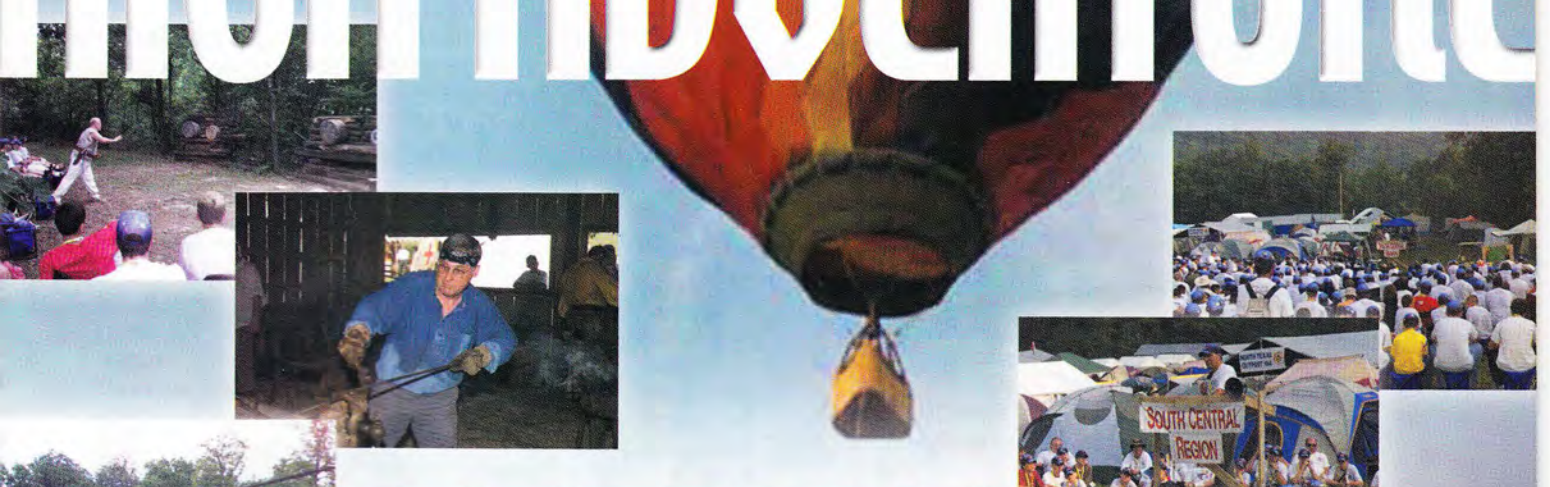
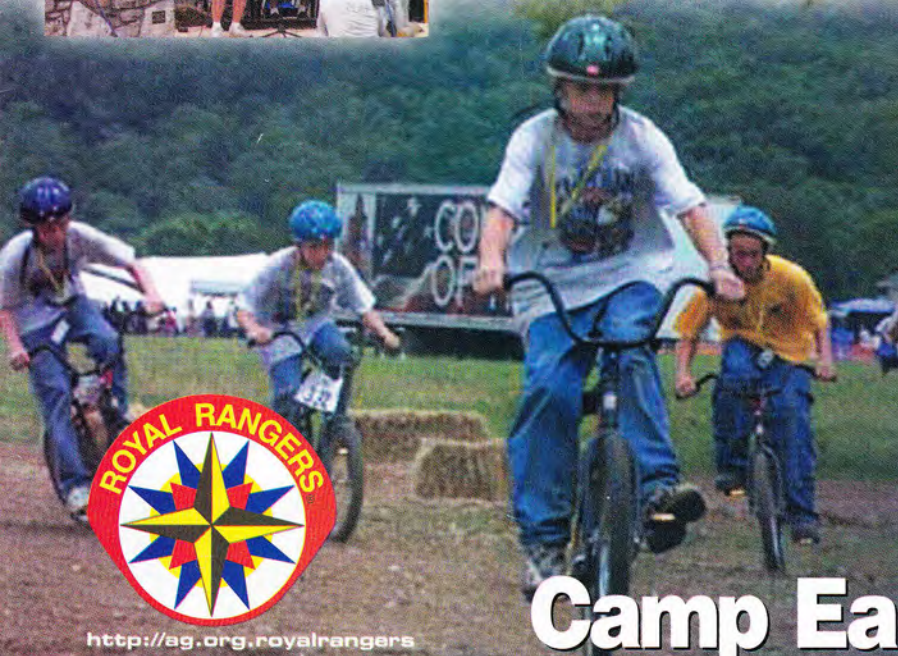


HIGH ADVENTURE



NATIONAL CAMPORAMA 2002



SUCCESS
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- 1,500+ Visitors
- 184 Decisions by Men & Boys for Salvation

July 15-19, 2002

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HIGH ADVENTURE



Fire Break!
2

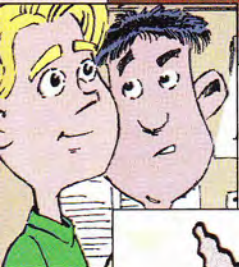


**The Value of
Royal Rangers**
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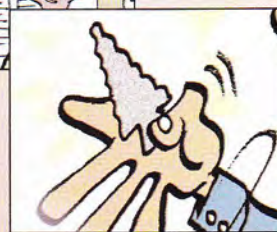
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Jeff and Mark were headed home from school when they first saw it. A thin, gray wisp of smoke rose from the direction of the farm where Jeff lived with his parents. Soon the smoke changed to a yellowish brown, getting thicker and darker every second.

"Come on!" Jeff yelled. They jumped onto their bicycles and pedaled furiously, not letting up until the farm loomed in front of them. Smoke filled the air.

"It's not your place at all!" Mark exclaimed, out of breath. "Just that old field of weeds Mr. Barton owns."

"But our barn and chicken house are right up against his property," Jeff said, wheezing. "And the wind's blowing this way. I wonder where my folks are."

A note waited on the dining room table when the boys went in the house. "Dear Jeff," it said, "We went to an auction in Kingston. Be back in time for supper. Mom and Dad." Jeff groaned. "Now what do we do?"

Mark shrugged his shoulders. "Relax. That fire will burn itself out before it gets anywhere near your barn."

"Let's go take another look," Jeff said, "With my folks away, I'm in charge."

Mark reluctantly followed Jeff outside and over to the barn. Then they stopped. "Wow!" Jeff shouted. "Look how much it's burned just while we were in the house. It's coming straight toward the barn!"

Mark swallowed. "It doesn't seem to be dying down very much," he admitted.

