*Royal Rangers Workshop Presentation Outline*

Applying the Advancement System in the Smaller Church Setting

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| *Mike Laliberty, Southwest Region Coordinator* | *February 2018* |

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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 the Royal Rangers advancement system 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 can apply a healthy advancement system within the context of their size limitations. |
| **Presentation Outline***Slide 1**Slide 2**Slide 3**Slide 4**Slide 5**Slide 6* | **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 can apply a healthy advancement system 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 Christ-like 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:*** What is the mission of the Royal Rangers ministry?
* Turn to your partner and discuss the following question …What are the unique characteristics of the Royal Rangers ministry that allow us to complete our mission?

**Mission of Royal Rangers:*** Mentor boys into Christlike manhood

**Think About It*** What would a healthy, effective Royal Rangers program look like in any church – small or large?
* How do we define “healthy & effective”?
* *HINT: How is it defined in WCO?*

**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

**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.*As we can see, the Advancement System is one of those key methods utilized by a healthy, effective Royal Rangers program.What are the purposes of the Advancement system?The Advancement system is a tool Royal Rangers leaders utilize to prepare our boys for God’s plan for manhood. In NRMC, we learned the meaning of the acronym, ACT, as it applies to manhood.* Adventure
* Character
* Task

The Advancement system provides opportunities for development and experience in all 3 of these areas.Before we can begin looking for ways to effectively apply the Advancement system within the small church, we need a clear understanding of the context within which these churches minister.Finally, we will look at some possible Advancement system options. **ACTIVITY:** Numbers – What do they mean? Turn to your partner or huddle in groups to discuss what the meaning of these AG church statistics. Numbers of the same color are related to each other.(After a couple of minutes of discussion, ask for student feedback) |
| *Slide 7* | 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 8**Slide 9**Slide 10**Slide 11 - 13**Slide 14**Slide 15 -17* | (Now determine, by polling, if class members are representative of average AG church statistics.)**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!

From the data we see that the typical AG church is a smaller church with a limited number of boys and leaders.*KEY POINT: We can see that we have a BIG difference between the assumed “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.***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 Advancement system TO a smaller church SETTING:*** The advancement system represents the biggest challenge for smaller churches.
	+ Every age group has a unique trail
	+ Requires significant effort by leaders to prepare, teach, and track each boy’s progress.
	+ Potentially high cost (depending on award insignia used)
* However, outposts still have options on how they may choose to apply the advancement system. This table provides some examples.

**Discuss Charts****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.

**Review changes in GMA Award and its enBellishment Awards**  |
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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)