



## How to Use the New Curriculum

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In recent years, Royal Rangers has gone from a program with little or no materials to one with an abundance of materials. Nearly all the leaders we have talked with over the last few years have stated that there was an initial adjustment period, especially if they had been involved with Rangers for a long time. However, once the adjustment period is made, they also agree that their boys' motivation levels for advancement and excitement toward involvement in Rangers' has jumped significantly. It is not hard to understand considering that the advancement trails are clear and provide incremental and frequent opportunities for positive reinforcement. We are encouraged by the successes being reported.

Although there have been a lot of questions concerning the new materials, most tend to be similar in nature or fall into common topics or groups. For this article we have picked the ones that get asked most often. They usually have occurred during the adjustment period or they are situations that show up in outposts where individual leaders would like assistance. Maybe one of the following scenarios fits your outpost.

**Scenario:** Small to Medium-Sized Church, 4 to 18 Ranger Kids, K-2nd grades in same classroom, only 1 to 2 leaders

**Question:** I'm using the common theme approach suggested in the

RK Leader's Guide, but I'm having a hard time keeping up with the Elk, Wolverine, and Cougar advancement work being all at the same time. What can I do?

**Answer:** Teach only one trail at a time to all the boys, no matter what grade they are in. All of the advancement steps in each of the trails have the same value. The Elk trail does not need to be completed before the Wolverine or the Cougar. It's a three-year rotating curriculum, so boys just entering Ranger Kids will eventually go through all the steps. This organization technique has been successfully used in a number of small church environments. This will significantly lower the amount of administration needed to run the Ranger Kids group.

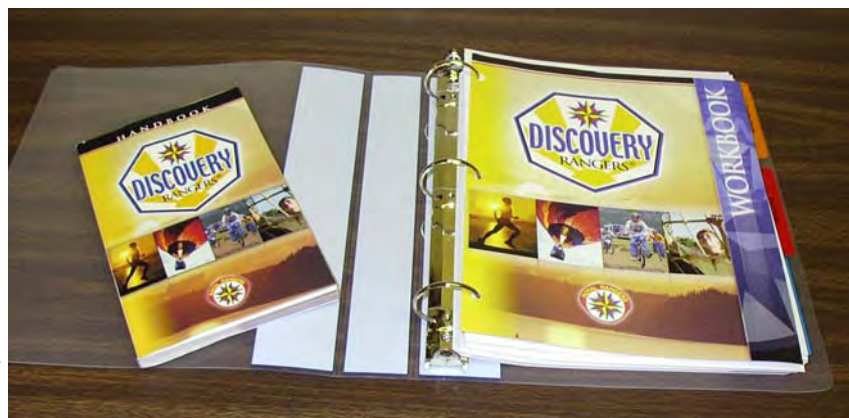
husband-wife team, then the recommendation is for the wife to lead the Ranger Kids group and for the husband to lead the Discovery Rangers and above. The wife or first leader may use the organization technique mentioned in the previous question. The husband or second leader would focus on the merits needed by the other boys to reach the Gold Medal of Achievement. This leader would primarily teach red, green, and gold merits. The red and green merits will allow a Discovery Ranger to advance through his trail requirements. The red (4 required), green, and gold merits will allow the Adventure and Expedition Rangers to obtain their GMA. Seven red merits are also required to enter FCF. There is a lot of opportunity for overlap.

In a small group environment, the older boys should be encouraged to act as mentors to teach the various skills being taught to the younger boys.

**Scenario:** A Church of Any Size

**Question:** I can't get everything done in the hour and a half scheduled in the Leaders' Guide. Why doesn't the curriculum work for me?

**Answer:** Actually the curriculum is working for you. Good curriculum will always provide you with more things than you can complete in your allotted time. One thing to keep in mind is that the curriculum design had to work for churches whose Ranger meetings ranged from 45 minutes to 1 hour, 45 minutes in length. That is a one hour difference. This requires that the leader adjust the meeting elements so that



**Scenario:** Small- to Medium-Sized Church, 4 to 18 Rangers, K-12th grades, only one husband-wife team or 2 leaders

**Question:** With such a wide range of grade levels, how can our church organize the outpost to meet every boy's needs?

**Answer:** First we must state that it would be very difficult to be successful with only one leader. A minimum of two leaders are required. If it was a



they work to meet the needs of their outpost. Curriculum is unable to evaluate, only the leader (teacher) can do this. We have talked about how time ranges can effect the amount accomplished during a meeting. The next two questions reveal how the leader-boy ratio will affect your ability to get things done.

**Scenario:** Small- to Medium-Sized Church, 2 to 6 boys in each group for Discovery and above, only 1 to 2 leaders for each age group

**Question:** The Discovery and Adventure Rangers Leaders' Guides state that only 2 skills merits can be taught each quarter. I can teach a merit in about four weeks. Is it OK to teach more than 2 skill merits per quarter?

