

FALL 1999

HIGH Adventure

INSIDE:

**My Hero
SnowBoarding
The Lion of Judah**

Sports

<http://royalrangers.ag.org>

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HIGH ADVENTURE—Volume 29, Number 2 ISSN (0190-3802) published quarterly by Royal Rangers; 1445 Boonville Avenue; Springfield MO 65802-1894. Subscription rates: (*High Adventure Leader* only) single subscription \$9.95 a year; bundle (minimum of five subscriptions, all mailed to one address) \$9.00 a year, \$13.95 (foreign mailing address).

©1999 General Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc., Gospel Publishing House. Printed in USA. Periodicals postage paid at Springfield, Mo. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *High Adventure*; 1445 Boonville; Springfield, MO 65802-1894.

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My Hero

Ann Massey

School gets so boring when you'd rather be outside playing ball. Even when you've got an assignment to write about your favorite athlete, it's hard to concentrate.

Okay, what rich and famous athlete would I like to be? I've never tried golf, and I don't even know any 7th graders who play, but Tiger Woods is pretty cool. I read an article about him.

His real name is Eldrick. He was only 9 months old the first time he swung a golf club.

Tiger has never stopped practicing since that first swing. The only thing he ever allowed to

interfere with golf was homework. His mother insisted. He made good grades in high school and his 2 years at Stanford, when he went pro.

Homework isn't the only thing that requires brains. Tiger Woods plays smart, too. He imagines swinging and watches the ball in his mind before he even steps up to it.

Sounds like a perfect person, doesn't he? You'd think he probably even likes broccoli. Nope! I have it on good authority that Tiger eats nothing unless it comes from MacDonalds.



My favorite golfer eats only Big Macs. Miss Redding, my reading teacher, would not appreciate that.

So who else? My favorite football player is not world-famous, but in Washington, D.C., where I live. Art Monk was my hero until he retired last year.

At Syracuse and in 16 years of pro football, Art exercised in the off-season. He said his parents taught him: "Nothing in life is

free. Whatever it is

you want, you have to knuckle down and work for it."

In his spare time he's a computer whiz, so you know

he's smart. It showed in his playing. Redskin quarterback Joe Theismann said: "The most important part of Art Monk to our teams was not his legs or his hands; it was his brain. He was the smartest receiver I ever had."

One funny thing I read about him, though, was that when he was in junior



high school he didn't think he was a good athlete, so he didn't try very hard. By the time he was in high school, he was a little overweight and preferred music over sports. He started running track to lose weight, and that later made him a better football player.

The most awesome football player I know was an overweight kid who played the tuba in 7th grade. Miss Redding wouldn't believe it anyway.

Well, as long as we're into record-breakers, I could write about Cal Ripken. This Baltimore Orioles shortstop (now third baseman) tied Lou Gehrig's record for most consecutive games played in 1995. When the 1998 season began, he had played 2,478 games without missing a single one. Cal said he learned from his father, a baseball coach, just to "lower my head and soldier on, one game at a time." Cal did-

n't go to college, but he was an honor-roll student in high school. Math was his best subject. Once he solved an algebra problem and took up the whole black-board with his equations. He studied baseball just as hard, watching and asking questions all during his growing up years.

But perfect? Hardly. He was so undersized and underdeveloped in high school that he wouldn't play basketball because he didn't want anyone to see his skinny, hairless chest. This is worse: There is a family story that he cheated his own grandmother at Canasta. He says, "I don't remember that, but I might have occasionally drawn too many cards on her, because I did cheat on everyone else."

That is definitely not

for Miss Redding's tender ears.

Maybe I should write this report on Michael Jordan. Surely there's nothing goofy in his background, one might think.

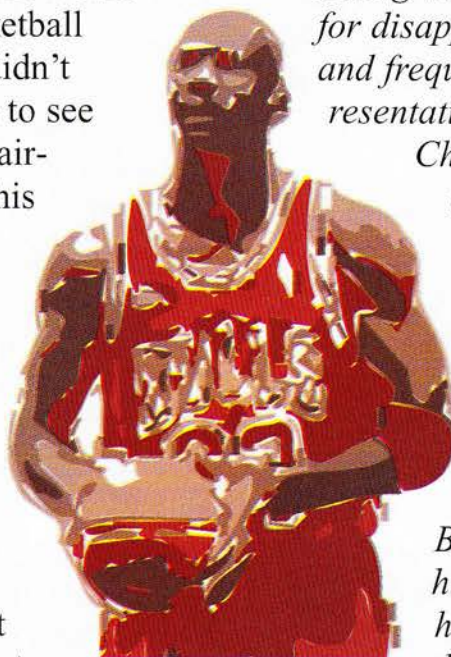
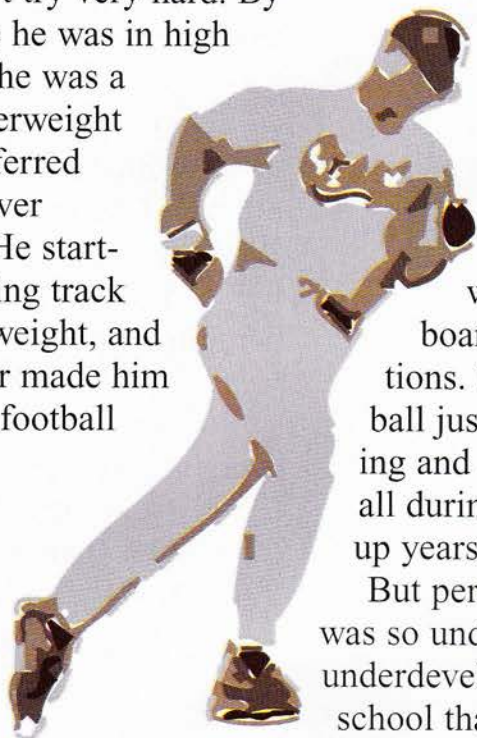
Editor's Note: The truth is, we can't look up to sports figures, or any other person as far as that goes, as our heroes. The only real hero, One without blemish, is Jesus Christ.

If we begin to idolize others, or put them on a shelf above others, we're setting ourselves up for disappointment—and frequently misrepresentation of a Christlike image.

So if you want to hear about a real Hero, read about Him in the Bible.

Besides, He hit the big homerun, ran the extra mile,

and cleared an offensive pathway so we could make the touchdown. Now there's a real Hero for you!



THE LION OF JUDAH MOVES NEPAL

Joan Benson

"Hallelujah, my Heavenly Father, Hallelujah, Father," came softly from the back of the massive water buffalo. A small-framed, dark-skinned boy of 13 straddled the back of the animal he was grazing. Ubadha wore the bruises of beatings from his mother. She had forbidden his newlyfound faith in Jesus Christ, but his head still bowed in prayer as he rode about near his village in Nepal.

The village of Sissautiya, near the border of India, rests in the lap of Mt. Everest in Nepal. The 1991 constitution in this Hindu kingdom allows Ubadha's prayer to God the Father, Jehovah. Why then did Ubadha have to sneak away to go to the missionary church?
Why

the message of a God, who came to earth nearly 2,000 years ago and yet still lives today in the hearts of men. Ubadha eagerly joined in prayer and worship services.

But when Ubadha's parents found out, they threatened beatings if he continued to go to the meetings. Ubadha's desire to learn drove him to find out more and more about this Jesus. He cared more about the reality of God than the beatings. Sometimes his parents locked him in a room or denied him food, but he remained strong and continued to attend church in spite of his treatment.

The missionaries in Sissautiya tell of other young people like Ubadha.

Though the gov-

Prajwel Adhikary, a Nepalese national and convert to Christianity while studying in the United States, encouraged Ubadha to keep loving and praying for his mother. The boy just smiled with understanding. Prajwel's wife wrote: "At times when Ubadha's mother would beat him especially bad, Ubadha would then stay away from church for a while. But even then, other Christians would see him riding the water buffalo

he was grazing with his head bowed in prayer."

The constitution of Nepal states that every person should have the freedom to profess and practice his own religion. However, no one is entitled to convert a person from one religion to another. Each denomination does have the right to maintain itself and "manage its places of worship." When worship meetings are held in Sissautiya, village people sometimes attend and are welcomed. The Christians naturally profess their own religion and share their beliefs with those who come. Those who are convinced of the truth of Christianity are disciplined by their Hindu caste members with bamboo and iron rod beatings. Freedom of religion is

The Lion of the tribe of Judah is surely alive....

then did he wear the marks of beatings?

As the youngest person to become a

Christian in a newly planted church in 1995, Ubadha heard the message of Jesus Christ from missionaries who were living in his village. They had come to help with medical first-aid in the remote plains village of sun-dried mud houses. Ubadha thought the church was an exciting place to go. There he heard

ern-ment allows people of all faiths to practice their religion, parents are often pressured by people in their Hindu caste who disapprove of Christianity. In order to keep their own respect as Hindus, parents will give in to the neighbors and relatives and beat their children who want to follow Jesus.

During worship services, Ubadha often poured his heart out to God. His face glowed as he addressed God as his loving Heavenly Father. The missionary,

usually an unfulfilled promise in the countryside of Nepal. If anyone changes his beliefs, he must suffer the consequences, not from the government but from family and friends.

After beating him often, Ubadha's mother had a dream that made her afraid of the Christian God. She saw in her dream men preaching about Jesus and many villagers becoming Christians. So she let him go to church again. For a time he enjoyed his freedom and developed a reputation for his long, sincere prayers during worship. After awhile, though, the caste members applied pressure to his family again. The beatings resumed, but they didn't stop Ubadha.