"We have to do something," Jeff decided. "Get on your bike and ride over to use the Miller's phone. Ours is still out of order. Call the fire department and tell them what's happened."

"OK," Mark agreed, running to his bike. "What are you going to do?"

"I'm going to dig a firebreak next to our barn," Jeff explained. "I don't know if I'll have enough time, but I'll try. Get going—and hurry!"

He kept expecting to hear sirens from the fire engines, but they didn't come.

As Mark rode off, Jeff ran to the tool shed. He grabbed a shovel and raced back to the fence which separated their property from the Barton farm.

He hopped over the fence and started digging. The fire was closer now, and the cinders were getting into his eyes. He shoveled as fast as possible, putting the dry weeds underneath and dirt on top. He worked until the fire was closing in on him and it was no longer safe to remain on the Barton property. He kept expecting to hear sirens from the fire engines, but they didn't come.

Next Jeff put a ladder up to the roof of the chicken house. He turned on a hose full blast and started up the ladder. Thankfully it was a long hose that allowed him to walk to the edge of the chicken house roof closest to the fire.



Fire Break!

by Alan CLIBURN

After thoroughly wetting down the roof and sides of the chicken house and as much of the barn as he could reach, Jeff began spraying water into the area where he had dug the firebreak.

Closer and closer the fire came, until finally it reached the firebreak. Jeff was scared and tired. Smoke was burning his eyes, but he refused to leave the roof. If he could keep the flames from jumping to the barn or chicken house, the lack of fuel would force the fire to die.

Here and there in the firebreak weeds not completely covered with dirt would ignite and bring the flames closer to the barn. Jeff squirted each one with water until it sizzled and went out.

The fire had burned itself out and Jeff was climbing down the ladder to shut off the water when the fire engines arrived. Jeff hadn't even heard the sirens.

"Where's the fire, son?" the fire chief asked as he jumped out of his car.

"It was on the other side of the barn," Jeff said weakly, more tired than he realized. "It's out now." The firemen hurried around the barn just as Mark rode up on his bike.

"What took so long?" Jeff asked. "I had to put out the fire all by myself."

"Nobody would believe me at first," Mark explained. "Everyone thought Mr. Barton was just burning his weeds and wouldn't let the fire get close to your place. I had to ride all the way home. My mom finally called the fire department."

The firemen came back around the building. The fire chief was shaking his head. "That's what I call a

close one," he said. "It's lucky that firebreak was there."

"Lucky nothing!" Mark exclaimed. "Jeff had to dig it himself."

"You mean you—" the fire chief began, turning to face Jeff. "How did you know to do that?"

Jeff shrugged. "We saw a film at school about fire fighting."

"I suppose that's how you knew to wet down the roof and sides of the barn and chicken house, too?" the chief asked.

"Sure," Jeff replied. "Everybody knows that water won't burn."

"Your folks will be mighty proud, son," the fire chief said. "Your fast action saved those buildings and maybe even the house." Jeff smiled. "I imagine Mr. Barton will be over to thank you, too."

"Mr. Barton!" Jeff and Mark exclaimed together.

"I forgot all about him," Jeff added.

"And he forgot all about setting the weeds on fire," the chief explained. "He's not a young man anymore, you know. He decided to rest for a few minutes while his weeds were burning. He was still asleep when we called to check on the report of a fire on his property. If your barn had been burned, he would have been held responsible. Yes sir, Jeff—you have quite a few thank you's coming!"

Jeff blushed as the fire chief shook his hand and the other firemen clapped. They made him feel like a hero. Somehow he didn't feel nearly as tired as he had a few minutes earlier.

(This story was originally published in the American Red Cross Youth NEWS.)



GOLD MEDAL ACHIEVEMENT ESSAYS

“When I said that Rangers taught me survival skills, I didn’t just mean the ones that keep you alive in the forest, but the ones for everyday living.”

Teach: My Pioneers commander, Jim Olson, taught me about what it means to be a Ranger and a Christian. He taught me what I needed to do to become a Christian and he led me to Christ at my first powwow in 1995.

Keep: Jim helped me to know what I needed to do to walk in God’s path, and now God is my best Friend.

Rangers has taught me camping and survival skills. The most influential Rangers programs that taught me this were JLTC, JSC, JCE, and JTT. All of these camps taught me to respect my elders, to trust my friends, and to trust that God can bring me through any trial I may have. I met most of my strong friends at these camps. These friends helped me with my walk with God, and I can talk to them about anything going on in my life.

When I said that Rangers taught me survival skills, I didn’t just mean the ones that keep you alive in the forest, but the ones for everyday living. Life has many traps and snares that need to be avoided. Some of those you try to avoid but can’t. I realized that, no matter what I go through, God, Rangers, my family, and my friends will always be there. For example, when my mom got sick, I had so many people praying for me, my mom, and my family. To me, that is what friends and Rangers are all about: people coming together to help one another.

All in all, I know Rangers is one of the best things I have done in my life, and I don’t regret a millisecond of it. Going through Rangers and accomplishing my merits and advancements made me feel that I could do anything in my life. Rangers gave me the motivation to get the required merits and advancements for my GMA. I thank God for the strength He gives me to get through each day of my life, and I am proud and pleased to be a Royal Ranger.

The Value of Royal

My Life As A Ranger

by John **KILDE**

OUTPOST 119
Harvestime, Eau Claire, WI

Some of the biggest lessons I have learned in my life have come from Royal Rangers. Royal Rangers is a ministry that every boy and/or man could enjoy. The many things that Rangers offers makes the ministry, at first glance, just look like a place parents can put their children to keep them busy on Wednesday nights. But by being in Rangers, I have learned that Rangers is not a place to baby-sit children, but a place where we become involved in the church, learning camping and survival skills, and learning basic skills that apply to our everyday life. These are just a few things that the Rangers program is about.

By being involved in the church, we learn more about God and His ways and the way He wants us to live. The main mission of Rangers is to “reach, teach, and keep boys for Christ.” I have experienced all of this firsthand.

Reach: My best friend during third grade was in Royal Rangers. One day at his house after school, his dad, Scott Storrar, invited me to Royal Rangers. He, at that time, was the Trailblazers and Challengers commander. I came that night and saw not only how much fun it was, but all the love and care the kids and commanders had for each other. I was hooked right away.

How Royal Rangers Has Effected My Life

by K.C. **Mackey**

OUTPOST 6
Central Assembly of God, Springfield, MO

Royal Rangers has been one of the most valuable experiences of my life. I have benefited from the skills I have acquired, and from the people I have had the privilege of working with.

