier vittles. The Rendezvous Café meals are optional and not included with registration. (See national FCF website for more information.)

COMPETITION

Recognition will be given to the top chapter and the top territory at Rendezvous, based on undaunted enthusiasm and high levels of participation. The "Strong Heart" award, the FCF name of the founder of Royal Rangers, Johnnie Barnes, will be given to the top performing Young Buck and Old Timer at Rendezvous.



Shaking the Wilderness

Psalm 29:8

Current Shawnee Trail FCF Statistics

(status based on 03/20/2014 dues status)

	Active YB (2014)	Inactive YB (2013, 2012, 2011)	Archived YB (2010 thru 2000)	Active OT (2014)	Inactive OT (2013, 2012, 2011)	Archived OT (2010 thru 2000)	Historical YB & OT (before 2000)	Total Members
Frontiersmen	76	0	13	17	34	173	466	779
Buckskin	7	0	1	13	9	33	51	114
Wilderness	1	0	0	26	6	27	30	90
Total	84	0	14	56	49	233	547	983

Totems

Do we have a copy of your totem? Or would you like to draw it better? Please check <http://www.ntxrr.org/fcf/totems.htm>. If it is missing or incorrect, feel free to forward it to Mark Oliver (oliverkmark@aim.com) or send it in the mail to 857 Adams Drive, Burleson, TX 76028.

Pathfinder Trip

Are you ready for anything? We are having a Pathfinder trip August 3-9, 2014 at our campground, The Royal Rangers Camp at Lakeview.

Pathfinders is a missions effort of Royal Rangers and the Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship (FCF) that sponsors teams to undertake construction projects at home and abroad. This will be a great time for you to participate in a Pathfinder trip and to help get some much-needed work done on our own campground. This will be one of the few Pathfinder trips that you don't have to pay to attend; we just need you to show up and work. We will have several projects going on at the camp this year and the more people we have participate the more we can accomplish. There are only two things that will limit what we can get done: too few men and boys participating, and limited financial resources. The Pathfinder trip is open to anyone who would like to help with construction projects at camp. We need men skilled in the various building trades – carpentry, plumbing, electrical, masonry, etc. – who would be willing to help mentor boys in their trades, and we also need teenage boys (14 and older) who would like to come and participate in a Pathfinder trip. Some funds for this trip have been raised by the members of the FCF and there are also funds available from the [Future 500 fund](#).

If you cannot attend, perhaps you could make a financial contribution to help make sure we have the materials needed for the projects. You can either donate to the [Future 500 fund](#) or you can send donations to North Texas Royal Rangers, PO Box 838, Waxahachie, TX 75168 (please mark account number 11-4612 on your check).

For more information, please contact pathfinder@ntxrr.org.

2013 New Buckskin Members

Wow. Has it been a year already? Time has really flown since I was asked by our FCF President to be your Buckskin Representative. It has certainly been an honor to work with all our candidates.

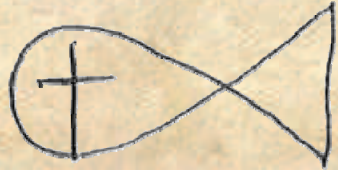
And can you believe that we now have 9 new buckskin members? Yes, I said 9! That's because I had the privilege of testing 4 more candidates at Winter Camp this past November, 2013.

With fear and trepidation they each stepped up to my table and showed me their gear and told me their stories. Then they went to the hawk and knife blocks...well they were there anyway. But they still had to cook.

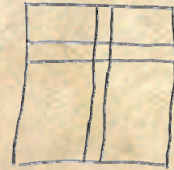
And boy did they! Of course, I didn't tell them they all passed...not for a while. But we had a great ceremony that cool night. And these guys have the memory of having our National FCF Chairman on their tribunal. Good job gentlemen, ya'll made me look good! And THAT is hard to do.

So, nine new buckskin members last year (2013). Let's try and double that for 2014! And Blazing Heart, they are all yours now! Lets have a Wilderness Vigil! Their names and totems are listed below.

Big Fish—Beading / Necklaces



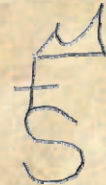
Brave Heart—Soap Maker



Burning Bush—Carpentry



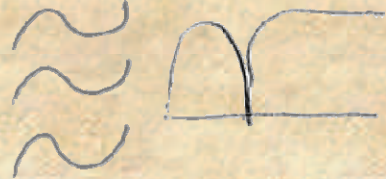
Fire Starter—Carpenter



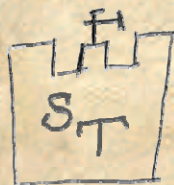
Lighthouse—Candle Maker

(totem unknown)

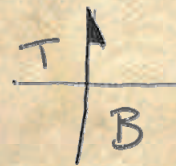
River Runner—Necklace Maker



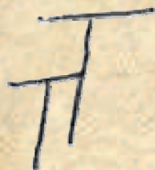
Strong Tower—Carpenter



Trail Blazer—Cartographer



Two Towers—Leather



Watch Your Top Knot, Spotted Bull

2014 Brush Poppin' Highlights

Well here I am two days after Brush Poppin' and I am still not caught up. Work and getting unpacked is still going on, but what a great camp.

I received a lot of comments on the medallion. If you really liked the medallion share that with Ronnie "Long Shot" Boshier. He did the art work for the chapter and it is an original drawing by him. I actually had one comment saying that it was the best they had seen and was their favorite other than the very first medallion from a National Rendezvous! That is pretty high praise. I think it turned out pretty good myself. How about the weather? You would have thought we ordered it up like a burger and fry combo meal!!!! Warm during the day and just nippy enough to make you use your blankets at night. Ken "Coal" Harris was such a great servant this weekend as always. He put on a great shoot for those competing in black powder. The worship with Coal and Bow Breaker as well as Blazing Heart was excellent. The best part was the services with Pastor Mike "Running Turtle" Eddie as our speaker. Speaking on prayer, our theme of "To the Wilderness" was no accident. God must be speaking to a whole bunch more than those of us at Brush Poppin'! My pastor, not knowing our theme and the scripture, taught on prayer for the last 4 to 6 weeks! What an awesome confirmation. The services were filled with the Holy Spirit and yes, if you saw me stumbling around Saturday night, I was drunk; but have no fear, I was drunk in the Spirit, not on alcohol.

God's presence was very strong on Sunday morning and those of you that were unable to stay (due to the other hats you wear at your church) you really missed out. Worship was awesome and the spirit of God and the presence of the Holy Spirit was very evident and strong!! Now who might be preaching but our own Tom "Wychialo" Harris, Ken's brother!

We had some awesome competition! I was beaten last year by Fracture in the Flint and Steel but he was a young buck then. He promised to beat me this year back then and true to his word he did, only now he is an old timer. Great job: there is no shame in losing to the National Scout. Any way he needed to win something. That time of 20 seconds I think was pretty darn good, besting me by 6 seconds. I think my age is catching up!

Eli "Blazing Heart" Harris managed to use his sore shoulder to win the knife competition with a score of 60 points!! He cleaned up good here; the next closest was me and I only got 50 points. Great job Blazing Heart!

Now Frank "Jaw Bone" Super spent some serious time down at the range shooting: he studied the scoring situation that Coal had laid out and it paid off with a score of 200 points. The closest competitor was at 150 and I am sorry to say it just was not my day; I was not even close. Great job Jaw Bone, congratulations on an awesome shoot!!

Now I know there was a whole bunch of you who think we all practiced that there hawk and knife course but we did not. We did make sure it was safe and I did throw the course one full time and made adjustments to the targets to get them just so. Now some of you because did not prepare are a bit mixed up but yes I did win the hawk throwing by a small margin with 65 points. Old eagle eye Blazing Heart did come close with 55 or something like that but it was me just squeaking by.

The Old Timer overall was Eli "Blazing Heart" Harris with 280 total points!!!