In October 1995, Nepal's friends' church held a large conference in Kathmandu, the capital city. Ubadha desperately wanted to go on the bus that would take people from the village. He couldn't wait to join with so many believers and worship his Lord. He made plans to hide in the jungle and then catch the bus as it left for the city. He told church mem-

bers he would be waiting for the bus at the edge of his village. His parents heard rumors of the conference, though, and suspiciously watched Ubadha as the time approached. They realized what shame they would face if others found out their son had attended this Christian gathering. So before he could slip away to the jungle, they locked Ubadha in his room.

After the conference, no one saw Ubadha. Mrs. Adhikary wrote: "We guessed the threats of punishment had been too severe for him and so he stopped coming to church. He also stopped coming by just to visit us." They were thrilled during Christmas celebrations that Ubadha managed to sneak into a few of the meetings, still eager and full of prayer. Nothing seemed to thwart his strong spirit and willingness to serve Christ.

The Lion of the tribe of Judah (Revelation 5:5) is surely

alive and moving among people of all ages in the tiny country of Nepal. Others like Ubadha continue to live a life of disapproval in Nepal, sacrificing friends and family members. They persevere in their beliefs as they see and feel the loving reality of Jesus Christ in their lives.

Can you, like Ubadha, stand in the midst of controversy?



New LFTL Junior Councilmen Award

Now Royal Rangers who are Light for the Lost Junior Councilmen can earn a new award. The LFTL Junior Councilmen Award can be earned by completing the following requirements:

- 1. Earn the LFTL Merit.**
- 2. Become a LFTL Junior Councilmen.**
- 3. Participate as a worker in at least one LFTL banquet/rally.**
- 4. Enroll at least two Royal Rangers as LFTL Junior Councilmen.**

To order, call 1-800-641-4310 and request item number 15-0773.





National Rendezvous

2000



DATE: July 17-21, 2000

PLACE: Camp Eagle Rock
Eagle Rock, Missouri

COST: \$40 Young Bucks
\$50 Old-Timers

Commence ta plannin' fur tha biggest Rendezvous
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- Dynamic Evening Services
- Frontier Crafts, Games & Competitions
- Guest Speakers
- International Guests
- Cookin'
- Tradin'
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✂ Commander, return this coupon for Rendezvous 2000 Applications

RENDEZVOUS 2000 APPLICATION REQUEST

Send me _____ (qty.) applications

My name and mailing address is:

Return Coupon To:
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Springfield, MO 65802-1894

"Come and experience the most dynamic Rendezvous ever. We're believing God for a great outpouring of His Spirit at this millennium kick-off event as He prepares us for the greatest Harvest challenge the Church has ever witnessed. You'll experience dynamic evening services. You'll enjoy great fellowship. And you can participate in frontier crafts and competition while relaxing in your tepee to the smell of freshly baked black kettle cobbler. You won't want to miss out!"

—Fred Deaver, FCF national president

RASCAL RANGERS

by Craig Schutt

Today the Rascal Rangers have agreed to a sandlot football game with the "Backyard Bombers," a group of guys whose spiritual attitudes are, ah, shall we say, questionable? Keep the Golden Rule in mind....

That trophy's taller than me!

Ok guys, this is it. The neighborhood "King of the Hill" trophy is at stake!

I heard these guys are pushovers. Real nice and all.

LET'S CRUSH 'EM!

YEAH!

The Rascal Rangers won the toss, and the game was on! The Rangers actually held their own, keeping the game close, and actually bringing it to a tie! But...the Backyard Bombers started playing dirty.

At this point, all the Rascal Rangers were plenty mad. They called for a timeout....



VOLUME 29, NUMBER 2
FALL 1999

In All We Do, It Is Important To Reflect "JESUS" by Rich Mariott

As a boy, coming from a good home, I was taught that these traits develop good character in a person: honor, friendships, family values, and the importance of living a Christian life. When my father and mother moved our family to Sacramento in 1965—I was 15 years old at the time—we became involved in and members of Neighborhood Bible Church. NBC has always had a strong sense of family values; many of the youth I met then are still good friends now 30 and 40 years later.

One principle I will never forget was taught to me by the late Rev. Robert D. Clark, pastor of Neighborhood Bible Church. He said, "In all we do, it is important to reflect Jesus."

Here's a testimony I love to share that puts this into perspective:

After completing 4 years in the United States Air Force, serving from 1968 to 1972, then attending college in 1976, I started a landscape construction company. A friend at church, John Flores, asked if I would sponsor a softball team in the city leagues. I did so for several years. I only had one requirement of John: I wanted Christian men on the team to follow Pastor Clark's motto: "In all we do, it is important to reflect Jesus." I told John that many of the teams we would compete against were companies that would recognize my company's name, so I wanted it to honor Jesus.

Several years went by and John had put together a tremendous team of Christian players. We had won many championships and tournaments. I was always proud of the team and John's leadership to reflect honor to Jesus.

I remember in 1982, coming into church one Sunday

morning and hearing an usher say to the man standing next to him, "Here is the man you have been waiting for: Richard Mariott."

The man extended his hand and introduced himself. "Hi. I'm Jim Carstens!"

I shook hands with him but didn't recognize his name. He added, "You probably recognize my softball team: 'George's Cleaners.'"

In my mind I thought, *George's Cleaners were loud, foul-mouthed, and drinkers at the games. What is he doing here?*

Jim continued, "I came to see your pastor this past week and gave my heart to Jesus."

Jim had become friends with several of the members of our team, and one of them was the pastor's son. Pastor Clark always attended the games and Jim had become good friends with Pastor.

As Jim and I became friends and started spending time together, he became involved in Royal Rangers, a few years after I had. We enjoyed the camps, Pinewood Derbies, out-post meetings, and traveling. Later, after I had become the divisional commander, Jim agreed to become the deputy divisional commander. Then when I became the district commander, Jim accepted the position of district publicity and promotions coordinator. This last year Jim agreed to become the deputy district commander.

Jim and I have been good friends for many years, and we were both called into ministry about the same time in 1989—myself as full-time district commander and Jim as an associate pastor. We have always had a special friendship and appreciation for each other. Now, after I had accepted the position as national commander in April, our district executive officers interviewed and appointed Jim as the new district commander of the Northern California-Nevada District.

I'm so grateful what Pastor Clark had taught me years ago—"In all we do, it is important to reflect Jesus." Not only did Jim come to accept Christ as Lord ... but also to become a dynamic Christian leader.

What about John Flores? He is still involved in sports at NBC and has continued to see many come to Christ through the sports ministry.

As Royal Rangers leaders—now more than ever—we must help reach our communities for Christ Jesus. I challenge you, and every Royal Rangers leader, to set a goal: to reach 10 boys per year for Jesus. If we all accomplish this goal, we can collectively reach over 2 million boys with the salvation message each year.

Let's make this our motto: "In all we do, it is important to reflect Jesus." If we follow this pattern, I guarantee that Jesus will be glorified and that boys will come to know Christ as Lord and Savior!



Richard Mariott
National Commander

1999 National Council a Success; Ken Hunt Gives Final Farewell

by Travis Spencer

As Ken Hunt said his final farewell as national commander, the Royal Rangers concluded their 1999 National Council, held March 25-27, with a determination to strengthen their ministry and to continue its purpose in spiritually training boys.

Nearly 400 people attended the March council in Springfield, Mo., in which national leadership shared their vision for Royal Rangers, proving that the 1999 theme, "Serving Our Generation," was appropriately named.

A proposed strategic plan, which was presented to district commanders, suggests broadening Royal Rangers to include more indoor and outdoor adventure, examining ways to better serve smaller churches, and updating materials within the next few years.

The council seemed more emotional than in the past since it was Hunt's farewell after 10 years of leadership.

"This was a tough council because of all the emotions," Hunt said. "I will always remember the faithfulness of the leaders, but there is nothing more memorable than young children coming to the Lord at Royal Rangers events."

John Bueno, executive director for the Division of Foreign Missions, expressed deep appreciation for Hunt's faithfulness before sharing a message at the Silver Eagle Banquet, the premier event that kicks off the annual council. "For 10 years Ken has given his best," Bueno said. "He has brought this ministry to new heights—thousands and thousands of boys have been changed because of this ministry."

Using the story of Joshua leading the Israelites across the Jordan, Bueno challenged the councilmen, wives, and guests to keep their eyes on God and anticipate Him to do miraculous things.

During the banquet 33 district commanders were awarded the Silver Eagle Medal for their outstanding service to the Royal Rangers ministry during 1998. Special recognition was also given through the presentation of district and chartering Awards of Excellence. The North Texas District was awarded first place for the greatest number of churches with Royal Rangers outposts. Southern Pacific Latin America District was awarded second place, and the Oklahoma District won third.



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Leader ONLINE

First Assembly of God, Grand Rapids, Mich., (Outpost 21) was awarded first place for the largest chartered outpost; chartering 372 boys and leaders. Bethany Assembly of God, Adrian, Mich., (Out-post 24) was awarded second place for chartering 188 boys and leaders; and New Life Church, Colorado Springs, Colo., (Out-post 200) won third place with 175 boys and leaders.

During the council more than \$30,000 was spontaneously pledged to help advance Royal Rangers missions in Latin America. Doug Marsh, Royal Rangers foreign missionary appointed to Latin America, will use the money toward the Royal Rangers training center in Costa Rica.

During the Light for the Lost Junior Councilmen Banquet, on the final evening of council, another \$190,000 plus was pledged by the councilmen to help distribute evangelism literature in the United States and in foreign countries. The Last Best Thing, the new Royal Rangers version of the Book of John, will be distributed in the United States and a Christian comic book, titled *Edward Elephant Says...*, will be distributed in foreign countries—all from moneys pledged by Royal Rangers outposts and the councilmen, who attended the Junior Councilmen Banquet.

"The money that was raised during council shows the giving spirit of our commanders," said Marshall Bruner, ministries and publications coordinator for the national Royal Rangers Office.

