

# Patch Collecting Ethics

**This document was created by Dade Massey and is only an idea he worked on creating. It is not adopted by anyone. He just wanted document thoughts of what individuals thought about this idea. Should there be a Code of Ethics?**

## Patch Trading

Here are a few tidbits for Royal Rangers, Leaders, event organizers, patch collectors, traders, and wannabes.

## Protection and Use of Badges and Insignia

Rules and Regulations All badges and insignia of the Royal Rangers shall be used exclusively by members of the Royal Rangers, registered and in good standing according to the records at the national office, who qualify in accordance with the provisions herein set forth or as may be authorized. No one outside the Ranger Program can wear or use the badges or insignia for his own program. The emblem and name are a registered trademark and cannot be used unless they have permission from the National Offices. We also feel that any type of Royal Ranger memorabilia needs to be sold, giving back to any local Rangers or in proper storage. We would rather see them discarded, instead of being use as **play clothing**. This is a dishonor to the program and what it stands for.

## Badge Swapping

Royal Rangers and Leaders attending Pow Wows, or any activity may swap among themselves articles and novelties of a sectional, district, or national nature. The swapping of such items as badges of office, rank, distinguished service, performance, achievement, and distinction, are permitted, unless you want to wear them. which is forbidding. Even the holding of these badges by any but the members who have complied with the requirements for them.

Such as: The Medal of Valor, The Gold Metal of Achievement, etc. You can have these as something you inherit from a relative, close friend, or a commander, and or a collector **but do not wear them**. This gives dishonor, and devalues the prestige of that award, it shows bad taste to the Royal Ranger Corps

## Words to Ponder for Collectors and Event Organizers

Many Royal Rangers collect patches and other Ranger souvenirs at Sectional Roundup, Day camps, Pow Wow's and other Ranger functions. Rangers enlarge their collections by swapping "doubles" or patches they no longer want. Swapping is great fun if it is done right. It gives you a chance to meet new friends as well as to improve your collection. **But swapping can be bad if the only goal is to beat other guys in a trade.**

If you are a patch collector, follow these guidelines:

1. It is not in the spirit of Royal Rangers to buy or sell patches for big time profit only.
2. Remember swapping is trading.
3. Do not spend so much time swapping that you miss out on all the other fun of the activities of the day. After you "close a deal", be sure to exchange a friendly handshake or God Bless you.
4. Exchange names and addresses with Rangers you swap with.
5. Write to them when you get home and make new friends.
6. It is the policy of some areas or Districts that allow swapping and trading is done between one youth and another OR between one adult and another. Trading and swapping are not to be done between young Rangers and Adults, unless you have permission.
7. But we have no guidelines to in-force this policy. So as an adult do your best to be fair to all, young or old alike.
8. Being dishonest not only causes mistrust to you, but it will tarnish the whole Royal Ranger program that you represent.
9. That mistrust could be the pivot point of a young Rangers heart to turn away from the Lord. You are a Witness in everything you do.

## Royal Ranger Trading Code of Ethics

**R**angers are honest in all trades

**A**pply the Ranger Pledge to all trades

**N**ever take advantage of others, strive for fairness in all trades

**G**olden Rule is always in order

**E**ven trades are the best

**R**emember Rangers are a witness of Christ and should affect our trading

**E**xtend the hand of friendship and fellowship to all traders

**T**rade no patch that I know to be fake or a repro w/o disclosing the fact

**H**elp new traders get started by giving instead of always receiving

**I**mpress on new traders the Importance of ethics in trading

**C**urrently be registered and active in Royal Rangers

**S**et an example in which all Royal Rangers members take pride.

## A Few Tips for New Collectors and Traders

1. Never wear rank, advancement, or leadership you did not earn "yourself"
2. Never have a camping patch on your awards vest that you never attended
3. Older or rarer patches do bring a premium swap or price. Do not charge 1000's of dollars for a single patch.
4. Most patches trade out for 10 to 20 patches or 5 to 10 dollars. Which is usually in order for a hard to find patch, but new high prices are out there.
5. When collecting, do not collect for the sake of collecting. Find an area of a type of patch you want and are following the same design, etc.
6. Such as: state patches, all your districts POW WOW patches, or a theme like western, Indian, the RR emblem in it, etc.
7. Series patches are highly prized but, hard to find if they take up to 3 to 4 years or more.  
**Display your keepers at POW Wows, Or Ranger activities, etc.** This keeps a high interest and we also like to see what you got,
8. Never wear a patch that was before your "TIME" such as boys wearing a vintage FCF "fraternity" medal
9. Badges are to be worn and showed off, do not just store them, bring them out for people to see them.
10. You can wear any vintage badge that you attended or earned.
11. I have seen men still wearing an old camping badges that are 25 years old.
12. Collecting other Royal Ranger memorabilia is getting very popular such as old caps uniforms, vintage T-shirts. Many Commanders are now trying to display these items in their outpost, lodge, or district offices
13. Also, Royal Rangers now has some age to it, and there are going to be many new changes in the up coming years so, **start collecting now!**
14. Never give away your "only" one patch of an event you attended; you will be sorry you did later down the road.

Most of all have fun!!

