

HIGH
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EDITION

ADVENTURE

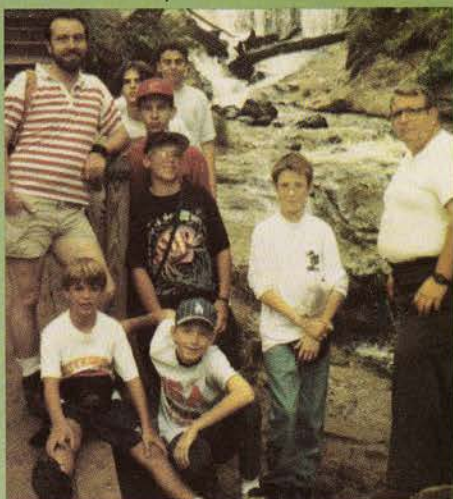
A Royal Rangers Magazine For Boys

SUMMER 1994

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Expedition**

Life on the River

**America's Inner
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Cover photo by Richard Geno

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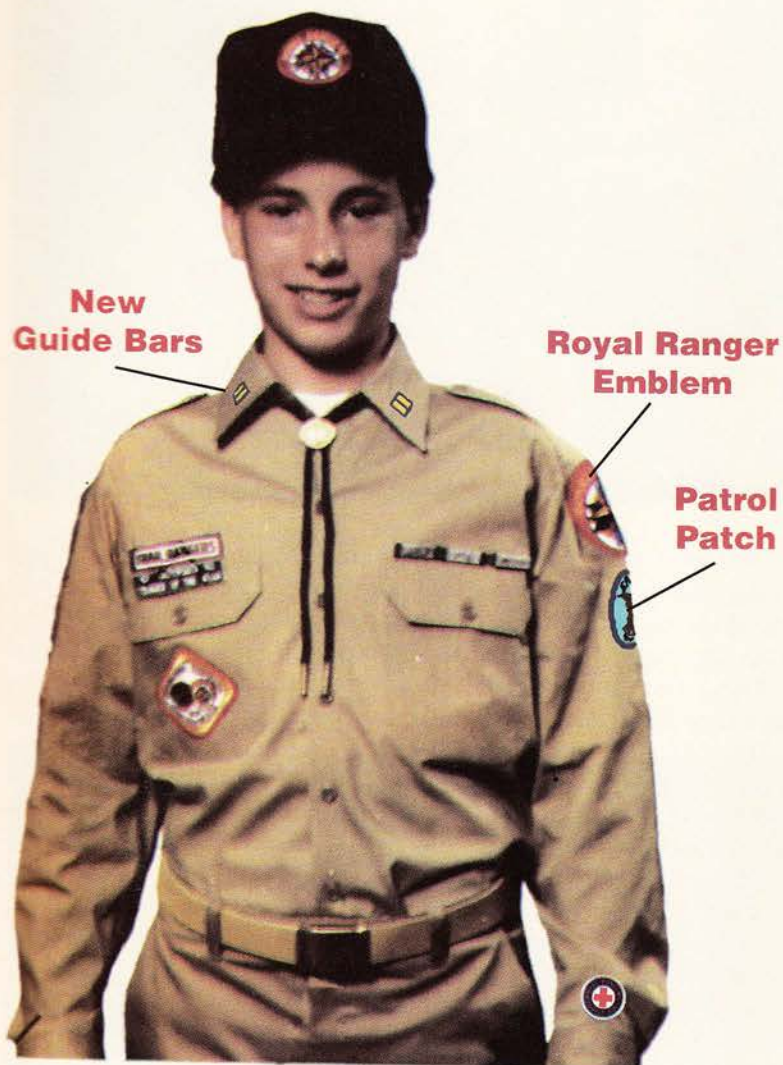
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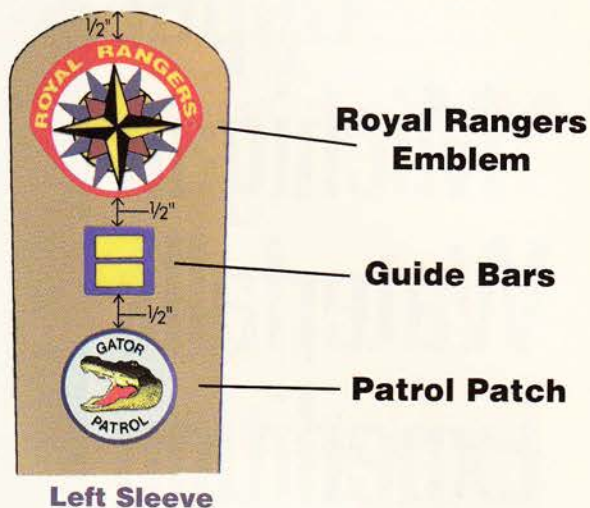
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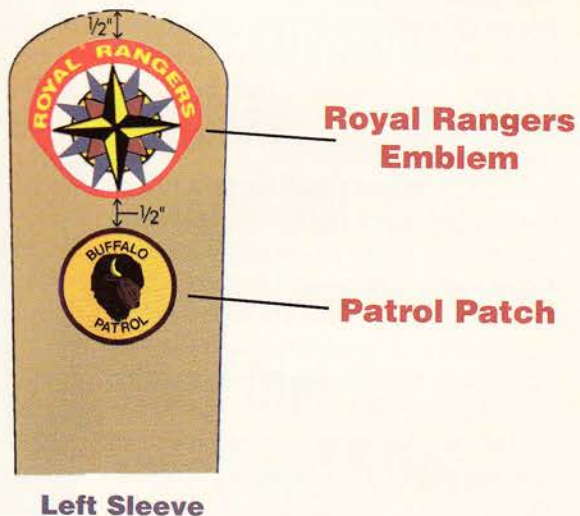
Uniform wear for new advancement trail, coming in 1995



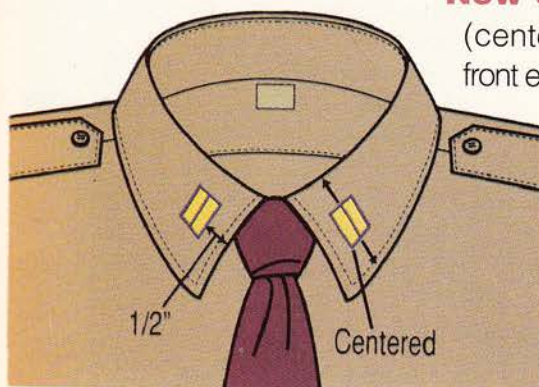
Patrol Patch-present placement
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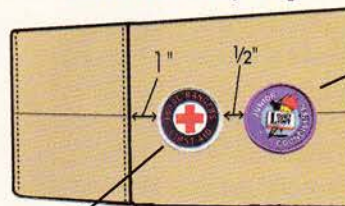
Patrol Patch-placement with new
advancement trail, coming in 1995
(centered on left sleeve $\frac{1}{2}$ " below Royal
Rangers emblem)



New Guide Bars
(centered $\frac{1}{2}$ " from
front edge of collar)



Left Sleeve, Top



First Aid Patch
(centered on top of
left sleeve, 1" from cuff)

**LFTL Junior
Councilmen
Patch**
(Centered on top
of left sleeve $\frac{1}{2}$ "
from first aid
patch or 1" from
cuff if not wearing
first aid patch)

Upper Michigan Waterfalls Expedition

by Richard A. Geno, Michigan District Training Coordinator



The narrow path weaved through the deep woods of Michigan's Eastern Upper Peninsula. Our solitude was broken only by the rustling of leaves and sounds from the many birds, squirrels, and chipmunks inhabiting the forest. We were overwhelmed with anticipation!

We eagerly marched forward to see the first of many waterfalls we would visit on our Upper Michigan Waterfalls Expedition. The canopy of trees above hid the sky from view. Yet as the clouds parted, rays of sun illuminated the forest—filling it with warmth, bright colors, and subtle shadows.

Then we began to hear the sound of rushing water. Our pace quickened. Finally there it was: the lower falls of the rustic Tahquamenon River. There we saw the wide river split by an island. The falls cascade down 20 feet on both sides of it. The deep golden-brown water rushes over and past large rocks and boulders strewn throughout the divided river, which rejoins at the base of the island.

The water is dyed golden-brown—not by mud or pollution, but by natural tannic acid from the 900 square miles of cedar, hemlock forests, and swamps. For a close-up view of both sections of the falls, we boarded boats and traveled to the island.

Indeed that was an awesome sight. But more of God's creation was to come. We returned to the mainland and proceeded 4 miles upstream to Upper Tahquamenon Falls. This is the largest waterfall in the United States east of the Mississippi. There 50,000 gallons of water per second rush over a 200-foot wide slab of sandstone and drop with a mighty roar 50 feet to the river below. Mist rises up, creating a fog that spreads into the forest on both sides of the falls.

Below the falls the river flows through a deep, wide canyon with high walls of layered sandstone forming its banks. We had spent 8 hours and traveled 500 miles to see these marvels of God's creation.

After the grand day we retired to Muskallonge Lake on the south shore of Lake Superior. There we set up camp for the night and dreamed of the wonders that awaited us on the second day of our expedition.

On this August 1993 day, three commanders and seven young men from Outpost 5 (Tri-City Assembly in Canton, Michigan) were tired but happy. We had completed day 1 of a 5-day Pre-Pow Wow Adventure.

This adventure along with the Michigan District Pow Wow meant 8 days of fun. We would soon enjoy a tour

of the Seney National Wildlife Refuge and a visit to Kitch-iti-kapi Spring (the largest spring in the state of Michigan).

We would also go sight seeing at Fort Michilimackinac—a restored 18th century frontier fort guarding the straits of Mackinaw. And we would canoe 6 hours on a 28-mile river through the Mason Tract wilderness on the south branch of the Au Sable River. An unforgettable experience.

Our second day of the expedition featured a whirlwind tour of waterfalls in the Pictured Rocks National Lake Shore area. Pictured Rocks is 65 miles of Lake Superior shoreline on the northern coast of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Fifteen miles of this shoreline are cliffs 50- to 200-feet high, with vertical walls that plunge directly into the crystal clear waters of Lake Superior.

In places the multicolored walls have been sculpted by the crashing waves of Lake Superior into caves, arches, and formations that resemble castles and fortresses.

This national park has 10 major waterfalls and offers wilderness backpacking trails, camping, and the Alger Underwater Diving Preserve. The Alger Underwater Preserve contains at least 10 18th- and 19th-Century shipwrecks that

scuba diving enthusiasts can explore in 8 to 30 feet of water.

The first Pictured Rocks' site we visited was Sable Falls. This falls cascades through the woods and drops 80 feet over a stairway of rocks, logs, and sandstone ledges. After viewing the falls we followed Sable Creek to a rocky beach, where it empties into Lake Superior.

Some of us climbed the heights of the Sable Dunes, while others skipped stones on the calm waters of Lake Superior. Then we went west to the Lake Superior Log Slide—a location where logs used to be run down wooden shoots into Lake Superior.

The sand embankment there is an awesome sight. It drops vertically 500 feet while covering a horizontal distance of only 300 feet. The incline is so steep that the speed and friction of logs being slid down the shoot would sometimes set the shoot on fire.

Continuing westward we drove through a magnificent white-birch forest on our way to the Kingston Planes. Kingston Planes has a large area that was burned over immediately following the logging of its virgin timber in the late 1800s. The fire helped preserve the wood, so the area is littered with the giant stumps of a pre-Columbian forest.

At our next stop we hiked 1½ miles through deep woods to the secluded site of Chapel Falls. At this extraordinary site, the water ripples down the face of a more than 100-foot, sloping sandstone bluff.

We hiked back to the van then went further west to the Miners River. A short walk took us to the site of Miners Falls. Here the Miners River plunges over a sandstone cliff and drops about 50 feet.

From there we traveled to Munising Falls. It's at the western end of the Pictured Rocks National Lake Shore. It is one of the most beautiful and easily accessible falls in the area. It features a horseshoe canyon where the water plunges 50 feet below. The sandstone cliff that the water drops from is undercut such that we were able to walk behind the falls and look back through the plummeting water.

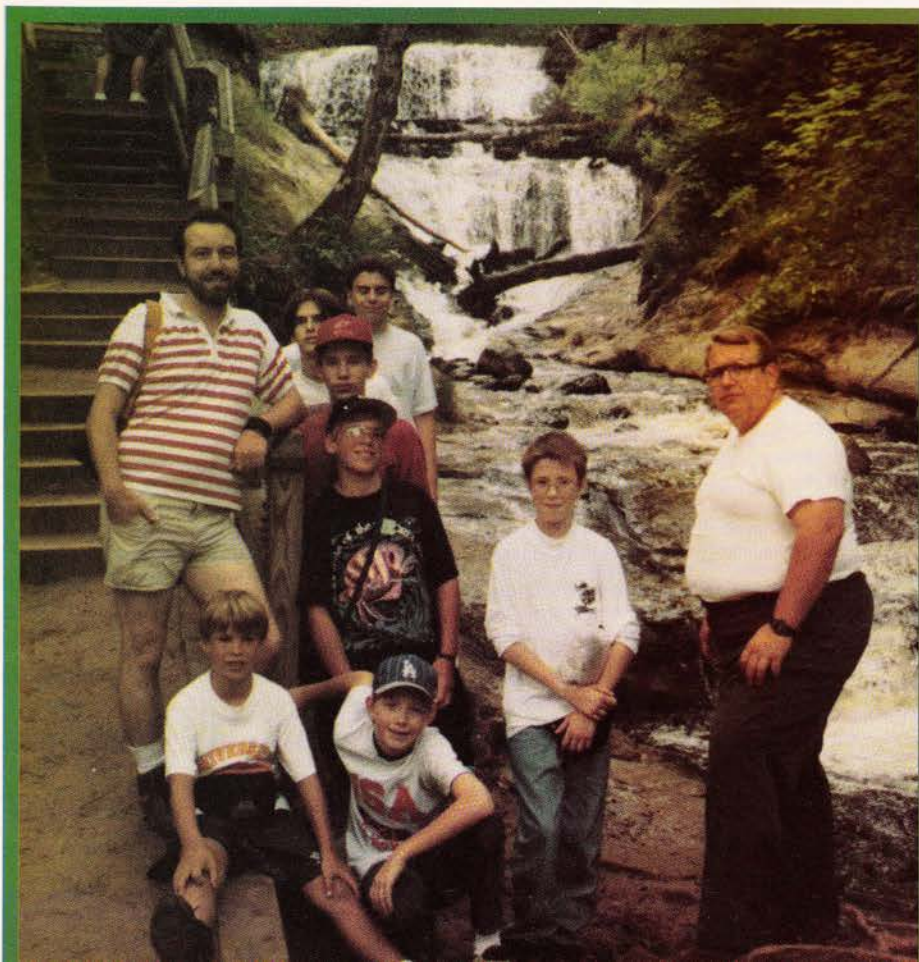
Our tour ended after a quick visit to scenic Alger Falls and Wagner Falls, just west of Pictured Rocks. We ended the day on a relaxing note with a round of miniature golf.

The next day we returned to our camp, 200 miles away, at Muskallonge Lake for a second night's rest on the shores of Lake Superior.

As we recalled all we had seen the last

2 days, we were filled with praise and awe for the God who had created all these wonders. We knew with conviction that "since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made" (Romans 1:20, NIV). 🌐

The sand embankment there is an awesome sight. It drops vertically 500 feet while covering a horizontal distance of only 300 feet. The incline is so steep that the speed and friction of logs being slid down the shoot would sometimes set the shoot on fire.



Life on the River



by P. Douglas Chapman, Michigan District Trails Coordinator

We were off! Eight silvery canoes set out down the Huron River for a 27-mile adventure. Cool water splashed off the bows of our canoes as they sliced through the river. For the next 4 days, 12 Rangers and 3 commanders would live on the river. This was the beginning of the Michigan District's first Junior Canoe Expedition.

