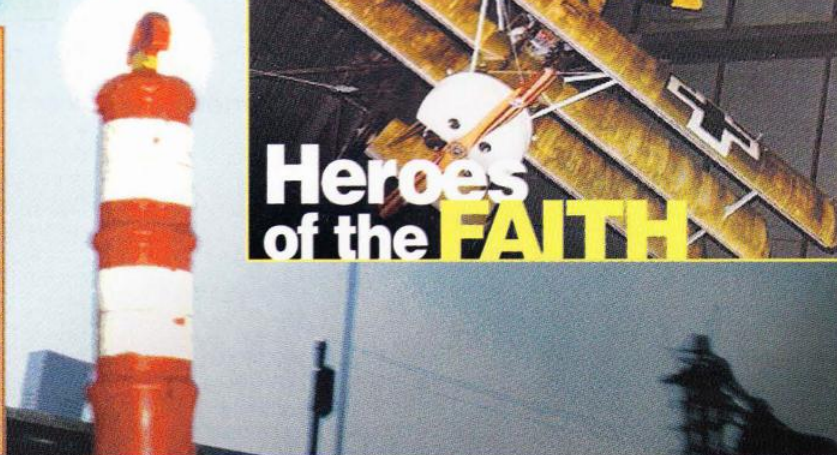
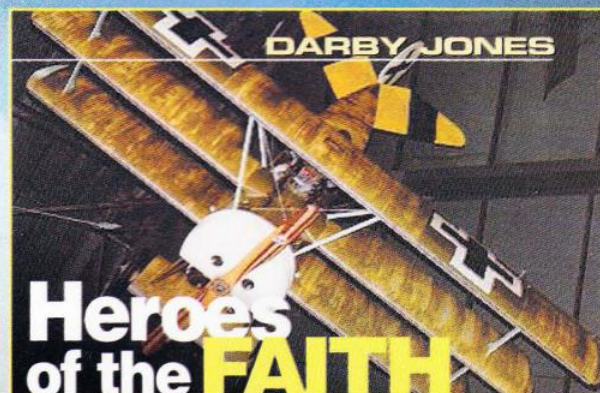
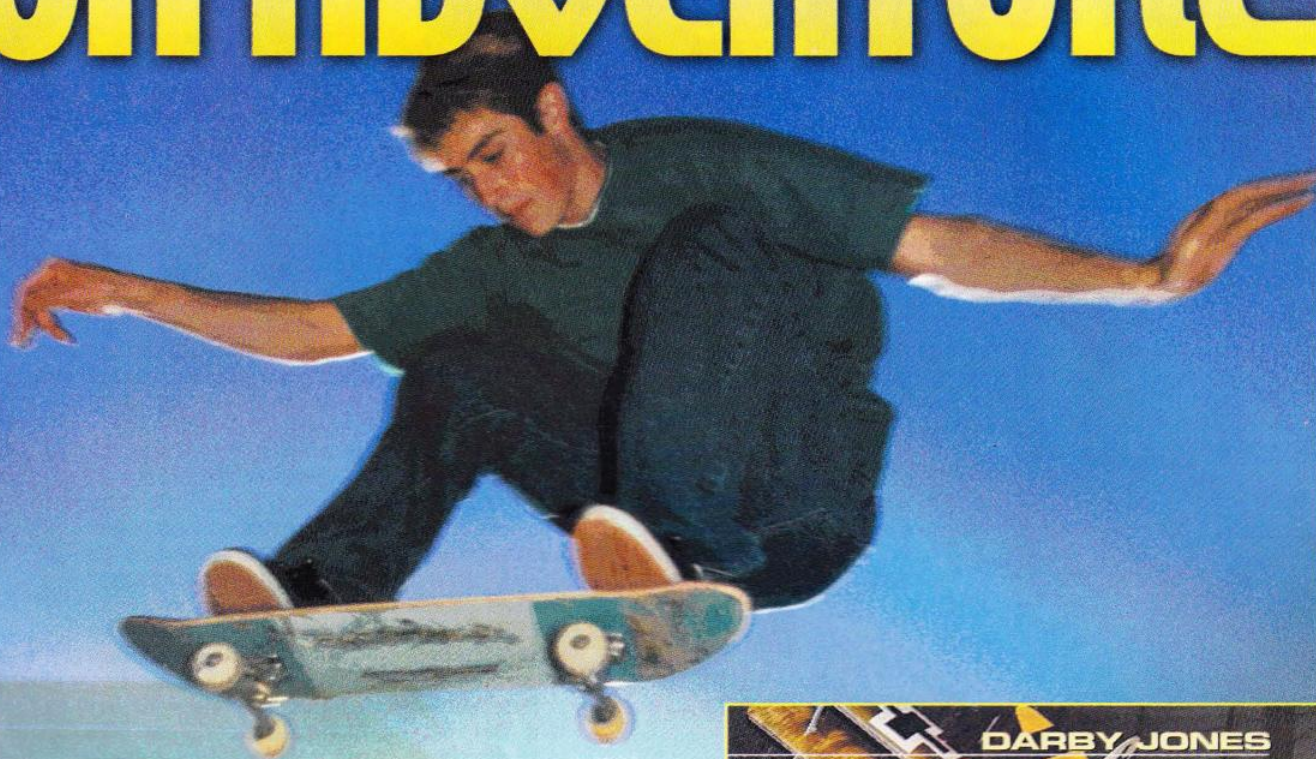


# HIGH ADVENTURE







# HIGH ADVENTURE



**Who Is Your Hero?**

**2**

**The Value of  
Royal Rangers**

**4**

**Get Ready  
To Skate**

**6**

**Family Fishing Fun**

**8**

**Rascal Rangers**

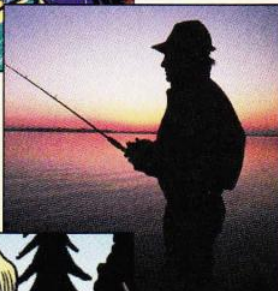
**10**

**Darby Jones**

**12**

**Comedy Corner**

**15**



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# Who Is Your Hero?

by Lonnie D. NANCE

**M**ay 10, 2000, was to me, a federal law officer, like any other day at work. However, one thing was different. It was a Wednesday afternoon and I was going to arrive home from work on time to eat dinner with my family. While I was driving home, I was thinking about the compass course I would teach to the Trailblazers that evening in Royal Rangers. I was thinking about how God directs our paths.

As I arrived home, I walked through the garage and into the kitchen. My wife, Janet, met me in the kitchen and gave me a kiss. She then stated that I had made it home just in time to eat dinner with the family. I made a comment that it was going to be different eating with the family, instead of reheating my meal in the microwave and eating alone. My wife then stated, "I just finished putting dinner on the table." I set my lunch bag down on the counter and decided that I would wait to take my weapon, handcuffs, and gear off until after we had eaten. My oldest son had helped my wife prepare a simple meal for dinner. The meal consisted of Polish sausage cooked on the grill, macaroni and cheese, green beans, chips, and lemonade or tea. We started to fill our plates and my wife suggested that we pray first over our meal.

As we were praying, a neighbor began knocking on our front door. She advised me that there was a man down the street with a gun, pointing it at a female. She stated that it appeared to be a domestic dispute. My first thought was not to get involved, because I don't handle domestic disputes in my line of work. Before I could say anything to my neighbor there was a loud pop that sounded like a car backfiring. My neighbor then yelled, "He just shot her!" I jumped up from the table and ran out the door in the direction that my neighbor was pointing. I could see two men in the street who appeared to be fighting. This was about a block from my home. As I arrived in the area, a young man pulled his truck to a stop and got out to assist in apprehending the shooter. He took the shotgun away from the shooter and placed it in the street. At this point I was assisting the neighbor who had first attempted to apprehend the suspect. We were holding the gunman down on the street. The younger man then asked what else he could do. I advised him that I was a law enforcement officer and told him to help hold the suspect down. The young man was more than willing to do so.

I started looking around for the victim in the shooting. A few minutes earlier as I had arrived at the scene, I observed several individuals and children running from the area. I also observed what appeared to be a white dog lying in the grass. What I had seen, however, was not a dog; it was the lady who had been shot. I rushed over to her and found that she had suffered a shotgun wound to the upper left shoulder and chest.

Knowing that I needed to return to the gunman who was still struggling to get free, I looked around for someone to assist the victim. When I turned to look for help, I observed a shotgun lying beside the victim. The first thought that ran through my head was if the victim also had a shotgun. I then looked toward the street and observed that the shotgun had been moved. Later





I learned that the young man, who had originally taken the shotgun from the gunman, had moved it in case the gunman would have gotten free.

I noted that my 14-year-old son John was nearby. I had no idea that John had followed me into the area. Knowing that John had been trained in CPR and first aid in Royal Rangers, I ordered John to apply pressure to the wound and to do what he had been trained to do (John received this valuable training at the Southern Missouri District Advancement Academy). John did just that without having to be shown what to do. He applied pressure on the wound and kept reassuring the lady that everything was going to be fine. He also watched for signs of shock. He continued to do this even after the ambulance arrived and until the lady was loaded into the ambulance. While John was administering first aid, he looked at me and stated, "Dad, we're going to be late for Rangers, and Commander Duane needs my help." I thought to myself, even in the time of trouble, he is thinking about Royal Rangers. Later, in talking with John, he stated that during this time, he was standing on Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (NKJV).

While John was administering first aid, I returned to the gunman and placed handcuffs on him. I also attempted to keep the crime scene area secure. As the first county sheriff's deputy arrived, he was glad to see that the area was secured, and that the gunman was in custody.

After the crime scene had been taken over by the Sheriff's Department, I had time to think about all that had just happened. This was when the father in me took over. I realized that my son had just put his life in danger by going into an area where there was an armed gunman. However, by being in the area, he was able to administer first aid to an individual who needed it. I was mad at him, but yet I was glad for him also. I had mixed feelings. Then I remembered that God's Word

says in Hebrews 13:5, "Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you'" (NKJV). I knew that God had His hand in the whole ordeal.

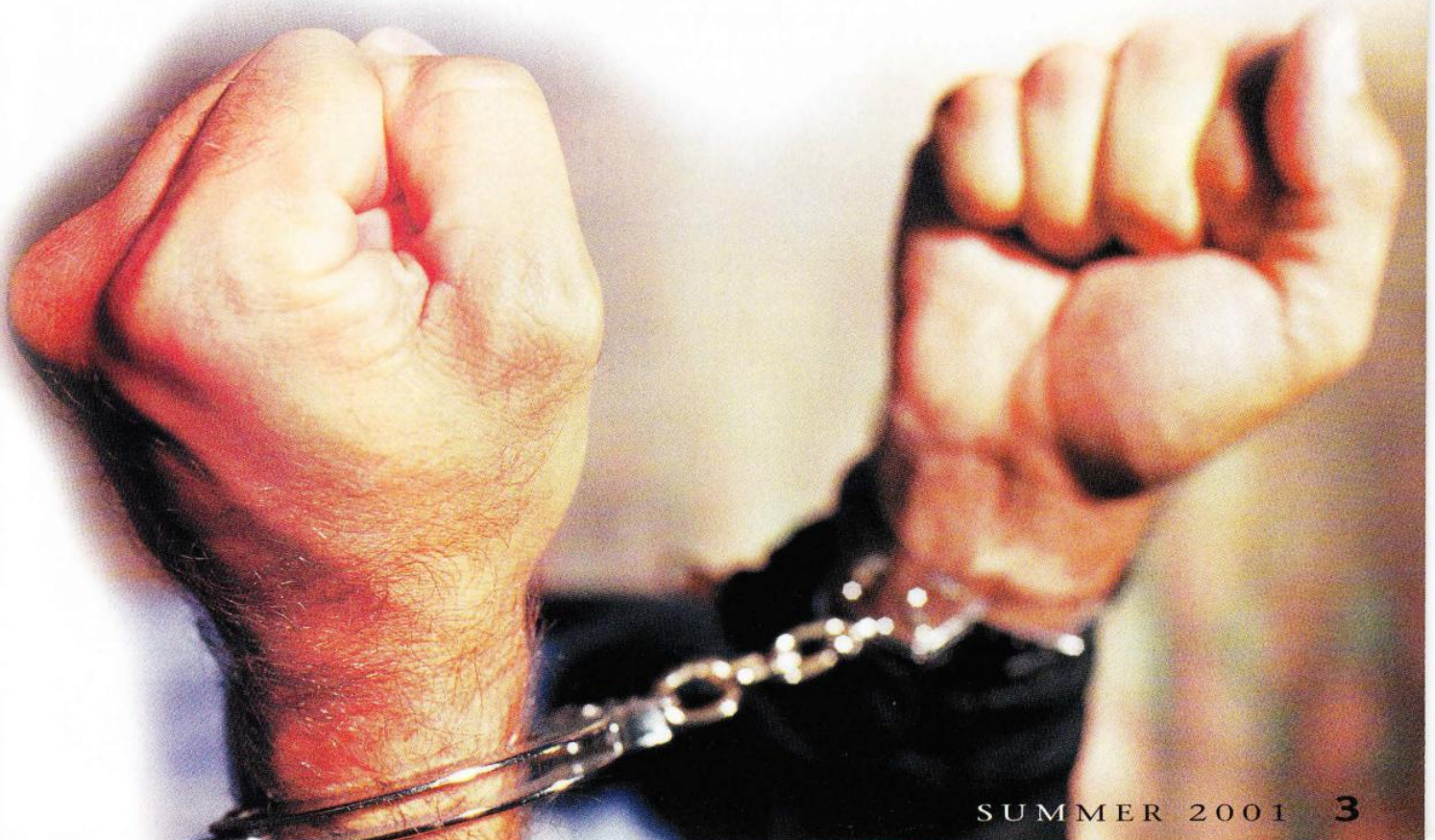
**While John was administering first aid, I returned to the gunman and placed handcuffs on him. I also attempted to keep the crime scene area secure.**

At St. John's Hospital the trauma surgeon told the shooting victim, that a pellet had nicked one of her arteries and that without John's pressure to the area, she would have died. After she got out of the hospital she told John, "You saved my life. I will always be grateful for your courage, training, and ability to face a difficult and scary situation with calmness and levelheadedness. You are and will always be my hero. Whether you like it or not you are stuck with me for life."

