*Royal Rangers Workshop Presentation Outline*

Healthy Outposts

in the Smaller Church Setting

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| **Target Audience** | Royal Rangers leaders in smaller churches, or organizational leaders who assist smaller churches in getting started and becoming healthy |
| **Promo Text[[1]](#footnote-1)** | The Royal Rangers program allows for a significant degree of flexibility, enabling churches of any size to create a program that meets their needs while staying within their limited resources. Come hear how Royal Rangers can be conducted effectively in a smaller church setting. |
| **Class Summary** | This class will examine some of the unique challenges commonly faced by smaller churches when implementing a Royal Rangers program. We will also examine what it means to be a “healthy outpost” and explore ways smaller churches provide healthy programs within the context of their size limitations. |
| **Presentation Outline**  *Slide 1* | **Opening**   * In this class we’ll explore some of the unique challenges commonly faced by smaller churches when implementing a Royal Rangers program. We will also examine what it means to be a “healthy outpost” and explore ways smaller churches provide healthy programs within the context of their size limitations. * Our goal in RR is to make available to every boy a process by which he can grow into being a Christlike man. To achieve that vision, we must provide a process that works for any church of any size, including smaller churches with limited resources   **QUESTION:**   * How many of you attend a church with less than 100 people attending on a typical Sunday morning? * How many of you have less than 50 on Sunday morning? * If you’re part of a smaller church, you are more “typical” than you may realize! |
| *Slide 2* | Let’s take a look at current Assemblies of God church statistics to see how common smaller churches really are.  **2015 AG Church Statistics[[2]](#footnote-2)**   * Over 13,000 AG churches in USA * 76% have less than 200 in average Sunday morning attendance * 58% have less than 100 in average Sunday morning attendance * 32% have less than 50 in average Sunday morning attendance * Less than 3% have more than 700   *KEY POINT: What does this tell us about the typical size of our churches in the AG? Smaller churches are far more common than larger churches.* |
| *Slide 3*  *Slide 4*  *Slide 5*  *Slide 6*  *Slide 7*  *Slide 8*  *Slide 9*  *Slide 10*  *Slide 11*  *Slide 12*  *Slide 13*  *Slide 14*  *Slide 15*  *Slide 16*  *Slide 17*  *Slide 18*  *Slide 19-21*  *Slide 22*  *Slide 23*  *Slide 24* | Let’s take a look at our population statistics to determine how many boys we could typically expect to find in these smaller churches.  **According to US-Census data from 2012**   * About 10% of the general population is school-aged boys   + about 5% RK/DR & 5% AR/ER * About 20% are MEN of "likely-leader age"   + fathers 25-55 years   + I estimate about 10% of those will become RR leaders * Typical AG church   + 100 people = 10 boys (all ages) with 2-3 leaders   + 50 people = 5 boys & 1 leader   From this we see that the typical AG church is a smaller church with a limited number of boys and leaders.  Now let’s look at the “model outpost” as commonly depicted in our curriculum and training materials.  **Snapshot of the “Model Outpost”**   1. Four separate age groups    1. RK may be broken into 3 separate groups    2. 4-6 classes/groups 2. Each group has 2 or more adult leaders    1. 8-12 leaders 3. Patrol system in operation in each group    1. 5-8 boys per patrol    2. Minimum 2 patrols +SPL/ASPL per group    3. 12-18 boys per group    4. 48-72 boys total   How many churches in your district have outposts of this size – 8+ leaders with 50+ boys? (probably very few)  *KEY POINT: We can see that we have a BIG difference between the “model outpost” we commonly represent in our materials and the “typical outpost” that realistically exists in our churches. This disparity may lead some church leaders to assume Royal Rangers is only suitable for larger churches. We must therefore be very intentional to present the flexibilities of the program that enable churches of ANY SIZE to conduct healthy, effective Royal Rangers programs.*  **Think About It**   * What would a healthy, effective Royal Rangers program look like in a smaller church? * How do we define “healthy & effective”? * *HINT: How is it defined in WCO?*   **Healthy Outpost Defined**  *A “Healthy Outpost” may be defined as an outpost that effectively applies the Seven Methods of Royal Rangers to achieve the mission of the program within the context of their church and community.