Prior to the council business, commanders participated in the National District Leadership Seminar, which targets district commanders and their staff and challenges them to develop their ministries. Among the highlights of the seminar were sessions involving FCF Pathfinders, production coordinators, chartering updates, and legal updates.

About 50 leaders also participated in the

National Urban Leadership Conference (NULC) Staff Training; the NULC was established in 1995 as a means to train commanders in areas of urban ministry and to heighten the awareness of urban evangelism.



Other council business included setting the goal of having 7,000 campers registered for the 2002 Camporama at Camp Eagle Rock in Eagle Rock, Mo. Promotions and planning are already in the beginning stages.

Councilmen also set a goal to have 2,000 FCF boys and leaders registered at the 2000 National Rendezvous.

The council concluded with a communion service, following a 3-hour appreciation reception for Hunt. The Rev. Thomas Trask, superintendent of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and a host of others formed a long greeting line to show their appreciation for Hunt's 10 years of service.

"God has really blessed the Fellowship with this ministry," Hunt said. "I am blessed to have been a part of it. Having been here for 10 years will give me enough memories to last a lifetime."



Legal Updates

The following are excerpts from Church Law & Tax Report, prepared in part by Richard Hammar, legal counselor, The General Council of the Assemblies of God. This is not a publication of the Assemblies of God. For detailed information pertaining to these church-related legal issues, e-mail your subscription request to <http://www.iclonline.com>.

Church-Related Child Molestation Acts—

- "An Alabama court ruled that a school was not liable for a teacher's acts of child molestation since it conducted a thorough background check before hiring him and did not violate its written policies."
- "A Wisconsin court ruled that a statute of limitations barred an adult from suing a church and diocese for injuries he allegedly sustained as a result of a priest's acts of child molestation."
- "A Kentucky court ruled that an adult who had been sexually molested as a minor by a teacher at a parochial school could sue the diocese that operated the school for negligent hiring, supervision, and retention."
- "A court in the District of Columbia ruled that three adults were barred by the statute of limitations from suing an archdiocese for injuries they suffered as a result of being molested by a priest when they were minors."
- "A federal court in Connecticut ruled that the statute of limitations did not necessarily prevent an adult from suing a diocese for injuries he allegedly suffered as a minor when he was molested by a priest."

New Zealand Camporama 2000

See the beginning of the new millennium in the Royal Rangers setting. Enjoy the fellowship, revel in the rallies, meet new friends,

trade stories and patches, and demonstrate your Rangers skills. The New Zealand Camporama 2000 is January 3-7, 2000, for \$81 in U.S. currency. The event will be held at Katikati, New Zealand. For registration information: NZ National Commander, 350 Roscommon Rd., Manurewa, Auckland, New Zealand; Phone/Fax: 001-649-267-6788; E-mail: omega.graphics@xtra.co.nz.

Testimonials

I would like to acknowledge and commend the Royal Rangers and Tom Loelle for a job well done. I thank the Lord that our community has a program like Royal Rangers.

Let me tell you briefly what happened: It was a typical snowy day. The neighborhood kids were sledding. My daughter somehow gashed the lower part of her leg as she went down the hill. When she noticed the blood and screamed, Tom Loelle was the first person to get to her.

Tom could not have reacted any faster or better than he did. Because of his training with Royal Rangers, he knew exactly what to do. He kept her calm and applied direct pressure to the wound with his stocking cap. He then sent the other kids for help.

By the time we reached the hospital, the blood was clotted nicely and she was not in shock. The hospital staff was amazed at her condition and were very pleased that someone had known exactly what to do. After 24 stitches and 26 staples she is fine. But if Tom would not have reacted as he did, the situation could have been a lot worse.

<http://royalrangers.ag.org>

**Learn it.
Live it.**

NATIONAL ROYAL RANGERS OFFICE
Phone: 417-862-2781, EXT. 4181
E-mail: rangers@ag.org
<http://royalrangers.ag.org>

Thank you very much, Tom Loelle and Royal Rangers,
for an excellent job!

Sincerely,
The Cunningham Family

New Testament 2000 Pin

As the year 2000 quickly approaches, help prepare your Rangers for the greatest evangelism thrust known to this ministry. Begin by involving your Rangers in earning the New Testament 2000 pin. Our goal is to award the pin to every Royal Ranger for having read the entire New Testament by the year 2000. The pin will symbolize more than just the grand achievement itself: It will signify to everyone that the Royal Ranger is gearing up spiritually for the year 2000 evangelism trust.



Begin now by involving the Rangers in outpost activities related to New Testament reading. Boys can read along with an audiocassette recording of New Testament readings, for example. Whatever the approach, start today.

Here's how to order the New Testament 2000 pin:

- 1.) Contact Gospel Publishing House at
1-800-641-4310.**
 - 2.) Order item 15-0759 and request the Royal Rangers
"New Testament 2000" pin.**
- Prepare your Rangers today for the great
evangelism trust tomorrow.**

***District commanders, please send us
news of your Pow
Wows, District/
Sectional events,
and reports of
ministry from the
Convoy of Hope,
Harvest Task Force,
and other events
happening in your
area.***

FCF FALL TERRITORIAL RENDEZVOUS DATES

Colonial (Northeast Region): October 15-17;
Dunn Canyon, Pennsylvania

Rivermen (Gulf Region): October 15-17;
Western Tennessee

Riflemen (Southeast Region): October 21-23;
Springville, Alabama

Explorers (North Central Region):
September 30 - October 2; Ewing, Nebraska

DEPARTMENTAL ITEMS

National Royal Rangers Office; 1445 Boonville Avenue; Springfield, MO 65802-1894

National Office Items Now Available—**Call 1-800-641-4310**

Below are several Royal Rangers products that are ideal for outpost application.

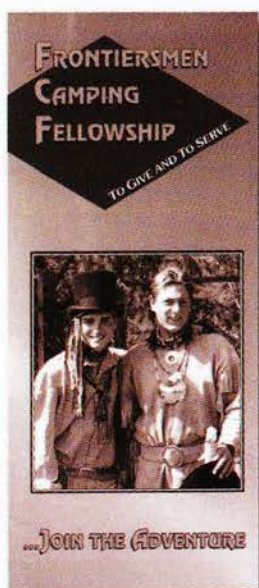
Prices below do not include shipping fees or state sales tax. Order directly by calling **1-800-641-4310**.

- Frontiersmen
Camping
Fellowship
Brochure
The full-color
brochure is
ideal for promoting
FCF.

Item Number:
729NZ018
Cost: \$.10 ea., min.
order 100

- Outreach
Ministries
Planning Guide

Item Number:
729NZ012,
w/binder
Cost: \$13.45
Item Number: 729NZ013,
w/o binder
Cost: \$10



This 1-year outpost meeting
manual contains meeting fea-
tures, Achievement Badge
activities, devotion-
als, and group activi-
ties.

- Outreach
Ministry
Training Guide

A 100-page train-
ing manual that
offers new insights
to penetrating urban
America with the
Royal Rangers min-
istry.

Item Number:
729NZ009
Cost: \$6.50

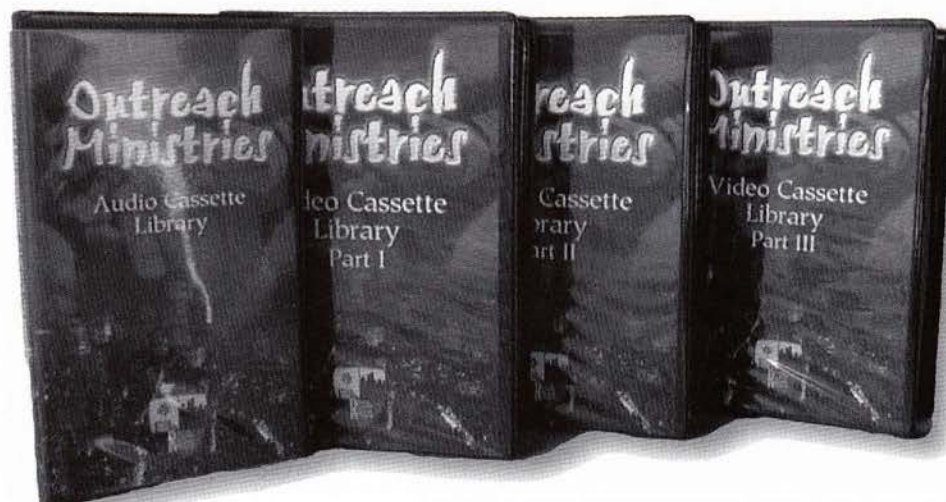
- Insight Group:
Commander's Guide
Item: 729NZ049

Cost: \$9

- Insight Group:
Ranger's Guide
Item Number: 729NZ050

Cost: \$7

The Insight Group curricula is
ideal for groups Pioneers age
and up. Insight Group provides
13 sessions that are ideal for
monthly meeting features or a
weekly 30-minute values/Bible
study. The Commander's Guide,
a 104-page guide, instructs
the leader how to use the cur-
riculum along with the materi-
als that are presented in the
Ranger's Guide.



Outreach Ministries Audio and Video Libraries

The national Royal
Rangers Office now
offers an audio and
video series on out-
reach ministry, which
deal with various work-
shop topics on evangel-
ism.

To order, contact the
national office, Laura
Martinez, at 417-862-
2781, ext. 4177.