During the Sunday night service I began to reflect on what the lady had said to John. Especially the part about, you are and will always be my hero. Also, the part about, whether you like it or not, you are stuck with me for life. I thought about John 3:16 and 17: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him" (NIV). Does this or shouldn't this make God our hero? Why is it then that we don't take the time to say, whether you like it or not, I am stuck with Christ for life? I stand on Galatians 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (NIV). Who is your hero?

Through this whole ordeal, John and I have learned that the Royal Ranger Motto is more than just words. We are to be "Ready for Anything" that God would have us do.

Lonnie D. Nance  
Southern Missouri District, Outpost #20  
Nixa Assembly of God, P. O. Box 409, Nixa, MO 64107





## What ROYAL RANGERS Means to Me

by David A. GRUBBS II  
Outpost 89, West Florida District

Through the years, my opinion of Rangers has changed greatly from day to day and year to year. There have been times when I have enjoyed it, and there have been times when I wanted to throw my handbook in the garbage in frustration. I have had wonderful campouts, and I have had horrible ones. But one thing that sticks out in my mind is that my relationship with Christ has grown through it all. The mentoring I have received from my commanders will never be forgotten.

When I was 5, living in Germany, my father took me to Royal Rangers. This group was enjoyable. I even cut my hair to look like my commander, whom I, along with the other boys, greatly respected and looked up to. I moved up to Buckaroos while I was still in Germany and went on a few campouts, which were always great fun. Our commanders knew how to keep kids occupied and entertained. We moved to Colorado while I was still in Buckaroos, but I was only in Buckaroos there for a month or two before I finally arrived in Pioneers.

Pioneers was the group that I enjoyed most out of all my years in Rangers. Our leaders had years of experience. The boys were nice. They pushed for advancements, and used them as criteria to decide positions like patrol guide. We went to pow wows and sectional campouts every time they had them, and our group excelled. At these campouts, the spiritual side of Rangers was always stressed. Many boys were saved and filled with the Spirit. I was one of the second group of boys.

After Pioneers came Trailblazers, and for this portion of the program I lived in Ohio. Our group in Dayton was not as active with advancements, but more into the fun portions like the campouts and other outings. This mind-set promoted complacency in me. While I did continue to occasionally do advancements, they were few and far between. When I moved to Florida last year, I was almost 16. One requirement that my parents put on my getting a driver's license was that I earn the Gold Medal of Achievement. While I think this has led to more frustration than it's worth, the stipulation has motivated me to work toward the medal.

Overall, though, my commanders have had a profound impact on my spiritual life. They have prayed for me and with me, have been there to listen to and answer my questions, and have helped me grow in my relationship with Jesus. The commanders of Royal Rangers have managed to give me spiritual guidance through devotions and helped me to enjoy an overall good time in the program. So while I may have considered just giving up at times, the persistence of my commanders has made me return time and time again to get back to work. While I write this, I am so close to finishing the advancements that I can taste it. With the Lord's help and my hard work, I will have completed my requirements shortly. I thank all of my commanders for always being there to lead me. They have been an enormous influence on me.

## Gold Medal Achievement Essays...

by Carlos G. ANDRADE

I started Rangers three years ago at the age of 12. I am a Challenger now (16). I first heard about Royal Rangers in 1996, at the new church I was attending, Puerta de las Aguas. I saw boys and young men in khaki uniforms covered with merits and medals. This caught my attention and impressed me. At the time I did not know why they wore those uniforms. A few days went by and I became friends with a few of the Rangers. One of them became my best friend. He was the reason I became interested in the program. He looked sharp in that khaki uniform with his red tie. This boy taught me the value of Royal Rangers. A few days later the Royal Rangers commanders at church noticed I was interested in the program. They helped one of my dreams come true. The first time I saw their khaki uniforms, I wanted to wear one also. For me it is and will always be an honor to wear this uniform.

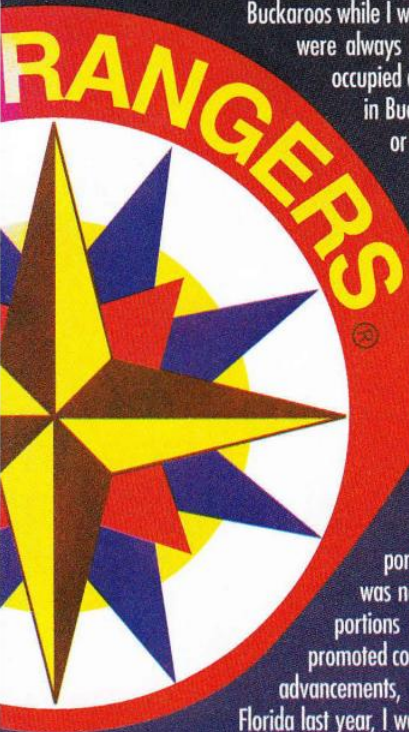
At first, I had many problems understanding the program because I grew up in Guatemala and didn't speak any English. My commanders were a big help. They helped me understand the program.

## The Value

Truthfully, I did not think that Royal Rangers would be the reason I would stay in church. Like all of today's youth, I have my problems. Sometimes when I felt alone or left out, I went to my commanders for counseling. Believe me, they were a big influence in my life. They helped me get out of a lot of problems. One of the problems I had was that I could not pray. Royal Rangers has helped me learn how to speak to God with patience.

Another way I have gotten closer to God is through Royal Rangers campouts. Sometimes, a long time goes by and I don't feel God's presence anymore. When I hear there's a camp coming up, I get happy, because I know that an encounter with God is one of the main reasons I go to the campouts.

I like participating in a lot of Rangers activities. There are many where I can grow physically and, of course, spiritually. One of the activities I love is the Ranger of the Year competition. In 1999 I competed in the local Ranger of the Year competition. Thank God for the opportunity, I won. As a Ranger, a new Ranger to be exact, I did not expect to win. I also competed and won at the sectional level. By this time I felt like a





winner. Time went by. I studied hard and won at the divisional level. I was disappointed when I lost at the district level, even though I took second place. I felt like a total loser. But I remembered what my Senior Commander Hugo Aguilar once told me: "Son, sometimes it doesn't matter who won. It's the effort that you gave and the reason that you competed with heart. This makes you a winner." His words encouraged me to go on once again.

Unfortunately, in 2000, I lost at the local level — this time to the boy who was no longer a boy — my best friend, now a young man — the same one who taught me the value of Royal Rangers. I pray for God to give me knowledge and strength so I can go on. After all, Royal Rangers is not to see who is the best. Our job is to reach, teach, and keep boys for Christ. May God always protect me so that I can earn souls for Christ. God Bless.

Carlos G. Andrade, Challenger  
Outpost 204, Southern Pacific District, Central L.A. Section

by Jason **RHODE**

I grew up in a rural town of approximately 1,800 people in central Wisconsin. At the age of 7, a friend of mine invited me to attend a V.B.S. at Wautoma Assembly of God, Wautoma, Wis. After asking my mom for permission, my brother, age 5, and I went with my friend to that V.B.S. I don't remember what was said that day, but I remember that God touched my life and I asked Jesus into my heart. I went back each day of that V.B.S. to hear more about Jesus.

That same friend asked me if I wanted to come with

# of Royal Rangers

him on Wednesday night to something called "Royal Rangers". They were going to be having a gym night, and he said that it would be a lot of fun. What 7-year-old doesn't want to have fun? So, I went with him, and had a blast. Each Wednesday after, my dad would drop me off at the church and pick me up afterwards, but would never come inside. Although my parents were "good people," they never went to church. My brother and I both wanted to go to Sunday school, so my parents would drop us off each Sunday, go run errands, and then pick us up afterwards. That Christmas, when my brother and I told my parents we were going to be singing in the Christmas musical, they finally decided to come to church to watch us. That night after the musical when the altar call was given, my parents came forward to invite Jesus to be their Savior. Shortly after that, my dad began coming each Wednesday to serve as a Lt. Commander in the Buckaroos outpost I was a part of. Eventually my dad would become Sr. Commander, and a member of the church board. My parents also would eventually coach our J.B.Q. team. I worked hard and earned my Master Seal, #604.

I continued to serve God and was highly involved in my local church. When I became junior high age, I wanted to stay involved in Royal Rangers while being a part of the youth group. I excelled in Royal Rangers and earned my Gold Medal of Achievement. I went on to become the 1997 National Royal Ranger of the Year for the North Central Region. I was also a leader in my youth group, and a member of the worship band.

At age 14 at the district Bible camp, I felt the call of God on my life to serve Him in the ministry. When I got into high school my friends from youth group and I started a Bible club that met every Tuesday morning before school. I wanted the light of Jesus to shine through me to all those around me. My junior year of high school, God finally showed me the ministry

He had for me.

He showed me that everything I had experienced and accomplished was for a reason — He wanted me to use it to reach His children! God was preparing me for a lifelong ministry of seeing as many kids as possible reached with the saving love of Christ. This quiet and soft-spoken young man became senior class president, and at

graduation during his valedictorian speech, had

the courage to pray for his classmates — something that had never been done before at this school.

The call of God brought me to North Central University in Minneapolis, Minn. While sitting in my first class of my first semester at NCU, God opened the doors of ministry for me at Bloomington A/G under Children's Pastor Dick Gruber. I began working with the Royal Rangers there and

**When I got into high school my friends from youth group and I started a Bible club that met every Tuesday morning before school. I wanted the light of Jesus to shine through me...**

also worked in the kids church each Sunday. I was involved with the kids ministries of Bloomington A/G until graduating from NCU in May 2000 and had the opportunity to intern under Pastor Gruber. I also felt God calling me to use what I have learned and experienced to train men in ministering to boys through Royal Rangers. So, I went on to further my training and graduated from the RR Nat'l Academy this past May, and am therefore qualified to serve as an instructor at any N.T.C. I graduated from NCU in May 2000 and my wife and I now serve the Lord at Christian Life Fellowship A/G in Port Edwards, Wis., where I serve as the children's pastor.

What if those little old ladies working at that V.B.S. in that small community in Wisconsin wouldn't have been there? What if those men who sacrificially gave of themselves as Royal Rangers leaders hadn't been there? What if that one lady didn't see the importance of performing that kids Christmas musical? Where then would I be today? My answer is, "I don't know." But, I do know one thing — God has already used my life in powerful ways to impact kids' lives for Him. The V.B.S. teacher, the Royal Rangers leader, the kids choir director — they all are still ministering to kids today through the impact that they had on that one little, shy boy. How many of those little boys and girls are there in your church? If there's at least one, then you have a great field of ministry available! My life is a living testimony of the value in reaching the kids of our churches today. Not only is that little boy serving the Lord today, but an entire family — because of the ministry to one child!





# Get Ready To Skate

## *Where To Get Info On Inline Skating*

by Ginger CASEBEER

**P**lenty of information for inline skaters can be found online. One of the best is the International Inline Skating Association site at <http://www.iisa.org/>. The IISA has links to get information on how to buy the best pair of skates for you, what you need to get started, the best skateparks around the country, how to fall, and why inline skating is cool. If you're looking for an update on inline safety requirements, go to <http://www.aafa.org/Text/dyn/inline.htm>. Then you can visit SKATEBOARD.COM for a list of skateparks around the U.S. Go to [mysportsguru.com](http://mysportsguru.com)'s links on inline skating to "look it up" and find a skate term glossary and sportsmanship guidelines. Other sites like [www.817mag.com](http://www.817mag.com) and [N2inline.com](http://N2inline.com) have videos and updates on skate events, but they aren't for the faint-hearted. Pics of inline injuries sport the cover of 817 Online Magazine.

The IISA says to skate, you need to be Smart, Legal, Alert, and Polite (SLAP). Wear your protective gear, master the basics, and keep your equipment in good working order. Obey traffic regulations; stay under control; avoid traffic; and watch out for road

hazards, water, oil, and sand. Courtesy requires that you skate on the right and pass on the left. Announce your intention to pass by calling out, "Passing on your left." Finally, yield to pedestrians.

Almost all sites recommend that you take a lesson before starting to skate to avoid injuries. The National Skate Patrol has branches all over the



States, which offer free braking clinics for that first lesson. Look them up on the web if you want to find out where they will be having their next clinic. John Penkava, Jr., an inline skate instructor, says the number one rule is to know how to stop. His step-by-step photo guidelines for how to fall and stop are found at <http://www.pptinline.com/~lessons/>



NationalSafetyCouncil98.html.

If you're into more X-treme skating, look for a skatepark or skate-approved area to practice. Careless skaters have destroyed sidewalks, railings, and stairways on private and public property, resulting in angry businessmen and dangerous walkways. Kids across the country have raised funds to build local skateparks when skate bans kept them from skating at their normal hangouts. Guidelines for how to design a skatepark, as well as the best way to raise money for it, can be found on the IISA website too.

If you want to start skating, the IISA gives 10 steps to figuring out what skates you want. Decide what your interests are (aggressive skating or wheels to get you places), and how much you want to spend. The skates themselves cost between \$75 and \$175. Learn about wheels and bearings, brakes, the skate boot, and frame. Plan ahead, so you won't end up with something too simple later on. Get your protective gear (helmet, elbow pads and kneepads), rent or borrow some skates, and take a lesson. After all of that, you're ready to buy your skates and have fun.