Our JCE was held June 17-20, 1992. It began at Proud Lake recreation area, about an hour northwest of Detroit. There Royal Rangers, ages 12-17, came to learn how to properly use a canoe. The three commanders served as staff instructors.

The Rangers were divided into four-man crews. Each crew was assigned two canoes and given a portable stove and a 4-day supply of food. The crews camped,



cooked, ate, and traveled together as a team.

On the first day the young men learned about the parts of the canoe and paddle, how to get in and out of a canoe without tipping it over, and eight different paddle strokes. They also reviewed the Eight Defense Plan and other basics about water safety. For safety's sake we always wore our PFD's (personal flotation device) while on the water.

All the strokes were first practiced by the boys on shore, then standing in knee-deep water, to get the feel of the river against the paddle. After learning the basics the Rangers took their canoes on water.

It was great fun watching several canoes going in circles as the Rangers, two per canoe, learned how to paddle together. After a full day of training, we were ready to head down stream.

The Huron River, which we canoed, is almost 100 miles long. The portions we canoed on passed through two large lakes: Proud Lake and Kent Lake. Most of the river traveled was surrounded by beautiful wilderness. In some places the trees were so large they completely covered the river. It was like paddling through a tunnel of green leaves.

One day we explored a large island in the middle of Kent Lake. We found several empty goose and duck nests. Marine wildlife was in abundance along the river. We saw swans, geese, egrets, cranes, ducks, turtles, bullfrogs, snakes, muskrats, raccoons, and a variety of fish.

One of the skills the trainees learned was how to get around obstacles in the river. The three crews of Rangers had to "portage" (or carry) their canoes around three dams.

The tornado that had struck the area earlier had knocked down several large trees into the river, so we had to portage around those also.

Sometimes we stopped along the river for special training. On the beach at Kent

Lake the trainees learned how to properly abandon a canoe, swamp it, and right it (turn it upright) again. They also learned how to enter a canoe from the water and use a canoe to rescue a drowning victim.


Each night the trainees set up their tents along the shoreline, prepared their dinners, and enjoyed a roaring council fire. After an exciting day everyone had no trouble going to sleep!

When the JCE was over we held a graduation ceremony for the trainees. Each Ranger was awarded the national



Junior Canoe Expedition patch and certificate, a special Michigan Canoe Expedition patch, and the Canoe Merit.

Any district can host a JCE. Have your commander ask the district commander or district training coordinator about scheduling one. The national Royal Rangers Office can supply information to help put together a JCE.

This Junior Canoe Expedition was challenging with lots of hard work. Yet every Royal Ranger who attended asked when the next JCE would be held. They found out that canoeing is great fun! 

The 8 Point Plan for Safe Swimming

by P. Douglas Chapman

All Royal Rangers should know and use the Eight Defense Plan. This plan can help you swim safely.

1. A MEDICAL EXAMINATION

This will determine the activities in which a boy may participate. Those physically unfit should not be allowed to swim.

2. ADULT SUPERVISION

An adult supervisor must be present at all times. He or his assistants should have an up-to-date water safety or lifeguard certificate.

3. LIFESAVING EQUIPMENT

Supervisors must have, and know how to use, proper water safety rescue equipment. These include: throw lines, rescue tubes, shepherd's crook, etc.

4. SWIMMING AREA

Swim only in a roped off, safe area where bottom conditions, water currents, and depth are known.

5. LOOKOUTS

Lookouts must be positioned high enough to see all swimmers. Swimmers should be trained to use an emergency signal to notify a lifeguard if a swimmer is in danger.

6. SWIMMING CLASSIFICATIONS


All swimmers should be classified according to their swimming ability.

Weak and nonswimmers must be restricted to shallow water no deeper than their chests.

7. BUDDY SYSTEM

Use the buddy system. Never swim alone. Adults should conduct regular "buddy checks" about every 7-10 minutes.

8. INTELLIGENT DISCIPLINE

Every Ranger should know and follow all the rules. Keep the rules simple. Be sure they make good sense. 

Our Michigan Sea Rangers Regatta

by Edward Link, Michigan District Public Relations Coordinator

We had been looking forward, with much excitement, to the day when we could hold our first Sea Rangers Regatta.

The date was set for Saturday, August 14, 1993. On Wednesday, August 11, the sky filled with rain—first just on and off. But as the day went on, it became heavier and heavier. The weatherman forecasted the rain would end sometime on Saturday. It looked like it could be a rain out for our first Regatta. I prayed and asked God for a beautiful day.

We were happy to see sunshine early on that Saturday morning. As I walked out my back door, I looked up at the clear, blue sky and thanked Jesus for the beautiful day.

Soon we had loaded our gear at Canton Calvary Assembly in Canton, Michigan, and were on our way to the Metropark. We headed out with only three men and three boys ... but were determined to have a good time in God's great outdoors.

Those who attended were Rev. Larry Brooks, his son Matt, Rev. John Harris, Gerald Vaughn, Jason Gray, and myself.

We finally arrived at Kensington Metropark. Everything was in order, and we fitted everyone with life vests. In short order we had the boys in their sailboats, and we all set out across the lake for the course where the Sea Rangers would race.

It was a beautiful, balmy August day in Michigan, with a light breeze blowing out of the northeast. Just as the sailboats arrived to the course, we began to have some problems. As the sailboats turned back into the wind to start the race, the

breeze dropped to almost nothing. It took three attempts at the starting line before we were on our way. Finally the race was underway, but at a slow pace.

The drop in the wind required some skillful tacking by Gerald Vaughn to work his way upwind to the first marker. But once he made the turn and headed west by southwest, his sail filled out and he was moving along at about three times the speed of the other sailboats.


Within a matter of minutes, he was at the second marker. He made the turn around the second marker and headed in an east-by-southeast direction, straight for the finish line. As Gerald crossed the line, Rev. Brooks blew his whistle, proclaiming Gerald the winner.

Suddenly, the wind dropped to zero. There wasn't even a ripple on the water. Here we were, out in the middle of the lake with sailboats, and the wind had dropped to dead calm.

"Now what?" I asked. The answer was that I would have to row back to the boat rental for help. Well, I was soon back at the boat rental dock and help was near at hand with a boat, motor, and a "fresh" crew.

Paddles were delivered to the sailboats, and within 20 minutes we were all back at the rental dock. Just 15 minutes after arriving we were all gathered around a picnic table, under a big maple tree on a beautiful grassy knoll overlooking the lake. I noticed the breeze was back up and some other sailboats were zipping across the lake.

That's the sea for you!

Needless to say, though, the Sea Rangers had a great time. To a Sea Ranger, simply being on the water is adventure in itself. 



America's Inner Cities Need You!

The gospel is the most important aspect of inner-city ministry. But what's greatly needed is letting boys know the message that being a man and a Christian is possible.

by Joseph A. Filancia, Division of Home Missions MAPS field representative

If you are about to turn 18 or want to begin thinking about how you can one day help the hurting, then this article is for you!

We are looking for young men who are 18 or older and out of high school to fill this need.

There are great opportunities to get involved in missions around the world. But did you realize America faces a crisis that is getting worse every day—our inner cities?

The local and national news report drugs, crime, sin, and hopelessness are affecting everyone living and working in our major cities. There is no time to waste! What can be done, and what is the answer?

As Christians we know that without the Lord, our cities and nation will be lost. People are looking for an answer. They want hope instead of despair. Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few" (Matthew 9:37, NIV).

People are long waiting to give their hearts to the Lord, but they don't know how. That's where you can get involved and make a real difference in the lives of boys and girls in the inner cities of America!

Home missionaries serving in our inner cities need help during the summer months with evangelism outreaches. Some of the activities needing hands-on assistance include: sidewalk Sunday

schools, puppet shows, and door-to-door witnessing. Also, home missionaries need help starting and operating a Royal Rangers outpost and an extension program (a special Rangers outreach ministry to urban kids).

Part of the problem in the inner city is many boys and girls don't have a strong male role model in their lives. Working with the missionary and being a strong male Christian influence will affect the children in a positive way.

The gospel is the most important aspect of inner-city ministry. But what's greatly needed is letting boys know the message that being a man and a Christian is possible.

You can get involved in winning inner-city children and adults to Christ by following several simple steps.

First, let your parents know your desire to work in 1 of the 39 major cities in America. Share your burden with your Royal Rangers commander and your pastor. Have them pray with you, believing the Lord will lead you where you should go. There is a special place of ministry for you, and the Lord will give you a burden for that city.

Second, contact the Division of Home Missions MAPS Department in Springfield, Missouri. Your commander or pastor can give you the address and phone number. The department will provide you with a list of inner-city ministries that would like to have short-term summer workers.

Our MAPS office will send you infor-

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Marshall Bruner
National Public Relations
Coordinator

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One-on-One Reaching, Teaching, Keeping Men?

In March I coordinated our annual Urban Task Force Committee meeting, which was held at the 1994 National Royal Rangers Council here in Springfield, Missouri. There I was able to share the many avenues of opportunity which the Lord is paving for the Royal Rangers ministry. Some of what I reported on can be read in the news column of this publication.

I believe God is preparing to use the Royal Rangers ministry in a powerful way to reach the inner-city boys of America for Christ!

I had invited outpost commanders from urban Dallas, Texas, to come and share their testimony. They are being permitted to hold Royal Rangers meetings in an apartment inside a government housing project. Boys who are neglected by parents and society are for the first time experiencing something they had never before: compassion and love coming from adult males—Christian role models urban boys genuinely need. Boys in the inner city of Dallas are being taught that the gangs provide no future and only a counterfeit love and acceptance ... and that Jesus loves them unconditionally.

My heart was moved when hearing this good news. But then another side of their testimony was soon revealed. Tears filled my eyes then streamed down my cheeks when I heard three commanders tell of what the Royal Rangers ministry had done for them. These commanders themselves had come from homes where their parents had neglected and abused them. Just like the boys to whom they now ministry, they, too, were once unwanted. They themselves had been victims of a Christless, dysfunctional environment numbed by their harsh home life.

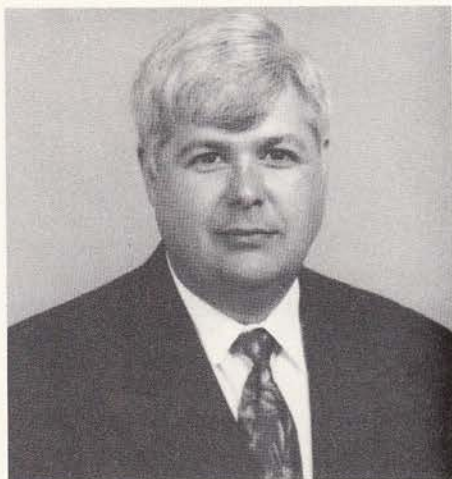
Now, however, these commanders stand taller than ever. For they had been gloriously saved by Jesus Christ, who gave them the love they had been lacking. And now they are sharing Christ's love to the urban boys of Dallas. These commanders now feel whole; they have Christ *and* have a ministry.

If I could summarize my entire thoughts, it would be this: We have a ministry that is reaching, teaching, molding, maturing, and keeping boys ... and men. What a unique opportunity and wonderful ministry God has given us—developing the total boy and man for Christ.

"I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them" (Isaiah 42:16).

Marshall Bruner

God's Man Reaching Boys For Jesus



by Ken Riemenschneider, former secretary, Men's Ministries Department

The statistics are startling. Since 1976 the number of homes where the father worked, and the mother remained at home with the children (the stereotypical nuclear family), declined from 43 to 24 percent. There were only 7 million such families in 1992.

Today 21 percent of households containing a married couple and children have at least one stepchild under 18 years of age. The proportion of single mothers more than doubled between 1982 and 1992.

Research says 50 percent of children under age 18 living today will spend a portion of their childhood in a single-parent home. The vast majority of these homes will be headed by women. The absent father is a generational calamity.

Carl, a blue-collar worker in his mid-forties, sobbed as he told his story. At a men's retreat in a small group setting, he shared how his father beat him and his younger brother as children. He still has not healed of the horror of watching his drunken father abuse his mother. He remembered feeling unloved and unwanted by his father. How he longed for his father's approval and love. Once the divorce was final, he grew up in a world of women. How alone he had felt as a child. Now, an adult, he cannot escape the pain of his childhood. It was heartbreaking to learn of his life. Recently divorced from his second wife, he rarely sees his four children—three sons. Between sobs he said, "I don't know how to love, because no one has

ever shown me love." Carl's story could be repeated thousands of times across America.

The feminist movement has been successful in spotlighting the role of women while having the backlash effect of de-emphasizing men. "Male bashing" is everywhere in the media. The father is portrayed as a bumbling idiot incapable of making it through the day—let alone lead his family. The Christian male is an object of significant ridicule. Roles held by men for thousands of years have suddenly come apart at the seams. We've been introduced to the concept of men in mid-life crisis, men abandoning families, and the alarming increase of gay men. Secular and Christian counselors' offices are filled with individuals and families struggling to survive the tumultuous '90s.

God has not forsaken His people in such a complicated hour. He has strategically poised one ministry, the Assemblies of God boys' program, "for such a time as this." Royal Rangers offers unlimited opportunities to touch boys' lives in a positive way. Someone has said that every child is like a clean piece of paper and each passerby leaves a mark. Now is the time for godly men to leave godly marks on young men's lives.

Someone, probably several men, touched your life, positively or negatively, when you were a boy. Some who live most profoundly within us abandoned us as children. You may be one who can recall with tremendous pain, like Carl, the feeling as a boy of being abandoned emotionally or physically by your father. We must not abandon our generation's boys who may have already been forsaken by their natural father. Millions of hurting boys, guarded and protected to avoid further pain, walk our neighborhoods in search of something—someone to love and care about them.

It's been said that it takes a village to raise a child. In other words, no one person alone singularly imprints a child. When parents dedicate their infants to God in a church service, after charging the parents, the pastor charges the congregation also. These are our children; we are their village.

Growing godly men requires time and patience. Good men are years in the making. Sam Keene wrote: "Good men are not products of an instant. There is

no Shake 'n Bake identity, no microwave masculinity, no easy formula for authentic manhood. We can't create ourselves overnight by willpower, guts, and hard work. Good and heroic men are generations in the making" (*Fire in the Belly: On Being a Man*, 1991, Bantam Books). The process from boyhood to manhood doesn't happen overnight. It requires the investment of a loving, caring man. A boy can't learn how to be a man from his mother—an axiom that is true.

Humans learn best through observation. Those who have touched our lives have taught far more through their actions than their words. Although you may not physically resemble your father, at family reunions aunts and uncles proclaim "you're just like him." How? In the way you walk, your mannerisms, your values. You learned these and many other qualities without even trying. Your constant exposure to him imprinted them into your life.

How important it is that God-fearing men regularly model Christlikeness before the boys in your church and community. Boys who may not see Christ in any other area of life. Let others see Jesus in your attitude and actions, as well as your words.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17). One strength of the Royal Rangers ministry has been the success of the training program. A credit to hundreds of faithful men through the 32-year history of this outreach has been one man "sharpening" another through intensive training.

So, my brother, march on! The task God has called and equipped you for is of vital importance to the Kingdom. Although you may not always see the end result, the seed you'll plant and cultivate will bring forth fruit. Always be alert . . . in the restaurant, at the lumber yard, on the job, at home, and at church. You never know when a pair of young eyes are watching. You may never know the indelible imprint you're leaving on a life.

So tell another story, take boys on another camp-out, creatively design another outpost meeting, plan another fishing trip, take another training course, study another devotion. March on, brother, march on. Godspeed as you touch boys for Jesus one by one. ☪

**The World Almanac*, 1994, p. 957

National Office Gearing Up for Urban Outreach

The national Royal Rangers Office is taking several measures to assist urban outposts.

1. Urban Prayer Task Force trip held in October as a prototype for future PTF's.

2. In the initial stage of testing and developing a "values" teaching handbook for Royal Rangers, which deals with issues today's young people face.