Leader departmental items

Outreach Ministries Video Library

Contains six videos on the following subjects:

- Part 1: "Reaching the Children"
"Leading a Child to Christ"
- Part 2: "Understanding the Minds of Children"
"Ministry to Children"
- Part 3: "Teen Suicide & Substance Abuse"
"Understanding the Urban Family"

Cost w/o video library holders: \$45

Cost w/ video library holders: \$60

Outreach Ministries Audio Library

Contains six audio cassettes in a library holder with eight workshop topics:

- Part 1: "The Calling of God"
"Meeting the Social Needs of Inner City"
- Part 2: "Ministry to Royal Rangers in Urban Areas"
"Methods of Motivating Children"
- Part 3: "How to Share the Gospel One-on-One"
- Part 4: "The Role of the Church in Sex Education"
- Part 5: "Street Ministry"
- Part 6: "The Ministry of Drama"

Cost: \$25



FCF Scout Handbook

Cost: \$6

Number: 729NZ026

Pathfinder Missions Brochure

Cost: \$.10

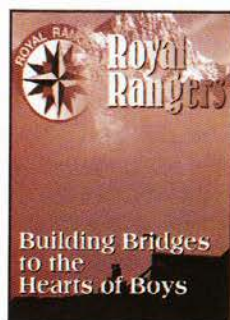
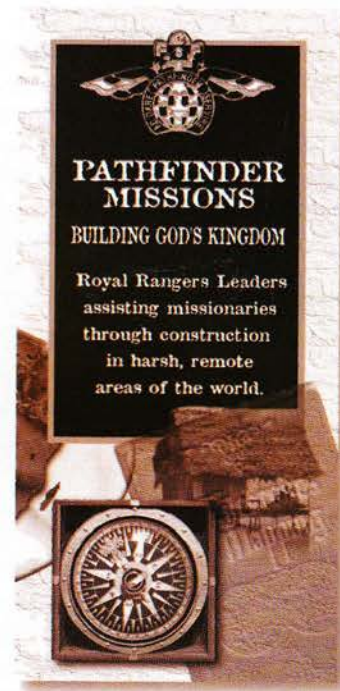
Number: 729NZ019

New FCF Products

The national office, thanks to the financial backing of FCF, now has two new products of interest to FCF members: the Pathfinder Missions brochure and the FCF Scout Handbook. The brochure highlights the Pathfinder program and how FCF members can participate in this exciting overseas church construction ministry.

The handbook includes needed information for FCF Scouts on the district, region, and national levels.

To order, call 1-800-641-4310



Cost: \$18

To Order: Call the national office, 417-862-2781, ext. 4177

New

Rangers Promotional Binder

Ideal for sectional, district, and regional leaders to promote Royal Rangers in the local churches

Contents:

- Instructions for church presentation
- History of Royal Rangers
- Training opportunities
- Articles of interest
- Promotional brochures
- High Adventure/Leader magazine
- Harvest Task Force efforts
- Order form
- Catalog
- The Last Best Thing, Jr. Councilmen project
- Leadership Training Course pamphlet
- Building Bridges, 9-minute promotional video

Leader fcf feature

by Bob Killin

Trails of the Mountain

The "Official" Report of a Trip to Alaska

I had the privilege of going to Alaska again the first week of February 1999. In conjunction with their Quyyurtequ or "Q" (a winter outing), I was to conduct a wilderness vigil. One might ask why Alaska in February; let me share with you the why's and what for's.

Their FCF president, over a year ago, had arranged for me to conduct a wilderness vigil at their trace. The trace is held in September—a beautiful time to be in Alaska—cool nights, pleasant days, and no bugs. The Lord had even arranged for my airfare. I was bumped from a flight returning from an NTC in Arizona and given a free flight anywhere the airline flies. As the time drew closer, several fellow FCF'ers planned to go with me. In the middle of August my wife got progressively worse with Fibroid Tumors and required surgery. The surgery was scheduled for the same week as the trace and vigil. Let me share with you, God is still in the prayer-answering business. The surgery was conducted, and praise God NO CANCER was found! When I contacted the men in Alaska to reschedule the date, many of them could not change dates due to job restrictions. They asked if I could come up in February.

The date was set, but my friends could not go in February, so off I went alone to the coldest weather Alaska had seen in over 10 years. Cold weather is not new to me, having attended WNTC and the Oregon District Winter Pow Wow for more than 10 years. I knew about dressing in layers, but didn't realize you could wear all the clothes you have and still be cold.

Even being from the lower 48, I realized that the guys in Alaska had some adjustments to make in dealing with the extreme cold. Things like:

- Amsoil will not freeze up until it is minus 65 degrees—but your Suburban will not start if you leave the dome light on all night.
- Amsoil on the key pad of your cell phone will not keep you from receiving phone calls—but not giving out the right phone number will.
- Hot water, when thrown up into minus 45 degree air, will vaporize—whether or not you are dressed in warm clothes or not.
- Moose, either calves or cows, do not like to share "their" roads.
- It is difficult to stick a knife or hawk in a frozen log.
- It gets cold in the lodge when they turn off the boiler.

Those who desire to test their skills need to camp at minus 40 degrees. One quickly finds out how good they and their equipment are. My capote is fine for the lower 48, but up there it needed some help. The winter mocs I made worked well. They are made out of sheep skin, fur on and out. I wore just cotton socks and my feet were both warm and dry. No chance of them getting wet; it never got warm enough for the ice and snow to melt. Two pair of mittens was a must, as well as a facemask. The skin freezes fast. Of course long underwear was a must.

The vigil incorporated some unusual circumstances. Rotating and allowing only one tester and candidate outside spending minimal time. The extreme cold made it vital that fires were kept going. Other parts of the vigil had their own difficulties to overcome that during more normal temperatures would have been trivial. After everything was said and done, all five candidates passed, and congratulations went out to each of them.

Most of the activities were held inside—how to start fires and dress for the extreme cold, instructions and the starting of a survival walking staff. When it finally warmed up, a "slide for life" was put up—simply a cable stretched from a pole down several hundred feet onto a field. A few had never "slid" before and were a little hesitant, but all returned for a second turn.

During the evening services the Holy Spirit moved in marvelous ways. The first night 13 boys accepted Christ as Lord. The second night many received the infilling of the Holy Spirit, and several were slain in the Spirit. Testimony was made of a healing on site. One of the men hurt himself while helping move a heavy load upstairs. Latter, he fell on the ice and was in great pain. After prayer the pain quickly subsided, and before the end of the "Q" everything was near normal.

The "Q" was an incredible event, to say the least, and an event I would attend again. Until then, and until He comes, keep your powder dry, traps oiled, flints sharp, nose to the wind, and feet warm.

Leader harvest task force

Reaching Your Community Through Sports

by Marshall Bruner,
ministries and publications coordinator

Have you ever held a Sportsorama in your community as an evangelistic tool? If not, you're missing an incredible opportunity. Boys are naturally attracted to sports, so what better way to reach them where they live than by conducting a Sportsorama at a nearby public park or gymnasium?

Here's how you begin:

Four Weeks Before, or sooner

During the outpost meeting this week, announce the upcoming Sportsorama. Explain that every Ranger is invited to the Sportsorama and that they all should invite their non-Christian friends.

Senior commander, hold a commander's meeting after the outpost meeting to begin planning for the Sportsorama. Invite the junior guides and senior guides to attend. Begin to plan what sporting event(s) will be held, and discuss possible locations where the event may be conducted.

In your planning, consider awarding the Sports Achievement Badge to the younger boys. The badge normally requires 4 weeks of participation, but since the entire day of the Sportsorama can be devoted to one particular sport, the boys can go home that day having earned this badge—and having a sense of accomplishment.

Another idea for the Sportsorama is to begin boys on requirements needed to earn the various sports merits—such as the Baseball Merit, the Basketball Merit, the Football Merit, and the Track Merit—then encourage the non-churched boys who attend to come to Royal Rangers to complete the merit requirements.

Further plan on what type of trophies can be purchased from a local sporting store and how many trophies will be needed. Boys need lots of awards, so the more ways you can award the boys the more likely they will be to attend Royal Rangers.

At least 4 weeks before the activity, announce the Sportsorama in your local newspaper and on the radio. Christian radio stations often make public service announcements free of charge.

Three Weeks Before

At least 3 weeks before the event, involve your Royal Rangers in the seed-planting stage: going door-to-door in

your community, passing out flyers to announce the Sportsorama. They should even tote *The Ultimate* Royal Rangers brochure, which invites boys to Royal Rangers and explains how they can accept Christ as Lord.

During this invitation outing, the Rangers must be accompanied by a commander. They should ask each resident if she or he has a boy or boys living at home. If so, the Rangers would give the resident a flyer and a copy of *The Ultimate* brochure. If nobody is home, they should leave the materials on the doorstep.

Two Weeks Before

During this outpost meeting, allow time to lead the Rangers in specific prayer for the Sportsorama. The Rangers should be informed that the entire event is not being held just to have fun, but that it is a tool to interest boys in Royal Rangers—and that if boys will come to Royal Rangers meetings, they can be led to Christ.

One Week Before

During this week, give each Royal Ranger a "Parent Permission" form, which they will have their parent sign then return to you the day of the Sportsorama. Excite the Rangers by explaining in detail all the activities planned for the upcoming Sportsorama.

One Day Before

On this day the commanders, Rangers, and church workers will prepare the Sportsorama location. Chalk dust may be required, for example, to mark the paths for racers. Flags may need to be placed to indicate playing fields. Hotdog stands can be erected to prepare for the Rangers fundraising food sales.

The Big Event

The day has arrived. Excitement is in the air. The beauty of the outdoors sets the mood for a great time. The smell of hotdogs permeates the gathering. Trophies, merits, and badges are lining the awards table. Boys are ready for competition, and parents proudly watch on. Evangelism is about to begin....

"What?" one might ask. "What does evangelism have to do with a good ol' Sportsorama?" Well, it works like this: Your guests see, perhaps for the first time, a group of youngsters praying together before the competition then competing together in a Christlike manner. At the conclusion they listen to a short devotional about the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Then they are invited back to Royal Rangers, where the discipleship and soul winning begins. That, my friend, is evangelism!