## "Trick" Terminology

*(Aggressive skate glossary terms adapted from <http://www.infosports.net/g/h/index11.html>.)*

**curbslide:** Sliding along a curb with skates perpendicular to the edge.

**drop in:** Entering a ramp from the top, or deck, of a half-pipe.

**fakey:** Used to describe any trick done backward.

**frontside:** Refers to doing a trick forward.

**grind:** To slide along a rail or other edge using skate surfaces (usually the grind plate) other than the wheels.

**invert or hand plant:** Turning upside-down on a ramp and planting the hands.

**mute air grab:** When a skater jumps, folds knees to the chest, reaches down with one hand and grabs the outer edge of the opposite foot.  
*(Grabbing the same foot is called a safety grab.)*

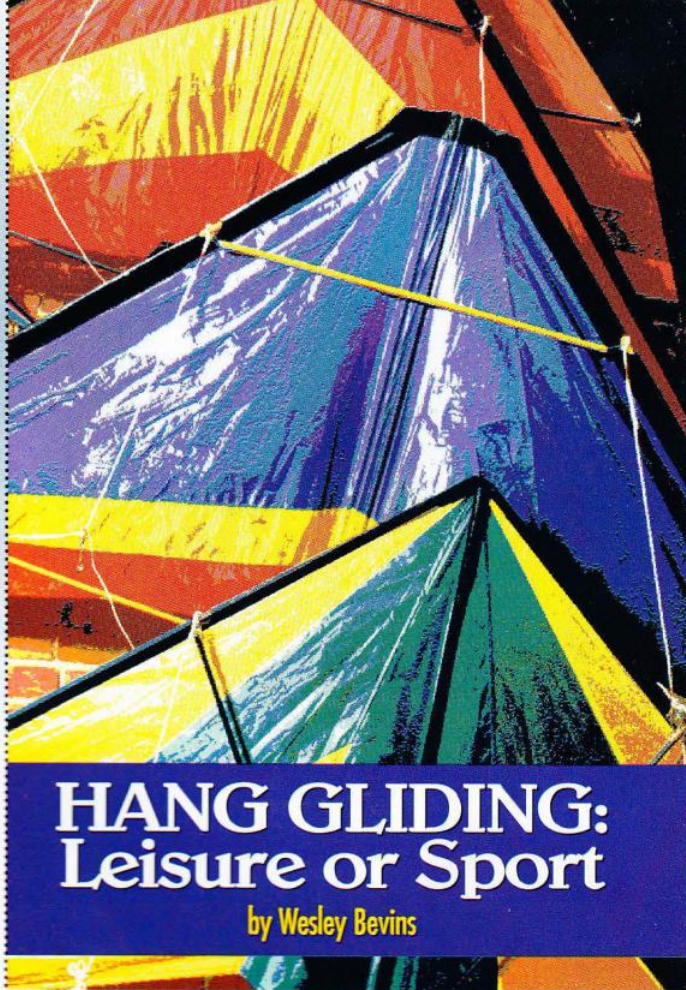
**plant:** To place the skates firmly on an object.

**pump:** Bending and extending the legs and using the arms to build momentum in order to gain speed going up ramps.

**rail slide:** To slide along a rail in various stances.

**road rash:** Scrapes and burns from falling on pavement without protective gear.

**vert:** Short for vertical. Refers to skating on ramps and pipes. Also the riding surface on ramps.



## HANG GLIDING: Leisure or Sport

by Wesley Bevins

One of the America's fastest growing sports today is hang gliding. In Greek mythology the first hang glider was made of waxed feathers. Hang glider design and construction originated in the late 1400s with the work of Leonardo da Vinci in his study of the flight of birds. Centuries later, the study of flight further advanced with Otto Lillenthal. In the 1890s, Lillenthal made more than 2,000 flights, designing and studying different wing designs. Later Lillenthal died from a glider crash. Octave Chanute first developed the design of movable controls. This was taken a step further by Orville and Wilbur Wright when they invented a wing design that allowed powered flight.

Beginning in the 1800s, hang gliders were primarily made of wood and fabric. Today hang gliders are made of a light, sturdy frame constructed of aluminum or titanium and a strong, lightweight fabric similar to canvas. A hang glider takes about 30 minutes to assemble and is stored in a 5- to 6-meter-long bag (5 to 7 yards).

Glider first came into use during World War II by Germany. Now gliders are mainly used for training pilots. When airplanes were first invented, gliders were almost completely forgotten. Later hang gliding became popular among many people.

Starting kits cost about \$300. It takes about 6 months to become a safe pilot. Once you get started in this sport, it is well worth the time and money you have spent on it.

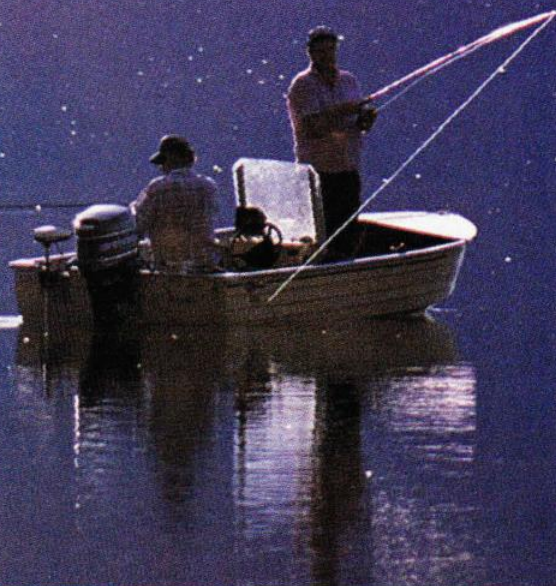
You can find out more about hang gliding from Norman Richards' book *The Complete Beginner's Guide to Soaring and Hang Gliding* (Doubleday, 1976), *The New Book of Knowledge's "History of Gliding"* (1993) and "Should I Choose Hang Gliding or Paragliding?" at <http://www.skysystems.co.uk/parainfo.htm>.





# Family FISHING FUN

by John CASEBEER



**I**f you like spending time outside, being with your family, and seeing wild animals up close, fishing is the perfect sport to try this weekend. Catching fish is something you can do with your Mom or Dad, or even your grandparents.

After you decide who you're going with, the next thing to do is call your local Conservation department. They make the rules about fishing in your area. When you call, they will tell you if you need a fishing license, and they can probably help you figure out where to go fishing. Most states have "youth exemptions," so you may not need a license, but the people you go fishing with probably will.

When you are on the phone with the Conservation department, ask about Free Fishing Days. Many states have one or two days a year when people can learn about fishing without buying a license. Some states will even let you use their equipment at special events.

Once you find out about fishing licenses, the next step is to go shopping. When you get to the store, you can buy your fishing license, a cheap rod and reel, as well as 10 to 15 dollars worth of tackle. Most beginners use "jigs" or "spinner-baits," but if the person you're going with has fished before, you might use "live bait," like minnows or worms. You will also need a pair of needle nose pliers, or you can buy a "hook extractor." This is so you can get the hook out of the fish's mouth. Find out what you need before you go shopping. If you don't know what to get, someone at the sporting goods store will be glad to help.

The most important thing about fishing is having fun, but remember to be kind to the fish you catch. When you are handling a fish, either gently hold the middle of its body (watch out for sharp fins), or hold it by its mouth. To hold it by the mouth, put your thumb inside its mouth and put your pointer finger under the fish's bottom jaw. Most fish don't have teeth, so don't worry about getting bitten. Once you catch a fish, if you can't see the hook, cut the fishing line. You will lose your lure, but the fish won't get hurt that way.

If you are going to take the fish you catch home, it's okay to look at them and take pictures before you put them on your stringer, but if you're going to let them go there are some rules to follow:

1. Look but don't touch. Most fish are very pretty, but you should never touch their eyes or gills. Don't handle them any more than necessary.
2. Remember, fish breathe water. Holding a fish in the air is just like someone holding you under water. Once you get the hook out, gently put the fish back in the water as soon as possible.

Fishing is a lot of fun, and a great way to spend time with your family and friends. There are different techniques for each type of fishing, whether you are brook fishing, lake fishing, fly fishing, or fishing from a boat. Find a fisherman, or fisherwoman, so you can learn how to cast, bait, weight, and care for the rod and reel suited to your type of fishing. Be careful, and always fish with a friend. If you already know how to fish, then teach a friend. If you don't know how, have fun learning.





# ROYAL RANGERS HIGH ADVENTURE

## Leader

VOLUME 31

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NUMBER 2

## What Boys Need

by Glen D. Cole, District Superintendent  
Northern California/Nevada

**Y**ears ago when pastoring in the Northwest District, I attended a Royal Rangers Leadership Training session on the major needs of boys in today's society. As a pastor as well as a father of two boys, I was interested in this critical area. Now that I am a grandfather of four more boys, as well as a district superintendent interested in having an effective Royal Rangers program, I have revisited my list of major needs of boys, only to find that things haven't really changed.

### 1. Boys need love.

Society has fractured the role of a father and fostered broken homes. Through this Assemblies of God program, boys can experience the love of God, as well as the love and concern of men dedicated to blessing boys.

### 2. Boys need understanding.

Many boys have been told, whether directly or indirectly, that they are worthless. Boys have problems, and boys have needs. One thing they don't need is someone telling them they don't really count. The great challenge of Royal Rangers is to give boys the understanding they deserve in order for them to excel.

### 3. Boys need a sense of belonging.

Each boy needs to belong to something bigger than himself. We call this an identity group today. The gangs of our cities have endeavored to fill this role for boys by the thousands, but with little satisfaction. Royal Rangers fulfills that need wherever men will take leadership and open that door.

### 4. Boys need a sense of importance.

So many people in our society struggle for status. Boys are not immune to this crying need in the human spirit. Through our anointed Royal Rangers programs they can discover the ability to excel in something and know they are needed. How wonderful to hear these words at any stage in life: "You really are important to what is going on here!"



### 5. Boys need activities.

My mother taught me that mischievousness is the invention of idleness. I have lived long enough to believe that is true. Royal Rangers provides adventure, fun, challenges, a variety of activities, and much more. Something to look forward to is a vital part of life.

### 6. Boys need opportunities for development.

Where does a boy discover his talents? Where does he develop his skills? Where does he find an area of achievement, that achievement so critical to his self-worth? Where better than Royal Rangers!

### 7. Boys need guidance.

Boys need a set of rules or codes by which to live and operate. Boys need firmness from people they depend on and trust. Boys need examples to follow. Royal Rangers leaders provide this critical area of their development.

### 8. Boys need to understand Christian living.

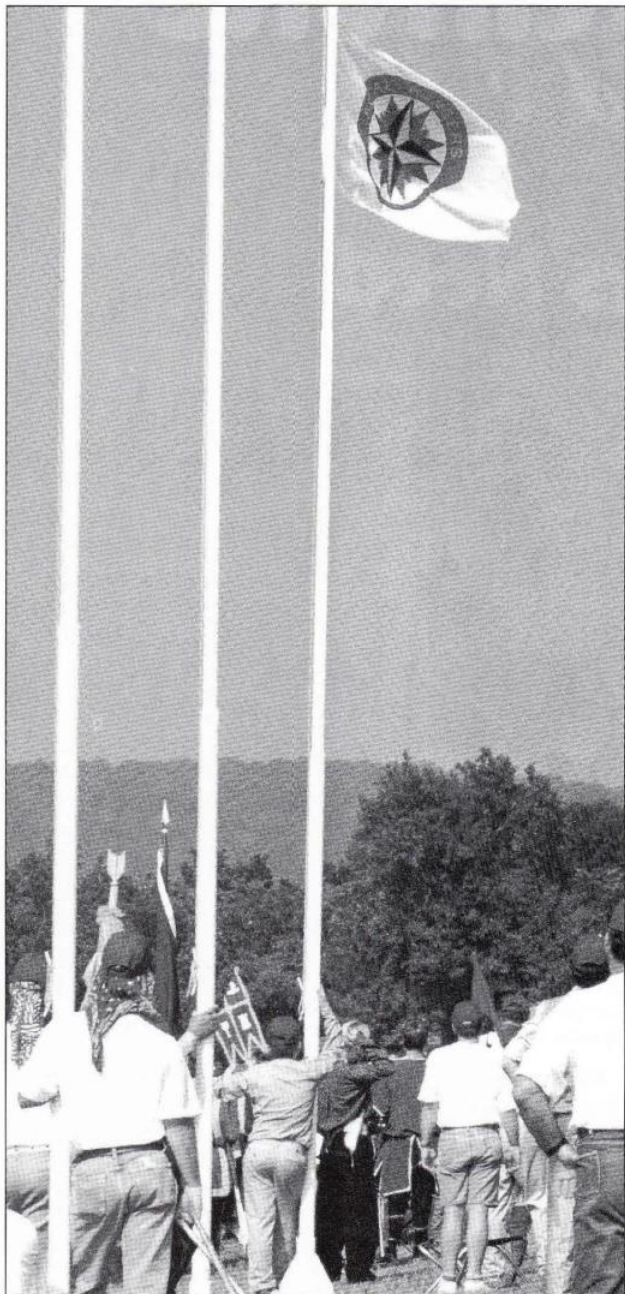
Royal Rangers leads boys to salvation. Royal Rangers brings boys into the Church of Jesus Christ. Royal Rangers teaches how to know the Bible, how to witness, how to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and how to continually deepen a walk with God. How society could change if every boy had the opportunities this program provides!

After 40 years of pastoral ministry with strong Royal Rangers programs and desiring a strong district program for boys with godly leaders for four years as a district superintendent, I am more convinced than ever that the Lord has directed this movement by the Holy Spirit to open the door of opportunity in these eight areas of boys' needs. May God give the increase!



Rev. Glen D. Cole is the Superintendent of the Assemblies of God, Northern California & Nebraska District. Prior to that he served for 17 years as Senior Pastor of Capitol Christian Center in Sacramento, CA. He and his wife Mary Ann have two sons, both ordained ministers, and seven grandchildren.





# UNCOMMON VALOR

by John Eller

**T**he Medal of Valor is a unique award presented, on approval by the National Royal Rangers Committee, to leaders and boys who risked their own lives in saving another.

The Medal of Valor is coveted, but not sought after. No one wins this medal, but in the providence of God, a select few will earn it.

Since 1964, the National Royal Rangers Office has approved 196 Medals of Valor. These have been presented to men and boys who have displayed unusual courage, bravery, and heroism when human life was at stake. These daring acts demonstrate faith in Christ and a commitment to God and our fellow man above and beyond the call of duty.

When a leader or boy is nominated for this award, great caution is exercised to examine all the facts. Documentation usually includes newspaper accounts; police, fire or water safety reports; as well as eyewitness accounts. References are usually required from a commander, pastor, or district leader. One undeserved medal cheapens the rest.

Most lifesaving accounts that come to the national office do not have a sufficient element of risk on the part of the rescuer to warrant the Medal of Valor. In such cases, we often issue a Certificate of Valor. We plan to share some of these in future articles.

The first Medal of Valor was presented in 1964 to Melvin "Cricky" Tucker, son of J. W. and Evangeline Tucker, Assemblies of God missionaries to the Congo, for his bravery and courage in a time of maximum stress and danger. After the Simba rebels captured Jay, held him hostage at a Catholic convent, murdered him, and fed his body to the crocodiles, Evangeline called to inquire about her husband. The sister who answered the phone simply said, "He is in heaven." Her words became the title of a best-selling book.