3. National officers are becoming certified to train commanders on life-controlling issues today's youth face.

4. Developing an *Urban Commanders Training Guide*, for urban commanders and district leaders.

5. Working with the national Teen Challenge Center to provide Royal Rangers training to their leaders and students.

6. The national office is working to produce a New Testament for the inner city. The Bibles will be distributed in 1994 throughout the United States.

This is the first LFTL Junior Councilmen missions project. As of January 1994, more than \$40,000 has been received, with thousands more pledged, for this urban Bible project: *Book of Hope*.

Help evangelize Inner-City America.

Every outpost—Rangers and leaders—can help by sending financial contributions to the national Royal Rangers Office for this Great Commission. Send your offerings to Royal Rangers; 1445 Boonville Avenue; Springfield, MO 65802-1894. Designate your offerings to Royal Rangers account "001-01-031-4001-000 INNER CITY."

Patrol Patches and Patrol Flags Available

Have you heard? Royal Rangers can wear colorful patrol patches on their uniforms—providing they are official. The Gospel Publishing House now provides 13 colorful patrol patches. The patches are worn on the left shirt sleeve—½ inch below the Royal Rangers emblem; for guides, ½ inch below the guide bars. In short, patrol patches are worn where the

first aid patch was previously worn.

(The first aid patch is worn centered on top of left sleeve, 1 inch from cuff. For Royal Rangers who have earned both the first aid patch and the LFTL Junior Councilmen patch, the patches should be worn in this order: first aid patch 1 inch from left sleeve cuff, Junior Councilmen patch ½ inch from first aid patch.)

Patrol flags, having the same design as the patrol patches, can also be ordered through GPH.

New Outreach Brochure Being Developed

The Ultimate ... Royal Rangers is a new brochure being developed by the national office as an evangelism tool for canvassing neighborhoods.

Regarding Training Patches

Only national training patches may be worn on the left pocket of the leader's or boy's khaki uniform. Activity patches, such as district advancement patches, are worn on the right pocket. Patches that are permitted to be worn are as follows: Boys—JLTC, JTC, JTT, JCE, NAC, NTC (if GMA'er and age 17½), BSTC (if GMA'er and age 17½). Leaders—NTC, WNTC, ANTC, NAC, NCE, BSTC, NTT.

Interesting Facts

The following information was shared in the *Youth Leader*, a publication of the National Youth Department.

Alcohol: A Dangerous Drug: For those who view alcohol as less dangerous than other chemicals, look at these quoted statistics:

- 4.6 million teenagers have a drinking problem.

- 4 percent of high school seniors drink alcohol every day.

- Alcohol-related accidents are the leading cause of death among young people 15-24 years of age.

- About half of all youthful deaths in drownings, fires, suicide, and homicide are alcohol-related.

- Youth who use alcohol are more likely to use it heavily and have alcohol-related problems. They are also more likely to abuse other chemicals and get into trouble with the law.

- Youth whose body weight is lower

than adults reach a higher blood alcohol concentration level than adults and show greater effects for longer periods of time.

—Information quoted from *Growing Up Drug Free: A Parent's Guide to Prevention*

Teen Smoking Common: Smoking is widespread among U.S. high school students, revealed the first comprehensive study of smoking among high schoolers. According to the Centers for Disease Control, more than one-third of those surveyed had smoked or chewed tobacco in the previous month, and nearly one in five seniors were frequent smokers. Overall, 36 percent reported using tobacco at least once the previous month. Thirteen percent of 9th-12th graders were described as frequent smokers.

Viewers Consider TV Violence Harmful: According to a nationwide Times-Mirror poll:

- More Americans worry about the effects of watching dramatized TV violence than the effects of the real violence seen on the news. Yet many still think news shows give too much attention to violent crimes.

- Eighty percent of the people polled believe that violence on TV entertainment shows is harmful to the nation. Those least concerned were young people, non-whites, men, and lower-income groups.

Washington, DC—Despite vast amounts of food, money, and time devoted to helping hungry people each year, hunger in the United States has increased by 50 percent since 1985, states the *Hunger 1994: Transforming the Politics of Hunger*, Bread of the Word Institute's fourth annual report on the state of world hunger.

Global hunger facts shown by Bread for the World:

- Worldwide, 1.3 billion people live in absolute poverty, too poor to afford an adequate diet. (U.N. Development Program)

- Approximately 300,000-500,000 Somalis perished between 1991 and mid-1993, with more than 2 million people displaced by war and famine. (United Nations)

- The world spends \$2 million a minute—\$1 trillion a year—on militarization while 1 billion people live on less than \$1 a day. (BFW Institute)

Things To Ponder

Harvey Firestone once said, "You get the best out of others when you give the best of yourself."

Vince Lombardi said: "It's not whether you get knocked down; it's whether you get up."

Words of Wisdom: "God never proposed that you handle life or solve your problems!"

Russell Brueggemann Awarded Christian Hall of Excellence

The national Men's Ministries Committee has announced the first inductee into the Men's Ministries Christian Hall of Excellence. He is Russell Brueggemann, of Boise, Idaho.

The Christian Hall of Excellence was developed in 1993 to honor one outstanding layman of the church each year. Mr. Brueggemann was presented a plaque honoring him in a service January 9, 1994, at his home church, Calvary First Assembly of God, where James W. Powell is pastor.

Russell Brueggemann and his wife Helen have been members of the same church since before their marriage in 1943. Pastor Powell says of Russ Brueggemann: He has "proven to be a very loyal, faithful, and trustworthy worker for the kingdom of God. His involvement at the local church level has been superior with such activities as deacon, usher, overseer, elder, and in visitation. His proven character is outstanding and is an example to both the young and the old."

Helen, in speaking of her husband's life and ministry, said: "Russell has traveled to several foreign countries, where he has been involved in ministry opportunities ranging from literature distribution, to evangelistic crusades, to construction of church buildings and kitchen cabinets. He has made nine trips to Oaxaca, Mexico, and three trips to Ecuador, to work on Bible school buildings. He is currently planning a tenth trip to Oaxaca and a fourth trip to Ecuador. He has helped on more than 40 home missions projects in his home district of Southern

Idaho and throughout the United States.

Russell stated: "If the Lord tarries, there are many more jobs waiting to be done."

Currently, Russell is the district MAPS director for Southern Idaho and assistant MAPS director for the Northwest Section of the United States.

Ken Riemenschneider, former national Men's Ministries secretary, stated: "He [Russell] is one of the kindest, most giving men I've ever known. Essentially, he has given his adult life to the ministry. In addition to helping scores of churches in America, he and his dear wife Helen have traveled to foreign lands to meet felt-needs in very practical ways. Russell is a true servant of Jesus Christ."

Peter Giordano, of Cherry Hill, New

Jersey, was named first runner-up for the 1994 Christian Hall of Excellence award. Brother Giordano attends Kingsway Assembly of God, in Cherry Hill, where Fred Chilton is pastor.

The Christian Hall of Excellence was formed by action of the District Men's Directors and the national Men's Ministries Department in 1993. Each of the denomination's 11,689 churches is eligible to submit one nominee to the section before August 31. The section then may submit one name to the district by September 30. Each of the 56 districts is eligible to submit a nominee to the national Men's Ministries Department before October 31 of each year. A final selection is made by the national Men's Ministries Committee and announced

Stake A Claim

Invest in an acre or more of land for the National Royal Rangers Training Center near Eagle Rock, Missouri.

I will invest in ____ acre(s) of land for the National Royal Rangers Training Center at \$500 an acre. (A claim conveys no legal interest.)

I will pay my pledge of:

☐ \$540 per acre within 1 year
(12 monthly of \$45)

☐ \$600 per acre within 2 years
(24 monthly of \$25)

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____ Acct #001-01-035-4001

Church to receive World Ministries credit

City _____ State _____

Royal Rangers STAKE A CLAIM Pledge Form

Royal Rangers Decade of Harvest

Earmark your calendar for the dates scheduled for the Royal Rangers Decade of Harvest prayer and fasting days. The first Saturday of every month has been designated a day of fasting and at least 1 hour of prayer for the Royal Rangers Decade of Harvest efforts.

JUNE							JULY							AUGUST						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
							31													

by John, Bonnie, and J.D. Eller

Straight Arrows

Overall Approach—This summer's emphasis is fishing. Many boys are interested in this subject. Use your own creative ideas to make meetings exciting and full of adventure. This is a great time of the year, so make it fun for the boys. Decorate the meeting room to fit the theme. Some teacher supply stores have wall charts of fish, which could be used to decorate your meeting room. Remember to ask the Lord to guide you in all your plans and activities. Any outside activities, especially near water, should always have proper and constant adult supervision. Keep safety first.



June

1st Week: Why Go Fishing? Begin this month's emphasis on fishing by talking about why fish are so important to man. Explain that fish are essential for food. Fishing is also a favorite pastime for many. Explain why boys would enjoy fishing. If you enjoy fishing, explain why and where you go fishing. Explain that fish are a challenge to catch. This is why most fishermen have some favorite way of catching fish by using special bait or lures. Explain that fish is a healthy food when prepared properly and that fish is a favorite food for many. End the meeting feature by sharing an interesting story, such as Jonah and the whale. Explain the lesson God taught Jonah.

2nd Week: About Fish. Introduce your boys to the different kinds of fish. Fish are generally divided into two categories: fresh-water fish and salt-water fish. Explain how their environment

makes these fish different. Some fish, like the salmon, can survive in either environment. You should check your local library for some full-color encyclopedias showing fish, and use these for teaching and for displays. Discuss different characteristics of various species of fish. If possible take to the meeting an aquarium containing small fish from your area. Allow the boys to ask questions about the fish. Let them explain what kind of fish they have caught or would like to catch.

3rd Week: Fishing for Sport. This week introduce your Straight Arrows to the sport of fishing. They may already be familiar with this popular U.S. sport, so have the boys tell what they know about fishing as a sport. Prepare to discuss this sport by referring to various resource available at your public library. If possible, obtain a video or a 16 mm film from your local area so the boys can see the kind of sport fishing occurring in their home area. Your state game and fish commission may be of help.

4th Week: Fishing for Food. Begin by asking some of these questions: Who made the fish? (Give Scripture verses to support this question). Was God happy with the fish He had made? Who made the whales? Have you ever seen a whale? What did it look like? Where do they swim? Make a wall chart, listing some of the fresh- and salt-water fish we use for food. Ask your boys if they like to eat fish and what is their favorite kind. Suggest some names like trout and catfish. Explain that many people around the world make their living catching fish and other sea creatures. Ask questions like these: Have you ever wondered who caught the fish for that fish sandwich you ate last week? Where do lobster and shrimp come from? Give a Scripture reference from John 21, where Jesus prepared fish for His disciples to eat. Give another Scripture reference where some of the disciples went fishing. Tell how the Lord wants us to become fishers of men.

5th Week: Fishing Equipment. This is your opportunity to display various kinds of fishing gear which you or other leaders may possess. If no one has any available, check a local sporting good store or an avid fisherman in the church. Invite that church member to give a talk to the boys. Your display can range from basic gear to some of the more sophisticated items available. Explain, or have someone explain, to your boys the function of a rod

and reel, bait, hooks, etc. Show what to do with fish after you catch them. Show how to find and preserve live bait—such as worms, crickets, etc. Tell how some fish are attracted to other types of bait—such as fish pieces, cotton, and dough. Show some artificial lures and how they work. Explain the function of a minnow bucket. Explain what fish in your area like to eat.

July

1st Week: Fish Bait. Plan an outdoor setting for this demonstration. Now would be a good time for a fishing trip to a nearby stream, lake, or coastal waters. Invite parents to participate, to ensure adequate supervision. (Again, if you or other leaders in your group are not fishermen, invite a church member who is to participate in this demonstration.) Have several types of bait available for show and tell. Use your creative ideas. Explain to the boys that they can have fun fishing even if they don't catch fish. Tell what the fish are attracted to for each kind of bait. Display some bass lures—always being careful about hooks—and show how each design attracts fish. Explain that some fish, like bass, may be caught during certain times over others. Tell how the elements of heat and cold may affect fishing. Discuss when fish are hungry and more apt to bite.

2nd Week: Where to Fish. Many people throughout our nation serve as fishing guides. Using a map, show the public fishing areas available within 25-50 miles of where you live. Explain what the word *posted* means in relation to "no fishing or hunting" and how we must respect private property. Then tell how pollution has restricted some areas from fishing. Some fish die because of pollution. Explain that a person can become sick by eating poisoned fish. Show how we are reaching the limits of pollution in some areas. Discuss some ways your Rangers can help clean up the environment and assist in making areas safe for fishing. Introduce the idea of conservation by having a forest ranger or a game warden visit the outpost.

3rd Week: Preparing Fish to Eat. If you are not knowledgeable about this subject, call on someone from your outpost or church to give this presentation. Explain that many people like to catch fish, but only a few like to clean them. Life is like that sometimes, isn't it! Share how most fish require some type of

Your Outpost Planning Guide

preparation before they can be eaten. Discuss the proper removal of fish heads, scales, or skin, and how some fish can be cut into filets. Explain the proper cleansing of the cavity and washing it with water. Show the tools you need for each process of cleaning a fish. Mention how some fish, like catfish, can cut a fisherman with their fins. Explain that not all fish are good for eating. Some are bony or have a bad taste.

4th Week: Cooking Fish. Here is a great opportunity to plan a fish fry. Discuss the various ways of cooking fish: frying, broiling, baking, boiling, or pickling. Ask the boys which is their favorite ways to have their fish cooked. Tell the story of the boy who gave his fish lunch to Jesus. This was the most famous outdoor fish supper in history! Ask these questions: What do you think the boy felt when he saw Jesus multiply his lunch? How would you have felt? Would you have been excited? Do you suppose Jesus might have given you some of the leftovers?

August

1st Week: Fish as Pets. There are probably people in your church who keep fish as pets. See if they can help with a demonstration. Explain that most people keep fish in aquariums, although a few may have outdoor pools. Set up a fish bowl or aquarium for the boys to observe. Talk about feeding the fish, keeping the water fresh, etc. Ask questions like these: Are some fish hostile toward other fish? What kind of fish survive best? Where can you obtain fish for pets in your area? Then explain the various parts of an aquarium, including the oxygen supply. Ask questions like these: Why does the water get murky sometimes? How long will fish live as pets? Can you give them names? Do they get excited when you start to feed them?

2nd Week: Show Fish. Ask some fishermen in your church or community to bring some mounted fish to the meeting. Your local taxidermist will be a good reference. Some mounts will also have the exact lure that was used to catch that fish. Explain, or have someone explain, the following: What has to be done to preserve fish for mounting? How does a taxidermist do his work? What happens to the meat of that fish? How long will the mounted fish look good? Discuss fish that are used to put on shows

such as dolphins. If possible, take the boys to see a dolphin show, or obtain a video with the dolphins doing their tricks. Talk about dangerous fish, such as sharks, and how we must be careful in certain areas of the coast.

3rd Week: Fishing Trip, Fresh Water. Describe the planning, the procedures, and the return from a fishing trip. Make a list of everything needed for such a trip, and display items when possible. If you are planning an actual trip this week, make sure you have everything you need, including proper adult supervision. Explain how distressing it can be to go on a fishing trip and leave something important at home. It is important to be "ready." Explain the following: How did the disciples prepare to fish with their nets? Do people fish with nets today? Tell the story of the great fish catch from John 21 and how Jesus performed a miracle. Ask the boys: "What would you think if you caught 153 big fish all at once?"

4th Week: Fish Trip, Salt Water. Salt-water fishing is usually more complicated and generally requires a guide. Large fish, such as sailfish, require heavy-duty equipment to catch and to retrieve. Salt-water fishing is a sport enjoyed on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and in the Gulf of Mexico. Anyone in your area who has done any deep-sea fishing will have some great stories to tell, or a video or a film to show. These may be good resources for you. Describe the type of boats and equipment needed for salt-water fishing. Ask and answer these questions: Would you need help to bring in a large fish? How would you get it home? Would your family be impressed if you caught a big one? What kind of fish would you like most to catch? Could it be prepared and eaten? Who would you invite to the meal? Explain to your boys that the oceans are only 3 percent salt, which makes an entire difference between fresh- and salt-water fish.