A Guide to Build Men

The Royal Rangers Advancement System

by Paul Stanek

The advancement trail is the measuring rod of your outpost. It consists of more than requirements and activities. It is a living, dynamic process where boys can be channeled, motivated, and energized to achieve. Providing a wholesome learning experience will build self-esteem, hone practical skills, build quality character and values, and implement a sense of community. Education is the process of imparting knowledge and skills. The advancement system is the measuring tool used to evaluate what has been learned and achieved.

A vibrant, energized training program will help boys grow to their greatest potential. Four elements will help you to build that action-filled advancement program in your outpost.

1. Boys grow by learning. They learn best by doing and applying their new skills and knowledge. In your training program, tell the boy how to do it, show the him how to do it, and then let him do it. This method will build energy in your advancement program.

2. Boys learn through testing. Testing needs to be practical and fair. It should also be a learning experience. Testing comes in many forms: competition, examinations, skill performance, research, and investigation. Boys need to be measured by their own achievements and goals.

3. Boys need to be reviewed. Reviewing is the process of reinforcing that which is achieved and learned. Reviewing should include how the boy can apply that skill to himself and his faith, to his community and family. This is one of the purposes of having a board of review in your outpost.

4. Boys need to be recognized for their achievement. Recognition rewards a boy for his work and attainment. No matter how small the progress, a boy needs to be awarded for his work and accomplishments. Recognition builds self-value and confidence in boys. It is the carrot that challenges a boy to achieve more.

The advancement trail builds confidence. Confidence is a resource that is needed in the process of maturity and growth. Without confidence, a boy will go throughout life with a sense of inferiority.

A dynamic, energized, attainable, and achievable advancement trail will build these elements of confidence:

"A vibrant, energized training program will help boys grow to their greatest potential."

1 . Self-Confidence

Self-confidence is developed and achieved when a boy meets and conquers a challenge. Boys will never grow until they are challenged physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually. Self-confidence builds self-esteem and spirit. A challenged and learning spirit is a maturing individual that is full of potential and life.

2. Peer Confidence

Boys want to be measured on the same standard as others. The advancement trail places all boys on the same playing field. They are measured by the same measurements and rules. This provides peer confidence, unity, group acceptance, and cohesiveness.

3. Confidence in Leadership

The advancement system provides for confidence in adult leadership. Commanders who are consistent in helping boys to achieve will earn the respect and confidence of their boys. Consistency and normality builds confidence in all levels of leadership in the outpost. Confident leadership builds confident boys.

The advancement trail accommodates four aspects of growth in a boy. The advancement system will help a boy to grow physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually. Today's confidence will help boys to face tomorrow's opportunities. Confidence builds hope, faith, and assurance for those who are willing to accept the challenge of today. The benefit of the Royal Rangers advancement program will give boys the ability to move successfully into the next century. Of this we are confident.

Leader devotions for boys

David Boyd

Object Lesson: Each One Is Important

Supplies: A bat, a tennis racket, and a golf club

The boys will learn that just as different items are used for different games and different purposes, so different talents and abilities are important for different tasks. Each person is special and important in God's eyes. We cannot judge the value of someone by outward appearance since only God can see the heart. We can be happy with the way God made us.

Hold up a bat, a tennis racket, and a golf club and ask, "Which of these is the most important?" The value of each object depends on the game being played. A bat would not be a useful golf club; a golf club would not make a good bat. Each is most valuable when it is used for its intended purpose. Each is equally important.

Discuss how people are physically different: Some children may be big, others are small, and others are medium-sized. Each child has different abilities: Some excel in academics; others are good at sports. Some may be musical; others get along well with lots of people. Each child can be happy with the way he is, because God made him that way and has a place in life where he fits well because of it.

Psalm 139:13 says, "You [God] created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb." God made us. He watches over us. Psalm 139:16 says, "All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." God has a plan for our lives. We are the correct pieces of "equipment" for His purposes.

Object Lesson: Rules Are Rules

Supplies: A basketball, a baseball, a fishing net, a card that says, "Rules," and a picture or drawing of a traffic signal large enough for all to see. It should show the red, yellow, and green lights.

The boys will learn that rules are important. Without rules we couldn't play games. More importantly, without rules for life, we wouldn't be safe. Rules are created to give us guidelines in which to play, learn, and live safely. God has given us rules, and we please Him when we obey them.

Hold up a basketball and a baseball. Ask, "Who knows how to play a game with these balls?" Allow the boys to respond. Ask: "Would it be fair if you had the basketball and I came along and tackled you? What game allows tackling?"

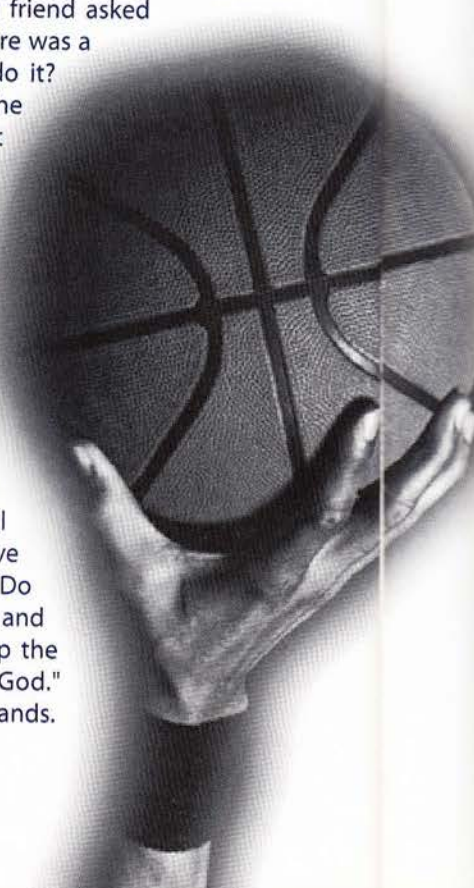
Would it be fair if I hit the baseball into the outfield and someone caught it with a net?" Hold up a fishing net.

Show a card that says "Rules" and ask, "What is a rule?" Allow responses. Explain that one purpose for rules is to allow each of us to have a better and safer time playing a game.

Hold up the picture of a traffic signal. Ask: "What is this? Where do you find these traffic signals? What does each color mean?" Talk about what drivers should do when they see each color. Ask what might happen if a car refused to stop when it was supposed to. Talk about the importance of obedience and the danger that is created when we disobey.

Discuss the purpose of signals on corners for walkers to safely cross the street. Ask: "If a friend asked you to cross the street when there was a no-crossing signal, would you do it? Why or why not?" Talk about the need to obey regardless of what someone else tries to get us to do.

Explain that God gives us rules, which we can find in the Bible, to keep us safe and to help us serve Him. Mention that it pleases God when we learn to obey His rules. His rules are for our safety. God's Word guides us by giving us instructions to follow. If we obey God's instructions, He will keep us safe from harm as we live for Him. Deuteronomy 4:2 says, "Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the Lord your God." God's Word is full of God's commands.



Leader devotions for boys

These rules are designed to keep us safe, happy, and in the center of God's will for our lives.

Pass It Quick Game:

Supplies: Two identical boxes of various items of sports equipment.

Divide your group into two teams. Have each team form a circle with the boys' backs to the center of the circle. The circle should be fairly tight and not spread out. Choose someone in each circle to be the starter, and give that person a box full of sports equipment. When you say go, the starter grabs an item and passes it to the boy on his left who passes it to the boy on his left, and so on. Meanwhile, the starter grabs another item and passes it again to the boy on his left. The starter continues to do this until each item in the box has been passed to the boy on his left. All the items are passed all the way around the circle until they reach the last person in the circle. This person must place the items back into the box. If the starter has not yet emptied the box completely, the last person has to hold the items until the box is empty. The first team to pass all of the items around the circle and return them to the box wins.

Explain to the boys the concept of teamwork. In a game like this, every person is important and must work together. If one person passes items so quickly that the next person isn't ready, it slows down the entire team. Each team member must help the next team member by passing the items in such a way that the items don't get delayed or dropped. The most unified team wins. Rangers is much like this team game: If every boy helps every other boy, the whole outpost is better. Each boy in your Rangers outpost is important both to your outpost and to God.

Explain to the boys that they can make visitors feel welcome. They can help the new boys learn what they need to know to advance in the Rangers program. Each

boy is important to God individually. And each is an important part of a great team. Romans 12:5 says, "So in Christ we who are many from one body, and each member belongs to all the others." We belong to each other, and we can help others be the best they can be.

Teamwork On The Court

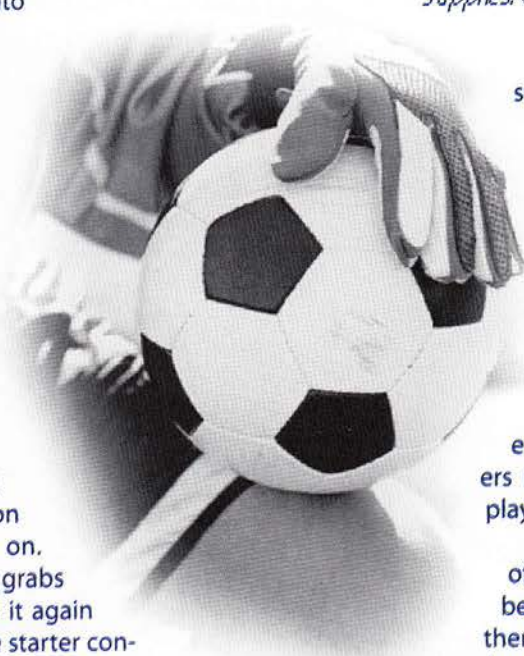
Supplies: One basketball

Divide the group into two teams, and have them stand on opposing sides of the room. Hold onto a basketball as you talk. Ask the following questions: "How many people play basketball on each side at once? How does it feel to play on a team when one player hogs the ball? Why isn't it fun? If you have a ball-hog on the team, is it harder or easier to win? Why does a ball-hog make it hard for a team to win?"