Lt. Commander Fred Cordova of Hollister, Calif., saw a runaway mule and wagon heading toward a 5-year-old boy at a county fair. He knocked the boy out of the way, then fell underneath the wagon, and was dragged a number of yards. He was admitted to the hospital with multiple cuts, wounds, and bruises. He asked to see the lad whose life he had saved—his own son.

Jason Land, a Buckaroo from Panama City, Fla., saw a bulldog knock a neighbor's little girl to the ground and begin biting her at the throat. Jumping the fence, he attacked the animal with his bare hands, allowing the girl to escape. Jason was bitten to the bone many times, and required 30 stitches.

Jeffery Narkant, a Pioneer from Niagara Falls, N.Y., saw a runaway car headed for their home. He ran to the kitchen and pulled his little sister to safety, just as the car crashed through the wall.

Chris Jackson, a Trail Ranger in Andalusia, Ala., rushed into a burning jail after two police officers had been overcome with smoke inhalation. He brought the jail's only prisoner to safety.

Commander Richard Allen of Oxnard, Calif., was successful in preventing a suicide by removing a loaded gun from the hands of a man threatening to kill himself. He then drove the man to church, where he was gloriously saved.

Commander Ken Grove of North Bend, Ore., walked into a local convenience store to face a gunman who had already killed one person, and was threatening others. Ken disarmed the gunman, suffered a stab wound in the neck that narrowly missed his jugu-





lar vein, but subdued the man until police arrived.

Donald Spicer, Jr., a Bucakroo from Rush Springs, Okla., awoke one night to find their mobile home ablaze. Donald rescued his 5-year-old sister, but after two attempts, was unable to arouse his older brother, 9, who perished in the blaze.

Commander Les Stoddard was on a 50-mile hike with some Royal Rangers in the Olympic National Forest, Wash. A female hiker reported a tree on fire, burning from the top. Les climbed the tree and cut out the top, with fire and chunks of burning wood falling all around and on him. The forest was on red flag alert, which meant the danger of forest fires was at its peak. Local newspapers estimated he saved the government thousands of dollars and saved many lives.

In Brooklyn, N.Y., Spanish Eastern District Commander John Vasquez observed a woman being robbed in broad daylight. A man with a switchblade drew back to stab her. The commander yelled to get his attention, and pretended to reach for an imaginary gun underneath his coat while running toward the assailant. He frightened the mugger away, and the woman was unharmed.

Royal Ranger Jonathan Becker, age 15, observed a man twice his size drowning in the Gulf of Mexico, and went to his aid with an inner tube. Resisting the man's intoxicated, uncoordinated attempts to save himself, the Ranger pulled the man to safety.

Commander Paul West of Savannah, Ga., retired at 37 because of a serious heart condition. He heard a neighbor's 3-year-old daughter had stopped breathing and was choking to death. He ran to the house, worked feverishly to open the child's airways, and administered CPR. Just as the child revived, Paul felt faint, sat down, and went to be with Christ.

Ronnie Thomas, an 11-year-old Pioneer from Akron, Ohio, was on his way to Sunday school when he stopped at the corner before crossing to the church. Seven-year-old Angela Nolan started into the street, decided

TESTIMONY OF SPAIN AND BETTYE TRASK

## *Fiji Faithfulness*

**W**e are missionaries to the Fiji Islands. We pastored for 25 years before the Lord changed our direction. We have worked with Missionettes, Royal Rangers, BGMC, and more, so it is all very familiar to us.

The first time I saw a group of boys lined up at a church with these white T-shirts on, I looked closer and realized the shirts had the Royal Rangers emblem on them. They were so faded you had to look very closely. I can tell you I was excited. I asked them where they got the shirts, and they said that someone had sent them years ago from the States. I asked what Royal Rangers books and materials they had. One of the men had a few copies of High Adventure and one old Pioneer book. From that they had started Rangers. I had brought a few of our own Rangers books so I shared them.

I started working with Missionettes (I was a state director for New Mexico for 15 years.), and then, of course, worked with the men as I could. Since Missionettes changed their program, I knew a lot of people in the States who started sending me box after box of the old curriculum. That is what I am using here. I asked all of the Royal Rangers leaders I knew for old uniforms, books — whatever they could send.

One of the boxes I received contained all three volumes of the Royal Rangers Bible Study. I felt that if the commanders had those, and the things I had gotten off the Internet, they could have weekly meetings with the boys. So I had all three volumes copied with BGMC money. It really would be impossible to let you know what a treasure the Bible studies are to these men. I give Volume 1 to those men starting the program. When they come back and show me they have completed that volume, then I give them Volume 2, and then Volume 3.

We have had a civil coup in our country this year, so education for the children is not always available. The Missionettes and Royal Rangers programs are a real Godsend! The men and boys are very committed to the Royal Rangers. One group was asked to be in a parade. They had two Royal Rangers shirts (which had been sent to me) and made a flag by cutting an emblem from a very worn out T-shirt and sewing it on an old white sheet. They dressed up two of the boys in the T-shirts and marched under their flag in the parade! (I ordered them a real Royal Rangers flag and presented it to them.)

Only heaven will be able to reveal the real merits of BGMC and Royal Rangers. Boys in Fiji are forever changed because of three books published by Gospel Publishing House and copied with BGMC money. We use BGMC for Sunday school also!

***Bless you, Spain and Bettye Trask, Missionaries to Fiji***

(The Royal Rangers Bible Study books are available from Gospel Publishing House with the following order numbers: Volume 1 (02-0694), Volume 2 (02-0697), and Volume 3 (02-0708). Call Customer Service at 1.800.641.4310 to place an order.)

she couldn't make it, and went back. Realizing the danger, Ronnie ran toward her, knocked her away from the oncoming car, and lost his own life instead.

Each of these individuals or their families received a Medal of Valor for acts of quick thinking, bravery, self-denial, and heroism.

If you think the only heroes are the Green Berets, the Army Rangers, and the Navy Seals—think again! We are privileged to keep company with Royal Rangers who possess uncommon valor!

## ATTENTION COMMANDERS!



Please send us news of your Pow Wows, district/sectional events, and reports of ministry from the Convoy of Hope, and other events happening in your area.

## ***Thank You!***





# Why Charter?

by Billy and Sharon Davis

**Why charter?** It's a total waste of money and time. I don't get anything out of it. I can still order supplies and have a good Rangers program. I feel that the money is better spent in my own church on our own program. What do I get out of it? All I receive are a few magazines four times a year and a pretty certificate, so why should I send you my money?

I hear these questions and comments frequently. Now I would like to answer them. First I will give the standard answers given by the organization. Then, indulge me as I give you the answers from my heart.

1. The outpost receives mailings from the national, district, and sectional levels about events occurring in your hometown and region as well as nationally.

2. Boys and leaders receive membership cards that identify them as Royal Rangers. In the future, these cards will allow them certain discounts from national chain corporations. Negotiations are underway with several camping supply companies, amusement parks, and hotels to extend discount privileges to card carrying Royal Rangers and their families.

3. Royal Rangers leaders and boys will receive quarterly copies of High Adventure magazine. This magazine includes up-to-date information, new ideas, announcements of national events, additional devotions, a quarterly planning guide, and other entertaining and informative material for the commander and boy.

4. Boys are allowed to compete in the Ranger of the Year program, local Pow Wow events, regional events, Pinewood Derbies, and other contests.

5. The outpost also receives national recognition in the form of a 9x12-inch charter certificate for display in your local church.

6. Publications will keep your outpost up to date on new and exciting changes taking place in the Royal Rangers program.

These are some of the surface reasons for chartering your outpost. Now I would like to talk to you from my heart.

My outpost in Arkansas chartered for the first time in 1995. This opened up several doors for us, including the district Pow Wow in Hot Springs, Ark., at Camp Itchy Vine. Why was it called Camp Itchy Vine? That's right — a lot of poison ivy!

Our boys were really excited about a district campout and meeting hundreds of other Royal Rangers just like them. They had a blast camping, cooking, and competing in games. But the most exciting part took place on the first night there. After the boys had worked hard all day setting up camp, they were dead-dog tired. But it was council fire time.

The boys dragged themselves up to the council fire, and found out that it wasn't a dead, dry service. It was exciting — with skits, and things blowing up, and a lot of singing. Then the Holy Spirit started to fall. There were boys lying on the ground everywhere speaking in tongues. Boys were saved and filled with the Spirit. Some were healed. God was everywhere.

When our boys went back to camp, they had to carry some of their buddies because they were filled with the Spirit. They gathered around the campfire and started to have church all over again. Excitement filled the air.

About this time a commander came to me and said that his son was covered with poison ivy. The boy was severely allergic to it. The father said that he had to take his boy to the doctor first thing the next morning. So we gathered all the boys around and they started to pray. You could feel the power of God.

The boys started to lie on the ground, praying that the revival started around that campfire would continue in our home church. But back to the story.

One of the younger boys looked up, not at me but through me. Then he said, "Can't you see them?" Another young man said that he did, but I couldn't see anything. Other young

boys started to see it also. I asked them what they saw, and they said angels were all around the camp. At first I just chalked it up to excitement, but you could feel the power of God so strongly.

The next morning the commander came to me. Filled with excitement, he said his boy had no sign of poison ivy anywhere on his body. It was so exciting! Later we went back to where the boys had been praying in the dark, and it was a bed of poison ivy. Not one boy went home with poison ivy.

The boys were so excited that Sunday night they got home. Each one testified to the church about what had happened. One of the troubled youth stood up and testified that he had given his life to the Lord that night. The people were so excited. There was no preaching during the 3-hour service that night. Revival had broken out.

Where did it all start? When my church decided to charter in a boys program designed to reach, teach, and keep boys for Christ.

Our outpost went back year after year and received an award for outpost of the Pow Wow just two years later.

You might ask me why charter — I want to ask you why breathe? Because it can give life to your program. Let's all join together in matching National Commander Rich Mariott's dream of reaching, teaching, and keeping boys for Christ.







# The Probability of Accepting Christ Is Highest Among Kids Under 14

*The following article was written by the The Barna Research Group. The Barna Research Group, Ltd. is an independent marketing research company in Ventura, Calif. that studies cultural trends related to values, beliefs, attitudes and behaviors. Visit their website at <http://www.barna.org>.*

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me . . . for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14). His words are being fulfilled in American society according to new data from the Barna Research Group. The company's nationwide surveys determined the probability of people accepting Christ as their Savior in relation to a person's age. The data show that if a person does not accept Jesus Christ as Savior before the age of 14, the likelihood of ever doing so is slim.

Based on a nationwide representative sampling of more than 4,200 young people and adults, people from ages 5 through 13 have a 32% probability of accepting Christ as their Savior. Young people from 14 through 18 have a 4% likelihood of doing so, while adults (ages 19 through death) have only a 6% probability of making that choice.

While this information is consistent with other Barna studies that have shown a large majority of Christians accept Jesus Christ as their Savior before age 18, this is the first study that has calculated people's probability of accepting Christ at different life stages. The data also challenges the widely held belief that the teenage years are prime years for evangelistic activity.

The study points out that children and adolescents are most impacted evangelistically by family members, peers, and their youth groups (e.g. Sunday school, midweek faith-based youth activities). In fact, the years prior to age 12 are when a majority of children decide whether or not they will follow Christ.

George Barna, president of the firm that conducted the research, analyzed the data. He indicated that the information must be carefully interpreted. "The statistics are eye-opening because they show how little evangelistic impact we are having upon teenagers and adults in America. However, that does not mean that teenagers and adults cannot be reached with the gospel. It simply challenges the approaches currently used to reach those individuals. Consider that churches spend the bulk of their evangelism-specific resources on adults, largely through events and collateral materials. However, the most effective evangelistic strategies tend to be intensely relational and are less frequently emphasized by churches. It could well be that if churches upgraded their evangelistic strategies and reallocated their resources, the probability of teenagers and adults embracing Christ as their Savior would rise."

The study clearly notes, however, that the greatest evangelistic window currently available is among young children, which led Barna to discuss other possibilities for churches to consider.

Among the potential shifts mentioned were:

- refocusing teen ministries from an evangelistic thrust to a discipleship emphasis;
- better preparing parents for family-based evangelism;
- investing greater resources for child and adolescent ministry;
- establishing closer partnerships between churches and parachurch ministries geared to child evangelism;
- implementing more effective evangelistic strategies among teenagers;
- and encouraging and equipping young people who have accepted Christ as their Savior to share their faith with peers.

Barna also mentioned that his firm's research 'has consistently shown that between the ages of 18 and 24 we lose a very large percentage of young people who had been regulars at church. Recognizing the phases of faith maturity that kids go through and developing the content of our ministry to kids in light of those stages might improve the ability of churches to retain young people, rather than to have to win them back once they enter parenthood.'

## Survey Methodology

The research was based on three separate surveys among adults, each involving more than 1,000 interviews, plus two separate surveys among people 18 and under, both





— Continued from previous page

involving over 600 youths. The estimated sampling error for each of the adult surveys is  $\pm 3$  percentage points at the 95% confidence level. The estimated sampling error for each of the youth surveys is  $\pm 4$  percentage points at the 95% confidence interval. The aggregate database for this research thus includes more than 4,200 completed interviews, providing data with an estimated sampling error of less than two percentage points at the 95% confidence interval.

Accepting Jesus Christ as one's Savior was determined by asking survey respondents if they have ever made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is still important in their life today. If they indicated they had done so, then they were asked a follow-up question regarding what would happen to them after they died physically. Among the seven options provided was "when I die I will go to heaven because I have confessed my sins and have accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior." Respondents who selected that option from the seven alternatives were included in the category of those who have accepted Christ as their Savior.

All of the interviews were conducted from the Barna Research Group telephone interviewing facility. People in the 48 continental states were eligible to be interviewed and the distribution of interviews coincided with the geographic dispersion of the U.S. adult population. Multiple callbacks were used to increase the probability of including a reliable distribution of respondents.

Our efforts to reach boys for Jesus Christ is at a crucial time in our history (as evidenced by the daily news headlines), especially in the lives of boys under the age of 14. Consider for yourself the following George Barna research.

The Probability of Accepting Christ is Highest Among Kids Under 14!