Now the Young Bucks had a whole different scenario going on.

Nick Kohn won flint and steel with his blazing time of 50 seconds. After that it was all one of our new members from the last adventure that was held at the JLTA FBC camp, Xavier Parker, who then marched his way past everyone winning Hawk, Knife and Black Powder and overall as well. Just a side note: Xavier has been working towards his Buckskin with Rodney "Bow Breaker" Briggs as his sponsor. I think even Bow Breaker was surprised at how well Xavier did.

2014 Brush Poppin' Highlights (cont)

Now I need to say some very big thank yous. First, to Scott "Thunder Steel" Terry. He was an awesome help getting the electricity back up and running. I also want to thank J.D. "Lawman" Smith who helped clear up our water leak with some help from Eli "Blazing Heart" Harris and David "Spotted Bull" Shook. Thank you guys for your servant heart and help!! I also want to thank Jonathan "Big Foot" Trower who was as always a huge support and ran the store and necklace trade demonstration as well as helping with the historical display.

I will make sure we try to schedule trade demonstrations after competitions. I will also make sure that the schedule of those trades is at least in your registration paperwork with your score card. Apparently my verbal announcements were not enough and I had many trade demonstrators without any one to demonstrate to. I am sorry for this and I will do better next time. We need more of the demonstrating so our future Buckskin candidates can get an idea what is involved and the level of skill needed to do these trades.

I want everyone to know Mark Oliver worked very hard on the 15 plus notebooks full of historical documents from the Shawnee Trail history. The patch display and all the other historical Shawnee Trail and FCF items were great. He did a very good job and then instead of bringing digital screens he printed off over 6000 archived items and placed them in the notebooks to try and keep it more in keeping with our FCF camp. Mark, you did a great job and I have contacted several people but so far I do not know who put the bug in your son's ear. I did talk to him when I was Buckskin rep about it but I did not at camp!!!

Those who gave feedback to Mark Oliver, our new historian, thank you! I respect your desire not to be known and as long as we are given a chance and the feedback is constructive not just back biting I will take all things into account. If changes can or need to be made we will. I always look forward to the opportunity to do better and to grow. Again, thank you for your feedback. Be advised if you are willing to offer negative feedback it would be nice especially in the area of "work not done" or "facility not ready" if you also offered to help in getting ready and completing work at the next events. Do not forget we are the ones who take care of the Ranger campsite in Maypearl. We will have a work day on April 12 as well as an Adventure before the work day. Don't be one of those guys who do not help get the work done but offer plenty of criticism to the precious few who do the work. I look forward to the day when all of us show up 100% to a work day to make things better at all our camping sites on and off Maypearl. After all is not our motto "Ad Dare Servire - To Give and To Serve?"

I do owe all of you an apology. My son was in town from college for a few more hours and it was his birthday and he needed to get his girlfriend back home before curfew on Sunday. So I did leave rather abruptly to take my son out to lunch before he had to leave and then to ride with him back to Ft Worth to spend a few more hours with him before he headed out to college. I wish I could have stayed and shook hands with all but it was not possible. I did manage to come back later and take my tent down as well as our outpost tents and gear. I do apologize to those who I did not get to thank and hug your neck personally before you left. I look forward to seeing you all at the next camp. The Frontier Adventure is next; please get your applications in for staffing the camp and for testing at the camp. David "Little Beaver" Kohn, our vice president, will be running the show and I am working for him this Adventure.

Ron "Pure Heart" Goodnow
Shawnee Trail FCF Chapter President
Psalm 51:10 NIV "...Create in me a Pure Heart Oh God and a steadfast Spirit..."
903 467 2138
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2014 Brush Poppin' Highlights



2014 Brush Poppin' Highlights



2014 Brush Poppin' Highlights



What's Your Passion?

I just read an email sent to me by Family Life and written by Dave Boehi. Its title was “**What’s your passion?**” That struck a chord with me. I started thinking to myself, what is my passion? I know my interests have changed over the years but am I really passionate about anything? Here is his list of part of his passions from the list he started at first:

- *Movies—especially classics like Lawrence of Arabia, Casablanca, and Rear Window.*
- *Vacation and travel—especially the beach and historical sites.*
- *Mystery novels. My latest favorite authors are Michael Connelly, Dick Francis, and Elizabeth Peters.*
- *Biographies. Right now I’m reading books on Harry Truman and John F. Kennedy. Next up: William Wilberforce, Douglas MacArthur, and Walt Disney.*
- *Homemade chocolate chip cookies—fresh out of the oven.*
- *My home state of Oregon. I’ve lived in Arkansas for over 25 years, but I remain an Oregonian through and through.*
- *Christmas—especially the music.*
- *Playing golf on a beautiful sunny day. (And I live for the day I finally break 90.)*
- *Television shows like Castle and Person of Interest. And NCIS ... White Collar ... Downton Abbey ... Hawaii 5-0 ... Sherlock ... etc., etc.*
- *Collecting and organizing old family photos and videos.*
- *Track and field—I grew up in Eugene, Oregon, which calls itself “Track Town.”*

I was thinking hey this is a great question because I like to read and watch old movies, travel, etc. Yes I guess I am passionate about a few things. He said these were just temporal things, things he was interested in. His real passions were:

- *I’m passionate about God and my relationship with Him.*
- *I’m passionate about being a husband, a father, and a grandfather.*
- *I’m passionate about God’s calling for my life—to use the skills He has given me in writing and editing to influence people for Christ.*
- *I’m passionate about being part of an organization that is helping build godly families.*

Wow, these are the real areas of passion. These we can all identify with. I started to think about my involvement in Royal Rangers and the real opportunities it has afforded me to make a difference in some young men’s lives. Yes, I’m especially passionate about that. I have become more and more passionate about helping our Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship Chapter to capture and record the many hours of service you guys have been doing. These hours are recorded as Trappers Brigade points. This is not just a self-serving thing for you. It really makes a difference in how others see our organization, not just for FCF, but for the whole of Royal Rangers. This is the main reason why the Presidential Volunteer Service website was chosen to be our best avenue for recording those hours. It allows us to recognize everyone’s hours, including those of you who have not joined the FCF.

If you have yet to start recording your hours of service that you have already been doing for your church, the community, missions, or even your outpost, please do so now. We have just a little over 5 months now left in our current FCF year for submitting our annual hours for 2014. This year started on September 1 and continues to August 31. The website is especially great for helping to record the hours so you don’t have to try and remember what you did for the whole previous 12 months. It can even be updated in real time, anywhere there is an Internet signal.

Please contact me at davofamily4@hotmail.com and I can get you started. I guess you could say it’s kind of a “passion of mine” to be of service to you.

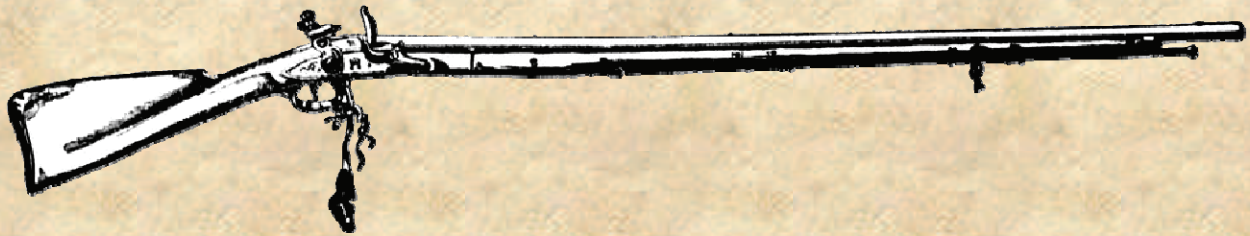
David Wilson, Trappers Brigade Rep.