Buckaroos

Overall Approach—The planning guide theme this quarter is water sports. Boys are naturally attracted to water, and many retain this association into adulthood. So make the next few weeks a positive experience for them. Always keep excitement and adventure in the air. Your Buckaroos will respond to suggestions on water sports and on how to become

involved in activities. Be sure to remember the safety factor when your boys are near water so that adult supervision is both competent and consistent. Do not let your summer dreams turn into a nightmare.



June

1st Week: Swimming. Learning to swim is one of the first things boys want to learn when growing up. So tap into this motivation and set up a swimming class to teach your boys. You must start with the basics: getting them accustomed to the water, teaching them to put their face into the water, and—perhaps—teaching some basic leg strokes. As they venture out to use their arms, instruct them on some of the strokes that are most common for swimming. Set up the "buddy system" from the beginning, and insist your boys make proper use of it. And always keep the boys in shallow water.

For your meeting, display a wall chart showing the eight basic rules for swimming safety. (See the *Adventures in Camping* handbook or an American Red Cross first aid book for details.) Here are some topics to briefly discuss with your boys: 1. reasons for water safety, 2. how the buddy system works, 3. sunburn and windburn, 4. cramps, how to prevent and treat them, 5. a rescue buoy, 6. when one can learn to swim, 7. how to help a swimmer in trouble, 8. why "no running at the pool," 9. what is a lifeguard and how to be one.

2nd Week: Water Safety. Refer to the *Royal Rangers Leaders Manual* (1993 edition) and an American Red Cross first aid book to prepare for this week's discussion. Discuss how accidents can happen and what causes them. List on a chalkboard ways to prevent water acci-

dents. For example, explain that when someone is shivering, has blue lips, or signs of exhaustion, he or she should stay out of the water. And tell why some places where people swim are not safe. Then note that rules should always be observed, for the sake of everyone. Explain that most drownings occur in the months of June, July, and August. Discuss water games and sports. Explain the rules to water polo. Tell why all games and events should be supervised. Involve the boys in a discussion on their favorite swimming place and water sports.

3rd Week: Rescue. Because most Buckaroos cannot swim proficiently, the topics of "water safety" and "rescue" are important ones to discuss. The boys must understand that they must look at alternatives to saving a person's life to avoid entering the water themselves. Explain that water rescue can be dangerous because the individual who needs help is in distress. Discuss what questions must be asked before attempting to save a drowning person: Can you reach for the person? Can you throw something like a rope or buoy? Should you go with a boat, if one is available? Explain that often such decisions must be made quickly—which makes adult supervision of water events even more important. Demonstrate a few techniques of rescue, using a rope or paddle. Show how to be safe while doing this.

4th Week: Diving. Discourage boys to avoid diving unless they are good swimmers. Explain that diving is a water sport almost as old as man. Jumping into a pool or a lake can be lots of fun, but safety precautions must be maintained. Share about these safety precautions. Tell your boys that where they dive is important. Explain that several people over the years have ignored the dangers and have permanent injuries to their neck or back. Water can be too shallow for diving or have large rocks or trees sunken underneath. Diving can be fun if you do it right. Your local library should have a good video on the Summer Olympics or other source, to add to the excitement.

5th Week: Boating. Explain the history of boating and how it is related to man's basic desire for travel. Early man constructed small crafts, like canoes, made from tree trunks or bark. Share how boats used today for fishing or sporting usually have oars, sails, or motors. If pos-

sible, invite a boat owner to bring his boat to the meeting for show and tell. Have him explain the various parts of the craft, as well as the safety features. Have him explain how oars work and what drives a sailboat. Tell about the various kinds of motors (on board and outboard) and how horsepower varies.

July

1st Week: Motor Boats. Plan a boat ride for your boys. Each boy should have parental consent and a lifejacket before going on the outing. Insist on constant and competent adult supervision. The ride could consist of paddling around a small lake to a motor boat ride in a large lake or an estuary. Emphasize the safety features of the craft and what the rules are. Boys like guidelines for any activity. You could have each boy pack a lunch and enjoy the meal across the lake or at another location on shore. Call attention to various points of interest along the way. When you return ask the boys what they enjoyed the most.

2nd Week: Ships. Introduce Noah as the first ship builder. Using a chalkboard or a wall chart, give the size and dimensions of Noah's ark from Genesis 6. The ark was 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. There were three decks. Until modern times most ocean-going ships were constructed along these guidelines. Check your local library for books on ships and other ocean-going vessels, such as the Merchant Marines. Show how ships are used to deliver goods to countries around the world. Talk about how oil is transported from the Middle East by ships. Discuss how ships were involved in the discovery of America (Christopher Columbus with the Santa Maria, Pinta, and Nina). Show how contributions by Magellan and others were made possible by ships. Ask these questions: What do ships do today? Are ships important to us?

3rd Week: Battleships. Boys like things that are big and impressive, and battleships will be of interest to them. The U.S. Navy has always played an important role in warfare. The local library abounds with picture books of warships. Many of these are detailed with action shots. Give them some names of famous battleships and describe their operation. Talk about aircraft carriers and how the planes take off and land on them. Mention the part the Navy played in the Gulf War

with support and air strikes. Ask questions like these: Do we have warships today? What role does the Navy have in our national defense? Have *you* ever seen a real battleship? What is the Coast Guard, and what do they do to protect America?

4th Week: Scuba and Deep-Sea Diving. Your Buckaroos will be excited to hear about scuba diving and deep-sea diving. If possible, display a diving suit, a diving mask, an oxygen tank, or a diving helmet. Or use resources for your demonstration. The magazine rack at your local library usually has several publications describing the use of scuba diving equipment. Others will describe the adventure and challenge of diving into the ocean for exploration, food, or treasure. If there is a scuba diving instructor in your area, that person would be a good resource for either a visit to the outpost or directions to locate films and videos you could use.

August

1st Week: Stream Exploration. An excellent outing or field trip for your Buckaroos would be to explore a small stream or a tributary in your area. Make the outing a "name walk" to learn about and name the kinds of plants and animals living in the area. Point out special rock formations caused by the flow of the stream. (Refer to the *Adventures in Camping* for tips on conservation.) This would be a good time to emphasize conservation of our natural resources, such as water. Point out how pollution hurts everybody, and indicate ways to clean up the streams and rivers in your area.

Tie in a Bible lesson: Some streams have stones that have been made smooth by the water. Remind the boys that it was five smooth stones in his shepherd's bag that gave David his ammunition to face the giant Goliath. Ask them, "If you had to face the giant, which of the smooth stones would you pick?" Then explain: "God was with David, and this is why he could kill the giant. God will be with us today if we will trust and believe in Jesus."

2nd Week: River Float. Name some rivers in your area that are ideal for float trips. Also, use this theme as an information sort of meeting. A possible demonstration could be a canoe. Allow the boys to inspect the craft. If water is nearby, a leader might demonstrate how to paddle and maneuver a canoe. Point out that the

Indians made their own canoes and used them up and down the streams and rivers. State that most canoes today are made of metal, but in the early days they were all made of tree trunks or bark.

3rd Week: Lake Cruising. Boats and house boats are found on most lakes in our country. People enjoy boating, fishing, skiing, or just relaxing in a boat on a lake. Describe a typical house boat trip, supplies you would need on the trip, and some of the activities to do. Ask questions like these: Do boats have large or small motors? Do people rent or own the houseboats? Do you need a fishing license to catch the fish? Talk about some of the people who guide fishing trips and the importance of the Game and Fish Commission in your state. Ask the boys these questions: What is a game warden? Can you get into trouble for keeping fish that are too small? What is the daily catch limit in your state?

4th Week: Boating Safety. This is an important subject, because every year 1 of every 4 boats is overturned. If possible, plan a field trip to a boat dealer or a boat dock. Note the importance of proper storage of a boat or a canoe. Explain the need to regularly check the water vehicle for defects. Talk about boating courtesy: It is important to show courtesy at all times and to operate a boat at safe speeds. Demonstrate the proper way to get in and out of a boat or canoe. Explain that a person should not stand up in a small boat or a canoe. The load must always be equalized. Demonstrate how to properly wear a lifejacket. Discuss the danger of changing positions within the boat while in the water. Give three Scripture verses about boats or ships, and tell what the message for us should be.

Pioneers, Trailblazers, Air-Sea-Trail Rangers

Overall Approach: This is our final quarter to spotlight the new Advanced Merits. Refer to the Royal Rangers Leaders Manual (1993 edition) when preparing for the lesson plans. Remember that advancement is a key indicator to outpost growth. When introducing each Advanced Merit, get your boys excited

about the adventure involved with each advancement. Encourage questions about the requirements, and lead in discussions on how to qualify for each one. Your Rangers will relate to what you emphasize, so keep the adventure trail open and clear to them.



June

1st Week: Lifesaving Merit. Using your American Red Cross materials, introduce your Rangers to lifeguard training and basic lifeguard responsibilities. Emphasize the importance of proper training in the procedures and techniques of life guarding and life saving. With proper training and management, show how it is possible to lifeguard and even life save with a minimal risk to one's own life. Lead in a discussion on how life guarding benefits everyone. Ask a qualified lifeguard to demonstrate methods currently acceptable in life saving. Assign a leader or a boy to draw several diagrams of pools, pointing out the safety features in each instance.

2nd Week: AIM Merit. Introduce the boys to the Ambassadors in Mission (AIM) program, sponsored by the national Youth Department at The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Literature on this ministry is available through that office. Ask someone who has taken an AIM trip to share their experience to your group. This discussion should include preplanning, the trip itself, and reflections. Ask the speaker to describe a typical day in the life of an AIMer—some of the experiences and involvement. Those qualifying for this award must write a 500-word article, describing what the AIM ministry is all about. Explain that AIM opportunities are open to Royal Rangers. Share what is required to take an AIM trip, how AIM trips are funded, how many AIM members would be in your group, and the basic concept behind AIM.

3rd Week: Insect Study Merit. Emphasize the importance of the distinguishing features of insects, spiders, and centipedes. Show how each group is different. Assign research to learn about the population of the various groups of insects on earth. Encourage the Rangers to answer these questions: Does one group of insects outnumber another? Why is this? How does nature control and balance the insect population? How does man interfere? Assign boys to do the following: 1. Describe the main parts of an insect. 2. Compare and contrast the life cycle of a grasshopper to that of a butterfly (apply spiritually). 3. Compare and contrast social insects to solitary. 4. Discuss how to collect and mount insects, along with labeling and species information. Commander, explain that some insects are protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973. We are not to collect these. Some good topics for discussion or assignment are as follows: 1. diseases carried by insects, 2. helpful insects to man, 3. importance of insects in the food chain, 4. how a colony of insects work. Several Scripture references that talk about insects will make your presentation complete.

4th Week: MAPS—Foreign Merit. There are two MAPS Merits: MAPS—Foreign, the Missions Abroad Placement Service Merit and MAPS—Home, the Mission America Placement Service Merit. To acquaint yourself with the MAPS ministries overseas, contact the Foreign Missions MAPS Office at The General Council of the Assemblies of God. To qualify for a MAPS trip overseas, a Ranger must be at least 15 years old and be accompanied by a parent or a guardian. Participation is fun and exciting. There are opportunities for MAPS trips to virtually every place in the world. This week explain all that entails a MAPS trip overseas. MAPS gives people of all ages an opportunity to serve the Lord overseas and around the world. Explain that to earn the merit, a Ranger must go on a MAPS trip and write a 500-word article about his experience.

5th Week: MAPS—Home Merit. This merit involves MAPS trips stateside. Explain that not all missions work is overseas. To participate in a MAPS trip, a Ranger must be 15 years old and be accompanied by a parent or a guardian. Gather resources from the Home Missions MAPS Office at The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Then explain the procedures of becoming involved in a

MAPS assignment stateside. List some areas MAPS workers can help—i.e., inner cities, camps, Indian reservations, pioneer churches. Show how these areas need our help to keep the home fires burning. There is much to be done here at home. Thousands of young people have volunteered. You can be one of them.

July

1st Week: Foreign Missions Merit.

Prepare for this meeting by obtaining a biographical book about a foreign missionary. Relate the story to your group. Show how the Bible is our basis for foreign missions efforts. Discuss fund-raising for missions. Explain how missions programs—such as Light-for-the-Lost, LFTL Junior Councilmen (a new missions program for Royal Rangers), Speed-the-Light, and Boys and Girls Missionary Crusade—raise moneys for missions. Supply your Rangers with addresses of foreign missionary families your church supports. Encourage correspondence. Assign a leader to give a talk about a foreign country, its major religions, type of government, population, geography, and missions involvement. Obtain brochures from the Division of Foreign Missions at The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Then explain how a person becomes an Assemblies of God missionary. Discuss the calling, the application, the appointment, the language school, and the internship involved in becoming a missionary. Encourage participation in missionary trips. Supply several Scripture references about foreign missions.

2nd Week: Missions Project Award. This award may be earned by leaders who have completed the *Leadership Training Course*, who are active in the outpost, and who have been recommended by the senior pastor. Our purpose is to interest boys in the requirements so they can earn this award one day. The project must be at least 5 days in length and be approved by the district office. Convey the idea of becoming involved in world missions. Proper procedures must be followed to achieve the award, but the important thing is to be involved. This is true of all awards. The work we actually are doing for the Lord is more important than wearing the ribbon or medal. Discuss how all of us should be involved in missions.

3rd Week: Christian Missions Award. Give your Rangers a definition of missions, at home or abroad. Show how the Scriptures command us to go forth with the gospel. Explain the following: 1. how much your church gives annually to missions, 2. how many missionaries your church supports, 3. the number of countries in which our missionaries are involved and the number of missionaries serving on foreign fields. Explain about one or more of the following ministries: 1. Light-for-the-Lost and the LFTL Junior Councilmen program, 2. Lifestyle Evangelism, 3. Speed-the-Light, 4. Boys and Girls Missionary Crusade, 5. MAPS—Home, 6. MAPS—Foreign, 7. Ambassadors in Mission, and 8. International Correspondence Institute. Show the importance of understanding missionaries, their activities, and job descriptions. Ask questions such as these: How is a missionary called? What is home missions? What is a missions pledge? How does a missionary get to the field? Show copies of *Mission America* and *Mountain Movers*. Explain who the following persons were and what their ministries entailed: David Bernard, Lillian Trasher, J. W. Tucker.

4th Week: Disability Awareness Merit. Introduce this merit to show how our compassion as Christians can be shown to the world. Discuss the effects of impairments. Ask the Rangers these questions: Is our church equipped to serve the disabled? Are there any wheelchair ramps and handrails inside or outside of the church building? Do we provide sign language interpreters and accessible rest rooms? Are drinking fountains and telephones available for the disabled? What do you think being blind or being deaf for 4 hours would be like? How would it feel to spend 4 hours in a wheelchair?

Help the boys better comprehend what being disabled might be like. Assign certain boys to wheelchairs for the entire meeting. Blindfold others and require that they remain blindfolded during the meeting. Others can experience being impaired by tying their arms behind their backs, so they must rely on using their legs and other means to function. Instruct the remaining boys that they cannot talk throughout the meeting, so they must use other methods of communicating.


August

1st Week: Water Safety Merit. Give the boys a better understanding on earning this merit by discussing the following:

Make a general introduction to water safety of all types—swimming, boating, fishing, etc. Discuss the safety rules for swimming. Show how proper use of boats benefits everyone. Discuss how precautionary measures when fishing helps prevent accidents and injury. Assign leaders or boys to make three charts each for the safety rules of swimming, boating, and fishing. Ask why a certain procedure is followed. If possible, plan a field trip for a swim, boating demonstration, or fishing activity. When you return to the outpost, ask the boys to tell what was most interesting to them and why.