## FRONTIERSMEN CAMPING FELLOWSHIP **TERRITORIAL RENDEZVOUS** FOR YEAR 2001

### COLONIALS Territory Northeast Region

OCTOBER 18-21, 2001  
Camp Collier, MA  
Contact: Herman Geesaman

### EXPLORERS Territory North Central Region

SEPTEMBER 26-30, 2001  
Camp Thunderbird  
Moberly, MO  
Contact: Wayne Farrand

### MOUNTAINMEN Territory Southwest Region

JULY 18-21, 2001  
Flagstaff, AZ  
**Guest Speaker:**  
Richard Mariott, NATIONAL COMMANDER  
**Special Guest:**  
Rick Dostal, NATIONAL TRAINING COORDINATOR  
**Contact:** Jim Rounsville  
Registration form and camp schedule  
available at <http://www.netmgmt.com/fcf>

### PLAINSMEN Territory South Central Region

JULY 16-20, 2001  
Jemez Mountains of New Mexico  
**Special Speakers:**  
James Eubanks & Ralph Williams  
**Contact:** Gary Bierschwale  
(972)442-1325 HP  
[www.gbierschwale.com](http://www.gbierschwale.com)

### RIFLEMEN Territory Southeast Region

OCTOBER 18-21, 2001  
South Carolina District  
Campground  
Honea Path, SC  
Contact: Cecil Norris

### RIVERMEN Territory Gulf Region

OCTOBER 18-20, 2001  
Boy Scout Camp Nile Montgomery  
Damascus, AK  
**Special Speaker:**  
Rick Dostal, NATIONAL TRAINING COORDINATOR  
**Contact:** Hilton Myers  
(601)542-5502 HP  
(601)249-7437 Cell  
[www.rrefcfy@telapex.com](http://www.rrefcfy@telapex.com)

### TRAPPERS Territory Northwest Region

JULY 25-28, 2001  
ABC Mountain Retreat  
Tollgate, OR — Cost \$30 ea.  
**Guest Speaker July 26:**  
Warren Bullock, NW DISTRICT SUPT.  
**Guest Speaker July 27:**  
Kile Julsey, NATIONAL FCF SCOUT  
**Guest Speaker July 28:**  
William Gallaher, OREGON DIST. SUPT.  
**Contact:** Chuck Staton  
(509)299-4907  
[castaton@intergrity.com](mailto:castaton@intergrity.com)

### VOYAGERS Territory Great Lakes Region

JULY 16-21, 2001  
Bear Creek Boy Scout Camp  
Connersville, IN  
COST: Young Buck, \$30  
Old timer, \$40  
**Guest Speaker:**  
Rev. Doug Chapman  
FORMER DISTRICT COMMANDER OF MICHIGAN  
**Contact:** Mickey Click  
(937)433-8799 HP



Reach, Teach, and Keep Boys for Christ



# GET READY FOR THE FUTURE

Transition Plans for the new  
Advancement Systems



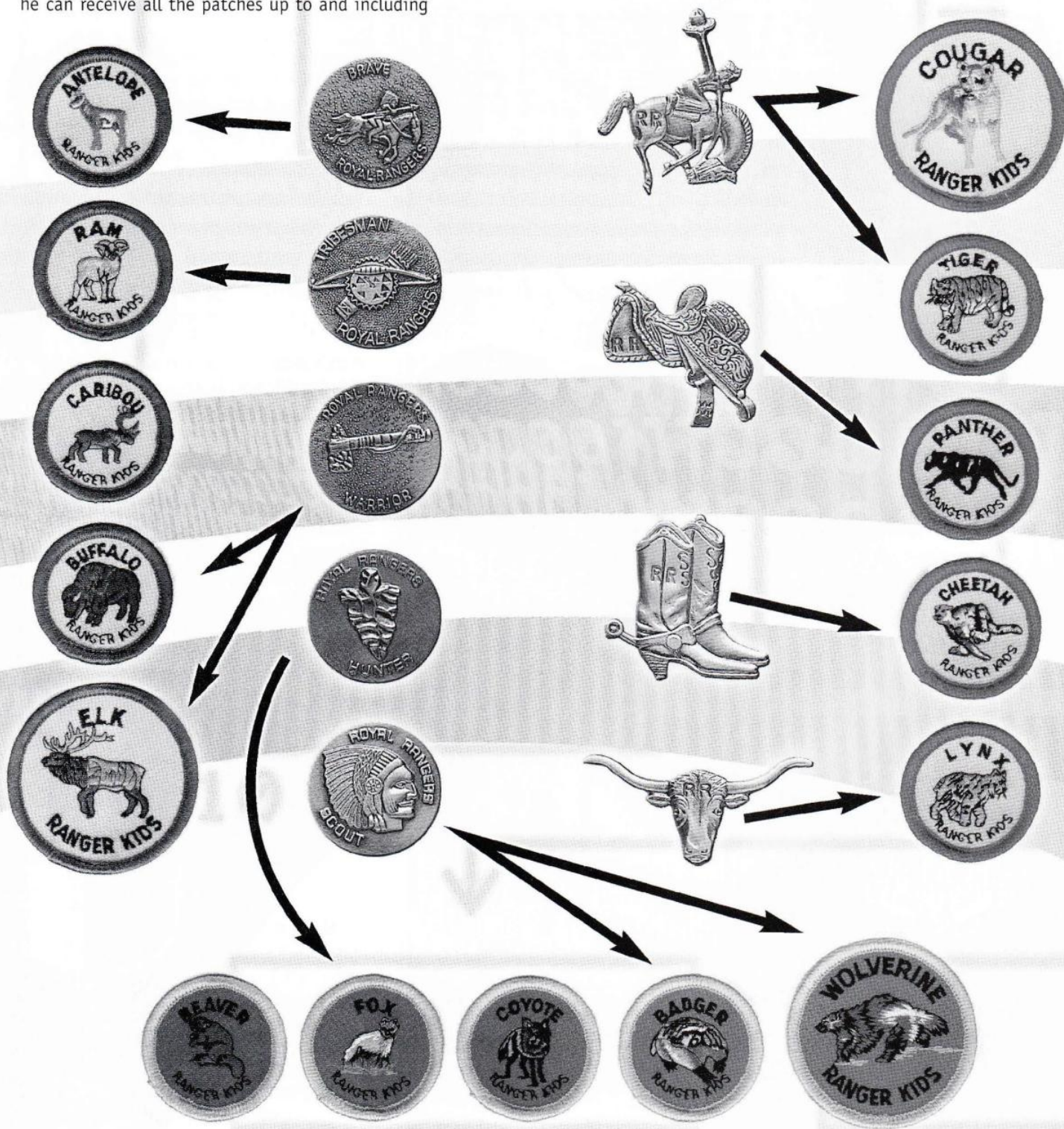


# Straight Arrows/Buckaroos to Ranger Kids Transition Plan

The transition to Rangers Kids will be simple. The Straight Arrows and Buckaroos advancement requirements have been incorporated into the new Ranger Kids system. The chart below shows how a Straight Arrow boy who has earned the Warrior pin will have earned all the patches up to and including the Buffalo patch, and thus the Elk Patch as well.

A Buckaroo boy's transition depends on his advancements in Straight Arrows. For instance, if the boy earned his Hunter pin as a Straight Arrow, then he can receive all the patches up to and including

the Fox. Then, if he completed his Wrangler, he would receive his Lynx and Cheetah patches, but not his Coyote or Badger patches. If the Buckaroo did not participate in Straight Arrows, then he is only eligible to wear the Trail to the Cougar patches.



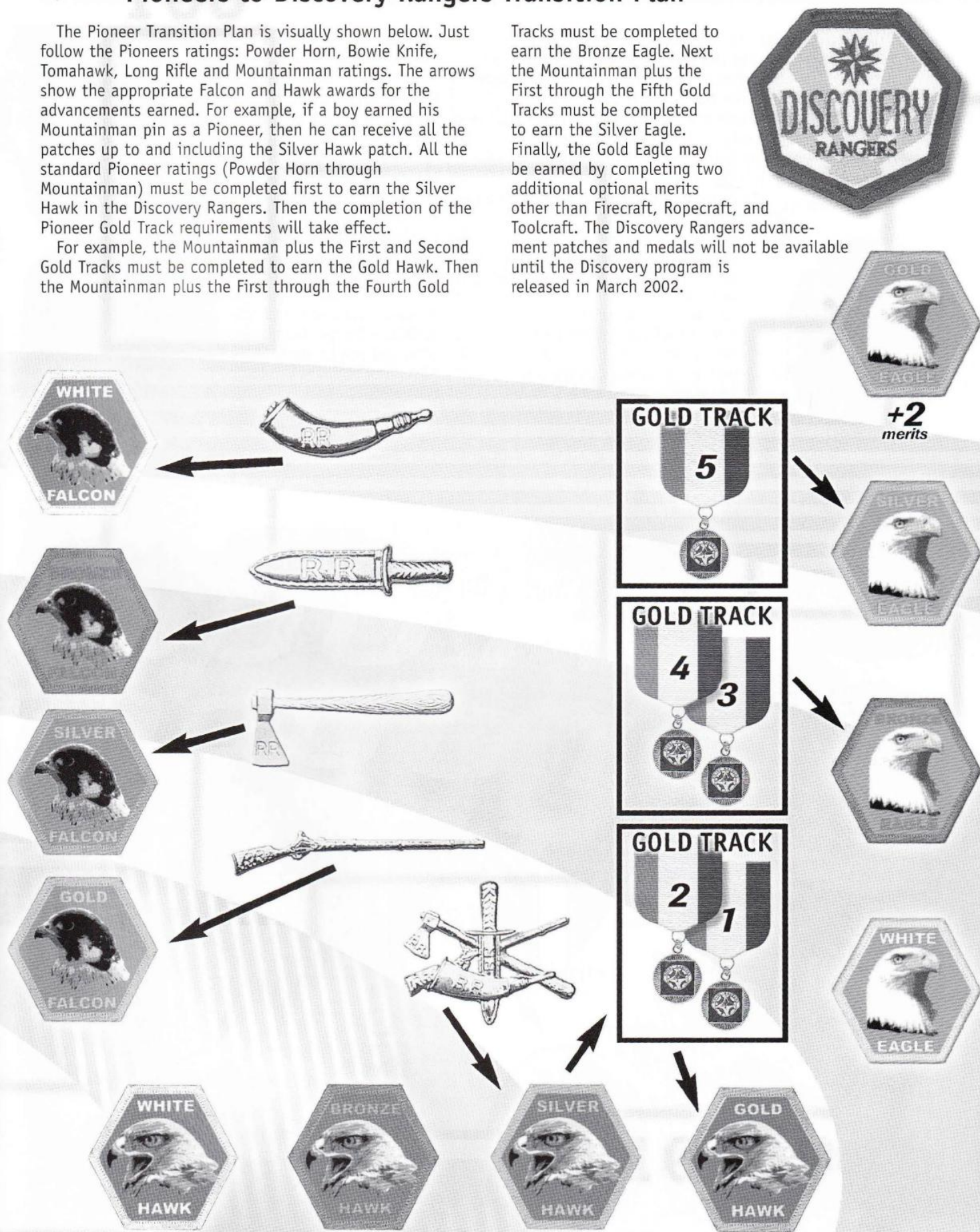


## Pioneers to Discovery Rangers Transition Plan

The Pioneer Transition Plan is visually shown below. Just follow the Pioneers ratings: Powder Horn, Bowie Knife, Tomahawk, Long Rifle and Mountainman ratings. The arrows show the appropriate Falcon and Hawk awards for the advancements earned. For example, if a boy earned his Mountainman pin as a Pioneer, then he can receive all the patches up to and including the Silver Hawk patch. All the standard Pioneer ratings (Powder Horn through Mountainman) must be completed first to earn the Silver Hawk in the Discovery Rangers. Then the completion of the Pioneer Gold Track requirements will take effect.

For example, the Mountainman plus the First and Second Gold Tracks must be completed to earn the Gold Hawk. Then the Mountainman plus the First through the Fourth Gold

Tracks must be completed to earn the Bronze Eagle. Next the Mountainman plus the First through the Fifth Gold Tracks must be completed to earn the Silver Eagle. Finally, the Gold Eagle may be earned by completing two additional optional merits other than Firecraft, Ropecraft, and Toolcraft. The Discovery Rangers advancement patches and medals will not be available until the Discovery program is released in March 2002.





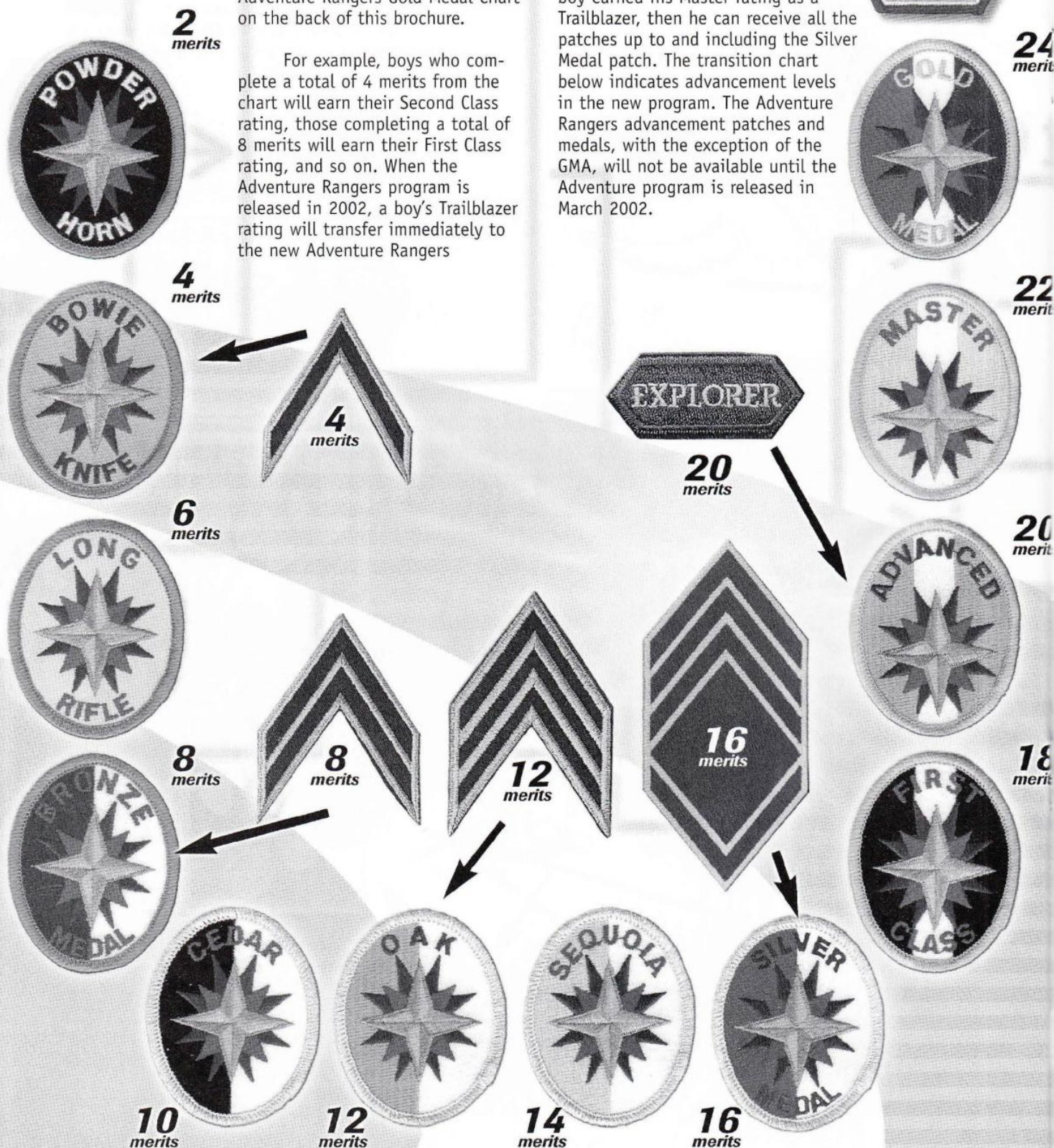
# Trailblazers to Adventure Rangers Transition Plan

The transition plan for trailblazers is a merit award advancement system, just like the new program. The focus is on merits instead of the advancement trail detailed in the Trailblazer Handbook. Using the transition plan, (March 2001 through December 2003), boys may earn their Trailblazer advancement ratings (2<sup>nd</sup> Class through Explorer) by completing the merits required to lead them to the Gold Medal of Achievement (GMA).