**Answer:** Some of you are thinking, "Wow! If life could be so grand!" Yes, it's OK to teach more skill merits, since your leader-boy ratio is terrific. Lots of one-on-one time allows for more learning to occur. Please keep in mind that the Leaders' Guides do not state that you can only teach two merits. They suggest that two merits be taught. You are also not required to teach the suggested merits as they are laid out in the materials. They may be taught in any order that is best suited for your outpost as long as you teach the required merits needed for the boys to earn their medal-level awards.

**Scenario:** Medium- to Large-Sized Church, 7 to 24 boys in each group or grade for Discovery and Adventure Rangers, only 1 to 2 leaders for each age group or grade

**Question:** I can't teach a merit in five weeks. It takes me six to eight weeks to teach the materials. What can I do? I'm concerned the boys won't be able to advance to a medal-level award each year.

**Answer:** Some of you are thinking, "Dude! Now this is reality!" Yes, this reveals the variety of outpost dynamics that exist throughout the field. This scenario, however, is not a problem. The advancement systems for the Discovery (DR) and Adventure (AR) Rangers actually handle this really well, especially the DR system. The DR Leaders' Guide does suggest that two Bible merits and two skill merits be taught each quarter. However, if you carefully examine the

assist boys with the demonstration of their practical skill requirements.

**Question:** Why are the Bible Merits organized in alphabetical order?

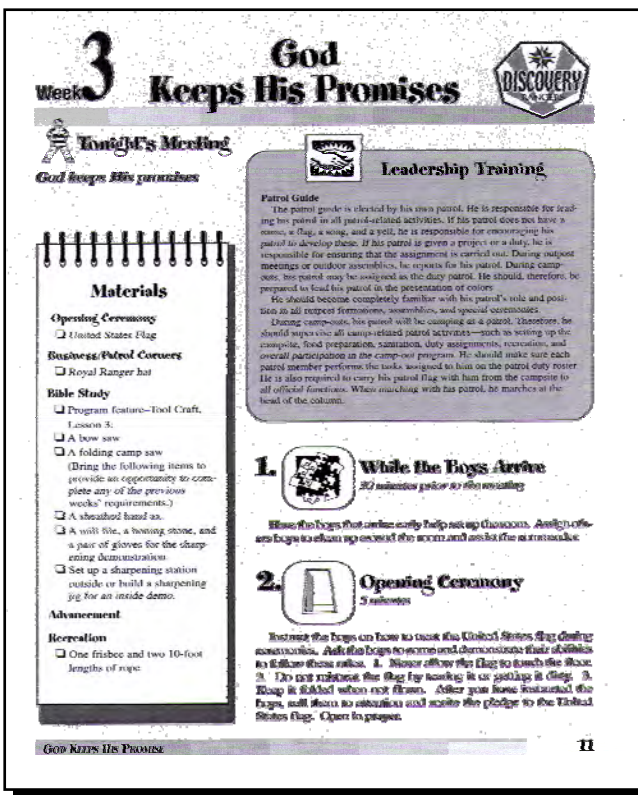
**Answer:** For consistency and ease of use for the boys. The skill merits as well as the Bible merits needed to be in alphabetical order so the boys could easily find them.

**Question:** Where can I buy the video clips mentioned in the Adventure Ranger Bible study lessons?

**Answer:** This is not possible. They do not exist. The video clips are part of the background story line for the time machine that the boys use to travel to each Bible story or scenario. You can read about this on pages 735 and 736 of the AR Leaders' Guide.

**Question:** What is the meaning of the reference number located under the title of the Bible study lesson on each page of the boys' workbook?

**Answer:** The number "Y2 Q3 L4", for example, means that you can find the answers to that specific Bible lesson in Year 2, Quarter 3, Lesson 4 of the DR or AR Leaders' Guide.



steps described in the DR Advancement Trail charts on pages 14 and 15 of the DR Leaders' Guide, you will note that only a total of six skill merits are required to earn a medal-level award each year. The final Gold Eagle medal, for example, requires 24 Bible merits but only 18 skill merits. The end result of this advancement system is that an extra 10 weeks of teaching time is available every year along with the four make-up weeks plus four spare weeks already provided-for a total of 18 weeks of flexibility. That's an absolute necessity for those outposts with high boy-to-leader ratios that need the extra one-on-one teaching time to

The most obvious thing revealed by the preceding questions is the variety of situations that exist in the local outpost. There is no standard "cookie cutter" approach to Royal Rangers. It is necessary to evaluate the characteristics of your outpost and then use the flexibility and adaptability of the new curriculum to fit the needs of your outpost. The end result will be a vibrant and successful outpost. 🌟