2nd Week: Sea Exploration. It has been said man knows more about the surface of the moon than he does about the ocean floor. Indeed the oceans hold many mysteries. Your local library will abound with books about sea exploration. Select several with color photos. Discuss how deep-sea diving benefits mankind. Using a globe, show how ocean currents flow and how this affects fishing and navigation. Display a collection of sea shells and other oceanic items. If you live near to or have access to the coast, plan a field trip to a sea aquarium. If you live inland, locate a fish hatchery or some other related operation for your boys to visit.

3rd Week: Fishing. Secure a couple of outdoor sporting magazines for show and tell. Emphasize that both boys and men enjoy the sport of fishing. When possible, display some simple fishing gear—line and pole, rod and reel, etc. Plan a casting drill where boys are taught to use a rod and reel. Display and discuss various fishing lures and explain why fish are attracted to them. Show how both real and artificial baits are effective. Discuss how fishing for fun and fishing for food go hand in hand. Show a fishing video where men and boys are catching large fish. Your local game warden or your local library are possible resources.

4th Week: Fishing Tips. Here is an opportunity for every fisherman in the outpost or the congregation to contribute tips on catching fish, cleaning fish, and cooking fish. Decorate the meeting room with a few mounted fish. Demonstrate how to filet fish and some methods of preparing them for cooking—such as marinating, lemon pepper, etc. Plan a fish fry, and ask all the fishermen in your church to empty their freezers for the occasion. You may choose to use this meeting feature as a fund-raiser or a family night gathering. 

How to Organize a Sea Rangers Regatta

by Larry Brooks, *Sea Rangers coordinator for the Michigan District southeastern section*

Putting together a sailboat regatta for Sea Rangers is not as difficult as it may sound. And it is a fun-filled event. It is not necessary to own a fleet of sailboats, and it can be a success even if you do not own a boat.

With proper planning, a commander can host a 1-day regatta with a registration cost of only a few dollars per Ranger.

A day should be scheduled at the end of the sailing season. The Sea Rangers will have nearly all spring and summer to earn the Sailing Merit—or at least demonstrate their skill at the three points of sailing (i.e., beating, reaching, and running) and the two maneuvers (i.e., tacking and jibing). Once a boy learns these procedures, he is ready for his first regatta.

Begin preparing for a regatta by contacting a public park, or perhaps a marina, that rents small sailboats. Usually these boats are identical. A sailor wins

because of his skill, not because he has more money to buy a faster boat.

Learn the hourly rental cost for a boat. If the rent seems too high, compare with other places or see if a group discount is possible. Try to make a reservation for a specific day. The registration fee for each Sea Ranger could simply be the cost of renting his sailboat for 1 or 2 hours.

A "race committee boat" is also required. This could be a motorboat, a rowboat, or even another sailboat. The race committee goes out on the water before the race to set up a triangular course with three buoys.

Low cost buoys can easily be made. For example, take 3-gallon plastic containers and spray paint them orange. Use some small line (sailors never use the word rope) to tie one end to the handle of a container and the other end to a brick with a hole in it, or some other heavy object, to anchor it.

Place the first mark straight into the wind. This is called the "windward mark." Then turn around until you are facing downwind. Go to starboard (right) at a 45-degree angle. Travel the length

you want it to be and place the second buoy. This point is called the "turning mark." Then turn to port (left) at a 90-degree angle. Travel the same distance and place the third buoy, called the "leeward mark." You should have a triangular race course. (See Figure 1.)

Anchor the committee boat on the starboard side of the leeward mark. The starting line will be between the commit-

Figure 3:

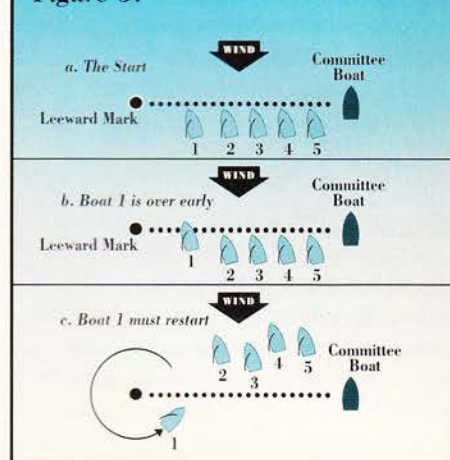


Figure 1: This shows where to place the three buoys.

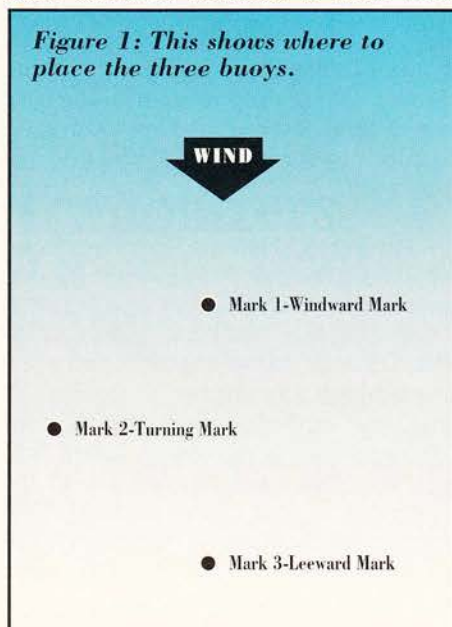


Figure 2: The committee boat is now in place, and the race is ready to begin.

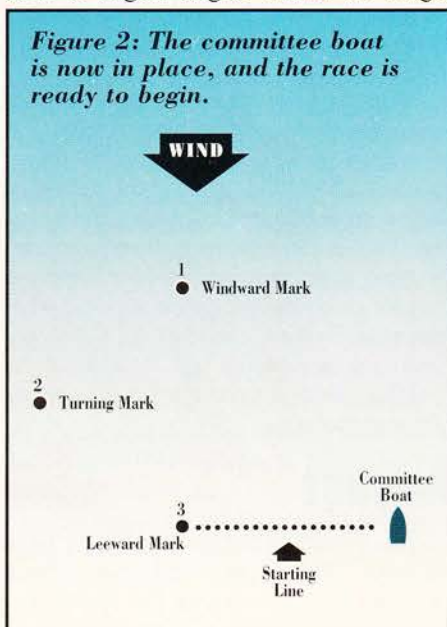


Figure 4: The first leg is a beat to the windward mark.

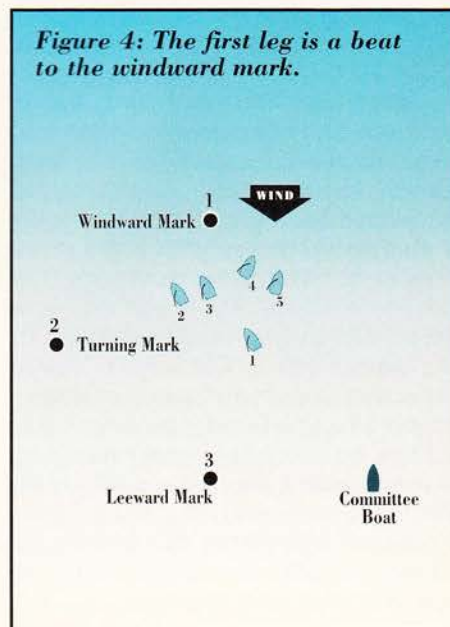


Figure 5: The second leg is a reach to the turning mark.

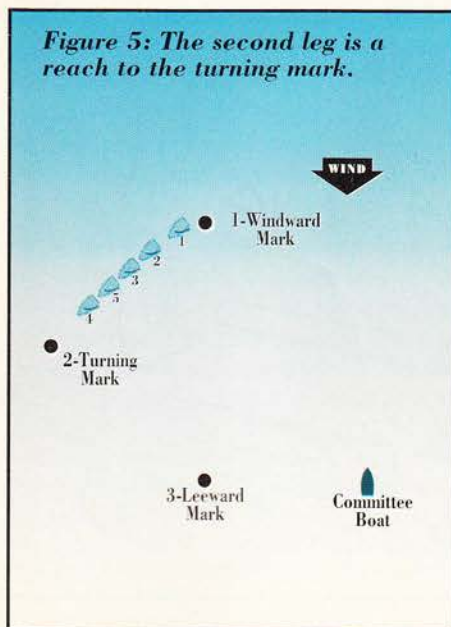


Figure 6: The third leg is a reach to the leeward mark.

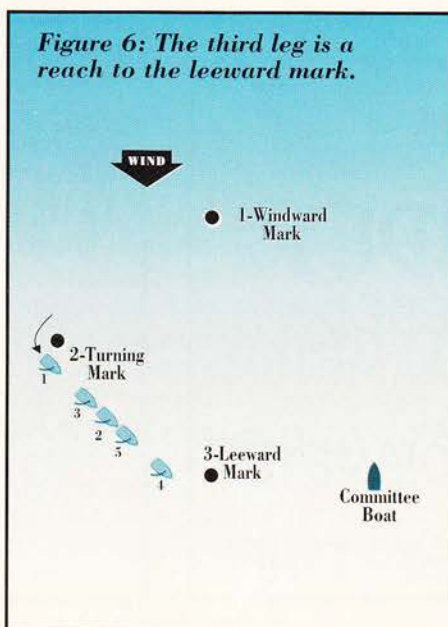
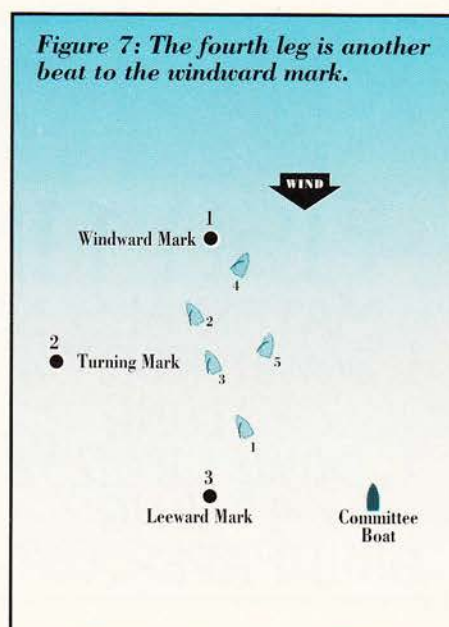


Figure 7: The fourth leg is another beat to the windward mark.



tee boat and the leeward mark. This line should be perpendicular to the wind. Be sure the line is long enough for all the boats to be on it at the same time. (See Figure 2.)

The boats will start on a beat toward the windward mark. The race committee can count down the time for the boats. For example, from 5 minutes to the start time can be announced every 30 seconds. During the last 30 seconds, it can be announced every 5 or 10 seconds. Since starboard tack has right-of-way over port in yacht racing rules, it is best if all boats start on starboard. If a boat is across the line at the start, the boat is "over early." The Sea Ranger must sail his boat back under the line, then he may cross the line and race. (See Figure 3—a,b,c.)

Each sailing distance between any two marks is called a "leg." The first leg is a beat from the starting line to the windward mark. (See Figure 4.) The boats round the windward mark then sail the second leg, which is a reach from the windward to the leeward mark. (See Figure 5.)

The boats jibe at the turning to round it. Then they sail the third leg, which is another reach to the leeward mark. (See Figure 6.) After the leeward mark is rounded, the fourth leg is another beat to the windward mark. (See Figure 7.) Upon rounding the windward mark for the second time, the boats run to the finish, which is the fifth leg of the race.

The same line that was used for the start now becomes the finish line, except that the boats cross it from the opposite direction (See Figure 8). This race course is called the "gold cup." (See Figure 9.) However, the race committee may short-

en or lengthen the course if necessary.

For a fleet of two or three boats, a first place should be awarded to the winner. There must be five boats for a second place award, and seven or eight for a third place recognition.

The final necessary element for a successful regatta is boat safety. Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices (PFDs) should be worn by all commanders and Rangers at all times while on the water. A rescue boat should also be present during the regatta. It is best to have a power boat for this. If one is not available, however, the committee boat can also serve as the rescue boat.

Check the weather conditions before going onto the water. It is also a good idea to check your outpost or church insurance before boating. Some church policies do not provide coverage on power boat outings. Be sure you are not at risk.

Sea Rangers is an excellent means of reaching, teaching, and keeping boys for Christ. A Sea Rangers Regatta can be a great highlight. It is truly worth the effort.

There are thousands of boaters in this country who do not attend church and who need to be reached with the gospel. I believe the Holy Spirit can anoint Sea Rangers to live holy lives and reach those lost.

One thing is certain, the world does not need another secular boating club. Let us be imitators of Christ and maintain a spiritual emphasis on the boat.


For a free Coast Guard pamphlet called *Federal Requirements and Safety Tips for Recreational Boats*, call 1-800-368-5647. 

Figure 8: The fifth leg is a run to the finish line.

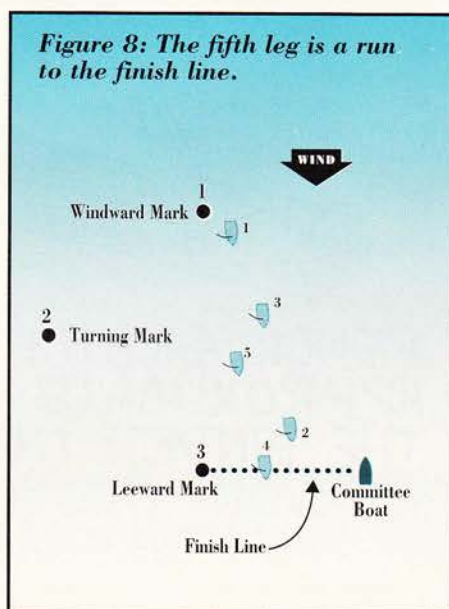
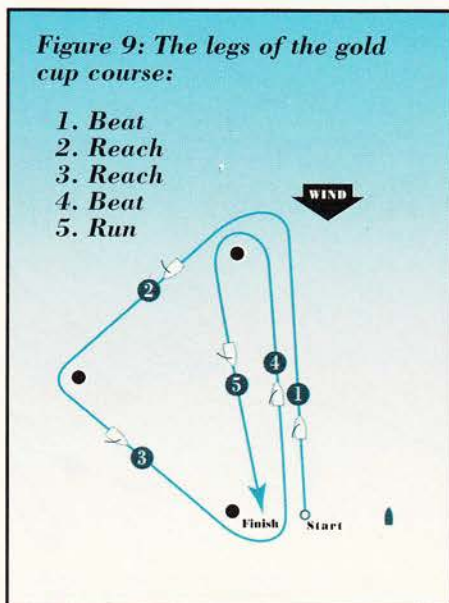


Figure 9: The legs of the gold cup course:

1. Beat
2. Reach
3. Reach
4. Beat
5. Run



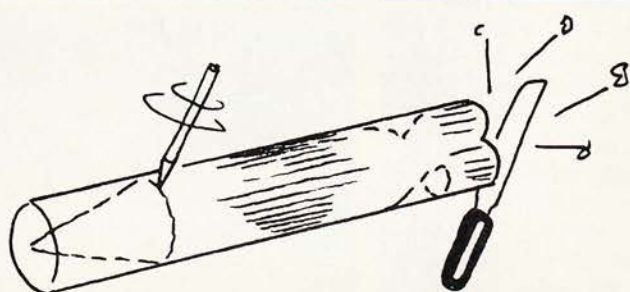
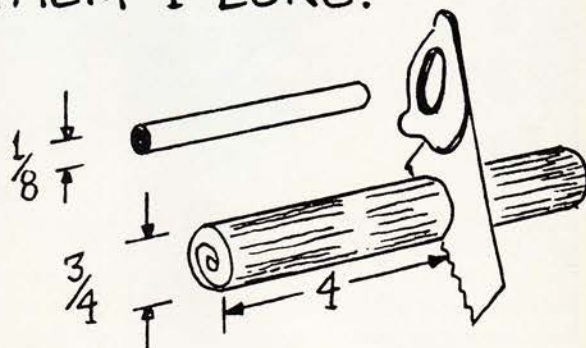
KID ACTION

FISH FINDER

MATERIALS NEEDED...