I have a great deal of respect for my commanders. I appreciate the time, energy, money, effort, and patience they have put into the Royal Rangers and their activities. I also respect the Rangers who have earned their Gold Medal of Achievement. It takes all you’ve got to finish, and anybody who can do it deserves to be recognized for his accomplishment.

My favorite memories of Royal Rangers are of the friends I have made in the program. I wouldn’t trade the good times I’ve had with Kyle, Stewert, Tommy, Andrew, or my commanders for anything in the world. Nothing can explain how much they mean to me. I think I’ve learned more from them than I did in class—things like forgiveness, kindness, and humility.

Teamwork is emphasized in Royal Rangers. It took me a while to get used to depending on other people to help me get a job done, but I think I've finally gotten the concept down pretty well. Even though it has gotten easier for me to work with other people, I'm still learning additional teamwork skills and how to get along better with others.

Royal Rangers has taught me patience and perseverance during the 9 years I have been a member. It doesn't get any easier, but every time it starts getting hard, I just keep on going. God helps me get through it, and He teaches me something new along the way.

Leadership is a skill I am developing as a result of my participation in Royal Rangers. I'm learning how to be a fair and effective leader, how to equally distribute assignments, and how to take charge in a crisis. I have also gained effective organizational skills as a result of the Royal Rangers program.

“Royal Rangers has taught me patience and perseverance during the 9 years I have been a member.”

The wilderness training I've received in Royal Rangers has also been very helpful. It is important to have a good understanding of the world around you. Knowing how to set up a proper campsite is important for safety and sanitation purposes. Knowing what to do if you get lost in the woods or if an emergency occurs is also important.

Rangers

Discipline was the hardest thing for me to learn (and I'm not done learning yet). I am the master of procrastination, but after 9 years of being a Royal Ranger, I am slowly getting better. (Writing this essay is an example of a project I've been putting off, but am finally finishing.)

I have grown spiritually as a member of Royal Rangers. Nothing can match the feeling of a well-done camp service. God is so alive in those moments outside under the stars. You can feel His presence walking next to you. Experiences like this have deeply strengthened my Christianity.

As I said before, it is incredible how many valuable experiences I have gained as a Royal Ranger. I was surprised at the knowledge I acquired and the work it took to get the GMA. The great thing about Royal Rangers is that a lot of the things I've learned will be impressive on job applications. I have decided to pursue a career in business administration, and I believe that I will use many of the skills I have learned in Royal Rangers throughout my career and in my personal life.

“ I'm learning how to be a FAIR and EFFECTIVE leader.”

The Value of Royal Rangers by Jonathan Paredes

OUTPOST 119
Star of Jacob, New Haven, CN

The Royal Rangers ministry has taught me many things throughout the years, at all the powwows and different events that I have attended. I have learned everything from setting up a tent to learning how to work as a patrol. Royal Rangers has provided many opportunities to fellowship with old friends, make new ones, and teach others about Royal Rangers. I can recall many memorable times throughout FCF and training like JLTC and AJTC.

During one of these activities, I learned a very important lesson. I was supposed to attend JLTC. We were to meet at the church at 5:00 a.m. At that time, I didn't think that punctuality was a priority. What a mistake! I arrived at church around 5:15 a.m., and to my surprise, they were gone! I missed JLTC that year, when I finally got there, all the guys were on my case about being on time this time. So that was a valuable lesson.

Royal Rangers has also been a way for me to get to know God and the plans He has for my life. In 1994, at my first powwow, I had my first experience with God. During the Saturday night call-out, I felt that I needed to take this step. I didn't because I was worried about what the other guys would say about me. But in my heart, I felt this need for God. So I got up and walked to the front. There I accepted the Lord into my life, and I am still serving Him to this day.

At a youth convention, I finally realized there was a purpose for Rangers in my life other than for earning awards and going camping. I decided to ask God to tell me what He planned to do with my life as I prayed and told Him that my life was in His hands. Then He showed me a place out in the wilderness in which there was a river with water clear as crystal. On the bank there was a path into the forest. I followed the path,

“I looked around the stadium filled with boys praising God. Then it hit me.

Rangers wasn't about earning medals and going camping. It is a way for boys to learn to love God..”

which led to a huge stadium. I looked around the stadium filled with boys praising God. Then it hit me. Rangers wasn't about earning medals and going camping. It is a way for boys to learn to love God. Since that day, I have devoted myself to His will completely. And since that day, everything I have tried, I have succeeded in. I thank God for giving me the opportunity to represent the district at the regional Royal Ranger of the Year competition. The Lord also gave me the chance to be the chapter scout. It is great how He is working in my life, and He still amazes me every day. I thank God for giving me such a great opportunity to be in such a great ministry, which has such a great value to me.



IN

GROUND ZERO

On the morning of September 12, 2001, a Convoy of Hope came through the ashes of disaster. Denny Nissley of Christ In Action (CIA) ministries tried all night to get approval to set up his tent at the Pentagon to begin food distribution to the rescuers, military, and anyone working there.

At 9:00 a.m. along with 40 volunteers from nearby Manassas, Va., he took a convoy of food, Bibles, and encouragement into the south parking lot of the Pentagon. Convoy of Hope New Testaments were placed on the tables for anyone who wanted them. A Gideon brother asked if he could put his

out too. Denny said, "Sure," and within 3 days all 400 of the Gideon New Testaments were gone! Notes from school children were also placed on the tables and around the platform.

After having been up all night with Denny trying to get in with only 15 volunteers, I went home at 5:30 a.m. to get a couple hours of sleep. At 8:00 a.m. my church called asking for help for the CIA setup, but I said I had to work. As I drove to a business meeting, I felt I had missed the mark, putting work before others' needs. I repented, praying the Lord would send work. I am grateful He did.

When I got home that afternoon, Mitzi said the church needed our van to take the first kitchen crew down to the convoy. I volunteered to drive. Within the hour, we were going to Manassas Assembly of God (MAG) to pick up the first crew.

While we waited for needed equipment, we unloaded a truck which arrived full of food to take in.

Denny said security was tight but gave us names and cell phone numbers to get us in. The shift changed from the National Guard to Arlington Police by the time we got there, though, and none of the names or codes worked. After trying three different entrances we were able to get in.

Driving by the massive hole in the Pentagon was a humbling and sad experience—almost unreal. After dropping off the kitchen crew, a group of the setup crew from Emmanuel Baptist and MAG wanted to go home to attend the prayer services scheduled throughout the area that night. After dropping everyone off, I returned to pick up the kitchen crew.