These merits are listed in the Adventure Rangers Gold Medal Chart on the back of this brochure.

For example, boys who complete a total of 4 merits from the chart will earn their Second Class rating, those completing a total of 8 merits will earn their First Class rating, and so on. When the Adventure Rangers program is released in 2002, a boy's Trailblazer rating will transfer immediately to the new Adventure Rangers

advancement level based on the number of merits he has completed. If a boy chooses to stay with the old advancement requirements system, he would use the same transition chart below to convert his chevron rating to the new advancement patch. For example, if a boy earned his Master rating as a Trailblazer, then he can receive all the patches up to and including the Silver Medal patch. The transition chart below indicates advancement levels in the new program. The Adventure Rangers advancement patches and medals, with the exception of the GMA, will not be available until the Adventure program is released in March 2002.





# Discovery Rangers Chart



## Gold Falcon Medal Requirements

- ☐ 6 months as Discovery Ranger.  
(Time limit does not apply to boys 4th grade and above.)
- ☐ Gold Falcon medal Christian service activity at the local church

## Required Bible Merits

- ☐ Gold Bible Merit or 8 Orange Bible Merits

## 3 Required Red Merits

- ☐ 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 3 \_\_\_\_\_

## 3 Optional Merits (red, blue, or green merits)

- ☐ 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 3 \_\_\_\_\_

## Gold Hawk Medal Requirements

- ☐ 6 months as a Falcon Medalist.  
(Time limit does not apply to boys 5<sup>th</sup> grade and above.)
- ☐ 3 months in leadership as: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Gold Hawk medal Christian service activity at the local church

## Required Bible Merits

- ☐ Gold Bible Merit or 16 Orange Bible Merits

## 6 Required Red Merits

- ☐ 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 5 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 6 \_\_\_\_\_

## 6 Optional Merits (red, blue, or green merits)

- ☐ 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 5 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 6 \_\_\_\_\_

## Gold Eagle Medal Requirements

- ☐ 6 months as a Hawk Medalist.  
(Time limit does not apply to 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys just entering Rangers.)
- ☐ 6 months in leadership as: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Gold Eagle medal Christian service activity at the local church

## Required Bible Merits

- ☐ Gold Bible Merit or 24 Orange Bible Merits

## 10 Required Red Merits

- ☐ 1: Family Life or God & Family
- ☐ 2: Cooking
- ☐ 3: Tool Craft or Models & Designs or Rocketry
- ☐ 4: Safety
- ☐ 5: Church or Jr. Light for the Lost or BGMC
- ☐ 6: Compass or Space Exploration
- ☐ 7: Rope Craft or Art or Fingerprinting
- ☐ 8: Fire Craft or Weather
- ☐ 9: Lashing or Insect Study or Bird Study
- ☐ 10: First Aid Skills

## 8 Optional Merits (red, blue, or green merits)

- ☐ 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 5 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 6 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 7 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 8 \_\_\_\_\_

(These awards are not available until 3/15/02)

Copy this chart for each boy transitioning to the Discovery Ranger program and use it to track his progress.



# Adventure Rangers Transition Chart



## Bronze Medal Requirements\*\*\*

(Not available until 3/15/02)

- ☐ Must be an Adventure Ranger.
- ☐ 6 months in leadership as:
- ☐ Bronze Medal Christian service activity at the local church

### 2 Required Red Merits

- ☐ 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 2 \_\_\_\_\_

### 4 Required Gold Merits

- ☐ 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 4 \_\_\_\_\_

### 2 Optional Merits

(green, gold, or silver merits)

- ☐ 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 2 \_\_\_\_\_



## Silver Medal Requirements\*\*\*

(Not available until 3/15/02)

- ☐ 3 months as a Bronze Medalist.  
(Time limit does not apply to boys 8<sup>th</sup> grade and above.)
- ☐ 6 months in leadership as:

- ☐ Silver Medal Christian service activity at the local church

### 3 Required Red Merits

- ☐ 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 3 \_\_\_\_\_

### 8 Required Gold Merits

- ☐ 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 5 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 6 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 7 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 8 \_\_\_\_\_

### 5 Optional Merits

(green, gold, or silver merits)

- ☐ 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 5 \_\_\_\_\_

## Gold Medal Requirements

(Transition Option) Valid 3/1/01 to 12/31/03

- ☐ Must be at least 12 years old and at least in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.
- ☐ 3 months as Silver medalist.  
(Time limit does not apply:
  1. To boys, 8<sup>th</sup> grade and above, just entering the Ranger program.
  2. During the transition time of 3/15/01 - to - 3/15/02)
- ☐ 6 months in leadership as:

- ☐ Gold Medal Christian service activity\*\* at the local church or read the Royal Rangers Leader's Manual
- ☐ 500 word essay

### 4 Required Red Merits\*

- ☐ 1: Family Life\*\* or God & Family
- ☐ 2: Cooking
- ☐ 3: Tool Craft
- ☐ 4: Safety

### 12 Required Gold Merits\*

- ☐ 1: Bible
- ☐ 2: Christian Missions or Light for the Lost
- ☐ 3: Home Safety or Camp Safety
- ☐ 4: First Aid
- ☐ 5: Christian Service or God & Church Award
- ☐ 6: Communications\*\*, Public Speaking\*\*, or Wilderness Survival
- ☐ 7: Bachelor
- ☐ 8: Citizenship or God & Life Award
- ☐ 9: Nature Study
- ☐ 10: Camping
- ☐ 11: Hiking or Advanced Swimming
- ☐ 12: Physical Fitness

### 8 Optional Merits\*

(green, gold, or silver merits)

- ☐ 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 5 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 6 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 7 \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 8 \_\_\_\_\_

\* All merit requirements are from the old merits programs. \*\* The requirements for these merits will be listed on the national Royal Rangers Web site at [www.royalrangers.ag.org](http://www.royalrangers.ag.org). \*\*\* GMA's, under 18 years of age by 6/15/2002, may earn the Bronze and Silver Medals by completing the Christian Service requirements for each medal.

Copy this chart for each boy transitioning to the Discovery Ranger program and use it to track his progress.





# Selecting Youth Workers

[reprinted from the quarterly Ministers Letter]

by Richard Hammar



One of the most significant legal risks facing churches today is negligent selection. The term negligence means carelessness or a failure to exercise reasonable care. Negligent selection, then, means carelessness or a failure to exercise reasonable care in the selection of a worker. Negligent selection can occur in several contexts, including the selection of drivers and bookkeepers. But the most significant risk occurs in the selection of employees and volunteers who will be working with minors. Many churches have been sued on the basis of negligent selection because an inadequately screened worker sexually molested a child. Remarkably, despite all the media publicity that has been devoted to this issue over the past several years, only one-third of churches do any screening of volunteers who will work with children. This means that a staggering number of churches are exposing innocent lives to a lifetime of traumatization, and the church itself to potentially astronomical jury verdicts that may not be fully covered by the church's liability insurance policy.

There is good news, however. Church leaders can take relatively simple yet effective steps to significantly

reduce the likelihood of such an incident occurring. Here are some precautions to consider: (1) A written application form. At a minimum, it should ask for the applicant's name and address, the names of other youth-serving organizations in which the applicant has worked as an employee or volunteer, a full explanation of any prior criminal convictions, and the names of two or more references. (2) Contact references. Contact each person and organization listed as a reference in the application, and request a reference addressing the suitability of the applicant to work with minors. The

best references are those who have observed the applicant working with minors. (3) Criminal records checks. No court has found a church liable for a youth worker's sexual misconduct on the ground that it failed to conduct a criminal records check, and so relatively few churches use them. But such checks will further reduce a church's risk of being found liable for the negligent selection of youth workers. (4) Interviews. Persons being considered for a church position should be interviewed. This will provide the church with an opportunity to inquire into each applicant's background and make a determination as to each person's suitability for the position under consideration. (5) The six-month rule. Adopt a policy restricting eligibility for any volunteer position involving the custody or supervision of minors to those persons who have been members in good standing of the church for a minimum period of time, such as six months. Such a policy gives the church an additional opportunity to evaluate applicants, and will help to repel persons seeking immediate access to potential victims. (6) Limit second chances. Church leaders often "err on the side of mercy" when making employment decisions. This attitude can contribute to a negligent selection claim — if a church gives an applicant a "second chance" despite knowledge of prior sexual misconduct, and the conduct is repeated. What the church views as mercy may be viewed as negligence or even gross negligence by a jury.

## Selection and Screening Kit for Church Volunteers

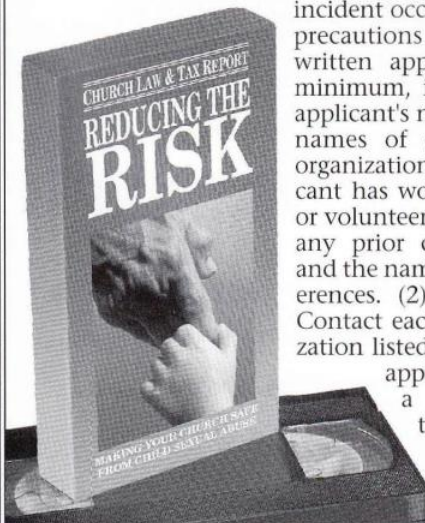
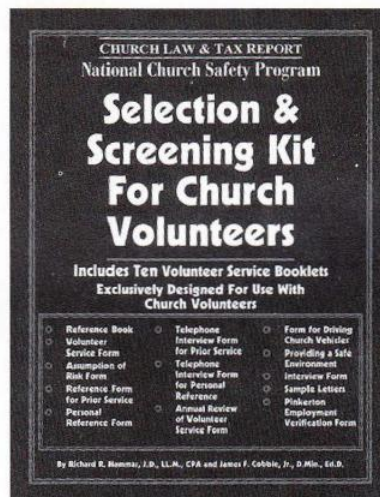
Increase your protection of children and reduce the risk of negligent worker selection. Includes all the information and forms needed to screen potential church workers. **Volunteers 03DT5911 \$29.95**

## Reducing the Risk of Sexual Abuse in Your Church

Implementing this preventive program will help you provide a safe and secure environment for children, reducing your church's legal risk and liability exposure. Kit includes: Reducing the Risk of Sexual Abuse in Your Church guide book, training manual, video, and cassette.

**Video Kit 26DT0509 \$29.95**

To order call Gospel Publishing House at  
**1-800-641-4310**







# Devotionals for Boys

by David Boyd

## OBJECT LESSON

### ▶ “Healed by God”

#### SUPPLIES

##### ■ First-aid kit

Show the various items in the first-aid kit. Talk about how each item can be used to help someone who is in need. Discuss God as the great Healer. Ask the boys if there are items in the first-aid kit to heal someone who is lame, blind, deaf, or paralyzed. Explain that human wisdom and medicine are limited. Ask if there is a limit to what God can do. Read the following true story, and then have the children answer the questions:

Around 50 years ago four great men of God felt Him leading them to preach the gospel to the Cuban people. These men were Missionary James Nicholson; Hugh Jeter, the superintendent of the Assemblies of God in Cuba; Reverend Ortey, the assistant superintendent of the Assemblies of God in Cuba; and Evangelist T.L. Osborn. An old stadium was reserved and the crusade meetings were announced. The crusade started with 500 people on the first night—not many people for the huge stadium. On the second night there were 800. People began to get saved and to get healed. People who were deaf began to hear. One person with a tumor saw the tumor instantly disappear. Another person was blind and God helped him see! Soon thousands were coming to the crusade meetings. The missionaries were really busy.

God continued to pour out His Spirit on the Cuban people there and at other crusades all over the country. God proved to the Cuban people that He was real by showing His power and healing the sick. Many blind and deaf people were healed. People who couldn't walk before could now run. People who were paralyzed could suddenly move their limbs. As more people were healed, more people believed that God was real. Soon the evangelist was on the radio telling people about Jesus. People were getting saved and healed right in their own homes!

No one knows how many thousands of people began to believe in Jesus during these great crusades. We need to keep praying for the people of Cuba, that God will once again send revival to this land so that thousands of people will believe in Jesus and His wonderful healing power.

#### QUESTIONS:

- Why was a crusade being held in Cuba?
- From what were people healed?
- Did the healings bring people to salvation?
- Does God heal today?