Teamwork is extremely important in basketball. Each player has a job to do and must do it well. Ask, "What do the shortest basketball players usually do? What do the tallest basketball players usually do?" For the game to be successful, the players must do their part.

We are all on God's team. God has a job for each of us. Ask: "What can we do on God's team? Can we be witnesses? Can we help give to missions? Are there things around the church we can do to help advance the gospel? What are some of those things?"

We are a part of God's team to reach the world. We can't each do everything, but God needs each of us to do our part. We can let our light shine to our world around us. If each of us do our part, we can successfully win this world together for Jesus.



BUCKAROO BAG BOY

by Brenda Millhouser

Items needed

- 1—red lunch sack or gift bag (size of lunch bag)
- 1—2-inch foam ball
- 1—small straw cowboy hat
- 1—1-inch Royal Rangers decal
- 1—12-inch piece of Jute or Twine
- small bunch of Spanish Moss (for hair)
- 1—6- to 7-foot pack of tan twisted paper ribbon
- 1—piece of yellow twisted paper ribbon
- 2—rubber bands
- 1—white wire twisty tie
- scissors
- glue gun/glue stick
- fine line black marker



Start by folding the top of the bag down about 3 inches to the inside of the bag (Diagram #1). Fill the inside of the bag half full of loosely packed shredded paper or poly fiberfil. (Don't stuff it tight). Next gather the top in just above the bottom of the fold, and secure it with a rubber band, but not too tightly (Diagram #2).

Before you go any farther, stop and untwist the tan and yellow packs of paper ribbon and cut the yellow pack into a triangle (Diagram #3). Lay to one side. Take the tan pack and wrap around the 2-inch foam ball, and with a rubber band draw together at the bottom of the ball and leave the excess like a tail at the bottom—this forms the head and the neck (Diagram #4).

Now ease the neck portion of the head into the opening at the top of the bag body. A drop or two of hot glue will ensure it stays in place. Work the Spanish moss out into a flat circle with your fingers to about the size of a large Royal Rangers patch or approximately 3-inches and, with hot glue, glue to the top of the head in the place the hair should be. Now you can hot glue the cowboy hat onto the head.

With a fine point marker, dot two small eyes on the face. Take the yellow paper triangle and, with the point down at the back of the head, bring the two points to the front and criss-cross them and secure them with a small piece of white twisty wire (the type that comes on bread wrappers.) This will represent the Buckaroo slide. Now all you have left is to peel the decal off and place it on one

Leader crafts for kids

side of the Buckaroos shirt or on the back of the neckerchief (or both). With the 12-inch pack of jute or twine, wrap up a lasso for the cowboy and hot glue to the side of the bag boy's body.

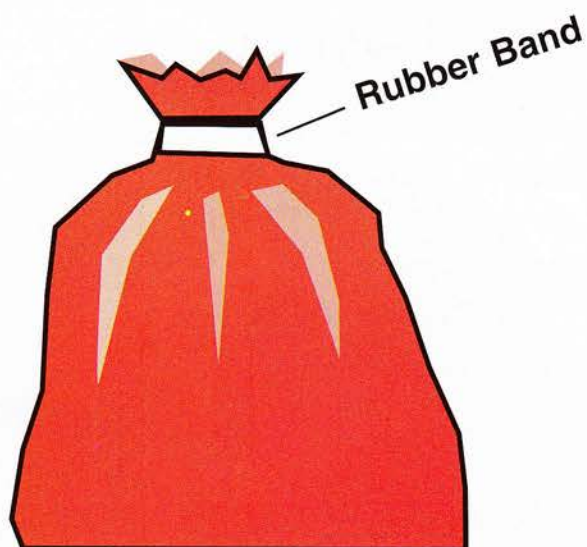
These are fun and easy to make. They make great decorations for the Buckaroos meeting room or the boy's room at home, or really neat table decorations for a father/son banquet.

You can also make the rest of the outpost members by changing the bag to regular brown lunch bag for the Pioneers and Trailblazers, or a yellow bag with a red vest and an Indian headband with a feather for the Straight Arrows.

(1)



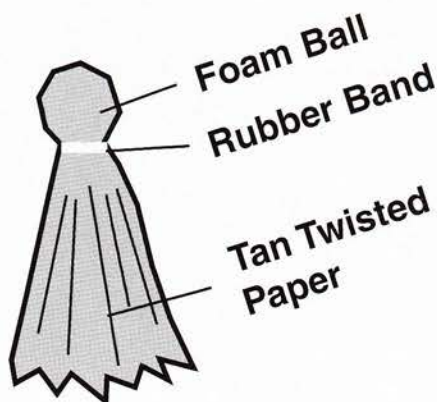
(2)



(3)



(4)



Royal Rangers

Observing National Royal Rangers Week October 3-9

One of the most productive means for winning and keeping boys for Christ has been the Royal Rangers ministry. The aim of this local church ministry is to develop the total boy for Christian service. Local outposts have the opportunity to highlight this dynamic ministry during the National Royal Rangers Week, October 3-9.

Here are a few ideas how to promote this ministry during National Royal Rangers Week:

Recognize Royal Rangers and Leaders: Weeks in advance the senior commander should approach the pastor to request permission to dedicate a portion or all of the Sunday morning or evening service to the Royal Rangers ministry. On that day honor the boys and leaders during the service. Have them seated together in sharp uniforms, or allow them to parade into the sanctuary. A short or lengthy attribute to the Royal Rangers ministry can be conducted according to the pastor's wishes. The presentation should be colorful, full of music, and lively.

Special Activities: During the National Royal Rangers Week, encourage involvement in joint boy-men or boy-family activities—such as a cookout, a campout, a hike, a ball game, or an outing.

Royal Rangers Banquet: Arrange a banquet for boys and their leaders. Invite family members. The banquet could climax a day of various special activities, as noted above.

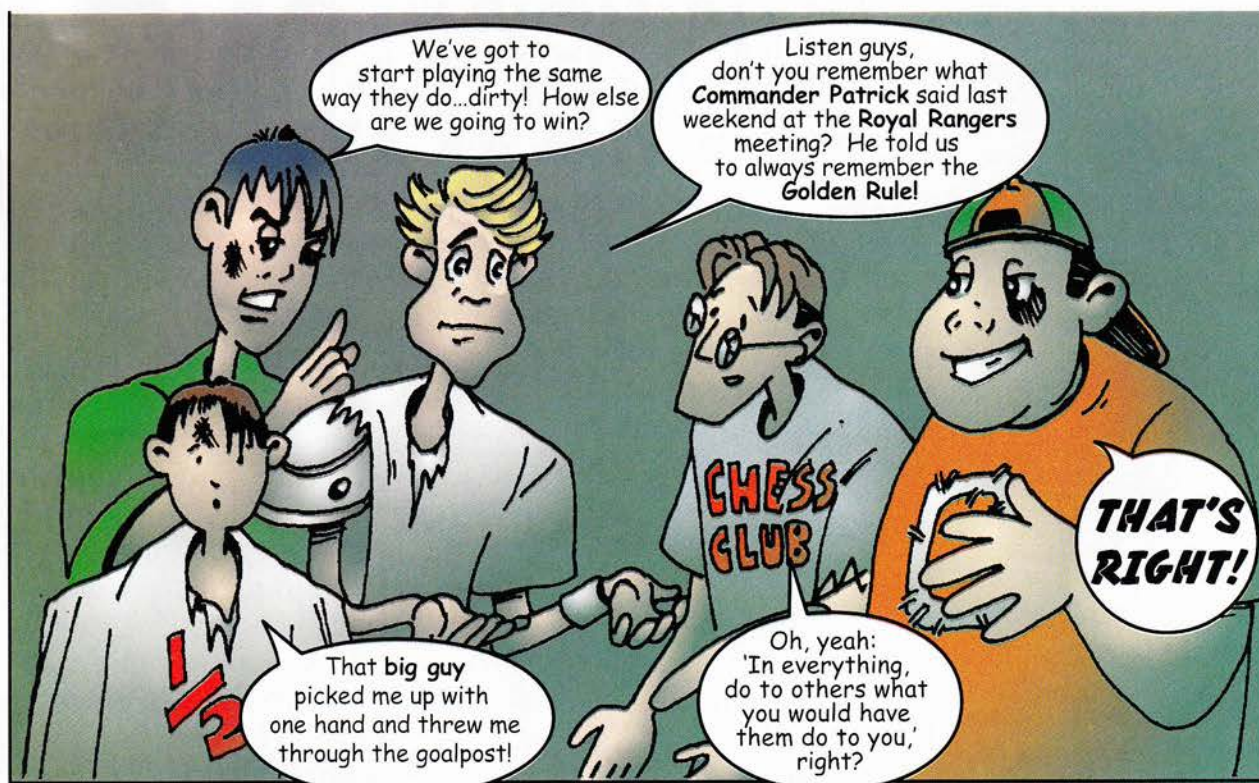
Outpost Open House: Extend an invitation to the church, family, and friends to attend an outpost open house. The announcement could be made by special notes or in the form of a public announcement in the church bulletin and local newspaper. Plans could include activities so guests can see the operation of the outpost meeting.

Outpost Breakfast: This event can be held at the church or a restaurant. A theme can be followed. Boys who are without fathers can be sponsored by men in the church. A speaker with a short inspiration and challenging talk or a video with a spiritual theme could be part of the program. Recognition for outstanding service and achievements could also be rewarded.

Recruiting New Members: Prior to this week, reach out into the community with promotional literature. Invite nonchurched fathers and sons to participate in the National Royal Rangers Week activities. Show them you care for them. Personal contact will produce great benefits for the local church outreach and the Royal Rangers ministry.

Regardless of how you celebrate National Royal Rangers Week, be certain to fully promote this important week. Make your Royal Rangers feel important. And be certain, during this week and others, that your church members understand the vital importance of our evangelistic ministry.