Once again security had changed, and after being turned away twice, I was able to get in. By 10:10 p.m. most of the workers had left, and Denny finally went to sleep for the first time in 24 hours.

The first crew was tired out and ready to leave when a truckload of drinks and food from Pennsylvania got in. We unloaded it and got back to MAG at midnight.

The next day was Thursday. Everyone was glued to the television or radio as the president and the nation came together in prayer and plans for the rescue and the future. Flags began appearing everywhere, and America was reborn.

I put up our full-sized flag that morning only to find it missing by that afternoon. Mitzi said a neighbor needed it for some relatives who could not find one. They wanted a flag so badly. Praise God, we had one they could use. They were caring for a family member—a 3-year-old boy who

was dropped off at the Pentagon daycare by his mom, but was never picked up. Sadly his mom was found on Friday departed from this life.

Betsy and Mitzi wanted to go back and help on Friday. I called CIA and talked to Rachell Nissley, Denny's oldest daughter. She was making lists of people who were calling from all over the country. By the time I called, she had nearly the entire weekend full of volunteers. They came from Chicago, Fairfax, Louisiana, North Carolina,

Pennsylvania, and other places near and far. She needed someone to drive the MAG vans to shuttle to and from the Pentagon.

My next shift was 10 a.m., Saturday. Mitzi went in my place to a Straight Arrows and Buckaroos field day with my 5-year-old son. What a blessing she is!

The morning crew of 20 Fairfax AG members was a great help. By the time I returned with them at 4:30 p.m., Roger, the Buckaroos commander, was waiting. Over 50 Rangers and commanders had made a banner that said, "We are praying for you," and put their painted red and blue handprints on it with their names under each print. Roger asked if I could take it to the Pentagon for Denny to give to those in charge. I was delighted.

After some rest, I took a group in for a 3:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. shift. The Pentagon at night was emotional. The lights and dust rising from the rescue hole were eerie.

Sunday morning a moving event occurred. The sun was just rising when Melody, Denny's 15-year-old daughter, put on an inspirational CD given to CIA by the Marine Corps Band a few years ago. She did not realize that the first song was our national anthem. The men, women, and joint chiefs stopped talking and eating, and stood at attention, saluting the flag draped over the platform until the song ended. It brought tears to my eyes.

Another thing that blessed the military, rescue workers, and anyone else who came to the tent was the heartfelt thanks the food service workers would express on behalf of the nation. Many exclaimed that they had never been thanked before. (Please thank a policeman, fireman, rescue worker, or anyone in uniform wherever you are.)

This is only a poor representation of what I experienced, felt, and saw. But I am proud to be an American and proud of the men and women who serve God, country, and world. God bless America, my home sweet home!

Brian Jones



Pictured are the boys from the Manassas (Virginia) Assembly of God Royal Rangers outpost who made the banner.

I am proud to be an American and proud of the men and women who serve God, country, and world. God bless America, my home sweet home!

FIRST AID MANEUVER

Comes in Handy for

Elementary Student

by Jennifer MURLEY, Star Staff Writer

By all accounts, November 2nd at Millington South Elementary was shaping up to be a typical Thursday. As lunchtime rolled around, excited grade school kids filed into the cafeteria for their midday break. But, for second-graders Charlie Medford and Jace Macy, it would hardly be a typical lunch.

As Medford was eating lunch, he noticed something odd about his friend Jace, who was munching on a Mexican salad.

"He could hardly breathe," said Medford, who then did something quite unexpected for a second-grader.

"I just jumped up and did the Heimlich maneuver on him," Medford said flatly. It turned out that Macy was choking on a corn chip in his corn salad. Medford performed the Heimlich maneuver on Macy twice before getting the attention of a nearby teacher, who then took Macy to the school office to see the nurse.

"[The school] called and said he was scared and shaken up," said Macy's mother, Sharee Westmoreland, of her son's experience. She said Macy complained that his throat was a little sore the night of the

incident, but other than that, he's fine.

Medford only recently learned how to perform the Heimlich maneuver thanks to his borther-in-law, Cecil McCage. Over the summer, McCage's daughter choked, forcing him to use the lifesaving method he had learned at work. After the episode with his daughter, McCage then showed the young Medford how to do it.

"He learned some at church [Royal Rangers Outpost #6] and Mrs. York went over it (at school) and then Cecil showed him exactly what to do," said Chuck Medford, Charlie's father.

Medford's proud parents, along with his two sisters, grandfather and niece were present Friday, November 10, 2000, when the elementary school officially recognized Medford's valor prior to their annual Veteran's Day program. He was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation, a purple "Millennium Bear" and a symbolic bag of lifesaver candies.

"It's wonderful to know that there are children out there who know [the Heimlich maneuver]," said Westmoreland gratefully. "He's a little hero."

Editor's Note: Charlie Medford received the Royal Rangers Medal of Courage in January of 2001.



ROYAL RANGERS HIGH ADVENTURE

Leader

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NUMBER 2

"Best time I've ever had!"
"CAMPORAMA ROCKS!"
"Can't wait until the next one!"

— Comments from boys attending the 2002 National Royal Rangers Camporama



by Richard Mariott
National Commander



It's hard to sum up a Camporama event into a short paragraph and thank all the volunteers, staff, and various businesses that came to make this the best one we have ever experienced. However, I would like to recognize the following people and organizations for rendering outstanding services that contributed to a very successful Camporama.

Thanks to Daisy® B-B Gun Corporation and the National Rifle Association for coordinating the first National Royal Rangers Air Rifle Competition. I am pleased to announce that during this NRA-sanctioned event, three-national NRA records were set by Royal Rangers. Event results and pictures can be found by accessing the national Royal Rangers website at royalrangers.ag.org and checking out the Camporama update link.

A word of thanks also goes to The Missouri Archery Association who organized the archery competition using bows, arrows, and targets that were furnished by Bass Pro Shop, Springfield, Missouri. These outstanding groups provided a great a partnership with Royal Rangers and provided professional-level organization and staffing.

We are grateful to Norm Kirsch, a commander from the Southern Missouri district for providing equipment for and running of the first National Pinewood Derby Championships. Over 300 entries competed for the championships of each age-level. Event results and pictures can be found by accessing the national Royal Rangers website at royalrangers.ag.org and checking out the Camporama update link.



We appreciate The Eagle Rock Xpress daily newspaper that was printed on site for campers and provided daily camp information, and for the daily, live Camporama updates that were placed on the Internet by Jerry Parks and Ranger DJ.