Black Powder Safety Course

May 9-10, 2014 at the Ollie Henley Lodge

Royal Rangers Campground

Cost is \$50 per person



This will be the last time that FCF members can get their black powder safety card before National Rendezvous in July. Otherwise you have to follow someone around that has one and you can't load for yourself. Don't let that happen to you! Applications and information packets will be available online in the next few weeks! Contact Spotted Bull at fcbucksinrep@outlook.com for more information!

Deadline to register will be Pow Wow weekend (April 25)!

Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship Online Training

Have you taken the online training course available for FCF? If not, you should consider taking it today and complete the course. This course is one of the current seven continuous learning electives offered through the Rangers Ministry Academy.

Class Description

Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship (FCF) is a special program of Royal Rangers dedicated to the advancement of the mission and purpose of the Royal Rangers ministry through the development of advanced camping and leadership skills. FCF encourages members to pursue personal growth through the development of woodsmanship, leadership, friendship, achievement, and courage, utilizing the imagery and lore of the early American frontiersman.

The online training class can be found at

<http://nationalroyalrangers.eleapcourses.com/frontiersmen-camping-fellowship-19815.html>

For more information about FCF, please read at <http://www.nationalfcf.org>.

Buffalo Awards

Buffalo awards provide additional advancement recognition for boys who have completed the advancement trail in their current age group. Discovery Rangers who have earned the Gold Eagle award may earn Bronze Buffaloes by earning the additional merits as stated below. Adventure Rangers who have earned the Gold Medal of Achievement may likewise earn Silver Buffaloes, and Expedition Rangers who have earned the E3 award may earn Gold Buffaloes.

Bronze Buffalo Award Requirements

- Earn the Gold Eagle award.
- Earn one additional RED leadership merit.
- Earn two additional BLUE skill merits.
- Earn one additional ORANGE Bible merit.

Silver Buffalo Award Requirements

- Earn the Gold Medal of Achievement award.
- Earn one additional GOLD leadership merit.
- Earn two additional GREEN skill merits.
- Earn one additional BROWN Bible merit.

Gold Buffalo Award Requirements

- Earn the E3 award.
- Earn one additional SKY BLUE leadership merit.
- Earn two additional SILVER skill merits.
- Complete 25 additional Spirit Challenge lessons.

Medals & Ribbons Order of Wear

Medals, ribbons, and awards serve to recognize individuals for their accomplishments in Royal Rangers. Some awards may only be earned by boys. Others may only be earned as leaders, while others may be earned by either boys or leaders.

Once a boy reaches 18 years of age (or graduates from High School, whichever comes later) he may no longer be considered a boy in the program and must graduate into the ranks of adult leadership. At that time, all awards earned as a boy must be removed from his uniform (with the exceptions noted below) and he may begin to accumulate new awards to represent his accomplishments as a leader. The following "order of wear" defines the awards that may be worn on the uniforms of boys and adults, as well as the priority of wear when multiple awards are worn.

When wearing multiple medals or ribbons on a Royal Rangers uniform, the highest-rated item must be worn on the left (when viewed from the front) or at the top. The following lists define the order in which these items should be worn.

Order of Wear for Adult Leaders

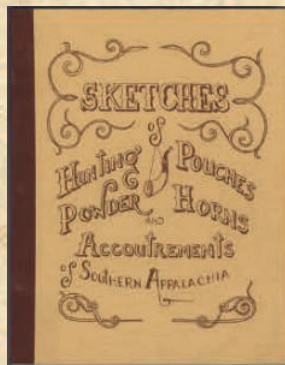
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|---|--|--|
| 1. Medal of Valor | 18. Outpost Leadership Award OR Outpost Commanders | 7. National Leadership Award |
| 2. Medal of Courage | 19. Outpost Service Award OR Outpost Leaders Service | 8. District Medal of Merit |
| 3. Honor Gold Medal of Achievement | 20. Historical training ribbon (LMA) | 9. District Outstanding Service |
| 4. National Medal of Merit | 21. Trail of the Saber Award | 10. District Leadership Award |
| 5. FCF Flame of Honor | 22. Special Service Award | 11. Trail of the Saber Award |
| 6. RRA Lifetime Service Award | 23. National Continuous Learning Ribbon | 12. Junior Leaders Service Award |
| 7. National Outstanding Service Award | 24. District Continuous Learning Ribbon | 13. E3 Award -OR- Expedition Rangers Achievement Medal |
| 8. Medal of Excellence | 25. Highest advancement award earned as a boy | 14. E2 Award -OR- Expedition Rangers Leadership Medal |
| 9. Missions Project Award | 26. Sky Blue Merit Ribbon | 15. E1 Award -OR- Expedition Rangers Service Medal |
| 10. National Executive Leadership Award OR Leaders Gold Star Award | 27. Silver Merit Ribbon | 16. Expedition Rangers Activities Medal |
| 11. National Leadership Award OR Leaders Gold Eagle | 28. Gold Merit Ribbon | 17. Gold Medal of Achievement |
| 12. District Medal of Merit | 29. Green Merit Ribbon | 18. Silver Medal of Achievement |
| 13. District Outstanding Service Award | 30. Brown Merit Ribbon | 19. Bronze Medal of Achievement |
| 14. District Executive Leadership Award OR Silver Eagle Award OR Silver Cluster Award | 31. Red Merit Ribbon | 20. Gold Eagle |
| 15. District Leadership Award OR Gold Cluster Award OR Blue Cluster Award | 32. Blue Merit Ribbon | 21. Gold Hawk |
| 16. Pastor's Award | 33. Orange Merit Ribbon | 22. Gold Falcon |
| 17. Outpost Coordinator's Award OR Senior Commanders | | 23. Ranger Kids Gold Trail Award |
| | <u>Order of Wear for Boys</u> | 24. Sky Blue Merit Ribbon |
| | 1. Medal of Valor | 25. Silver Merit Ribbon |
| | 2. Medal of Courage | 26. Gold Merit Ribbon |
| | 3. Honor Gold Medal of Achievement | 27. Green Merit Ribbon |
| | 4. National Medal of Merit | 28. Brown Merit Ribbon |
| | 5. National Outstanding Service | 29. Red Merit Ribbon |
| | 6. Missions Project Award | 30. Blue Merit Ribbon |
| | | 33. Orange Merit Ribbon |

Leather Craft Tutorial

Hello, my name is Spotted Bull and I am addicted to leather working...well maybe not addicted. But I really really really really like to do it! And people tell me that I am kinda good at it. So I thought that I would share some of the tricks and tips that I have learned in making shooting pouches and knife sheaths.

Now there are many leather workers in the Shawnee Trail. And all of what they do is great. Don't believe me? Just ask them, they will tell you! There are no real wrong or right or good or bad ways to do leather work. It's all up to the individual craftsman.

So, let's get started here. The first thing you want to do is decide what time frame you want the pouch to represent. Earlier pouches were smaller and worn high up under the arm. Larger pouches didn't really show up until the fur trade era, and still were not as big as some modern bags made today. I use several books as references. The foremost authority I guess is The Kentucky Rifle Hunting Pouch by Madison Grant. Madison spent a great deal of time photographing and writing about authentic bags from the 18th and 19th Century.



Another excellent reference is Sketches of Hunting Pouches, Powder Horns and Accoutrements of Southern Appalachia by Jim Webb. Jim sketched pouches and accouterments from the Appalachian region of the US and even includes rough patterns of the bags. I have copies of both of these books, if you would like to look at them. They are also available at various places on the internet.

The best book to have if you want to learn to make pouches is Recreating the 18th Century Hunting Pouch by T.C. Albert. Mr. Albert will guide you step by step in making the pouch, much the same way I will in this article. His decades of experience and special talents make this a "go-to" book for many craftsmen. There are pictures of period bags and lots of patterns based on those bags to trace out and use in making your own bags.