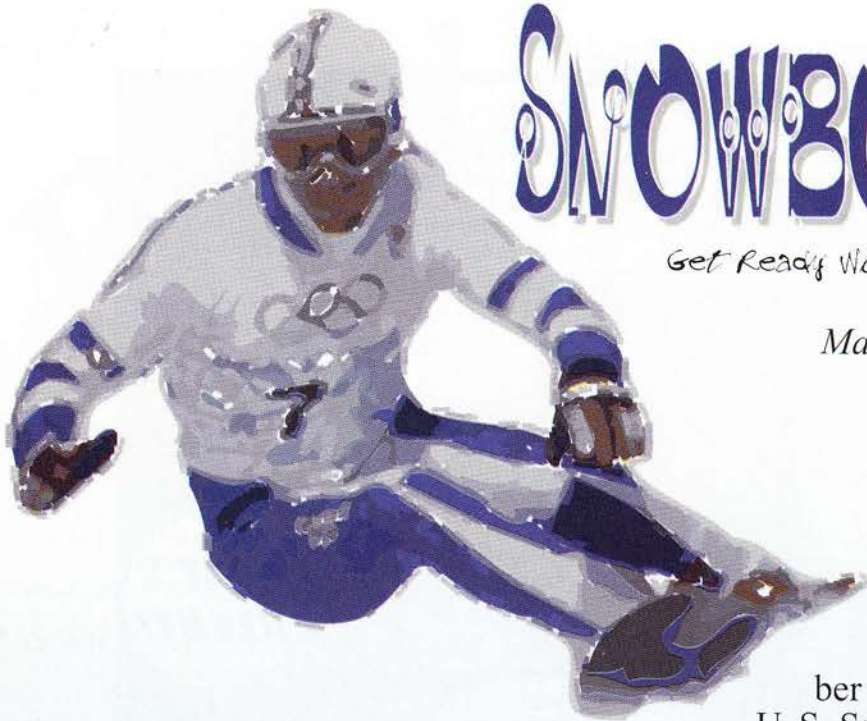


The Rascal Rangers continued on with the game, refusing to play dirty like the Bombers. Confused and angry, the Bombers got sloppy.



With 5 seconds left, game tied, and the Rascal Rangers on the Bombers' 1-yard line....





SNOWBOARDING

Get Ready Winter—Here We Come!

Martha R. Fehl

*Are you ready for winter?
Here's a winter sport your out-
post can plan for!*

Snowboarding borrows some techniques from three sports: skateboarding, surfing, and skiing. It's like skateboarding, but the boards are bigger—4 or 5 feet long, sometimes nearly 6 feet. It also has similarities to surfing: Snowboarders borrow some of their lifestyle from the Southern California beach culture. This sport is probably most like skiing because it takes place on snow, and as a business it falls naturally within the ski industry. You buy your equipment at ski stores and you ride your snowboards at ski resorts.

Ross Powers rides wild. Sixteen years old, Powers is the second youngest

member of the U. S. Snowboarding Team. With his routine last winter in Japan, Powers won the richest World Cup freestyle snowboarding ever held in Asia. He says he is self-taught from living in Vermont.

Boys ages 7 to 17 have helped make snowboarding the nation's fastest-growing snow sport. More than half of America's 2 million boarders are in that age group. Snowboarders are welcome at most ski resorts, which have special playgrounds for boarders' enjoyment.

Safety Tips To Know Before You Go

A snowboard is a specially designed board with two bindings permanently affixed at an angle. It resembles a wide ski (but shorter), and the rider maintains an upright posi-

tion with both boots securely snapped into the bindings.

"Body language" is used to maneuver the board back and forth across a snowy slope.

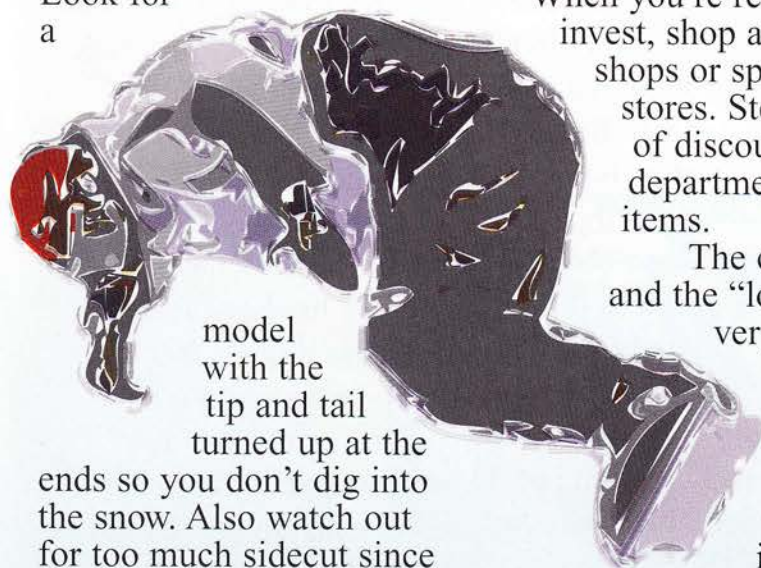
If you're a beginner, go slow. Never go it alone in natural terrain. It's best to enjoy the sport at ski resorts since they keep the slopes groomed, and there are patrols to help people who get into difficulty.

Bindings are important—how to turn, fall (and you will), and side-slip (for slowing and stopping).

Proper clothing is also important. Burton is the leading manufacturer in the field making junior products since 1989. With a softer flex, the board bends more and is a proven shape for smaller riders. At age 41, Skip Beitzel, proprietor of Hickory and Tweed, is hooked on snowboarding. He plans to get his 6-year-old started this year, which he says is about the right time to start in the sport.

Snowboards aren't cheap. Expect to pay from \$260 to \$600, with the lower-end price for a shorter board for children. Don't buy a board that has bindings that can easily break or lose their flex.

Look for a



model with the tip and tail turned up at the

ends so you don't dig into the snow. Also watch out for too much sidecut since you want a stable board that keeps as much contact with the snow as possible.

The flex is very important. Snowboards are made to give and bend as you traverse the slopes, go over bumps, and make turns. Cheap boards lose their maneuverability; stiff ones are hard to control.

Boots come in two varieties: hard and soft. The hard boots are a lot like skiing or mountaineering boots. The soft boots are more comfortable and suitable for general wear. Chris Marinier, a salesperson at Sunsport in Old Greenwich, Connecticut, wears them when he shovels snow from the drive-

way. Prices range from about \$120 to \$300. You may prefer to rent equipment on a daily basis for about \$25 a day and take introductory lessons, which are available at most resorts.

When you're ready to invest, shop at ski shops or specialty stores. Steer clear of discount or department store items.

The clothing and the "look" are very

important to

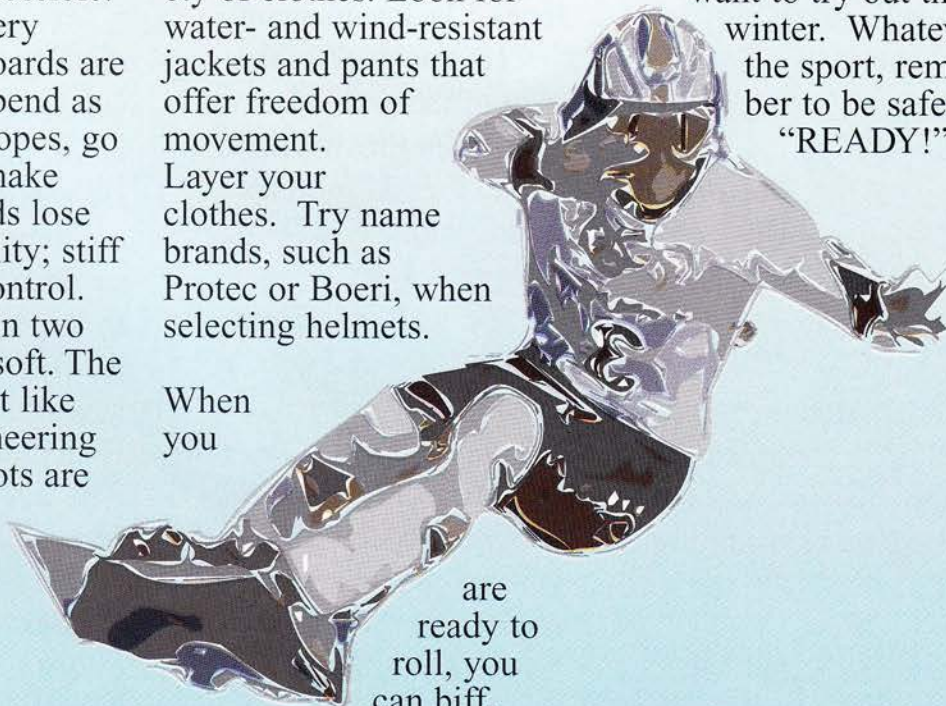
boarding.

Apparel

manufacturers carry a variety of clothes. Look for water- and wind-resistant jackets and pants that offer freedom of movement.

Layer your clothes. Try name brands, such as Protec or Boeri, when selecting helmets.

When you



are ready to roll, you can biff, bump, or but-

ter the muffin—in snowboard lingo, that's wipe

out, hit a bump, or spin on the board's nose.

Snowboard Lingo

"I used to slide the sticks, but now I fly fat and stinky" would translate to "I used to downhill ski, but now I'm a snowboarder."