A special note of appreciation goes to Rev. THOMAS TRASK, general superintendent and Rev. CHARLES CRABTREE, assistant general superintendent of the Assemblies of God for attending Camporama.

What a great panoramic Camporama group photo which was taken by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Allen from the Northwest district. It is still available for a great price. See the ad for this and other great Camporama items on the back page.

Hats off to Ron Deak of Adventures in Catering!, Oklahoma City, OK. I'm sure it was a real "adventure" doing 5,400 meals three times a day. This accounted for more than 60,000 meals served for the campers.

Steamy, hot July days in Missouri can be normal and we salute Super Pools, Limited of North Little Rock, Arkansas for working diligently with our staff to set-up four quality swimming pools at a reasonable rate for the enjoyment of our boys. The pools were full of contented swimmers every day.

Berryville Tractor, from Berryville, Arkansas, is to be commended for donating ten tractors that were used for our tram service. This was a tremendous success and

provided a great service for campers and visitors as they traveled to and from various events and activities.

Now let's center on the highlight of the week. The evening services at the Amphitheater were wonderful. Brian Bopp and Arthur Thomas offered great songs for the worship service each evening and our emcee, David Franklin, did a great job in coordinating all that took place.

Special thanks to our three evening speakers - Jim Barger, Freddy Espinoza and Terry Raburn for great inspirational messages that resulted in hundreds of salvations, Holy Spirit baptisms,

healings, answered prayer requests, and a challenge for the boys to grow in their walk with God. God's powerful anointing was evident at each service.

Bob Kilpatrick and the great gospel concert he provided at the closing evening service capped off the week as Terry Raburn challenged all of us to "give me Jesus or give me death." He encouraged us to take the gospel

message of Jesus Christ back to our homes, neighborhoods, and schools.

What an incredible fireworks display by Premier Pyrotechnics, Inc., of Richland,





Missouri Thursday evening! They also provided the sound and lighting for the great pageantry presentations. Hats off to the entire pageantry staff – including video, sound, stage and lighting for each production and to the pageantry camp personnel and volunteers that made the evening services a highlight of Camporama.

We appreciate the Regional Coordinators and the office staff for their tireless help and countless long hours to ensure this camp's success. Also, there were many RV and other Royal Rangers volunteers that worked weeks and months prior to and throughout Camporama. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to every one of you.

A special note of appreciation goes to Reverend Thomas Trask, general superintendent and Reverend Charles Crabtree, assistant general superintendent of the Assemblies of God for attending Camporama. The Royal Rangers have tremendous support from our national leadership.

We were also honored to have had several district superintendents at this event: Rev. Robert Crabtree – Ohio, Rev. Robert Cargill – Oklahoma, Rev. Stephen Harris – Arizona and Rev. Terry Raburn – Peninsular-Florida.

I know we all like statistics and do our best to collect them at events like Camporama. Statistics do not tell the entire story and Camporama is no different. Each evening we asked our altar workers to help by filling out a card after praying with each person. Not only did the altar workers get over-

whelmed because of the huge response, but many did not get their cards filled out. One person stated, "I filled out two cards, but prayed with over 30. I did not have the time to fill out the card with each [person]." This was the case with most altar workers. I know on Wednesday evening I personally prayed with over 30 boys and did not have any cards to fill out. So keep in mind the following is a small representation of the cards we were able to fill out and ones that were turned in to us.

- 200+ people volunteered as workers and camp staff
- 5,395 men/boys registered
- 1,500+ visitors came during the week
- 184 men/boys came forward for salvation
- 270 men/boys received the baptism in the Holy Spirit
- 51 men/boys received healing
- 308 men/boys received a special prayer need answered
- 21 men/boys received a call into full-time ministry

In every case to God be the Glory!

CAMPORAMA ROCKS!

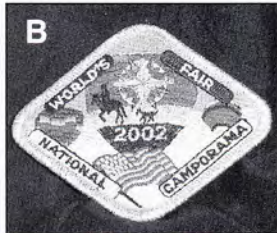
Richard Mariott
National Commander



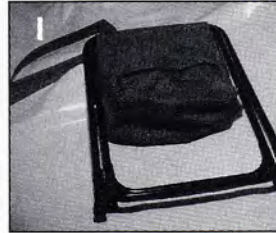


— SPECIAL POST —
NATIONAL
CAMPORAMA
 2002

Memorabilia
 Sale

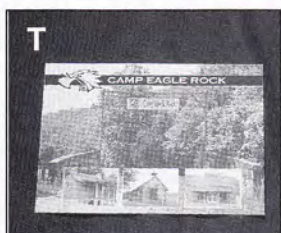
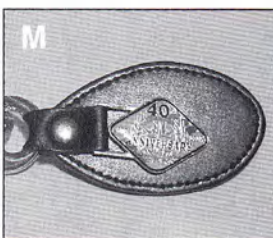


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- B. Camporama Souvenir Patch \$4.00
- C. Camporama Bandana Map \$2.50
- D. Camporama Bolo \$5.00
- E. Camporama Hat \$7.50
- F. Camporama Hat Pin \$.50
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Includes Mug, 2 patches, hat pin, bolo \$14.00
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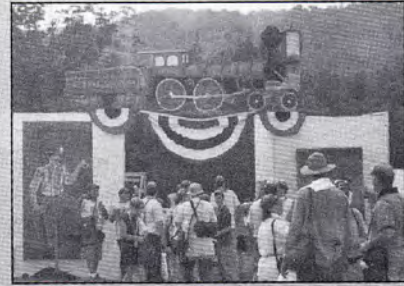
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“An Outstanding Success”





12 Reasons Why Children's Ministry Is Superior to Other Ministries

by Roger Fields

(reprinted from Cold Water Cafe children's ministry report,
October 25, 2000 on www.kidzblitz.com)

Can we have a little fun while pointing out the uniqueness of children's ministry? Here are some reasons why we in children's ministry are more advanced than our brothers and sisters working in lesser ministries. Now I did say we were going to have some fun with this so lighten up a little, especially if you're one of those working in adult ministries.

There must be some reason somewhere why Jesus continually aggravated the disciples and Pharisees with His children's ministry. Here's a list of possibilities.

1. Longer Results — Children who have just made a commitment to the Lord have their entire lives before them. Adults who accept the Lord have already squandered much of their lives. Children's ministry is the only place where you can impact one's entire life span.

2. Superior Challenge — Children vary widely with respect to age, comprehension, physical challenges, attention spans, etc., and therefore require more ability to educate. Adults do not bother their neighbor or snatch offering money from those sitting adjacent. They are much easier to restrain and therefore less of a challenge in a group setting. It takes more ability and creativity to teach children.