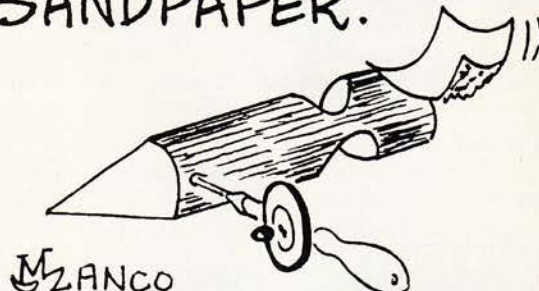
- 1. DOWEL ROD, $\frac{3}{4}$ " DIAMETER
x 4" LONG
- 1. DOWEL ROD, $\frac{1}{8}$ " DIAMETER
x 4" LONG
- SANDPAPER, COARSE + FINE

FIND TWO DOWEL RODS
 $\frac{1}{8}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ INCHES IN
DIAMETERS AND CUT
THEM 4" LONG.

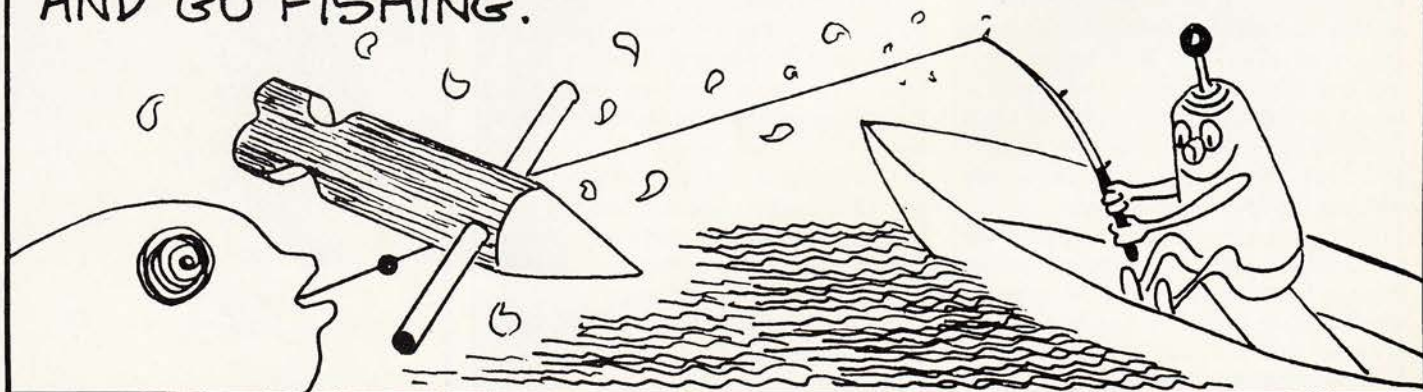


PENCIL SKETCH THE
APPROXIMATE SHAPE OF
THE FINDER THEN BEGIN
CARVING THE WOOD INTO
A FISH DESIGN.

BORE A $\frac{1}{8}$ " DIAMETER
HOLE NEAR THE
POINTED END THEN
SAND THE ENTIRE
PIECE WITH THE
COARSE THEN FINE
SANDPAPER.



SLIP A FISHING LINE AND
DOWEL ROD THROUGH THE HOLE ABOUT 5 FEET
FROM THE END. TIE ON A HOOK AND WEIGHT
AND GO FISHING.



Pulse Beat

by P. Douglas Chapman, Michigan District Training Coordinator

Somewhere in this great country a Royal Rangers outpost died last week. We are sorry, because it might have been a great power for good.

For many months the boys knew that the outpost was sick. The commander thought that his boys were "losing interest," but a post-mortem examination showed exactly what ailed the outpost:

1. For 6 years the church Outpost Council had done nothing except fill out the annual charter renewal forms.
2. No one had kept the sectional commander in touch with the outpost, even to the extent of now and then to present advancement awards.
3. No reports had ever been made to the district commander on the work and activities of the outpost.
4. The commander had been powerful enough to manage the outpost alone, so he never bothered to secure a lieutenant commander.
5. There had been some theoretical patrols, but most of the boys didn't

know to which patrol they belonged.

6. There was never a father-and-son banquet, a mom's night, or a camp-out.

7. The outpost had never thought of volunteering some definite service (folding church bulletins, yard work for senior citizens, or something of that kind).

8. The commander never earned any leaders awards, so the boys followed his example and did not earn their advancements.

9. The outpost rarely, if ever, attended sectional or district events—such as district Pow Wow, Pinewood Derby, Fall Olympics, or Straight Arrows-Buckaroos Field Day and Camp-o-Ree.

10. The commander had never completed the Leadership Training Course or attended a National Training Camp.

11. National Royal Rangers Week was never celebrated, so the church had no idea what Royal Rangers was all about.

12. No "gang" spirit had been developed to keep the patrols functioning.

13. The parents, knowing little about the outpost and its activities, took no action.


14. The pastor and the board of deacons were so uninformed and out of touch that they had no sense of responsibility to the outpost.

15. The sectional commander decided it was futile to try to keep the outpost operating because "there was no one with whom to work."

So the outpost died when the commander moved away. It died, beyond hope of resurrection.

Commander, does your outpost need a shot in the arm? With prayer, hard work, "gumption," and a desire to minister to boys, the above scenario does not have to happen!

If you need help in strengthening your outpost, call one of your sectional or district officers. He will love you, pray with you, and work with you to strengthen your outpost and its ministry to boys.

Team effort in the local church—along with sectional and district support—can keep an outpost strong and healthy so it can function as it should: developing the total boy for Christ. 

Plan to Attend
1994 National Camporama
National Royal Rangers Training Center
Eagle Rock, Missouri

July 11-15, 1994

Cost: \$125

Devotions for Boys

by Rev. Loren Orchard

Find the Right Path

Mark and Rod had been friends all their lives. Last summer Rod's dad was transferred from Missouri to Florida, so the boys had not seen each other their whole freshman year.

Now together for part of the summer, Mark had invited Rod to run with him in a trail race called "orienteering." Through woods, down valleys, across rivers, and up the balds, the race was a cross between speed, endurance, map reading, and woodsmanship as they headed for 12 successive check points.

The starter's gun barked, and 30 young men grabbed a map and began orienting themselves to the course. Mark and Rod noted the direction of the first checkpoint and began running.

The aspens opened as they raced ahead of the pack. Hurling through the trees, ducking branches, and leaping boulders, they ran hard—stumbling and sweating as they went. Plunging down a ravine and following ledge rock, both boys were feeling confident. The branches stung their bodies as they plowed into a thicket of hickory saplings. Rod stopped short as Mark burst from the woods and momentarily tread on thin air before falling into the river.

The swift current immediately pulled Mark into a set of rapids. For a moment Rod could only wonder why they hadn't heard the river or how they could be so far off course from the map.

Mark's cry for help spurred Rod to action. Ron ran along the shore ahead of Mark and found a beaver-cut hickory sapling. As Mark bobbed out of the churning water, Rod stretched the young tree out to him and pulled Mark to safety. Two other runners had witnessed the rescue. The boys were thankful for their help back to the start camp.

Days later Mark and Rod shared their adventure in Royal Rangers. There, they identified the problem: In their hurry to win they ran too hard, too fast. They missed the clues of the course marked on the map. They had counted on their strength and endurance rather than the wisdom of following their compass and guide.

Leader, read Hebrews 12:1-3 and relate the Scripture passage to this devotional.

Ready

Rod's 25-year-old brother Randy called on the phone: "Would you and Mark like to go underwater exploring in Florida?" Randy asked Rod.

The answer was a definite "Yes!" The guys were excited. Visions of old sea wrecks, sharks, and fishing with spear guns filled their conversations. Plans were made with eagerness. Mark couldn't wait to travel with Randy and Rod for a short vacation to Rod's Florida home.

One evening Rod and Mark were at Randy's home, looking at the many photos Randy had taken underwater. Randy is a marine photographer. He showed the boys the equipment for scuba diving—the wet suit, full-foot fins, tank pressure gauges and regulator, as well as cameras, spear guns, and a diving knife.

Rod and Mark wanted to try out all the gear immediately, but Randy required they first learn to properly use the equipment. For the next few days, Randy took the two to a nearby swimming pool to learn about scuba diving. The first requirement was being able to use the machine called their body.

The day finally arrived for the big event. The three stood on the warm Florida beach as they talked of the diving fun ahead. The day was perfect, the gulf waters warm.

Suddenly a little girl excitedly ran along the shoreline shouting, "Mommy! Mommy!" while looking out past the surf. Simultaneously all three guys saw the woman. Two hundred yards from shore, she was crying for help. She was drowning!

Rod immediately went for emergency help. Randy and Mark were already running into the water. Both were good swimmers. They could just see the lady's hand and headed toward her. Randy knew the currents and headed off at a 45-degree angle. The adrenaline was pumping hard in both of them.

Yards away from the woman, they watched her go down but not come up. Randy and Mark dove under the water, kicking hard and straining to reach the woman as she sank unconscious into the depths.

At last Randy found the woman's cold body. Randy wrapped his right arm under her chin as he side stroked for shore, towing the still form. Mark assisted by his side.

The sound of an engine could faintly be heard. Thanks to Rod the Coast Guard had dispatched a rescue cutter.

Two rescue divers jumped from the boat to help lift the unconscious lady into the boat. They then focused their attention on Randy and Mark—both were showing signs of exhaustion.

As Mark was pulled aboard, he saw two men performing CPR on the lady. One man was compressing the chest and the other was breathing into her mouth through a breathing mask. A spasm ran through her body. She coughed and expelled a lung full of water. A cheer went up around the cutter. She survived—thanks to two guys who were "ready" to respond to an emergency.

With a blanket around him, Mark was very thankful he had listened and learned emergency procedures in Royal Rangers. It had saved a life.

Leader, read Luke 12:35-40 and discuss being "spiritually ready."

Don't Worry! Don't Panic!

The days since the rescue had gone quickly. Randy, Rod, and Mark were honored for their quick response in saving another's life. Now their thoughts were back to their original goal of scuba diving. Randy acknowledged the boys were physically fit and able to think quickly—and that was a definite plus. You see, the greatest danger in scuba diving is panic.

One evening Randy, Rod, and Mark were discussing scuba diving. Mark kept worrying about getting salt water in his eyes. Randy explained that there is no way to avoid it when the mask comes off underwater. The key was not to panic when trouble came but to follow established procedures.

Randy pulled out his Bible and began reading Matthew 6:25-34. Then he said to Mark and Rod: "One lesson I've learned about scuba diving over the last 6 years is to not worry about what might or might not happen. If I prepare properly to react to emergencies, I can also trust God to see me through events I may not imagine. The key is not worrying but trusting our Heavenly Father, who watches over us."

"But Randy," Rod stammered, "what if a hose ruptures or I get the bends or..."

Rod threw his hands into the air and exclaimed: "But none of that is occurring

right now is it? We are sitting here safe and sound right? Jesus tells us not to be anxious—to not worry about things of tomorrow. The events we worry about haven't occurred. By doing all we can to prepare for a safe dive, we make ourselves 'ready' for the unexpected. Now head for bed; tomorrow we go diving."

Mark and Rod headed to bed. As Mark settled under the sheets, Randy's words of encouragement echoed through his dreams: "Don't Worry! Don't Panic!" They were words that could be applied to more than just scuba diving.

Leader, read Matthew 6:25-34 and discuss the Scripture passage and how it relates to this devotional.

And God Said

Two miles from shore Randy cut the engine on the 18-foot boat and dropped the anchor. Below was the reef teeming with sea life he had planned to photograph.

Then they threw out an inner tube, which held a divers red-and-white flag to alert others of the divers below surface. Then all put on their equipment and entered the water.

Mark's mask came off immediately. The salt stung his eyes. He remained calm and realized it wasn't as bad as he had imagined. He repositioned his mask and joined the other two in making their descent into the ocean depths.

Below was a long coral reef. Colors of all types sprang alive with sun and shadow, adding texture and hue. Barracuda, pompano, and rudderfish were evident as they swam toward the coral. Closer to the reef they saw schools of shiners and triggerfish with a couple blowfish near the bottom. The sunlight danced about them, leaving the boys astonished at the beauty of this sight.

In the sand between the areas of coral they saw all types of shells—turbans, periwinkles, conch, and whelks. Randy motioned for Mark and Rod to stay in one area as he worked into several coral caves for pictures.

Suddenly Rod jerked up his feet. Out of the reef snaked a 4-foot green moray eel with jaws snapping like scissors. Rod's heart pounded as the jaws came within inches of his fins. *Don't panic!* echoed the words in his mind. It was almost impossible not to do so. Rod had invaded the eel's territory.

At a distance Randy had photographed the whole incident. But quickly he appeared and motioned to the boys to

swim to him. Then they began to ascend upward, being careful to decompress in stages and avoid the bends.

After surfacing they headed to the boat and removed their gear. Eagerly the three began talking of the awesome world under the sea. Rod said it best

when he reminded them of the statement in Genesis. After God made the sea and the creatures in the sea, God said it was good. Indeed it was very good.

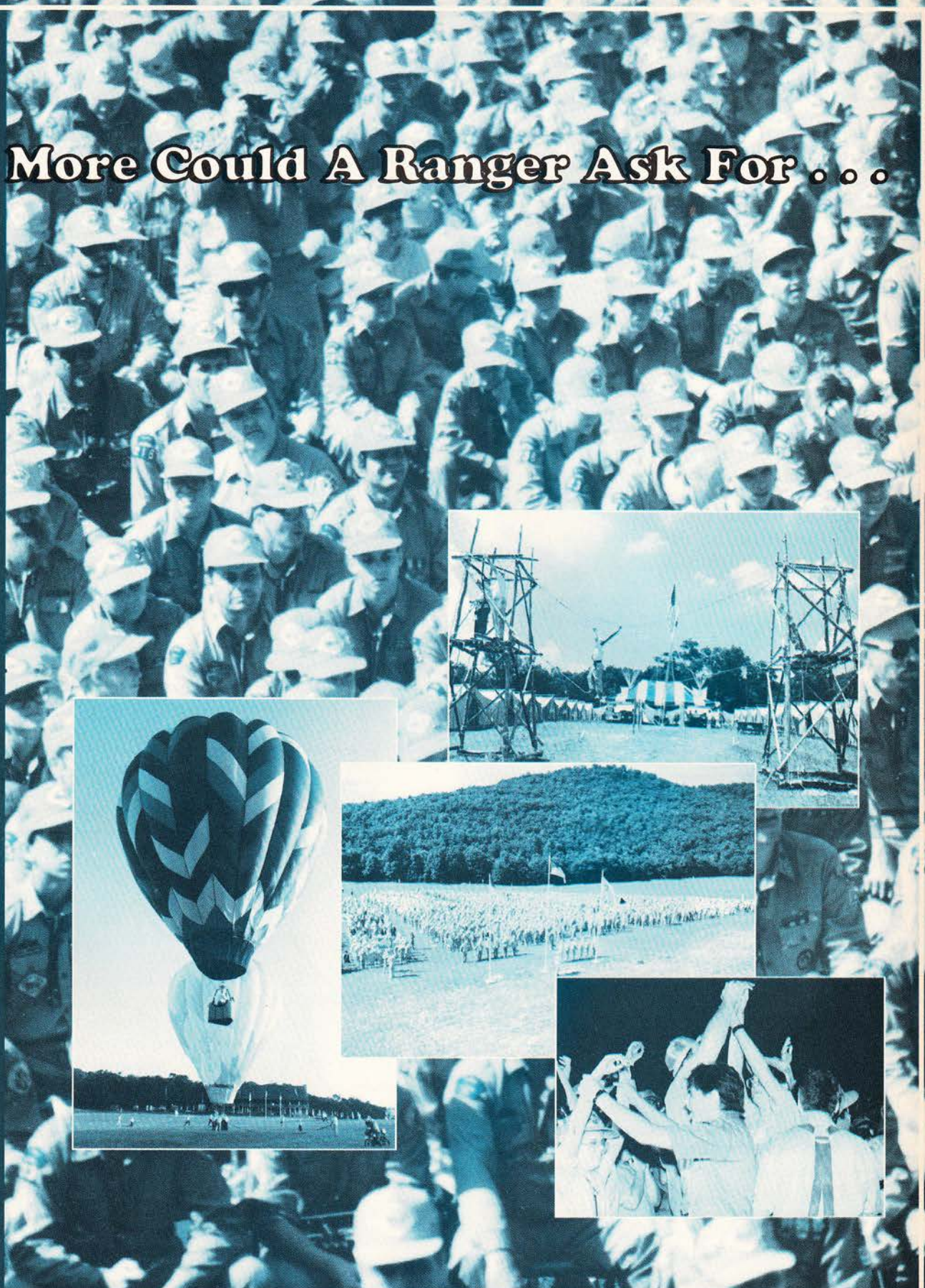
Leader, review the creation story in Genesis and discuss God's love for us and why He created us. ☸



What More Could A Ranger Ask For . . .