*  **Mission of Royal Rangers:**   * Mentor boys into Christlike manhood   **Seven Methods of Royal Rangers**   1. Friendship – mentoring in Christlike manhood 2. Activities – bringing men and boys together around mutual interests 3. Advancement System – personal & spiritual growth process 4. Interactive Learning – hear, see, do, teach 5. Uniforms – group identity 6. Patrol System – servant leadership development 7. Service & Ministry – servants first, leaders second   Before we can begin looking for ways to effectively apply these methods to a small church we need a clear understanding of the context within these churches minister.  **CASE IN POINT:**  Let’s imagine you just became the leader of a new Royal Rangers outpost in a small church where you have (1) Ranger Kid, (2) Discovery Rangers, (1) Adventure Ranger, and (1) Expedition Ranger.  Smaller churches typically need programs that meet these criteria:   * Suitable for smaller groups, combined age groups, and possibly combined genders (boys & girls together) * Can be done affectively with fewer leaders (maybe only 1 or 2) * Easy to understand & operate, doesn’t require a lot of prep time & specialized training * Low-cost, don't require a lot of special gear or facilities, a good value for the investment * Effective at providing valuable ministry results   **Think About It:**   * How can we apply our MISSION and our METHODS within this context? * Can this church have a healthy & effective Royal Rangers program? YES!!!   **APPLYING THE Seven Methods TO a smaller church SETTING:**  In most ways, the seven methods would be applied in much the same way in smaller church as in any other church. The primary differences may be in the way the advancement system is used. Therefore, we’ll look at advancement last.   1. Friendship    1. Developing relationships would take place in essentially the same way in the smaller church as in the larger one.    2. Smaller churches may have an advantage when it comes to building friendship. 2. Activities    1. Smaller churches may have more challenges due to the limitations on space, money, and expertise (fewer men to call on)    2. Focus on topics for which you (or people in your church/community) already have the gear & experience and your facilities can accommodate    3. Remember to include VARIETY, based on the interests of boys in your church & community 3. Interactive Learning    1. Same principles apply to churches of any size    2. Smaller churches may have an advantage since boys may have greater opportunities to learn by doing in a smaller group setting 4. Uniforms    1. Buy official RR T-shirts or make your own (iron-on or hand paint). Could also make their own vests if merit patches are being presented. 5. Jr Leadership/Patrol System    1. Involve boys in helping & leading whenever appropriate, according to their abilities, treating entire group as one patrol. 6. Service Projects    1. Could be conducted in much the same way as any other outpost.    2. Promote as family/parent events, encourage fathers to come with you. 7. Advancement System    1. The advancement system represents the biggest challenge for smaller churches.       1. Every age group has a unique trail       2. Requires significant effort by leaders to prepare, teach, and track each boy’s progress.       3. Potentially high cost (depending on award insignia used)    2. However, outposts still have options on how they may choose to apply the advancement system. This table provides some examples.   **Other Considerations**  Combine Royal Rangers with Girls Ministries (joint format)   * All boys & girls together for parts of the meeting, separate for other parts * Boys earn RR skill & Bible merits (but NOT advancement steps due to the specific merit combinations required) * Girls complete GM “Adventure” badges (all girls earn same badge but NOT advancement steps) * Regular RR & GM uniforms could be used and/or vests & sashes * Note that this is NOT a “coed” program concept. The boys are still RR and the girls are still GM.   **Summary & Conclusion**   * The majority of our AG churches today are smaller churches * Although smaller churches face challenges when implementing a RR program, they also have unique opportunities * Churches of any size can conduct healthy RR programs by understanding and effectively applying the seven methods of RR to their unique setting. |
| **Handouts** | * Workshop Handout * Advancement System Options |

1. *Use this text when promoting the class in a conference notebook or handout describing available workshops.* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *2015 AG Vital Statistics Report.* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)