3. More Fun — You just can't get away with doing in adult services what you can do in children's church. Adults tend to think predictability and monotony are fruits of the Spirit. This must be the reason none of the hymns have motions.

4. Less Pretentiousness — The difference between adults and children is that adults have learned to sit quietly after you lose their attention. Children are not as phony. If you are a lousy teacher they tend to let you know. They are considerably more authentic.

5. More Humility — Jesus made this point in Matthew 18. Children have a better grasp of their limitations than adults do. There are reasons why Jesus never asked the children to be more like the adults to enter the kingdom of God. He said it the other way around. Children seldom possess an inflated view of their own ability. They understand that when they come to Jesus it is with nothing in their hands to offer Him.

6. Fewer Offenses — Children may get upset if they feel they are mistreated but they don't harbor resentments over some of the silly issues that adults get worked up over. When was the last time you heard of a child leaving the children's ministry because the children's pastor didn't shake his/her hand at the door?

7. More Participation — Children want to be involved. They don't want to sit and watch. Adults are too content to merely observe. Many churches find themselves having to beat adults over the head to get them to serve. Children desire to participate and serve.

8. Greater Warning — Jesus never warned that offending an adult would result in consequences worse than having a millstone tied around your neck and being heaved into the sea. He did say that in Matthew 16 about those who offend children. Evidently, there is something exceptional about children.

9. Larger Team — It takes more people to work in children's ministry than it does to work in other departments in the church. Children's ministry is normally the largest department in the church and, therefore, often requires the greatest leadership skills to oversee.

10. Bigger Sacrifice — Ushers, greeters, choir members, etc. never have to miss the adult service or any of the special events. Children's ministry workers often miss services so others might enjoy them.

11. Better Reward — In Matthew 10 Jesus said those who give even cold water to little ones receive a reward that cannot be lost. He simply did not make that promise to other ministries. For instance, nowhere does Jesus say that ushers have a reward they will by no means lose if they can get the people to scoot over on Easter. But those who can do anything in children's ministry—such as prepare the refreshments—have a unique promise of reward others cannot claim.

12. Jesus — Jesus said that when we receive a child in His name we receive Him (Matthew 18:5). Did He ever say that about receiving grown-ups? No. So whether you have 10 or a 1,000 children in your children's ministry, you supernaturally receive Jesus into your midst that many times over.

Any objective view would conclude that children's ministry far outweighs the minor league ministries that have assumed greater admiration down through the years. We readily concede, however, that other ministries, no matter how inferior, are still important to the Body of Christ. Nothing done in the name of the Lord is without honor and value. While other ministries are helpful, we in children's ministry must humbly acknowledge that other ministries simply fall short of the scope and depth of ministry to children.

With this in mind, those of us engaged in ministry to children will seek to maintain a proper level of humility—no matter how difficult—in the face of lesser ministries. Please be patient with us. And if you have found yourself in one of these inferior ministries, take heart. Be faithful in it and you too might one day be promoted to children's ministry. Meanwhile, be encouraged if you sing in the choir, pass the plates, teach adults, hand out bulletins, park the cars, etc. Somebody has to do it.

**Oh, OK...
we'll work harder on the humility part.**



Discovery Rangers TRANSITION CHART

Gold Eagle Medal



Optional Merits

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____

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 Fingerpainting
- 8: Fire Craft or Weather
- 9: Lashing, or Insect Study, or Bird Study
- 10: First Aid Skills

General Requirements

- 8 optional red, blue, or green merits
- 10 required red merits
- 3 additional hours of Christian service
- 6 months in leadership position as:
- 3 months as Gold Hawk Medalist

Gold Hawk Medal



Optional Merits

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____

Required Red Merits

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____

General Requirements

- 6 optional red, blue, or green merits
- 6 required red merits
- 2 additional hours of Christian service
- 3 months in leadership position as:
- 3 months as Gold Falcon Medalist

Gold Falcon Medal



Optional Merits

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

Required Red Merits

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

General Requirements

- 3 optional red, blue, or green merits
- 3 required red merits
- 1 hour of Christian service

Medals will not be available until Spring 2003.

The requirements for these merits are listed on the national Royal Rangers Web site at www.royalrangers.ag.org

This chart is designed to be used for the transition period only (3/01/02—12/31/03).

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



Adventure Rangers TRANSITION CHART

Boy's Name _____

Gold Medal



Optional Merits

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____

Required Gold Merits

- 1: Bible
- 2: Christian Missions or Light for the Lost
- 3: Home Safety or Camp Safety
- 4: First Aid—CPR
- 5: Christian Service or God & Church Award
- 6: Communications, or 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

Required Red Merits

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

General Requirements

- 8 optional green, gold, or silver merits
- 12 required gold merits
- 4 required red merits
- 500 word essay
- Gold medal Christian service project or read the *Royal Rangers Leader's Manual*
- 6 months total in leadership position and 3 months as Silver Medalist
- Be at least 12 years old and at least in the sixth grade

Silver Medal



Optional Merits

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

Required Gold Merits

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____

Required Red Merits

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

General Requirements

- 5 optional green, gold, or silver merits
- 8 required gold merits
- 3 required red merits
- 3 additional hours of Christian service
- 3 months in leadership position and 3 months as Bronze Medalist

Bronze Medal



Optional Merits

- 1 _____
- 2 _____

Required Gold Merits

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____

Required Red Merits

- 1 _____
- 2 _____

General Requirements

- 2 optional green, gold, or silver merits
- 4 required gold merits
- 2 required red merits
- 3 hours of Christian service

Bronze and Silver medals will not be available to purchase until Spring 2003.

The requirements for these merits are listed on the national Royal Rangers Web site at

www.royalrangers.ag.org

This chart is designed to be used for the transition period only (3/01/02—12/31/03).

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



When You Get in the Bathtub

A True Story by David Chavers

When my son Andrew was small, my pastor gave me an opportunity to serve as the commander of our small country church's first Royal Rangers outpost. I wasn't at all enthused about it, having never taught anything or anywhere before. But, I couldn't turn him down; especially when he put on a sad face and said, "Brother, you're the only one I've got that can do this."

My first night, the South Bethel Royal Rangers outpost only consisted of two boys around the age of 6, and Andrew, who'd recently turned 4. I was terrified. I kept thinking, "How in the world am I going to teach these boys anything? They've got more energy than a bobcat chasing a rabbit, and I'm not the smartest chicken in the henhouse." But, in the end, those three little boys learned a lot, and I learned even more.