Activities could include . . .

- Cool Water Activities
- Hiking
- Canoeing
- High and Low Ropes Courses
- Riflery
- Hot Air Balloon Rides
- Famous Guests
- BMX Bike Races
- Go-Cart Races
- Pine Box Derby Races
- Competition
- Colorful Evening Pageants
- Music
- International Guests
- Special Guest Speakers



1994 National Camporama

National Royal Rangers Training Center

Eagle Rock, Missouri

July 11 -15, 1994

Cost: \$125

mation and an application. Once the paperwork is completed, we will match your skills and qualifications with a ministry. Information will be given to you on where you will be going and how long (usually 8-12 weeks) you will be involved.

Some ministries needing MAPS assistance may provide lodging, food, and transportation. However, normally a budget of approximately \$500 to \$600 will need to be raised.

You can raise a budget by various means. You could ask your pastor for part of a service and share with the con-

gregation the need and your burden for the inner city. A special offering could be taken.

And your outpost can help sponsor you as well as family and friends. It will be a step of faith, but you will see the Lord do some wonderful things.

Going into the inner city is filling the gap and being the worker Jesus said is greatly needed.

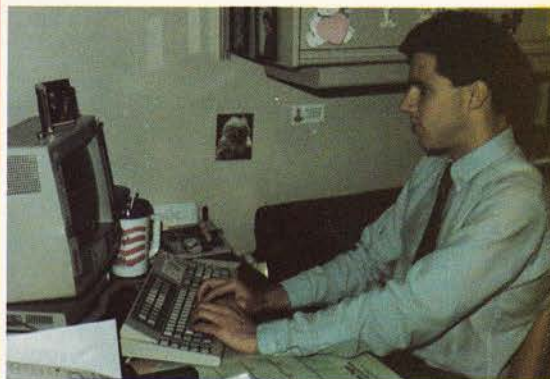
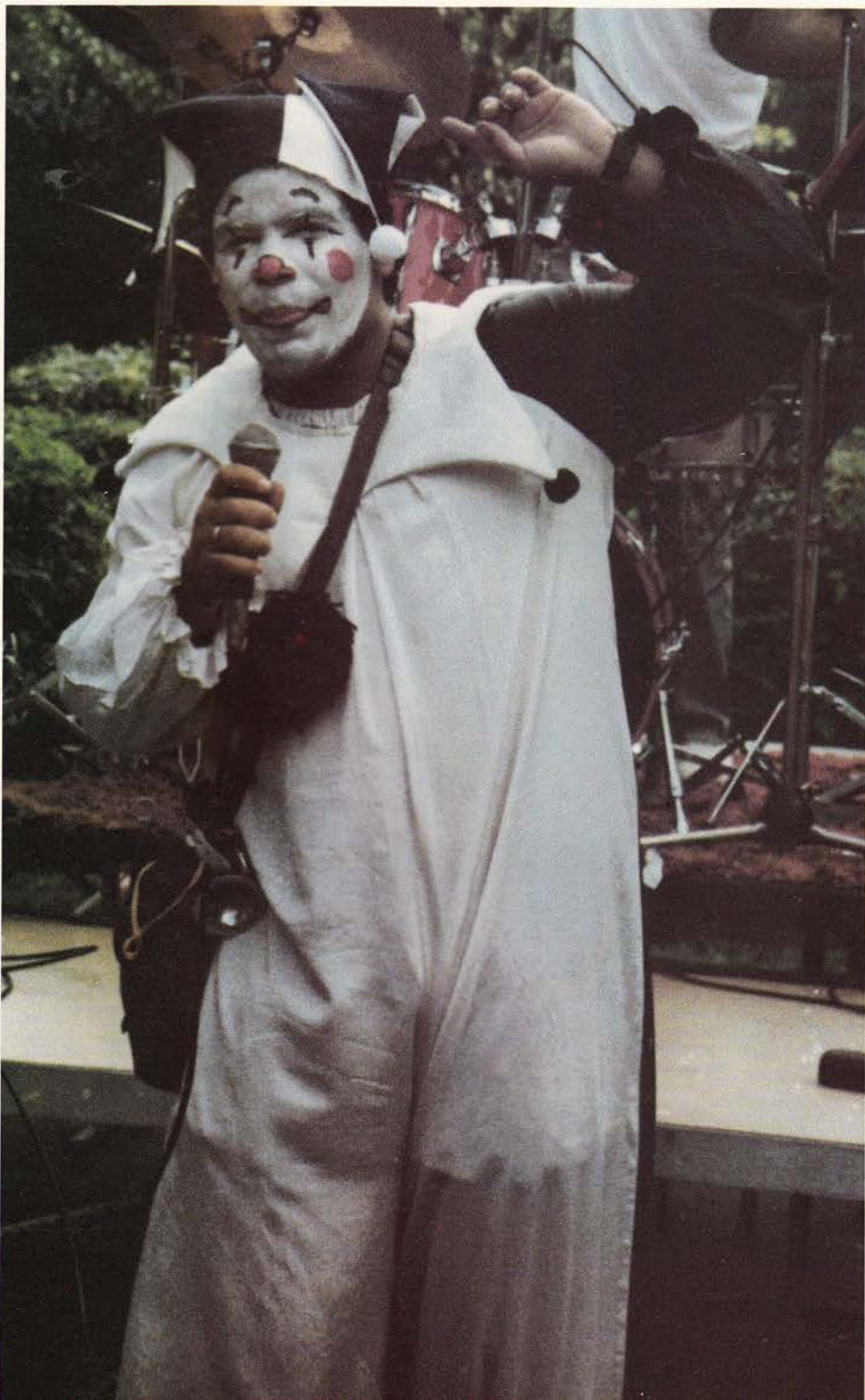
Being involved in all types of ministries will expand your understanding for what is happening and what is needed to help turn America's cities around. We are looking for young men who are 18 or

older and out of high school to fill this need. Could God be speaking to you?

Reaching out and assisting our missionaries and being the male Christian influence and role model is what MAPS is looking for. One of our summer workers who ministered to troubled young men last summer said, "This assignment has taught me that it's just not preaching, but hands-on work—hard work that is necessary to see lives changed." When I asked him if he was sorry he got involved in summer ministry, he responded, "Absolutely not!"

Many of our summer workers are now pastors and missionaries. There is a great challenge before us. American cities need help. As you are led by the Holy Spirit to go to the mission field of the inner city, you can and will make a difference in the lives of young people for the glory of God.

Remember, there is no time to waste. America needs you! ☸



Left: Summer intern participants are offered opportunities to participate in street rallies, drama teams, and sidewalk Sunday schools. Above: Data entry and working with computers are sometimes part of the ministry responsibilities during a summer intern assignment.

Major bummer!

by Robb Hawks,
national productions coordinator

The van bounced down the dirt road, carrying six excited Rangers and one tired commander. It had been a great camp-out, and they were on their way home. That is, except for one more stop. The commander had promised them that if they had cleaned up their camp real good, he would

take them swimming at a "secret swimming hole" he had learned about.

Jonathan was excited. He loved to swim—well sort of, anyway. All he could do was paddle around a bit. That's why he always stayed in the shallow water.

Jonathan had been careful not to let the other guys know he can't swim, though. He didn't want to be laughed at.

"Well, here we are boys," said the

commander. "My secret swimming hole."

The boys piled out, hooting and hollering as they went. They quickly changed into their swimming suits and stood around waiting. They couldn't see a lake or a pond anywhere, so they were beginning to wonder if the commander had played a trick on them. He led them down a trail, where they found themselves standing on a small cliff.

"Wow!" "Cool!" "Awesome!" the boys said—except for Jonathan, that is. He was thinking, *Help!* For there they stood, looking over the edge at the water below.

The commander put his towel down, backed up the trail, and took a running leap off the cliff. He gracefully arched his back and did a perfect swan dive into the water. All the boys cheered. The commander swam to the edge and climbed out and said, "Alright, who will be first?"

"Not me," Sammy said.

"Why not, are you a chicken?" asked Jamie.

Then all the guys began teasing each other. Jonathan stayed as far back as possible. Shelton, the patrol guide, wanted to be the leader, so he took a running leap off the cliff and into the water below. All the boys cheered.

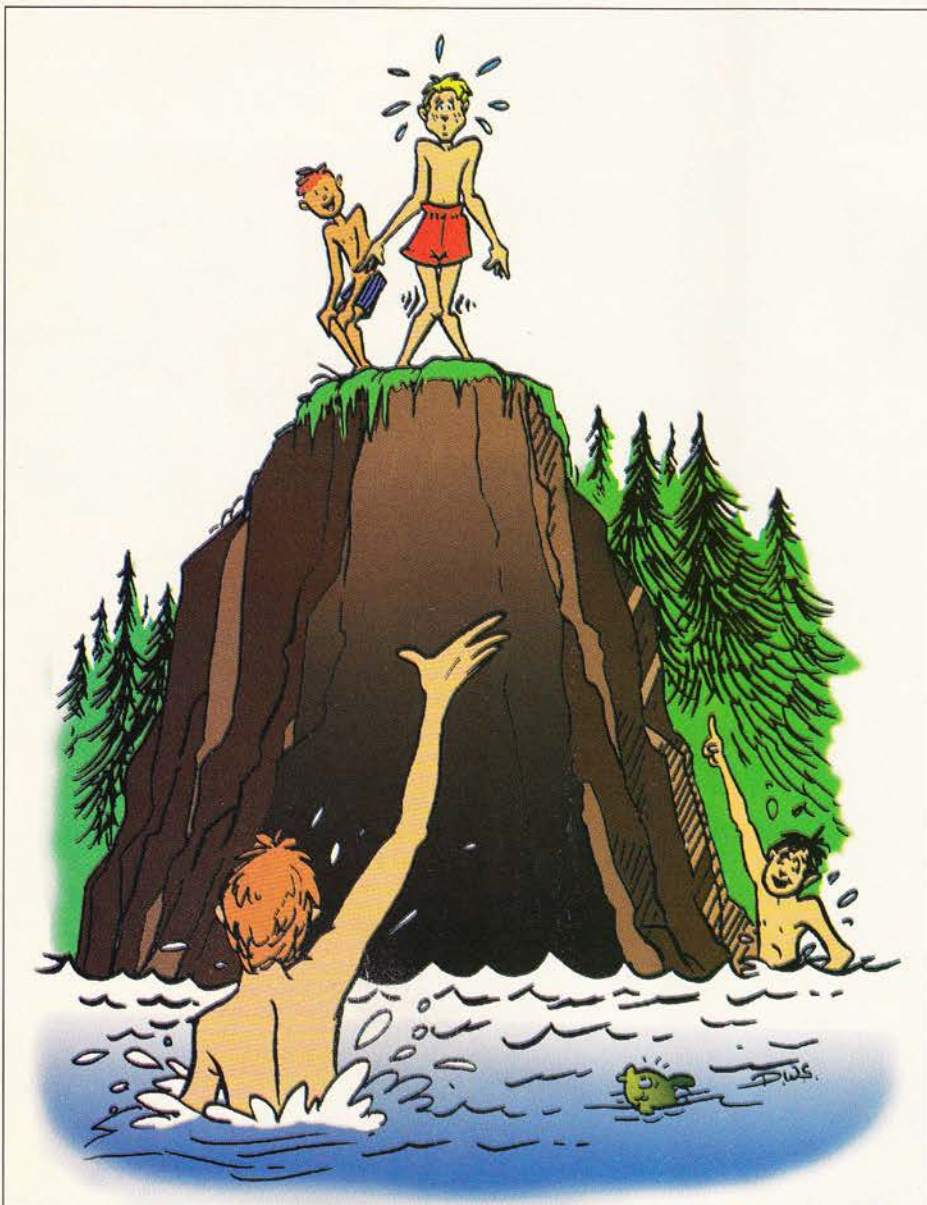
Now, one by one, they each followed the commander and Shelton over the edge and into the water. Jonathan stood on the cliff ... terrified. The deep water was enough to terrify him, but the thought of leaping off the cliff and into water was more than he could handle.

By now the boys had climbed back up the hillside and were each making their second and even third jumps. Sammy then noticed that Jonathan had not yet jumped. That was all it took.

"Jonathan, are you a sissy, or what?" jeered Sammy.

"Yeah, what's th' matter?" Jamie joined in. "Are you afraid of heights?"

Soon all the guys, except Shelton, were





teasing Jonathan. Jonathan felt he had to do something quick ... or else he would be labeled "chicken" forever.

"I'm going, just give me a minute," Jonathan said. By now all the boys were watching him. There was no way out, he thought. Jonathan's heart was pounding. He slowly walked to the cliff's edge and looked over. I can't do this, he thought. I can't swim!

Again the boys began to tease him. Jonathan just couldn't stand it any more. Peer pressure got the best of him. He took a deep breath, pinched his nose, and jumped.

Jonathan sailed through the air, his arms flailing about wildly. With a sudden jar he hit the water and sank deep beneath the surface. Fear and panic hit. He kicked and slapped at the water, trying to get back to the surface.

Jonathan knew he was about to die!

Just when he didn't think he would ever make it back to the surface, his head broke through the water. There he was, in way over his head. Jonathan kicked and waved his arms then tried to dog paddle. He did everything he could to reach the bank.

Nothing helped. His head kept sinking beneath the water. When he tried to gulp in a breath of air, he gulped in a load of water. Sputtering and kicking and gagging, he began to sink beneath the water.

I need help! Jonathan thought, while in a panic.

Suddenly Jonathan felt himself being yanked from the water by his hair. He looked up into the face of his commander. The leader quickly began to pound Jonathan on the back to remove the water from his lungs.

"Boy, that was a close one," said the commander. "I thought your permission slip said you could swim, Jonathan."

"Well, ugh, I sorta can," Jonathan replied sheepishly.

"If you know you can't swim, why did you jump off the cliff?" the commander questioned.

"You know how it is: The guys were teasing me, and, well" Jonathan's voice trailed off.

"You mean you allowed the boys to pressure you into something you knew could kill you?" the commander asked.

"Yeah, I guess I did," Jonathan said sheepishly. "It wasn't very smart, was it."

A Royal Ranger should never be afraid of criticism. Have courage: Never let someone pressure you into doing something foolish or anything that could cause you or others harm.

"I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body" (Philippians 1:20, NIV). ☸

Call 911

by Kenneth Tanner

When my mom and dad announced we were moving, it came as no big surprise. We'd moved on the average of every 4 years during the 16 years I'd been alive. But this time was different. This time they weren't taking me along.

No, I wasn't being abandoned. My dad is a career man in the U.S. Navy, and he was being transferred to a "duty station" in Florida.

"You and your brother will stay with Grandma until we find a house to live in," Mom explained. "Then we'll send for you boys."

"And we're depending on you," Dad said, looking at me, "to keep an eye on your brother."

The next month my dad and mom flew to Florida, and my little brother and I moved in with Grandma. We didn't mind living with Gram because her apartment complex has a swimming pool.

"During the week kids are allowed in the pool only between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.," Grandma told us. It's an adults-only apartment complex, but we were allowed to stay there because Gram owns it—also, because our stay was temporary.