Now you have decided that that you want to make a small square bag with a simple leather strap without a buckle for adjustment. First thing you need to do is make a pattern. I use PowerPoint on my computer to make all my patterns. It allows me to make the curves and measurements even and is easier to remove lines than with pencil drawing. So make a pattern whichever way you want, and make it out of sturdy cardboard or thick paper. I then trace this pattern onto the suede or rough side of the pattern with a #2 pencil, or sometimes I use a ball point pen. But I recommend a pencil. It's easier to remove the lines with an eraser than a pair of scissors!

Most all of the leather that I use in my projects is vegetable tanned leather. For me, it's easier to use and it can be manipulated in many different ways. It can be dyed and shaped and formed and engraved and carved and whatever else you may come up with. Leather comes in different weights, or thicknesses. Here is a chart that will help you understand what I mean.

In leather thickness terms, one ounce equals:

$\frac{1}{64}$.016 .40
 fractional inches decimal inches millimeters

Ounces	Fractional Inches	Decimal inches	Millimeters
1	1/64	0.016	0.40
2	1/32	0.031	0.79
3	3/64	0.047	1.19
4	1/16	0.063	1.60
5	5/64	0.078	1.98
6	3/32	0.094	2.39
7	7/64	0.109	2.77
8	1/8	0.125	3.18
9	9/64	0.141	3.58
10	5/32	0.156	3.96
11	11/64	0.172	4.37
12	3/16	0.188	4.78
13	13/64	0.203	5.16
14	7/32	0.219	5.56

I generally use 2-3 oz. veg tan for pouches because it is more pliable and softens up easier than the thicker stuff. For knife sheaths I use 5-6 oz. for the body and 9-10 oz. for the welt. We will get into what those terms mean later.

Now some folks like to use a knife to cut out their leather pieces. I use a pair of scissors that I bought at Wal-Mart to cut mine. But again, no one way is best. I prefer to cut my pieces out just barely inside my lines, so that I don't have to make an effort to remove or hide the lines in my project. This is where the pencil comes in handier than the pen.

For a simple bag like this, you will probably want to keep the back of the bag and the front flap as one piece. Look at this bag and you can see what I mean.



Your pile of pieces should include: a front of the bag body, the back/front flap piece, the welt and the strap.

I bet you are wondering what a welt is. A welt is the piece of leather that you sew between the pieces in the seam. This welt protects the stitches on the bag. Grab the seam of your shirt and pull it open a little bit. See the threads in the stitches? The welt will keep you from seeing them, thus protecting them. Welts can be either flat or rolled, depending on what you want. On the higher end bags that I make, I use a rolled welt. It

looks like what is on your living room couch or your desk chair. Most modern ones have a thin little bead of cotton or synthetic material rolled into them. Flat welts can be extended beyond the edge of the bag and cut into fringe. Here are some pictures of welts and fringe. The picture on the left has 3 flat welts, while the picture of the right has a rolled welt and welt made into fringe.



Tools

You are going to need some tools to do this with. And this is where the initial expense of leather working really comes into play. There are four basic items that you really need to have to make your leather working look nice and neat. These are:

A professional type groover



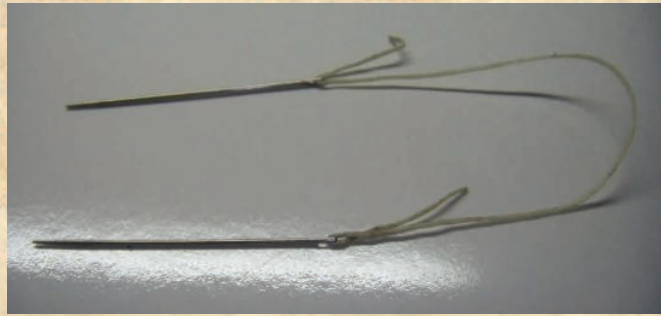
An over stitch wheel



A diamond-shaped awl



And two needles



All of these tools are readily available from leather crafting stores like Tandy and lots of places on EBay. Do a little shopping around and find a good price on your tools. But don't buy cheaply made tools. These tools can last you a long time if you care for them correctly.

OK. Let's talk about what each tool is for and how they are used. The professional type groover is an improvement on a cheaper groover that Tandy once made.

I do recommend that you DO NOT use the cheaper item. It breaks easily and it not worth the money.

The pro groover is a very handy tool in keeping your stitches nice and even and straight. Further, the groove will protect the stitches by insetting them below the surface of the leather. With the adjustable guide arm that slides in and out, you can adjust how close to the edge of the leather you want your stitches. This is especially important for sewing bags that right side out that will display your stitches.

Once you have decided how close you want your stitches to the edge, tighten the nut that holds the arm. Position the center cutter at the top edge of your work.



Draw the groover down the piece, with the arm on the outer edge, with a little pressure on the center cutter to make the groove.



Do this on all the edges that you will be sewing. You will end up with a little pile of thin leather threads! These are fun to wad up and throw at your folks!

So you have this nifty little groove running along the edge of you pieces. Now you have to decide how close together you want your stitches. For beginners, I recommend using an overstretch wheel that will show 5 stitches per inch. This wheel comes with interchangeable wheels that are 5,6 and 7 stitches per inch. There is also a piece of leather that shows what each wheel will do to the leather. Tandy sells this overstretch wheel.



The wheel is designed to run down the groove that you cut with the groover. Sometimes wetting the leather slightly before using the wheel helps to see the indentions in the groove that are left.



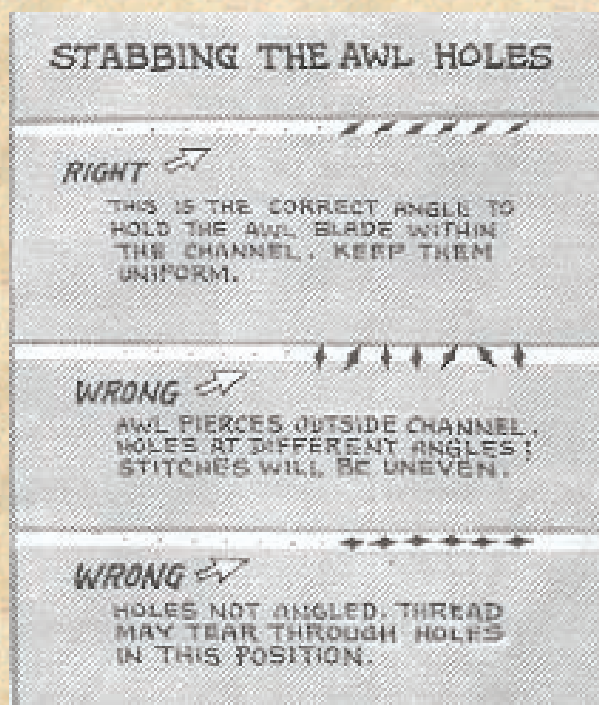
Each indention is where you will punch your hole with the diamond shaped awl. The awl blade is actually shaped like a diamond. So no you don't have to buy an awl with a diamond tipped blade!