## OBJECT LESSON

### ▶ ‘Angels Unaware’

Ask the children questions: Are angels real? Do they still exist today? What is their job?

You won't know the full answer to all these questions, but the Bible is full of accounts of angels. Read the following story and answer the questions concerning angels.

Missionary Delonn Ranee was driving his Speed-the-Light Jeep going to teach at the university in El Salvador. Three men with guns surrounded his car and told him to get out because they were going to steal it. The missionary stalled for time and prayed to Jesus. He kept the keys, but started taking things out of the car very slowly.

He started talking to the gunmen, hoping that someone would come along and save him. He told them, "You can't steal this car. This is God's car. God owns it. God brought me here to tell the people of El Salvador about Jesus."

Suddenly, one of the men realized that this was taking too much time. He grabbed the missionary and said, "Give me the keys now or I will shoot you!"

Two of the gunmen looked up the street and screamed, "Let him go. We've got to leave! Soldiers are coming!" They pointed down the street. The third man looked down the street. Then all three of them put their guns in their pockets and ran away.

The missionary was so thankful that God had sent the military. He turned around to tell the soldiers what had happened, only to find that the street was empty as far as he could see. There weren't any soldiers anywhere. The street was deserted. What had the robbers seen?

#### QUESTIONS:

- What had the gunmen seen that made them run away?
- Does God send angels to help us?

Dan. 6:22 says, "My God sent his angel and he shut the mouths of the lions". Did God send an angel to help Daniel?

Read Heb. 1:14 and talk about God's purpose for angels.





## OBJECT LESSON

# “Prayer Is a Covering”

### SUPPLIES

- Plastic wrap
- Aluminaum foil
- A lid to a pot
- Other items that cover things
- Picture of a boy praying

Show the children the items and see if they can figure out what they all have in common. (Each of these items covers another item to protect it.) Explain how each item protects something else. Now show them a picture of a boy praying. Talk about how prayer protects and covers the person we are praying for. Give examples of how prayer works from your own life experience. Read this story and talk about protecting and covering our missionaries with prayer.

Missionaries Raymond and Janet Jacobs were driving through a city in Nicaragua at twilight, and stopped at a stoplight. Suddenly, a man jumped out of a nearby car and demanded that the missionary get out of the van. Since the missionary had his children in the back of the van, he didn't want to do that. Quickly, the man pulled out a gun and fired it at the missionary. The bullet missed the missionary, but shattered the window. Still not wanting to leave the kids, the missionary floored the gas pedal and raced away. The gunman jumped back into his car and raced after them.

The missionary continued to race through town. The gunman was following and shooting at the van. Bullets bounced off the thick walls of the van and some came crashing through the back windows. The missionary prayed and drove like crazy.

Suddenly he had an idea. His van was equipped with a police siren. He flipped it on. It began to blare. He headed his van toward the police station in town. When he arrived at the police station, with the siren blaring, the man in the car sped away. The missionary and his family were safe! As the missionary got out of the van, the policemen came and surrounded it. The van was dented with bullet impacts and the tires were all leaking air because of bullet holes. But God had protected all of them.

### QUESTIONS:

- Do missionaries need our prayers?
- How did this missionary escape harm?
- Do you think people were praying for that missionary?
- Is it important to pray?

## Protection in Peru

Julio\*, a young lay evangelist, had been threatened by a terrorist group. “You must stop preaching,” they said. “If you do not obey us, you will pay with your blood.”

This terrorist group had taken control of the area where Julio walks from town to town to preach. They had closed the police outstations and governed the region by their own rules. Any individual or group that would not cooperate with them was in danger.

Julio ignored the threats and continued his usual rounds, preaching in the small mountain churches and encouraging the believers. Again the terrorists warned Julio, and again he disregarded the threats against his life. The terrorists were outraged. “Our vengeance will be complete. We asked for your cooperation, and you disobeyed us. Now we will make an example of you,” they said.

A few days later Julio was ambushed and taken to the center of one of the larger towns in the area. A crowd gathered to witness the sentencing. The terrorists hoped that Julio's fate would put fear into the hearts of Christians and perhaps even result in closing some churches.

Julio was tied to a chair and carried to the middle of the square. Sticks of dynamite were tied to each of his arms and legs. The fuses were lit as Julio began singing praises to God. Other Christians joined him in praise, encouraging him with songs about heaven.

Then came the miracle! Suddenly there was a loud boom as the dynamite exploded. The terrorists thought nothing would be left of Julio. But when the smoke cleared, there sat Julio unharmed and still singing praises to God! The terrorists were shocked. They were so overcome by fear that they ran away. At the same time, all the Christians were saying, “It's a miracle of God!”

Julio left the square with the Christians. He continued his ministry in spite of persecution. He held firmly to the truth that Jesus gives strength to be courageous when needed.

For 20 years, believers in some areas of Peru have faced danger and persecution. Terrorists have killed several hundred pastors for preaching about Jesus. But during these difficult days, God has shown His power. In miraculous ways, He has protected His followers and reminded them that He is in control. Because of things like this, it is so important to pray for our missionaries. There is power in prayer!

*For more true missions stories contact the National Assemblies of God Children's Ministries Agency and BGMC at (417) 862-2781 or Dboyd@ag.org.*





# The Value and Future of the BSTC?



by Brian Hendrickson

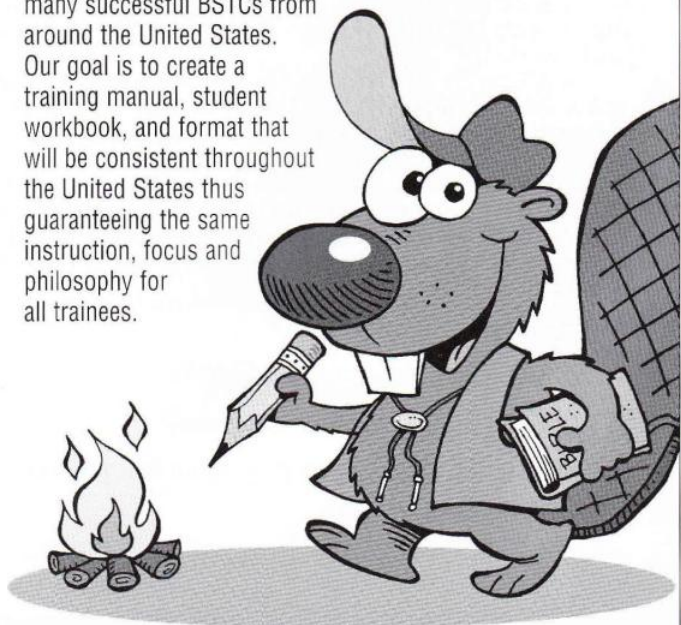
2002 will see a dramatic change in the organization of the Rangers, especially as it pertains to the Straight Arrows and Buckaroos. One of the changes that will occur will be the restructuring of the ages of the boys in the program. Instead of two programs of 2 years each, Ranger Kids will now be one group of three years. We are recommending that the Kindergarten-aged boys be handled as a separate group, but for many churches we recognize that all the K, 1st, and 2nd grades boys will be together. Another major change will be the non-thematic approach of the Ranger Kids program. We will no longer focus upon the Indian and Cowboy themes to teach Biblical truths. However, we have stated and will continue to reinforce the concept that those who wish to use the cowboy or Indian theme continue to do so with the new Ranger Kids structure and advancement system. (This is the reason the advancement steps are animals in order to promote the outdoors.)

Is there a reason to attend a BSTC or what value do they hold? The national office has put a great deal of work, research, and consultation into the value, purpose, and direction of the BSTC. First, the BSTC contains much more than the teaching of the Indian or cowboy thematic issues of Straight Arrows and Buckaroos. For instance, puppetry and crafts are two very important sessions taught at the BSTC. Therefore, much of the content of the BSTC will flow over into the new RKTC, Ranger Kids Training Conference. Second, the roles of patrol advisors and the senior guide will continue to reflect the role they would play in a typical outpost group. Therefore, the development of the patrol system, even in the Ranger Kids, is vital and will continue to be emphasized in the RKTC. Lastly, the optional methods of holding RKTCs will be continued. Some presently hold the BSTC on a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, while others hold the BSTC on two separate Saturdays. Allowing this flexibility for each district is important in order to be more effective and available to men and women.

The greatest change to the BSTC when it transitions into the RKTC will be removal of the strong emphasis on the

Indian and Cowboy theme. We will continue to teach 'how to run a thematic session' at the RKTC for the commanders that wish to provide variety in their outpost meeting. Again, let me reiterate, we are not trying to dissuade nor dismiss the value of the Indian or Cowboy theme, but rather expand our options for ministry to boys. Some outposts may wish to run the Ranger Kids with a cowboy theme for a year or two, then decide to do an Indian theme, or any theme which will attract and keep the interests of the boys. In 2001 only 2 BSTCs will be held, but we fully expect the latter part of 2002 and all of 2003 to be filled with opportunities to attend a RKTC. We look forward to the opportunities to teach more men and women the value and scope of Royal Rangers for our early elementary boys.

At the national council of 2001 the Ranger Kids committee worked on developing the scope and sequence of the RKTCs to be held in 2002 and beyond. We will be compiling the information and ideas used in the many successful BSTCs from around the United States. Our goal is to create a training manual, student workbook, and format that will be consistent throughout the United States thus guaranteeing the same instruction, focus and philosophy for all trainees.





# "Letters to Home"

Monday, September 4, 2000

Here's a great letter from a young camper to his folks this past summer:

Dear Mom and Dad:

Our scoutmaster told us to write to our parents in case you saw the flood on TV and got worried. We are OK. Only one of our tents and two sleeping bags got washed away. Luckily, none of us got drowned because we were all up on the mountain looking for Chad when it happened.

Call Chad's mom and tell her he's OK. He can't write because of the cast. I got to ride on the search and rescue jeep. It was neat.

We never would have found him in the dark had it not been for the lightning. Scoutmaster Webb got mad at Chad for going on a hike alone, but Chad said he did tell him, but he probably didn't hear 'cause it was during the fire.

Did you know that if you put a gas can on a fire, the gas can will blow up? Billy is going to look weird 'til his hair grows back.

We'll be home on Saturday if Scoutmaster Webb gets his car fixed. It wasn't his fault about the wreck. The brakes worked OK when we left. Scoutmaster Webb said with a car that old you have to expect something to break down, which is why he can't get insurance on it.

Sometimes he lets us ride in the trunk. It gets pretty crowded with 10 people in the car.

Guess what? We all passed our first-aid merit badges. When Dave dove in the lake and cut his arm, we got to see how a tourniquet works.

Also, Wade and I threw up. Scoutmaster Webb said it was just food poisoning from the leftover chicken. Said he got sick that way with the food he ate in prison. See you soon.

By the way . . . how long has it been since I had a tetanus shot?

Love, Johnny

(Reproduced with permission from **BYLINE** with Dan Betzer from the September 4, 2000, "Letters to Home" broadcast. Author of the letter is unknown.)

## CAMPORAMA INTRODUCTORY OFFER

### THE NATIONAL ROYAL RANGERS LIMITED EDITION Patch Collection



#### Limited Edition of 2500 Ranger Patch Collection

Includes 6 x 9" Certificate of Authenticity signed and numbered by National Director Richard Mariott. Four Age level patches.

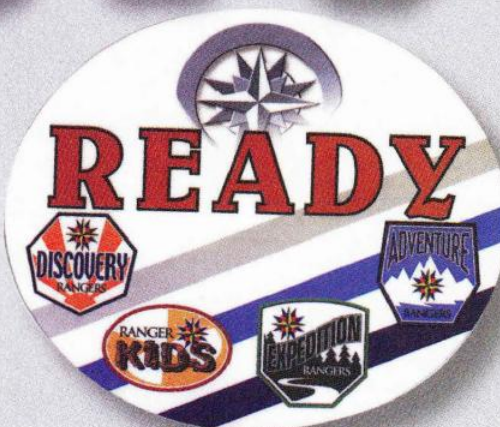
**\$25 per set**



#### National Rangers READY Mouse Pad

This generous sized mouse pad measuring 9 1/2 x 8" is the ideal size for all desks. Features the patches of the new Rangers program along with National Rangers logo.

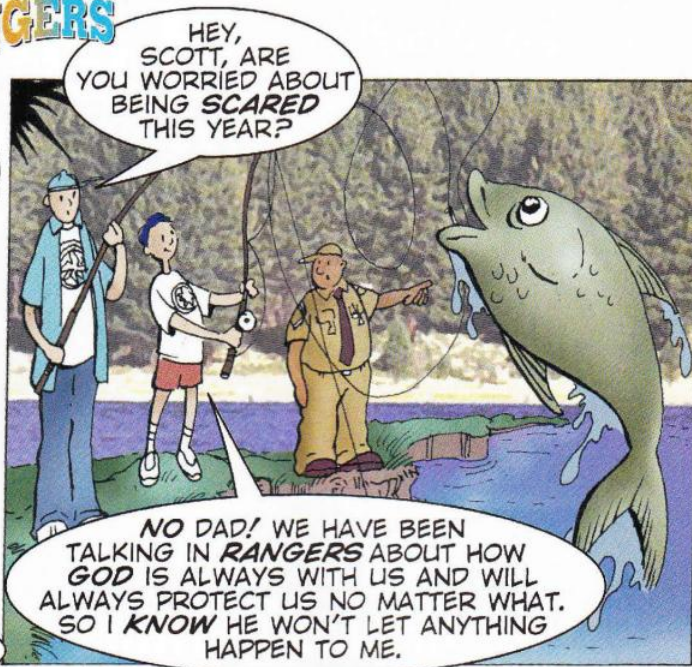
**\$10 each**





THE BOYS AND THEIR DADS HAD JUST **FINISHED** SETTING UP THE TENTS. A FEW WENT TO **GATHER** FIREWOOD AND THE OTHERS WENT TO **CATCH** SOME FISH FOR DINNER.