I figured I'd work on earning medals and awards with my trio. Starting simple, I decided I'd let them earn their red Straight Arrows vests by learning the eight points of the Royal Ranger Code first, before moving on to something more difficult.

This proved simple for my two 6 year olds. After two Wednesday night meetings, they had learned the eight points and could easily recite them. But this wasn't true for Andrew, who, no matter how hard we tried, simply sat there, smiled broadly, and acted completely lost.

Finally, I gave in and asked him to learn just three points. And even though we practiced at home too, we found this also was impossible.

After four weeks of meetings, I had two boys who were anxious to stand before the church, recite the eight points, and earn their vests, and another who was trying to figure out what I was talking about. I was beginning to feel guilty. I realized that Andrew was giving his best, but he just couldn't do it.

Upon entering the classroom the following Wednesday night, I asked God to give me a way to help Andrew remember—to show me what I, not as a father but as a teacher, was doing wrong.

Later, after we had completed our prayers, pledges, and lesson, it came time to recite the Code. The two older boys quoted the points from beginning to end with no problems. But when we came to Andrew, there was his confused smile again, letting me know that no matter how much we'd practiced at home, he was still lost.

Without asking him to quote his three points, I looked at the poster on the wall behind him that displayed the Code and a brief definition for each point. It was then I realized what I doing wrong. I had been ask-

ing a 4 year old to recite words that had no meaning to him whatsoever, words he couldn't associate with anything in his young life. Words in the Code such as obedient and courteous were not words he'd heard before, except in this classroom.

So, to bring them to life for him, I picked out three and asked him to remember them this way. "Andrew," I said, "when you get in the bathtub, you get clean..."

He chuckled and grinned mischievously as he repeated the line after me.

Then I added another word, honest. Again, he began at the beginning of the sentence and added the word honest.

Finally I added the word courageous. Like before, he quoted the sentence, this time adding the word courageous. His final rendering went something like this: "When you get in the bathtub, you get clean, honest, and courageous." He repeated this over and over until he knew it by heart. This may sound a bit foolish to someone who has never spent time teaching 4 year olds, but it worked for us.

With his new ability to memorize three points of the Royal Ranger Code, Andrew's confidence rose. The method also gave me an open door to witness to my small class. I was able to explain to them at their level how the blood of Jesus Christ works in much the same way as the water in a bathtub. For just like the water that cleans our bodies, Christ's blood cleans away our sins. When that happens, it makes us honest before God and man, which also gives us the courage to stand for what is right in a sinful world.

Later, as I drove my family home, I marveled at how the power of a short, simple prayer helped me not only to teach my 4 year old how to remember three words, but also helped me to simplify the power and forgiveness found in the blood of Jesus Christ to three little boys.

When the following Sunday morning arrived, I stood with pride as my three Rangers earned their vests. The two older boys stepped forward and recited the eight points of the Royal Ranger Code as they did every Wednesday night.

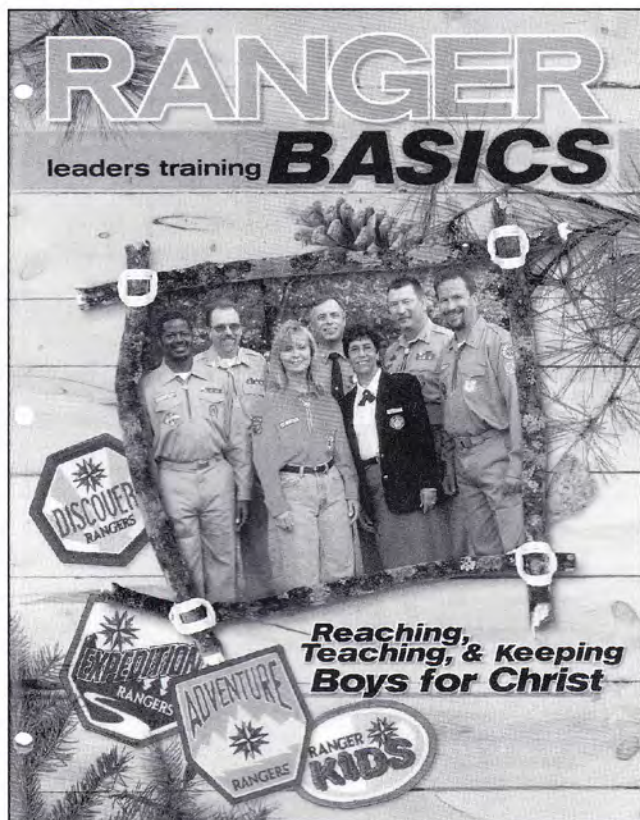
Then it was Andrew's turn. Kneeling in front of him, holding a microphone to his lips, I could tell my little guy was nervous. So, I looked into his big mischievous brown eyes and whispered, "OK, Andrew, tell me your three points of the Code."

He took a deep, anxious gulp, looked out at the crowd, and said, "When you get in the bathtub, you get clean, honest, and courageous."

I dropped my head as the audience got a laugh at what he had said. I guess it was then that I realized what a great sense of humor my heavenly Father had.



Back to the Basics



by Brian Hendrickson

Recently the product development team expressed surprise at the overwhelming sales of the new Ranger Basics Leaders Training. In fact, so many copies have been purchased that the Ranger Basics book was up for reprinting, less than four months since its release. This rapid dissemination of training speaks loudly of the vacuum that was in existence. Why did a vacuum of training exist?

We can all attest to the value of leadership training. I spent nearly a year taking the blue and red course. This course has been available to our leaders for over 30 years. There were three basic obstacles to the LTC. First, it required a great deal of time to complete. It wasn't uncommon for a commander to invest 40-plus hours in training, not including an LTC campout or NTC. During the strategic planning of the new program, it became clear that our leaders who lacked leadership training had a very high dropout rate within the first year. Training was so involved that most leaders could not commit to the massive time demands. Second, there was a great deal of homework, and too often busy work, which required many additional hours to complete. Third, leaders needed to be trained to design and run an outpost meeting, since most of them are not curriculum research experts. Royal Rangers did not have a written curriculum the leaders could follow. Even well-trained teachers struggle to design a curriculum plan. They usually follow a pre-planned curriculum that was purchased by the school district.

The result—Ranger Basics and the new weekly curriculum was developed. The goal of Ranger Basics is to quickly train commanders how to use the written curriculum and manage boys in a classroom environment. The continuation of training, the Leaders Medal of Achievement (LMA), will further prepare the commander to take boys on adventures outside the classroom and even how to make the meeting environment more enjoyable and Christ-centered.