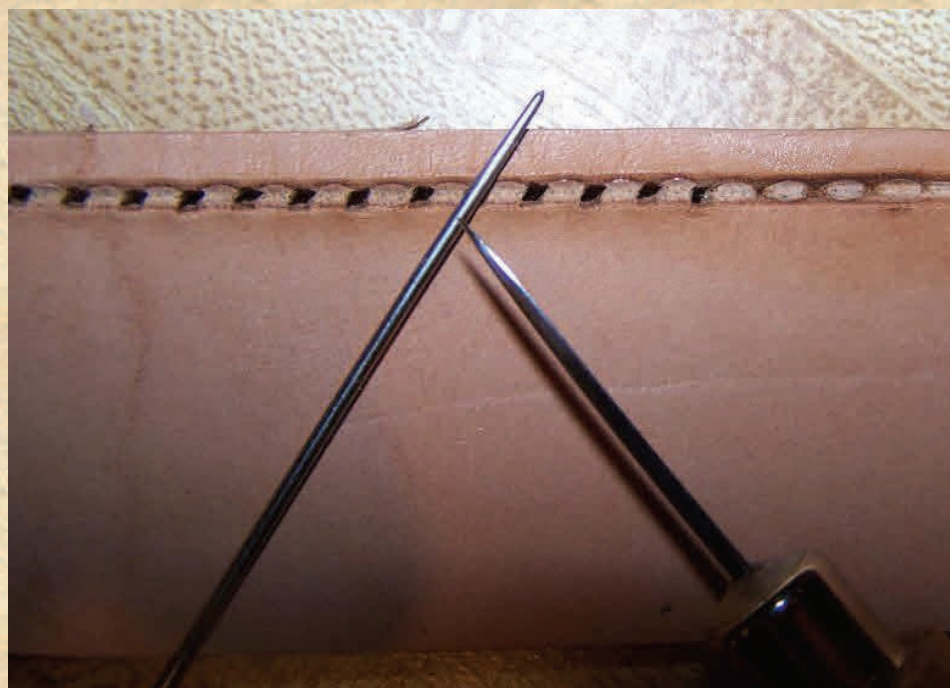
There is actually a really good reason for this. A round punch will tear or break the fibers of the leather. A diamond awl will simply part them to either side. The round punch will not try and heal itself and close back up. The diamond hole will.

But it is important HOW you punch your holes. ALWAYS punch at a 45° angle to the edge of the leather. This

little picture shows you why.



So this is how the holes will look when they are all punched.



Now that we have all of the holes punched, it's time to start sewing. But don't get me wrong. If you want to punch the holes one at a time and sew it up that way that is perfectly acceptable. Some people do that. Mostly this is done with the help of a stitching pony that holds the project. Here is an example of a stitching pony.



The styles and variations of them are limitless. Just do a Bing search on them and you will see what I mean.

I usually do punch all of my holes first, and I don't use a stitching pony. So what you need to know now is what type of thread to use in sewing the project together. I only use 1 type of thread – waxed Irish linen, usually 3 or 4 strand. Tandy and other leather suppliers sell this, but I have found it to be inconsistent in both wax content and tensile strength. I found a website that is my sole source of thread. Here is the website link.

<http://www.europeanpapers.com/TT/BB-WLL-A.html>

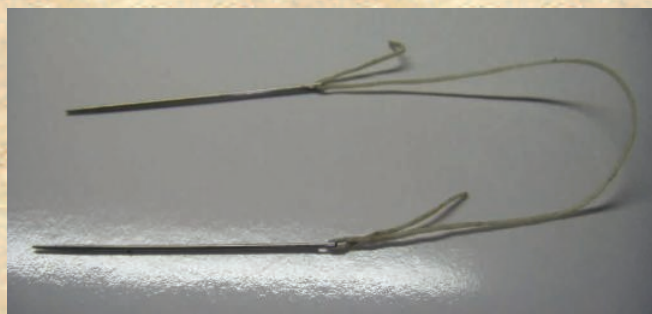
The 100 yard spools last a very long time! And they have multiple colors that you can match to the dye you are going to use on a project.

Now why do I use waxed thread? Well there are a couple of reasons. One, the wax makes the thread slide through the holes a LOT easier! And the wax adds a small amount of water resistance to the project that can help keep water from getting gin through the holes.

Needles are your next concern. I generally use size 000 harness needles. These are long and sturdy and not terribly sharp. But they will stick poke you. I hardly ever make a bag that doesn't have at least a small sample of my DNA somewhere on it! The eye isn't too big, so it doesn't get caught in the leather or break off like some bigger eyed needles tend to do. They can be found at Tandy and EBay and everywhere.



This is how we set up the thread with the needles. The method that I use is called a double saddle stitch. It requires a needle on both ends of the thread like this.



Of course your thread length will be different! Just a quick note on thread length. One simple way to estimate how much thread you will need for a seam you are about to stitch is this; allow about 3 inches of thread on

the end, and then lay the thread along that seam. When you reach the other end, double it back over and allow another couple of inches and cut it off. You will probably have some excess, but that is just going to happen. Practice a lot and you will know by instinct how much you will need.

OK, you have a needle on each end of your thread. DON'T TIE A KNOT ANYWHERE ON THE THREAD! You just gonna have to hold it and push the needle and pull the needle and be aware of where the thread is. On long pieces of thread, this can be a pain, but do it anyway.

Here is how ya do a saddle stitch. Push one needle through the holes you punched on both pieces, like Figure 1. Then push one needle through the next hole like in Figure 2. Then push the other needle through that same hole in the opposite direction, like in Figure 3.

Figure 1

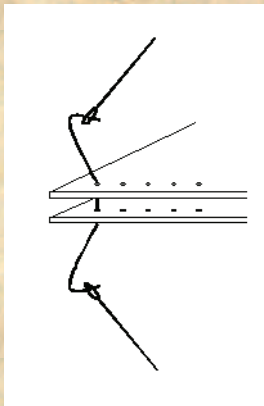


Figure 2

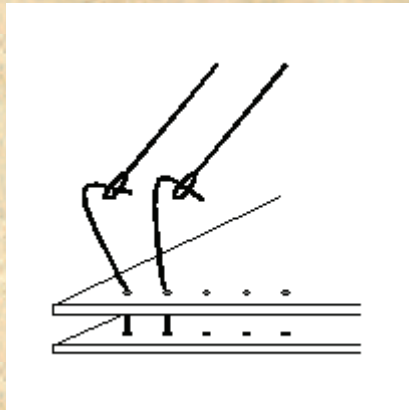
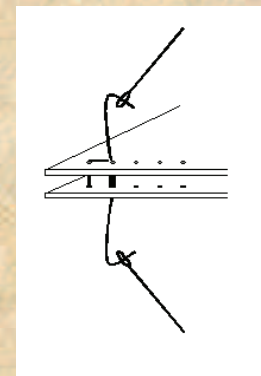
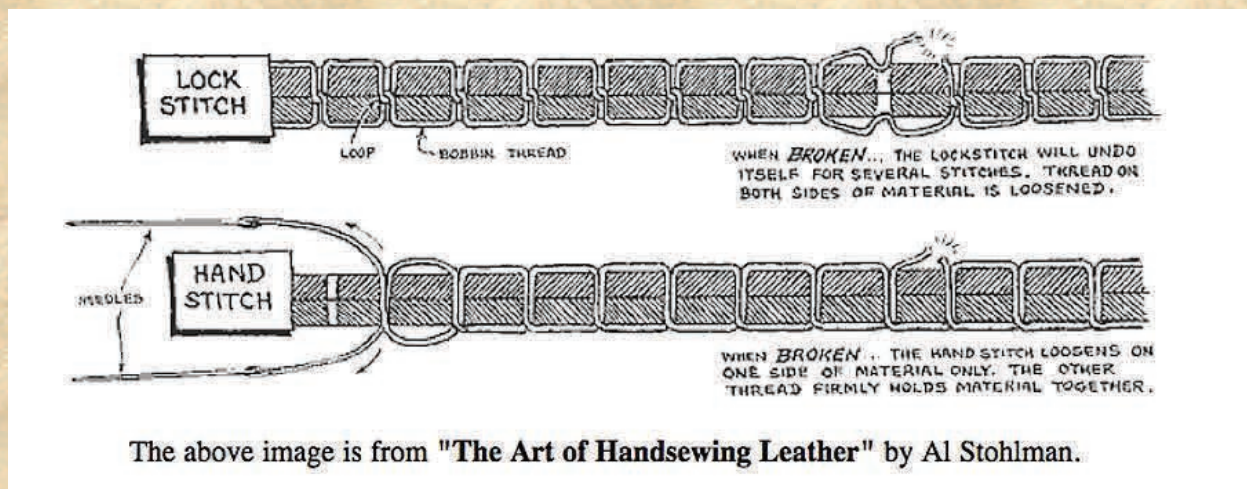


Figure 3



Now pull it tight and proceed down to the end of that seam of stitches. But I bet you are wondering why this particular stitch is used in leather craft. Here is a picture as Al Stohlman explained it. He wrote the books on leather working!!!