# RASCAL RANGERS

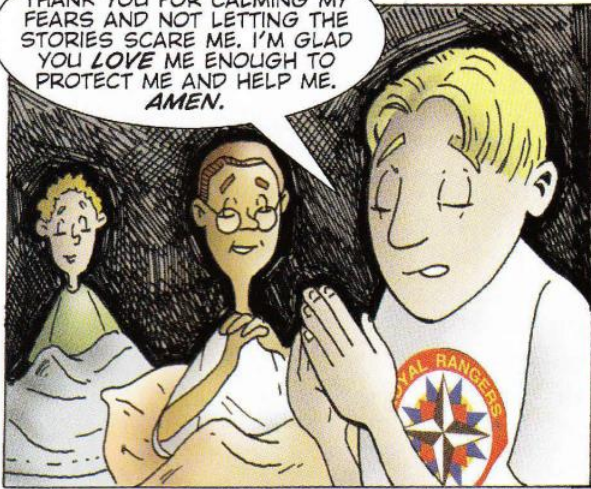


Design: Craig **SCHUTT** Story: Vicky **WHITE**





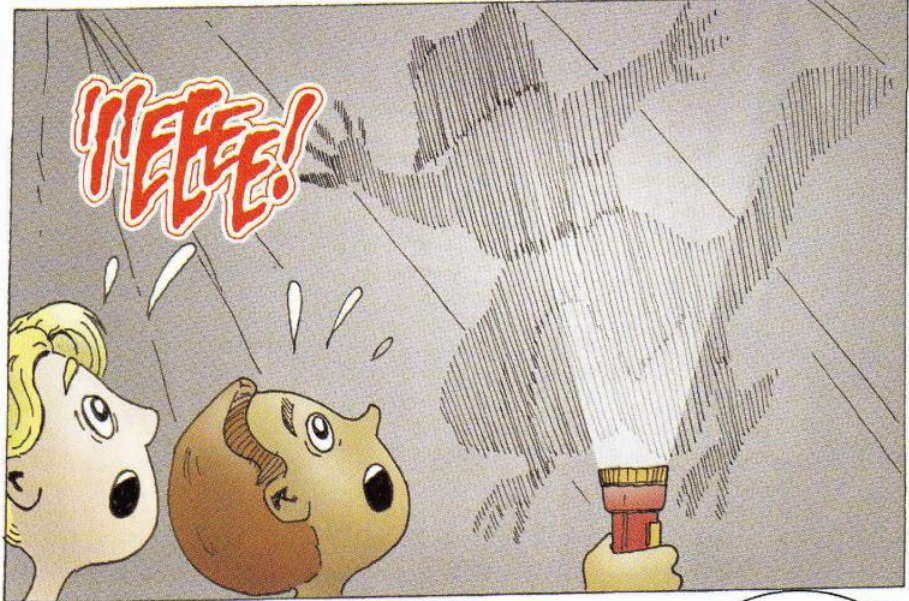
DEAR JESUS,  
THANK YOU FOR CALMING MY  
FEARS AND NOT LETTING THE  
STORIES SCARE ME. I'M GLAD  
YOU LOVE ME ENOUGH TO  
PROTECT ME AND HELP ME.  
AMEN.



DO YOU  
HEAR THAT?

YEAH! WHAT  
IS IT?!

GET THE  
FLASHLIGHT. MAYBE  
SOMEONE IS OUT  
THERE LOOKING  
FOR FOOD.



WHAT  
HAPPENED?

THERE'S A  
GIANT BEAR  
OUT HERE!

WHERE?

OVER  
THERE!

AND  
YOU SAID I  
WOULD BE THE  
ONE SCARED.

THERE'S YOUR  
GIANT BEAR...  
THAT'S JUST  
A CHIPMUNK.

REMEMBER, IN ISAIAH CHAPTER  
41, IT SAYS THAT WE SHOULD  
FEAR NOT, FOR THE LORD IS  
WITH US, DO NOT DISMAY FOR  
HE IS OUR GOD.





# Heroes of the Faith

"Wow! The Red Baron's fighter!" I exclaimed with excitement.

"That's right. It's a bright red Fokker Dr-I," Darby Jones Senior said. My dad and I stood before the small World War I airplane. It had three sets of wings on the sides and a big triangle-shaped tail. Two machine guns pointed out the front.

"The Red Baron shot down 80 Allied airplanes in World War I!" I said, remembering my history lessons. "He was the greatest German fighter pilot of all time."

My Dad, Darby Jones Sr., was in Europe on one of his business trips. He flew around the world so many times that the airlines gave him free travel tickets. That is how I, Darby Jones, Jr., came to be standing in the Musée de Armee in Brussels, Belgium.

Part of the museum was a huge hangar filled with airplanes from now and back to WWI. It was awesome. My favorites were the WWI planes. Alongside the German Fokker triplane was a British Sopwith Camel, the plane was made famous by the cartoon character Snoopy. Just past the Sopwith was a French SPAD. Eddie Rickenbacker, the greatest American fighter pilot during WWI, flew this type of plane. He was only in the war for a short period of time, but still was able to shoot down 22 enemy planes and four hot-air balloons. He won all kinds of medals, including the Medal of Honor. I just stood in awe.

"These planes are made from thin strips of wood covered with fabric," my dad said. "Bullets would pass right through them. When the gas tank was hit they would catch on fire and burn."

"Wow, the men who flew them must have been really brave." I said reverently.

"They sure were. Every one of them was a hero." Darby Sr. said.

"My favorite hero is the Red Baron. Who is your favorite?" I asked.

"Well, I am afraid that my favorite hero is not a WWI fighter pilot," Dad said as he reached into his wallet and carefully began to pull out a number of worn photographs.

"What have you got there?" I asked.

"These are *my* heroes," he said as he

**“My favorite hero is the Red Baron. Who is your favorite?” I asked.**

carefully spread the cards out on the wing of the fighter plane. The cards were photos of normal looking people. Some were old; others were young. Some of the photos showed families, while others were married couples.

What is special about these people? They look pretty normal for heroes. The



**“These planes are made from thin strips of wood covered with fabric,” my dad said.**



pictures don't have airplanes, racecars, or sports equipment in them.

“What is so special about these people?” I asked.

“Each of these people is a missionary. They have dedicated their lives to living in different places around the world in order to teach people about Jesus.” Dad said as he lifted up a card showing a man with his family. “These are Damien and Mirla Zinico. They live in the Central American country of Guatemala. He braves disease, thieves, and narrow mountain roads deep in the jungle so he can take the gospel to Indians living in remote places. And this card—this is Mark and Amy Renfro living in the Middle East/North Africa. I could tell you stories about Larry Smith in southern Asia, Kendra Harber in Cambodia, Norm and Heather Edwards in Russia, or even Dale and Laurel Schneman here in Belgium.”

“What's so hard about living in Belgium?” I asked.

“Europe was once a Christian continent. But the people have turned their backs on God. They have hardened their hearts to the gospel. Did you know that there are more born-again Christians in Africa than there are in Europe?” my dad asked.

I thought about that for a moment. I live in the United States and go to a great church that has Royal Rangers. I go on campouts and to Pow Wows and even to Camporama. Most of my friends are Christians. What about the children in these missionary pictures? Did they have Royal Rangers? Did they have Christian friends to play with?

Missionaries *are* heroes. I had never thought of it that way. I guess you could say that they are heroes of the faith.

*If you wish to contact a missionary/missionary family, check them out on the Assemblies of God website MissionaryDirectory link at [www.ag.org](http://www.ag.org)!*



by Marian **BROOKHOUSE**



# TRAPPED!

**"You're like molasses, Paxton,"** growled Gunner's Mate Stebbins on the second gun deck of the frigate USS Congress.

"I—I tripped on the stairs, sir," said Matthew, easing a 15-pound tin of gunpowder onto the floor. He shivered from the chilly March breeze that blew through the gun ports.

Stebbins' coal-black eyes bore into Matthew. "Hogwash! Get a fire under you, boy. We're about to go into battle. Understand?" He turned away, returning to his gun crew.

"That gets me!" fumed Matthew's older brother, Robert. "He didn't have to be so hard on you."

"No, he's right. I've got to learn to be faster."

Robert patted Matthew's shoulder. "Those kegs are a bit heavy. But you'll get the hang of it."

Matthew's stomach knotted. He hadn't tripped on the stairs as he'd told Stebbins, but had taken time to calm himself in the companionway. Confined spaces terrified him. When asked by crewmen why he slept on the quarterdeck, Matthew, too embarrassed to admit his weakness, said the fresh sea air was good for his lungs. He couldn't even tell his brother about his fear.

"Here comes the Merrimac," shouted the midshipman. Matthew strained to see out the gun ports. He caught sight of a gray-brown iron hulk, engines chugging rhythmically. Someone said it looked like a humpbacked crocodile. Its menacing presence made the hairs stiffen at the back of Matthew's neck.

"Fire!" barked the captain of the Congress. The cannons recoiled upon discharge.

Their shots took no effect, glancing upward and flying off Merrimac's 4-inch-thick iron plates. The coal-burning engines chuffed steadily on.

Congress' heavy guns rumbled on the decks as they were being pulled back into firing position.

"C'mon," said Robert, tugging at Matthew's sleeve. "The gunners will need more powder," and disappeared below deck.

I can't go down there again, thought Matthew, breathing uneasily. The Congress shuddered from shot fired by the Merrimac.

"We've been hit midships!" someone shouted.

Matthew's heart froze. Please, Lord, let my brother be alive, he prayed. But when Robert didn't come up the companionway, Matthew knew something was wrong. He had to find Robert. And that meant going below decks.

Heart pounding, Matthew groped the walls with sweaty palms as he moved unsteadily down the narrow companionway.

The ammunitions room was blocked with twisted and broken timbers. Sulfur stung Matthew's throat. He peered between the boards. Merrimac's shot had torn through the side of the ship. Water sloshed in through the jagged hole. He looked down to see his brother lying on the floor. "Robert!"

"I—I can't get up," he groaned.

I've got to get him out, or he'll drown, thought Matthew. Suddenly his fear returned. Bile bit at the back of his throat. "I'll get help."

"No, Matt. I need you now."

Matthew gasped for air. He sensed the walls closing in around him, but Robert's pleas kept him glued to the spot. Don't be so chicken-livered, he scolded himself, and said, "Hang on, I'll get you out—somehow."

Matthew clawed at the broken timbers blocking the doorway, but they were wedged tight. I can't let Robert die because of my stupid weakness, he thought. Angry with

**"We've been  
hit midships!"  
someone  
shouted.**



himself, he kicked the timbers. Some of them moved!

The movement of the timbers sparked an idea of how to reach Robert. Lying flat on his back, Matthew folded his legs against his chest, feet facing the blocked entrance. As he thrust his feet forward, he smashed through the tangled barrier.

Keep your mind on Robert, not the walls, he told himself as he slipped into the misty room. He was grateful the gunpowder hadn't gone off, or Robert would've been dead. The Congress shivered from more hits as Matthew crawled to his brother's side.

"My right shoulder hurts something awful," said Robert, in a raspy voice.

Matthew was shocked to see a three-fingers-wide piece of wood protruding just below Robert's collarbone. "You'll be all right," said Matthew, trying to keep the worry out of his voice.

A defeated, muted cry of "Strike the colors. Raise the white flag!" came from the quarterdeck above.

Matthew felt the walls closing in again. A queasy flutter seized his stomach. Please, Lord, help me get my brother out of here, he prayed. Suddenly, energy pumped through his body. He raised Robert to a sitting position. Claspings his arms around his brother's chest, Matthew lifted.

As he pulled Robert toward the doorway, the ship tilted starboard. Matthew stumbled, taking his brother down with him. They slid to the opposite wall where the water was deeper. Matthew was trapped beneath his brother in the bone-numbing water. His lungs burned for lack of oxygen as he kicked and writhed to get free. He managed to push himself above the water, and sucked at the damp, salty air.

"Leave," said Robert, shivering in the water. "You'll have a better chance of getting out without me."

"No!" Matthew's voice quivered. "I'll not leave you here."

The Congress shifted toward the bow. Seawater flowed out of the room. This was their chance of escape. Matthew's heart bounded to his throat with thanksgiving to God. They rode the icy current out of the ammunitions chamber to the base of the companionway.

Topside, red flames devoured Congress' canvas sails. Matthew choked on the smoke as a flurry of red-orange sparks swirled down onto the quarterdeck. He dragged his now unconscious brother to the ship's railing. Lifeboats from the nearby Confederate warship Beaufort were alongside, taking all survivors prisoner.

When the ship's surgeon finished treating Robert's wound, Matthew stayed beside his brother throughout the night. Thank You, Lord, for giving me the strength to face my fear and help Robert, he prayed, holding his brother's hand. Going below deck hadn't been easy. But Matthew knew that if he had to help his brother again, he would do it willingly.

Approximately 1,100,325 boys, 17 and under, helped influence the outcome of the Civil War.

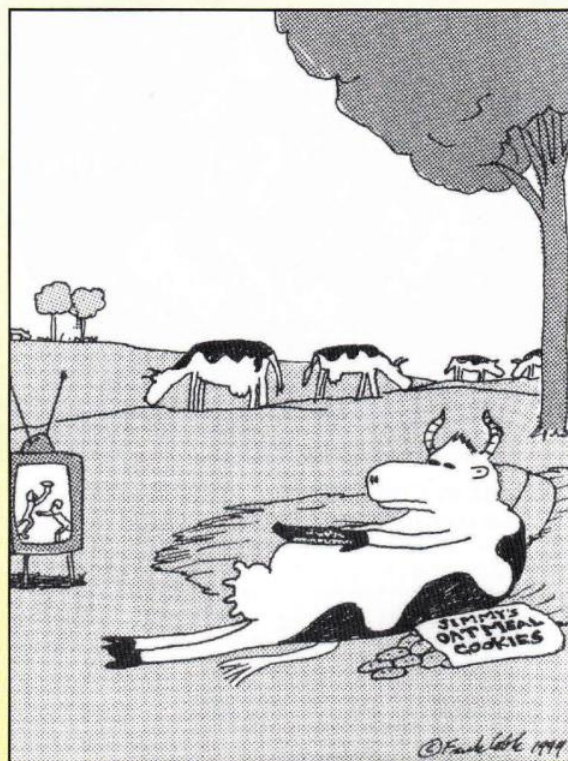
# COMEDY CORNER



"Why can't you two just play a FRIENDLY game of croquet?"

What do you call a happy Lassie?

*A jolly collie!*



The Milk Dud.

SON: "No I didn't, and I have the fish to prove it!"

FATHER: "I hear you skipped school to play football..."

How do you catch a tame rabbit? *Tame way, unique up on it!*

How do you catch a unique rabbit? *Unique up on it.*



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