Betty: An accomplished female snowboarder

Biff: To wipe out

Bonk: To hit a bump

Butter the muffin: To spin on the board's nose

Fakie: To ride backward

Jib: To slide over a bump

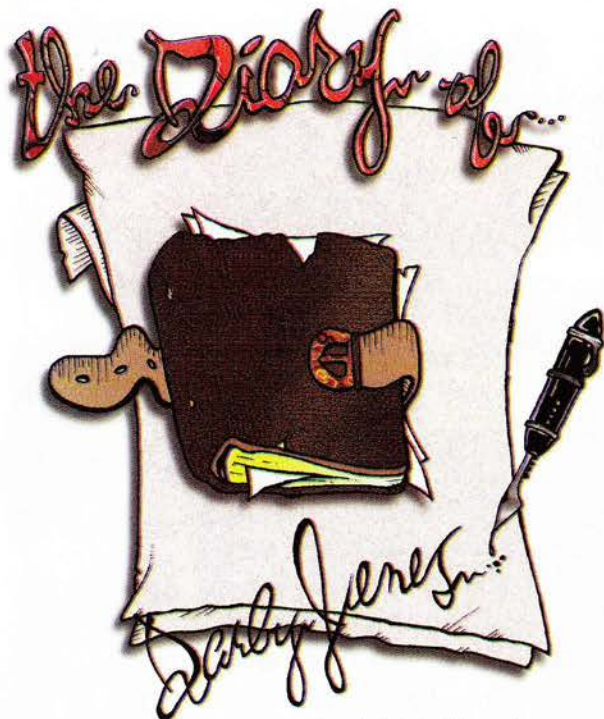
Laggin' gaper: A skier or boarder who's in the way

McTwist: a 540-degree turn

Ollie: An airborne jump

Sketch: A near wipeout

This is a sport you may want to try out this winter. Whatever the sport, remember to be safe and "READY!"



by Robb Hawks

Hi, I'm Darby Jones, Jr. and that man in the Rangers uniform—that guy by the ambulance—well, he's my dad, Commander Darby Jones, Sr. Oh, the ambulance? Well, you see, it all started with a cloud on our Trailblazers ski trip to Bogus Basin in Idaho.

"Jack, I can't see a thing!" I said.

"Maybe we should wait for your dad," Jack replied.

"What are you guys afraid of?" Henry said with a laugh. "It's just a cloud."

"And we are right in the middle of it," Jack snapped back.

Jack was right. The ski lift had just dumped us off at the top the highest ski run. Low clouds hung over

the mountains. The clouds were so thick we could only see about 50 yards in any direction.

Now normally that wouldn't be such a big deal. But none of us had ever skied this slope before. And as it would happen, the first 50

yards of this slope

were steep. Everything past that dropped down into the white fog. None of us knew what was beyond.

"Let's wait for Commander Jones," Jack said again.

"He got stuck at the back of the line. He won't make it up the mountain for another 30 minutes," Henry said. "What is there to be afraid of?"

And with that, Henry bent his legs and with a shove on his poles began his descent. Jack and I just started in shock as Henry disappeared down the face of the slope, over the ridge, and into the cloud.

"Yahoo!" came Henry's joyous cry. And then he was gone.

Moments later, my dad,

Commander Jones, slid off the lift and glided over to Jack and me.

"Boy, this cloud coverage is thick. We're going to have to take this slope real easy," he said.

"It's too late, Commander Jones. Henry just took off down the mountain," Jack said. "What are you going to do?"

"That's a good question," Commander Jones said. "Henry has been skiing since he was 4 years old. Still, he should not have just taken off like that."

My dad adjusted his gloves and thought, *I guess I had better follow down after him and make sure he is not hurt.*

My dad was normally a very careful skier. He would never win any speed races, but he was steady. He was now faced with a problem. Since he couldn't see Henry, he would have to follow Henry's tracks in the fresh snow. The problem, of course, was that Henry was a hot dog. He flew down the mountain as fast as he could.

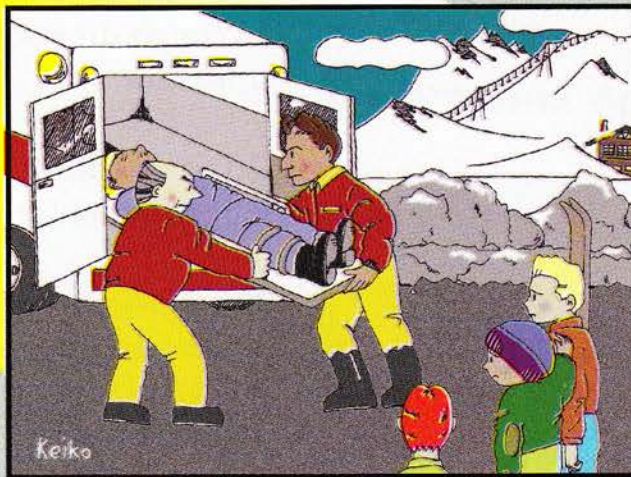
For the second time in 5 minutes, Jack and I watched as one of our outpost members slid down the slope and then disappeared over the ridge and into the cloud.

Although he tried to go slow, Commander Jones found himself going faster and faster. Towering fir trees raced past as he accelerated down the mountain. Something was wrong. The commander could feel it in his bones. There should have been other ski tracks in the snow. But the only set the commander saw were the ones made by Henry. If only he could see farther ahead, he wouldn't be so worried. Faster and faster he went.

Then it happened. Every skier's worst nightmare—well, every beginning skier, that is. Commander Jones followed Henry's ski tracks right up a small steep hill. It wasn't until he hit the top of the hill that he realized what was going to happen next. The hill suddenly ended, and Commander Jones found himself flying through the air.

Now if a skier is mentally prepared for a jump, he might have a fair chance of landing gracefully. But poor Commander Jones was just not ready for anything like this. Within moments of going airborne he lost his

balance. One leg was soon a foot higher than the other. His arms and ski poles flailed wildly. And then he hit the snow. Head over heels he tumbled. His ski bindings released just as they were meant to. The first ski flew off to be followed moments later by the second one.



Finally he executed one last flip and then went into a snow drift, arms and head first. Only the lower part of his legs and ski boots could be seen. The rest of him was buried deeply in the drift.

And that is just how we found Dad 30 minutes later. Henry had made it to the bottom of the mountain and had taken the lift back to the top. We waited around for my dad, but he never showed up.

The ski patrol helped us find Dad and dig him out of

the snow. The impact had rammed the sleeves of his ski jacket all the way up to his armpits. His ski hat had been driven down to his chin.

That brings me back to the beginning of this story. The paramedics put an inflatable splint around Dad's knee and loaded him into the back of the ambulance for a trip to the hospital for X rays.

We all learned an important lesson from this: Just because something is okay for one person, does not mean that everyone should try it. There's also a spiritual parallel in all this: The apostle Paul wrote about it in 1 Corinthians 8:9 when he said, "Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak" (NIV).

Some believers are not distracted away from God by certain things; others are. The important thing is that we love God with all our heart and that we do not become a stumbling block to others by the things we do.



**Taken from "Laugh Lines"
on the internet**

Tom: How would you look if you were bald?

Pat: I would look with my eyes.

~ Sent by Nicole

Q: What did the goose say when he got cold?

A: "I have people-bumps!"

~ Sent by Claire

Q: Why couldn't the flower ride the bike?

A: Because it had lost its petals.

~ Sent by Alexis

Q: How did the frog die?

A: It croaked!

A Southern 911 Call

Emily Sue passed away and Bubba called 911. The 911 operator told Bubba that she would send someone out right away.

"Where do you live?" asked the operator.

Bubba replied, "At the end of Eucalyptus Drive."

The operator asked, "Can you spell that for me?"

There was a long pause and finally Bubba said, "How 'bout if I drag her over to Oak Street and you pick her up there?"

~ Sent by Kent



"One means fastball, two means curve, three means get ready to duck, Mark McGwire's at the plate."



Being a Good Sport

by
Betty Lou Mell

Do you like sports? Lots of people do. What's your favorite? If you can't think of one you especially like, stick around and one will probably spring up. Many sports have had their start in ways you may not have expected.

Pole vaulting probably began up as a chore. Imagine bone-weary farmers crossing boggy fields and canals, using long poles to vault across the mud. One day a happy farmer may have sailed across the mucky bog wearing a triumphant grin. "Hey!" someone may have observed. "That was some jump!" Before long farmers and their families may have been vaulting bogs all over the place to see who could vault the farthest. Who would have thought it would become an Olympic event?

Bungee jumping springs from how Malanesian men once proved their manhood. They plunged from a 65-foot tower. And tug-of-war games were introduced to tribesmen in the Philippines as a substitute for headhunting.

Kite flying is big in India, Thailand, and South America, and to make competition more exciting they've added a twist. Each player tries to cut their opponents' kite strings with sharp objects embedded in their kites. Doesn't that sound like unsportsman-like behavior? To us it might, but it's part of the game and included in the rules.

In any sport—team or individual—rules govern play. When someone doesn't play by the rules, they can be called on it, be given penalties, or be put out of the game. A player who consistently ignores the rules does not practice good sportsmanship. No one wants to play with someone who is not a good sport. Being a good sport is just as important as the rules are.

Are you a good sport? What does it take to be a good sport?

A good sport can take loss or defeat without complaining. A good sport can take a victory without gloating. A good sport treats his opponents and teammates with fairness, generosity, courtesy, and respect.

With a good sport you know what to expect at all times. A good sport knows the rules and plays by them. Playing by the rules gives everyone an equal opportunity—a fair chance.

A good sport doesn't take shortcuts, cheat, or shove ahead of little guys. He doesn't grab the ball or pout when it isn't his turn. He doesn't try to fix blame or hog the spotlight. He encourages others and pats a guy on the back even when he misses—especially when he misses. He is your friend when you lose. When you beat him, he doesn't hold a grudge. He doesn't get all puffed up with self-importance. He makes a good team player while he stays humble enough to give other players a hand.

When you think about it, good sportsmanship-like behavior is welcome anywhere on or off the playing field. Isn't that exactly how God wants us all to live?

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Sweatpants

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Youth L (14-16)	08AY0945	\$12.95
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