Now that you finally have that little bitty bag all sewed up and it's looking pretty good. But that color of the veg tanned leather isn't exactly what you were looking for. There are many ways that you can dye and color that leather.

The easiest is to do almost nothing to it! Put some mink oil like you can buy at Wal-Mart in the shoe department and let the sun and use naturally age the leather. I have a throwing knife sheath that I did this

way and the leather has a nice mellow tan color. Further, you can just lay the entire project up in a window that gets a lot of sunlight and let the sun actually darken the hide, just like a sun tan. Just make sure that all the sides get about the same exposure.

Tandy and others make many different colors and types of dyes that can be used. I generally use a water based dye made by Feibing's. Bing will take you to their site.

But for black dye I make a vinegar solution. Take a hand full of rusty nails or maybe some clean steel wool and put it in a mason jar. Pour enough ordinary vinegar in the jar to fill it up. The vinegar will dissolve the metal and create a solution. Simple strain out the rusty stuff from the liquid and apply it to the leather. The ferric content in the solution reacts with the tannin in the leather and turns it black. Once the solution is set, rinse the leather well and then rinse again in water with baking soda in it to lower the pH. Then rinse in clear water and let dry, probably outside in the wind because it will still smell like vinegar. Then apply your favorite leather preservative.

I am sure that this little tutorial didn't answer all of your questions. It may not have answered any of them for that matter. But hopefully it will give you enough insight to get you started. I am always around at FCF and Royal Ranger events and will be more than happy to sit down and go over anything you need help with.

2014 FCF Calendar of Events

Apr 12 Camp Workday
Apr 25-27 District Pow Wow
Jun 19-22 District Junior Leadership
Training Academy (JLTA)
July 14-18 National Rendezvous
Aug 3-9 Pathfinder Trip
Sept 5-6 Guide2014 Commanders
Conference

Sept 12-14 FCF Adventure
Sept 20 Ranger Kids Day Camp
Oct 5-11 National Royal Rangers Week
Oct 10-12 FCF Family Days
Nov 21-23 Winter Camp
Dec 13 FCF Christmas Banquet
Dec 27-30 Winter JLTA

NTX Royal Rangers Email Lists

Are you subscribed to the NTX Royal Rangers email lists? You can get updates on news, FCF information, and prayer requests. If not, visit http://www.ntxrr.org/email_lists.htm and sign up to be on our mailing list today.

Contact Your FCF Staff

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Jr. Field Advisor—Matthew 'Red Wood' Goodnow

Scout—Luke 'Pathlighter' Goodnow

Asst. Scout—Mark R. Oliver

Asst. Scout—Daniel Kohn

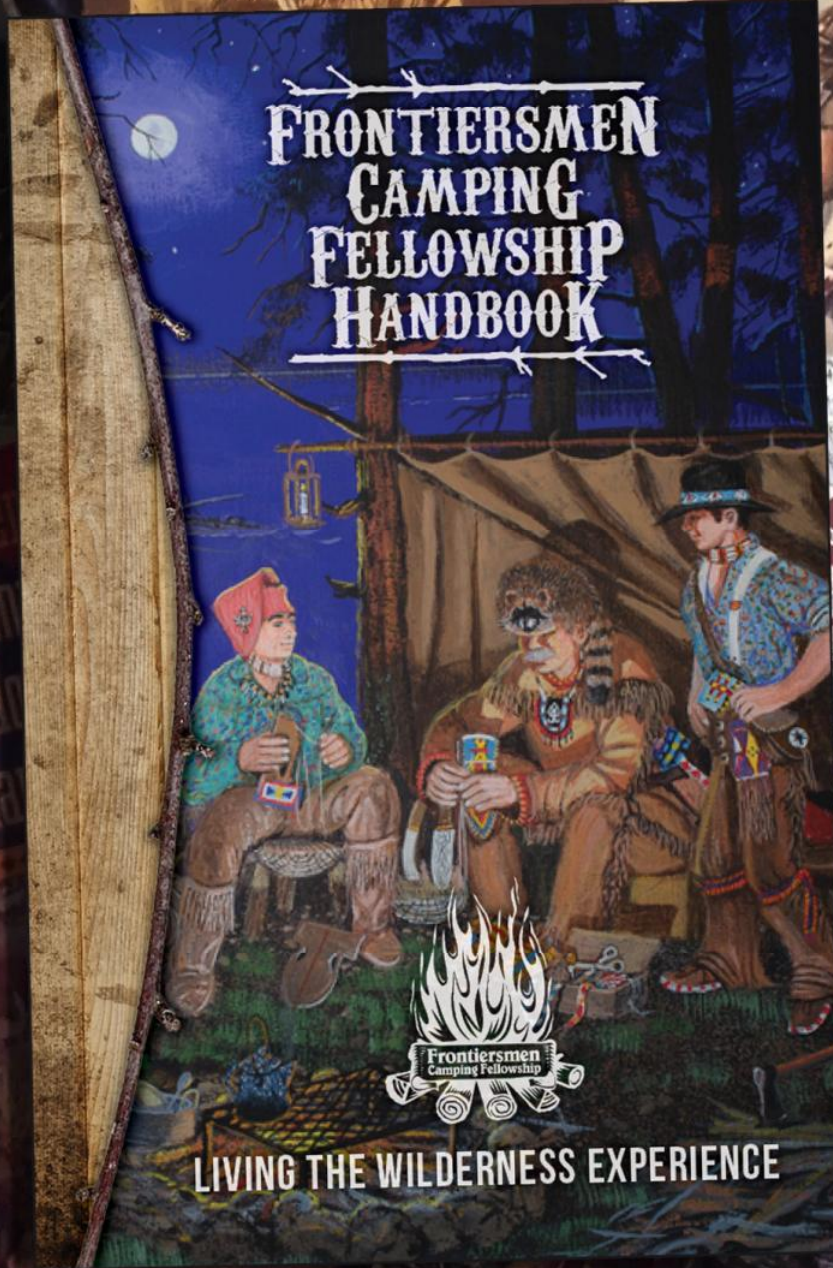
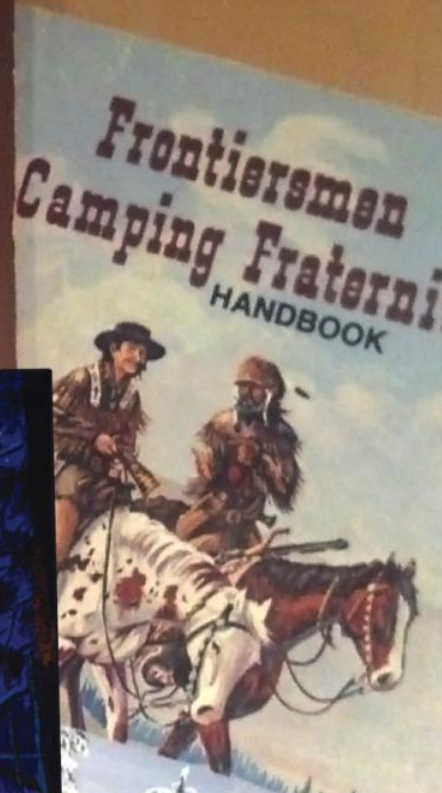
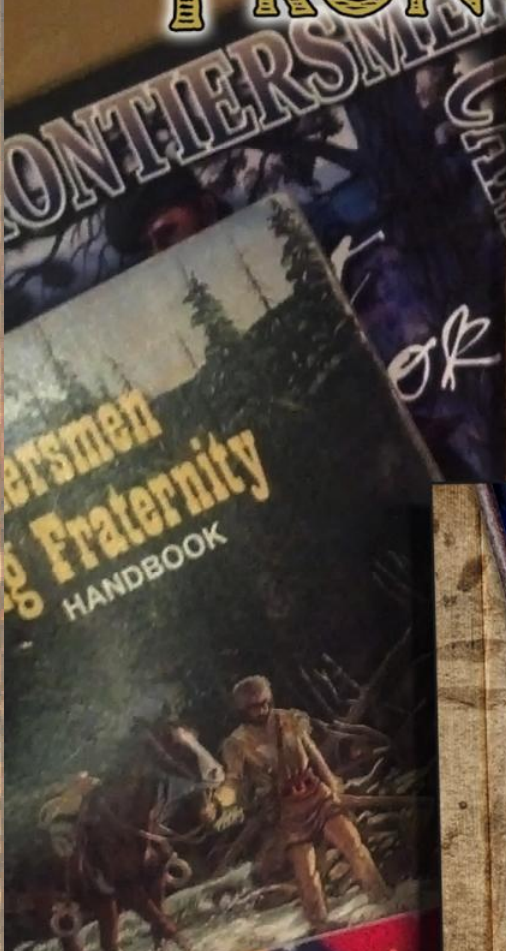
For additional information about anything you found in this newsletter or for additional FCF answers, please contact the FCF President, Ron 'Pure Heart' Goodnow (ronfcfntx@gmail.com), or the FCF Vice President, David 'Little Beaver' Kohn (djkohn92@yahoo.com).