So every day after school, my little brother and I would use the pool. I'm a fairly good swimmer and would have enjoyed this a lot—except for the fact that I had to spend most of the time trying to teach my little brother how to swim.

He's 9 years old, and I'd been trying to teach him for the past 2 summers. He's a pretty slow learner when it comes to

swimming. He floats about as well as a rock!

Earthshaking

One day we had a mild earthquake. The roof of the underground parking garage collapsed. No one got injured, but the few cars parked in the garage ended up looking like metal pancakes. It was a good thing it happened while most of the tenants were away at work.

Since half the apartments were directly over the garage, and because nobody could park in the underground area, almost everyone moved out. We were practically the only people still living in the apartment complex. So Gram said we could use the pool on weekends too.

A few Sundays after the earthquake, I had to play in a baseball game. When I got back to the apartment, I found Gram asleep. But my little brother didn't seem to be anywhere in the complex.

Maybe Gram sent him to the store, or maybe he went to play in the park, I said to myself. Now I can swim without being bothered by the little pest!

I changed into my swimming trunks and headed for the pool. I hoped my brother wouldn't get back for at least an hour, so I could relax and just swim without him nagging: "Teach me to swim! Teach me to swim!"

I was standing on the edge of the pool, getting ready to dive, when I noticed something on the bottom. It looked like a pair of blue swimming trunks.

Then I saw the arms and legs. "Oh, no! Oh, God, help!" I screamed. It was my little brother lying on the bottom of the pool.

I dived in and swam down to him.

Holding onto his arm, I swam to the surface, dragging him after me.

"Grandma!" I yelled.

She came out as I was struggling to push my little brother out of the water, up onto the side of the pool.

"Call 911, Gram!" I shouted. "Call the paramedics. Quick! Hurry!"

After the third attempt, I was able to push my brother out of the pool. I started giving him mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. In about 5 minutes the paramedics arrived.

Waiting

I'll never forget that hour Gram and I sat in the hospital waiting area, not knowing if my little brother was alive or dead. I just sat there praying: "Oh, God, please let him live. He's so little. Please don't let him die."

I had my face buried in my hands when I felt a touch on my shoulder. "Your brother is going to be okay," the doctor said.

I started crying like a little kid because I was so happy, and I'm not ashamed to admit it. I almost lost my brother, and I was partially to blame.

He had wanted me to take him to the baseball game so he could watch me play. But I didn't want to be bothered with him. I also didn't want to be bothered with teaching him how to swim.

A few days later I asked my brother why he hadn't waited for me to go swimming.

"I thought you were tired of teaching me to swim," he answered.

I shook my head. "No! I don't care if it takes a hundred years!" 🌐

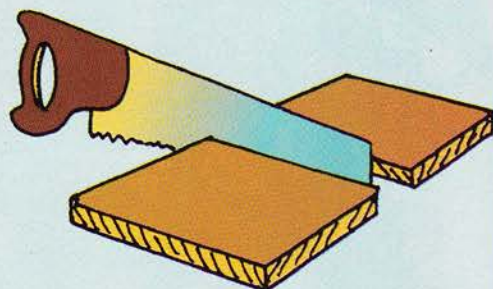
KID ACTION

RUSTIC BIRD FEED

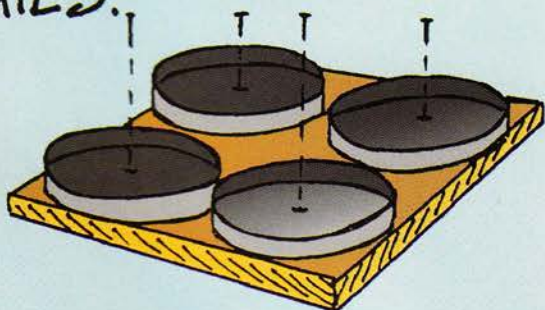
MATERIALS NEEDED...

- 1- PIECE OF WOOD, $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 9" x 9"
- 4- JAR CAPS, 4" DIAMETER
- 4- FLAT HEAD NAILS, $\frac{1}{2}$ " LONG
- 1- " " NAIL, 3" LONG
- 1- BRANCH, 4" DIAM. x 48" LONG
- OUTDOOR PAINT (ANY COLOR)

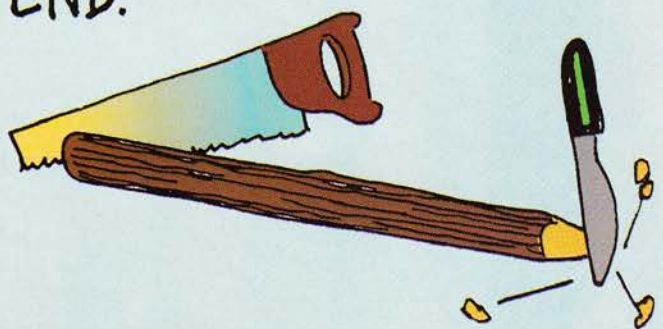
GET A PIECE OF $\frac{3}{4}$ " THICK WOOD AND CUT IT TO A 9x9 SIZE.



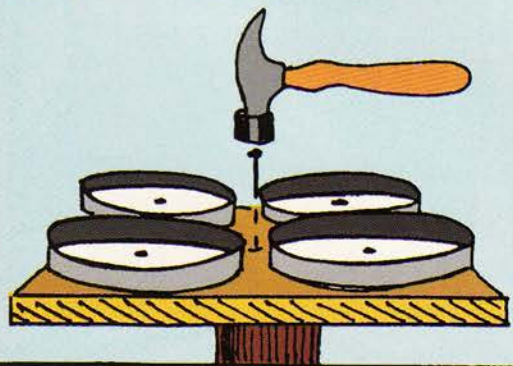
PAINT THE 9x9 PIECE OF WOOD THEN ATTACH THE FOUR JAR LIDS TO THE SURFACE WITH THE 4 NAILS.



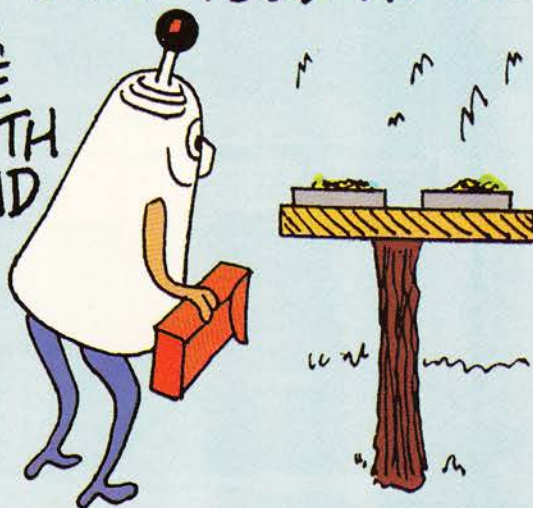
FIND A BRANCH ABOUT 4" IN DIAMETER, CUT IT TO A 4 FOOT SIZE AND SHARPEN ONE END.



ATTACH THE TOP TO THE BRANCH WITH A NAIL AND HAMMER.



SET THE BIRD FEED IN THE GROUND, FILL THE CAPS WITH SEED AND WATCH THEM COME.



MZANCO

RASCAL RANGERS

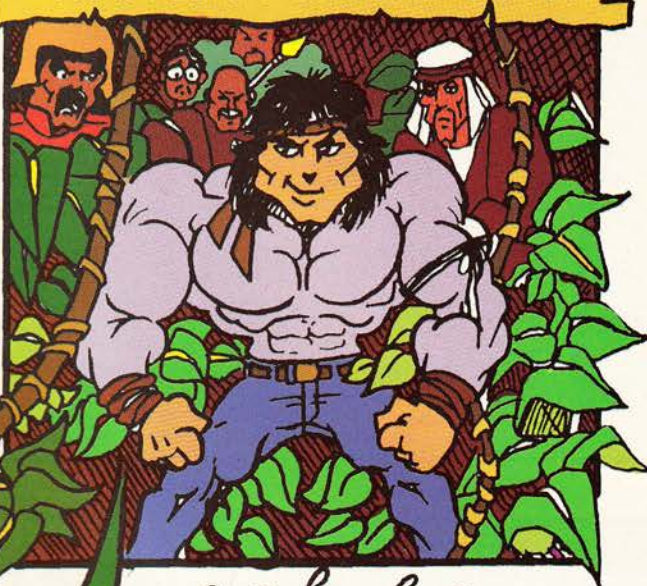
ALRIGHT! LET'S GO SWIMMING!

POOL →



BY ROB HAWKS AND DAVID SMITH

HERE I AM, ADVENTURE HERO, TRAPPED BY THE BAD GUYS.



I'LL ESCAPE...

SNAP!



SPLASH!

OH, NO!
NOT THE
WATERFALL!



SAFE AT LAST...

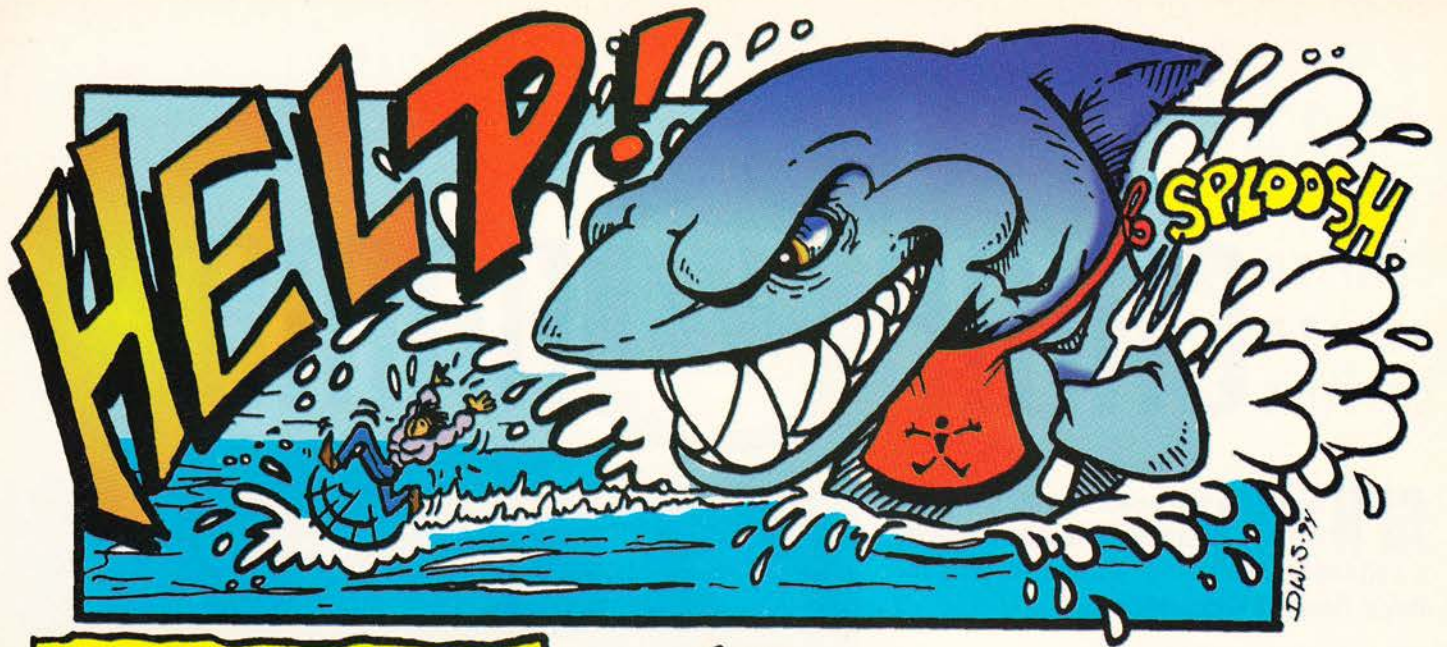


UH OH, TROUBLE!

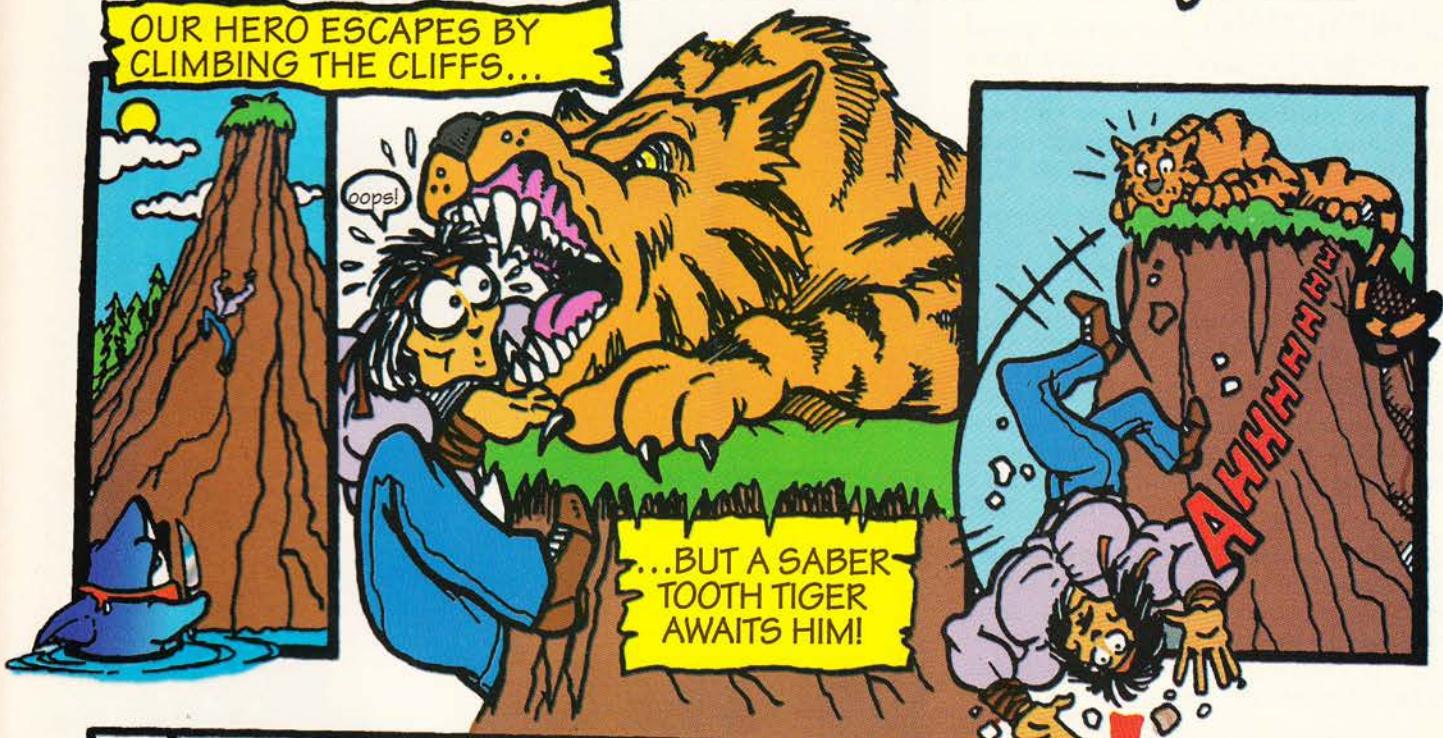


THAT'S OKAY!
THIS ADVENTURE HERO
FEARS NOTHING!





OUR HERO ESCAPES BY
CLIMBING THE CLIFFS...



...BUT A SABER
TOOTH TIGER
AWAITS HIM!



YOUR GOD-GIVEN IMAGINATION CAN MAKE LIFE AN ADVENTURE.
KEEP YOUR MIND CLEAN FOR THE LORD!

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CANTEEN COVER. Felt-lined olive green cotton canvas fits One-Quart Plastic Canteen listed above. Web loop to thread through belt. **08GX1050 \$2.95**

TWO-QUART DESERT CANTEEN WITH STRAP. Green polyethylene plastic with attached plastic screw-on cap and handy adjustable shoulder strap. **08GX1093 \$5.00**



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