Jeff Ortner, North Texas, 2003

## Start Collecting

Most of the patch collectors out there either started from scratch or had 1000's of patches given/passed down to them. For most of us, the latter is simply not a reality. Therefore, we have to go building our collections mostly a chunk at a time with either the patches that we get from attending events or ones we may buy from a fellow Ranger. Building a tremendous patch collection can take years, but for some of us, that is not all that matters. Other Rangers frequently ask me, "how in the world do I get started collecting?" This post is to help answer a few of those questions to the best of my ability. Other Rangers/collectors will have other insight to offer.

First things first. Most collectors focus on their interests and areas of expertise. This is a good base for starting a collection. I have found with my boys and myself that starting a patch collection in a unique area of interest leads to the most enjoyment and growth. Ex: Since I am from South Texas, I am more apt to collect these patches than someone from Pen-Fla and vice versa. By starting a collection of South Texas Pow Wows, I am giving myself a point of interest in which to operate. If you have a passion for training, you might try collecting some of the older training patches that have been phased out over the past few years. Many people collect national patches because they appeal to nearly every collector in every area of the country.

After you have begun collecting a certain area and you wish to branch out, try your section, neighboring districts, regional patches, etc. It is all up to you. However, collecting in a little bit at a time is the most that some of us can do. In general, do not start out with 5 patches in your box and have the feeling that your collection will never amount to anything. There are thousands of patches out there with hundreds of new ones coming out every year. It is impossible for most of us to keep up with this rapid pace. Therefore, limiting yourself to a few areas at the beginning one of the easiest ways to break into patch collecting and avoid that "Gotta have it all/My collection will never be that big" mentality so many beginners have.

Bring your patches to events! Many of those who wish to grow their collections simply leave what they have at home when they leave for an event. Experience has taught me that events are some of the best places to get patches you would not normally be able to get your hands on. If you even have the possibility of interacting with another collector at an event....bring the patches.

Attend National events if possible. National Camporamas, Rendezvous', and councils are probably the best places to be if you are a patch collector. If you have not been able to make one of these events in the past, you are in luck. The National FCF Rendezvous is this summer. Bring your patches with you and see if you cannot find that one patch you have been looking for. There are many collectors on this board who have already said they are going.

In conclusion, patch collecting is a very fun and interesting hobby that is growing tremendously every year. With a little help and sound planning, everyone can have a patch collection to be proud of.

*This is a continuing post meant to start a conversation and give advice and start discussion on the topic. Feel free to respond.*

*Jason Bone, Texas, 2004*

## A couple of Ideas.

1. Start small. Do not worry about what you do not have find stuff you like you do not have to have all the sections and all the districts and all the countries from day one.

I picked a few years that had meaning for me and am trying to fill them out. 92 and 95 by the way.

I picked events I like rather than everything.

2. Look on the web you can find lots of districts that have patches or RRpatch.com and eBay Find what you like and what is available. EMAIL the big poster on eBay they will help you If you know what you want. However, do not waste their time by being unreasonable All districts fir a dollar will not fly.

Most of them have a list of what they got and what they would take for them. Most will deal!!!!

3. Display Display Display. I have my favorite few framed and matted, and a few sets up around my office. The rest are in a photo box by district pow wow or sectional events.
4. Nation events are an amazing place. DO NOT BRING MORE CASH THAN YOU CAN AFFORD TO SPEND!!!! It is kind of like Vegas no one goes home with much money!!!

Remember in collection there is always one more out there!!!! Do not go nuts!

Silent Roo, Minnesota, 2004

## My 2 cents (8.4 colons if you are in Costa Rica)

- Form an alliance with others who are interested in the same types of patches that you are interested in. Get them a patch each time you get you a new one.
- Send your trade lists back and forth frequently.
- Attempt to trade with everyone (you have had a successful trade with) at least annually.
- Do not be afraid to trade with contacts overseas.
- Send me a list of what you have and what you need, and I can usually find you someone to trade with.
- Be smart when buying off the internet; not everything at Walmart or eBay is really rare or really on sale.
- Buy low, sell at value; that way you can afford to give a few away along the way and feel good about it.
- Remember that your reputation will outlast all the items in your collection.

Dade Massey, Tennessee, 2004

## PATCH COLLECTION STORAGE and DISPLAY

As was stated in another thread: Storage of your collection in an old ammo can makes it hard to display.

I think any successful display method must balance several factors and each display method has advantages and disadvantages.

Cost: If the mounting media costs more than the patches, you are in the wrong line of work. You need to work for the Government or a museum.

Movement: If it is too big to move, only the local audience can ever appreciate your work. The largest Ranger patch collection is mounted on 4x8 sheets of plywood which spanned a church gymnasium.

Visibility: display on 2x3 or 3x4 sheets of foam board can get expensive and a little cumbersome to move but can be hung for the most people to see. Use of blankets or cloth material ruins the patches from handling and cements or thread used to attach them.

My solution was to use 3- and 4-inch binders and mount the patches with Elmer's glue on biology paper. Least cost, Good transport, OK security, poor visibility. Only a couple guys can look at each book of about 110 patches. If 30 books take up too much room, buy a bigger car. (You should see Jim Carter's books when he tries to stuff them in his Volkswagen!)

Encasing them in plastic sheets adds to the expense but would be recommended if you ever plan to resell your collection. Some of my pages have been unchanged for 25 years (back when it was only 4 books).

Keep patches away from mildew! If you cannot dry them after exposure to weather, you might as well burn them! Keep your trade items clean and dry. Do not mix your collection and your trade items.

Dade Massey, Tennessee, 2004