NATIONAL FRONTIERSMEN CAMPING FELLOWSHIP

FRONTIER GAZETTE



Spring Edition 2014





Strongheart Award



*Tomahawk and Knife Throw - Rifle Shoot - Archery
Fire Starting - Frontier Games - Outfit Judging*

Will you be the one to bring home the Strongheart award?

www.nationalrendezvous.com

The new Strongheart Award will be a feature of the 2014 National Rendezvous. This new event, named for our first National FCF Chairman, Johnnie "Strongheart" Barnes, will be awarded to the top Young Buck and Old Timer who participate in all of the competitive events that will be held at this rendezvous.

The only way to win is to be at the National Rendezvous! Will you be the one to bring home the Strongheart Award?

About the cover: The newest edition of the FCF handbook is displayed with all of the previous editions of the FCF handbooks. The first edition of the FCF handbook was published by Gospel Publishing House in 1971. "Living the Wilderness Experience" is the seventh edition of the FCF Handbook.

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Grey Owl

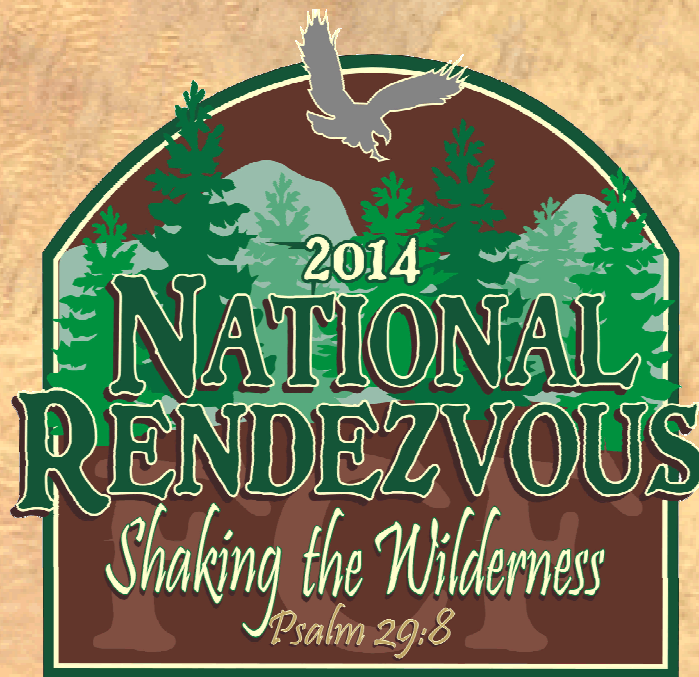
National FCF President

Greetings FCF members! I am excited to announce that after many months of prayer and work, the seventh edition of the FCF handbook has gone to print and will very quickly be available for you to purchase. In it you will find the updated Trail of the Grizzly, and a powerful new version Trappers Brigade and Pathfinders Missions that is ready to assist the FCF in flexing our service and missions muscles. To Give and To Serve!

I hope that you are preparing to attend the National Rendezvous this July. Talk it up to everyone that is in FCF in your area. Do whatever it takes to get as many to rendezvous as you can. You wont want to miss what we have in store for you!

See you at Rendezvous!

Paul "Grey Owl" Walters II



July 14-18, 2014



FCF Handbook

The newest addition to the lineup of updated Royal Rangers handbooks is the seventh edition of the FCF handbook, "Living the Wilderness Experience".

This handbook contains chapters on the experiences of FCF, events, updated membership information, The new Trail of the Grizzly information, updated Trappers Brigade information, updated information on the Pathfinders program, Sponsorship, and others.

Included in this new handbook are advancement logbooks for all of the awards in FCF and charts to keep track service hours for Trappers Brigade.

The cover is again a Fred Deaver original painting that was specifically selected to reflect the image of what we as FCF members should be active in: Men mentoring young men in a frontier setting.

This handbook will be available first at LEAD 2014 and from Gospel Publishing House following the conference. It will also be available as an e-book from digital book providers.

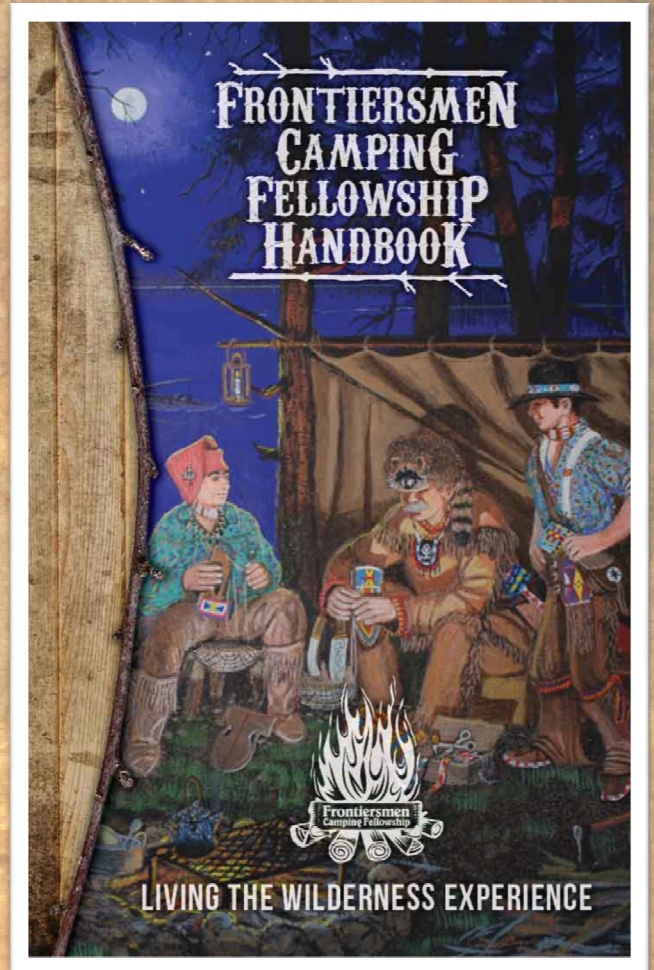
The updated Trail of the Grizzly will include new requirements for becoming an FCF member, advancing to Buckskin, and advancing to Wilderness. These new requirements are laid out in the chapter "Membership and the Trail of the Grizzly" and the new FCF logbooks.

There is detailed information about the new Arrowhead merits, and the new format for Trappers Brigade.

New advancement applications for Frontiersmen, Buckskin, Wilderness and Trappers Brigade will be available at www.nationalfcf.com as this information is released.

This handbook is a must for every FCF member, but it is also for those who are not yet a member of FCF who are working towards becoming a member of FCF.

As they are released for sale, get a copy for every person that is following the Trail of the Grizzly!



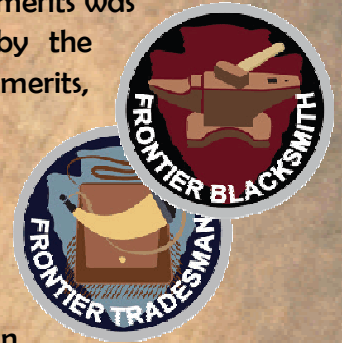


Arrowhead Merits

To encourage the development of different skills within the FCF, a new group of merits was developed called Arrowhead Merits. These 16 new merits are identified by the arrowhead shape in the background of each of merit. These are all silver skill merits, and can be used for Royal Rangers advancement steps.

You don't have to be a member of FCF to earn these merits, and they can be taught by any Royal Rangers leader regardless of FCF membership status.

The merit patches can be earned and worn by Ranger boys, while the Royal Ranger Leaders who work on these will earn an Arrowhead award certificate to indicate completion.



Upon completion of four Arrowhead merits, a Ranger or leader will earn the one of four Arrowhead medallion to wear with their FCF outfit. Each additional four Arrowhead merits completed will earn the next Arrowhead medallion. They are the Pilgrim, Pioneer, Trailblazer, and Patriot.

The Arrowhead merits themselves will be different from other merits in that those working on the merit will have their choice of requirements to complete the award. Each requirement has number of points associated with it, 15 points are required to earn the merit. Each merit also requires 5 hours of Christian Service to the local church, community or missions. Only after the service is performed and the points earned will the award be completed.



All of the requirements for these awards will be found in the Expedition Rangers track of TracClub.

More information on Arrowhead merits can be found in the latest edition of the FCF Handbook.



The upcoming 2014 National Rendezvous at Camp Eagle Rock is going to be one of the largest and most exciting events in the history of FCF. You have the opportunity to help make it the best it has ever been! Listed below are the chapter goals for every chapter in the U.S.- these attendance goals were set at the 2013 LEAD conference. We need you to help us make history! Find your chapter in the list below- rally the FCF members in your area and get registered for the National Rendezvous- www.nationalrendezvous.com See you at Eagle Rock!

Adirondack attendance goal is 35

Blue Ridge attendance goal is 50

George Washington attendance goal is 60

John Fenwick attendance goal is 50

Kanawha attendance goal is 3

Kings Pine attendance goal is 5

Minutemen attendance goal is 15

Pathfinder attendance goal is 30

Colonials attendance goal is 248

Chippewa attendance goal is 20

Davy Crockett attendance goal is 30

Fort Kearney attendance goal is 5

Hugh Glass attendance goal is 5

Lewis & Clark attendance goal is 50

North Star attendance goal is 50

Rough Riders attendance goal is 15

Explorers attendance goal is 175

El Dorado attendance goal is 30

Gila River attendance goal is 20

High Sierra attendance goal is 5

Kamehameha attendance goal is 0

Kit Carson attendance goal is 25

Sequoia attendance goal is 25

Sierra Grizzly attendance goal is 25

Mountainmen attendance goal is 130

El Rio Colorado attendance goal is 2

Hawken Rifle attendance goal is 20

Indian Nation attendance goal is 60

Jedediah Smith attendance goal is 45

Palo Duro attendance goal is 5

Shawnee Trail attendance goal is 40

Texas Independence attendance goal is 40

Texas Louisiana attendance goal is 12

Plainsmen attendance goal is 224

Agueybana attendance goal is 20

Appalachee attendance goal is 30

Creek attendance goal is 50

Okefenokee attendance goal is 44

Old Hickory attendance goal is 15

Ponce de Leon attendance goal is 10

Seminoles attendance goal is 50

Swamp Fox attendance goal is 20

Riflemen attendance goal is 239

Choctaw attendance goal is 75

Daniel Boone attendance goal is 100

Jim Bowie attendance goal is 45

Quapaw attendance goal is 40

Volunteer attendance goal is 65

Rivermen attendance goal is 325

Abe Lincoln attendance goal is 50

Coureur de Bois attendance goal is 100

Henry Rowe Schoolcraft attendance goal is 20

Long Rifles attendance goal is 25

Simon Kenton attendance goal is 20

Voyagers attendance goal is 215

Denali Frontiersmen attendance goal is 3

Hudson Bay attendance goal is 3

Jim Bridger attendance goal is 6

Little Big Horn attendance goal is 10

Marcus Whitman attendance goal is 20

Washakie attendance goal is 2

Trappers attendance goal is 44

IPHC attendance goal is 20

Other Denominational attendance goal is 10

The 2014 National Rendezvous Attendance Goal is 1630- Help us make this the largest National Rendezvous ever!



Trappers Brigade

Since 1978, Trappers Brigade has been challenging FCF members to get involved in Christian Service outside the four walls of the church. The new version of Trappers Brigade is going to continue to keep the spirit of Christian Service focusing on the Evangelize, Equip, Empower mission of Royal Rangers.

There are four main focus areas that will comprise the Trappers Brigade program. Working in the local Church setting and your communities will be a large part of the service, as will specific missions focus on Royal Rangers International, BGMC, Speed the Light and Pathfinders Missions.

These four areas have specific time requirements for service with a required number of hours for each of the areas of service. Information concerning these can be found in the new FCF Handbook.

New applications will be released on the National FCF website after the announcement of this new approach to Trappers Brigade.

We look for great reports over the next year as FCF members go out and complete Christian Service projects in their local settings and abroad.

Also, a new Trappers Brigade medallion has been developed to be worn with your FCF outfit. These are in addition to the existing Trappers Brigade pins that we already wear on the dress and utility uniforms. The new Trappers Brigade medallions will be available through GPH.



Pathfinders is also undergoing some changes. The existing diamond awards will continue to be used, but the Pathfinder medallion is being phased out and will no longer be worn. The Pathfinders logo will still be used.

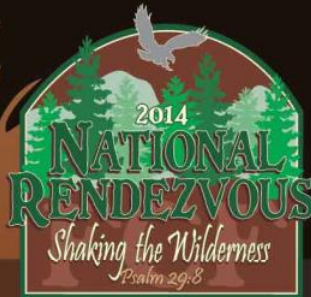
The requirements for Bronze, Silver and Gold Pathfinder Missions trips have been updated and again, are listed in the new FCF handbook.

Christian Service and missions are a big part of FCF and will continue to be a large part of the Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship!



Shaking the Wilderness

Psalm 29:8



2014 NATIONAL FCF RENDEZVOUS | JULY 14 - 18, 2014 | CAMP EAGLE ROCK
www.nationalrendezvous.com



National Historians Notebook

Membership cards have been in use for well over 200 years. No one knows when the first membership card was used, but it has proved a valuable tool in identifying a member of a particular organization. Groups and clubs have used cards to show membership to pass into buildings, access special privileges and services.

From an early beginning, FCF has used membership cards to reflect active membership. Produced and distributed by the national Royal Rangers office, these have been a way to show you are an active member of FCF.

Below are the examples of the FCF membership cards that we have used in the past.



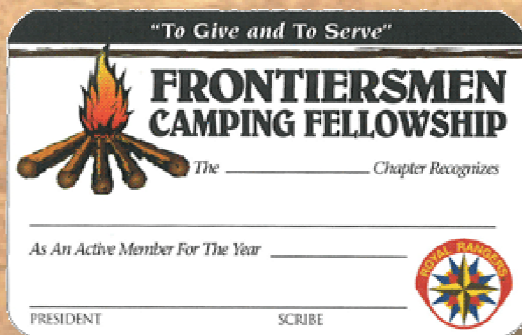
1970-1990

FCF membership card



1991-2000

FCF membership card



2001-2014

FCF membership card