The Ranger Basics course is recommended for all commanders, new and experienced. Leaders who have previously earned the LMA will need to take the Ranger Basics course and a 2-hour Transition Module designed to bridge the information gap between the old program and the new. New leaders can take the Ranger Basics and be successful, then, when time, opportunity, and resources become available, pursue further training and receive the LMA.

— Continued on next page



So how is the Ranger Basics course done? Many people have called about this new training and have wondered how can they be trained. Those who have purchased the book find that the answers are missing! So what can you do?

The best thing is to contact your district commander and find out when the next Ranger Basics course will be offered. A certified instructor may offer the course at a district or section training event. He may even be able to offer it to your outpost. Right now my outpost, Outpost 5 Praise Assembly, is taking this course on Sunday morning. However, this does not help the commanders who faithfully serve in a church hundreds of miles away from a certified instructor. The national office has a solution!

We recognize the value and key role the pastor and other associate pastors play in the success of the Royal Rangers ministry. Therefore, we have designed a Ranger Basics PowerPoint and accompanying outline for the pastor or leader to use to teach his commanders. This does not certify him to teach other courses, but it provides a means for him to train his commanders in Ranger Basics.

In order to obtain this resource, contact the national Royal Rangers office. If you have any further questions,

we would be most happy to assist you. You can reach us via email at royalrangers@ag.org or on our website at www.royalrangers.ag.org.

Here a number of ways you can teach this course:

One-day Class: Typically, a Saturday event taking about 8 hours to complete.

Two-day Class: Day One: Sessions 1-3, Day Two: Sessions 4-7.

Four-day Class: Day One: Sessions 1 and 2, Day Two: Session 3, Day Three: Session 4, Day Four: Sessions 5-7.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Day One: Session 1 and 30 minutes of Session 2

Day Two: Conclusion of Session 2

Day Three: Half of Session 3

Day Four: Last half of Session 3

Day Five: Half of Session 4

Day Six: Last half of Session 4

Day Seven: Session 5

Day Eight: Sessions 6 and 7

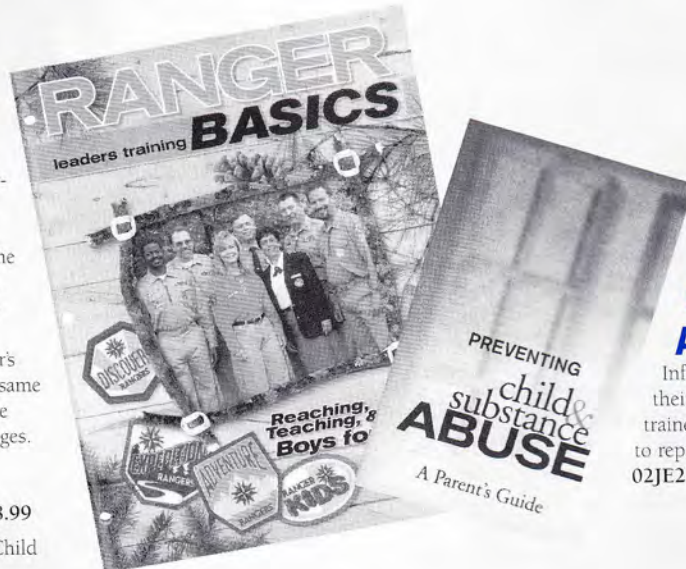
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Suffer the Little Children: Children & Sexual Abuse

In August, Daniel R. Ferris, a volunteer Sunday School teacher in Millbury, Massachusetts, confessed to sexually abusing six children in his United Church of Christ congregation. The children liked Mr. Ferris. Their parents respected him. And the church trusted him enough to allow him to teach its youngsters about God.

One month before Ferris's arrest, Waterbury, Connecticut police arrested another trusted individual—their mayor, Philip Giordano, 38, a respected lawyer and former Marine. Giordano was charged with two counts of “sexual activity” involving a child.

Every day, it seems, there are reports like this. Is this an epidemic? And what is sexual abuse? It is any sexual touch by force, trickery, or bribery between two people where there is an imbalance of age, size, power, or knowledge. Most victims are between the ages of eight and thirteen years old, boys as well as girls. Child sexual abuse is a problem within secular society and within the Christian community as well.

We are shocked, disgusted, and embarrassed by adults who abuse children sexually. Yet our society has long tried to ignore and hide this dark problem. It wasn't until 1871 that a group formed in the United States to oppose the abuse of children. In 1866, when adoptive parents abused little Mary Ellen Wilson, there was nobody other than the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to intervene!

A new study released in September by the University of Pennsylvania reports that child sexual exploitation in North America is far more widespread than previously documented. In the United States, the study reports, 325,000 children are subjected to sexual exploitation each year.

“The magnitude of the problem is really something that is not understood,” said Professor Richard J. Estes, one of the study's researchers.

Sexual abuse is unlike any other childhood abuse. It is degrading, painful, and confusing to a child. And it robs a child of a childhood—which, once lost, can never be recovered. Childhood sexual abuse leaves its young victims suffering a deep sense of shame, guilt, and worthlessness. It leaves a permanent scar.

Victims of child sexual abuse often develop sexual problems themselves, either promiscuity or asexuality. They may deal with numerous other problems including eating disorders, low self-esteem, and difficulty establishing and maintaining healthy relationships. Sexual abuse is such a horrifying violation of a child that it is almost impossible to ever erase the damage done.

Who are the sexual abusers of America's children? The answer may startle you. The new study reports that only 4 percent of sexual assaults on children are committed by strangers. The child's own relatives are responsible for 47 percent of all sexual assaults. And acquaintances of the child, like a teacher, a coach, or a neighbor, commit 49 percent of all sexual abuses. In other words, most abused children know, love, and trust the people who sexually molest them.

People like Daniel Ferris, the Sunday School teacher in Millbury, Massachusetts. People like Philip Giordano, the former mayor of Waterbury, Connecticut.

Understanding the problem is the first step of responsibly dealing with it.

Exerpts from “BreakPoint with Charles Colson”
Mediaministries.ag.org

**Understanding
the problem
is the
first step
of responsibly
dealing
with it.**

— Street Gangs in the Wild —

by Betty Lou Mell

When wildlife managers in South Africa found wounded and murdered rhinos they were baffled. Who would do such a thing? It did not look like the work of poachers or safari hunters. Who would be strong enough? Who would be so cruel?

The next baffling thing was unexplained elephant attacks on tourists. Young bull elephants trumpeted and charged vehicles and caravans. They overturned Jeeps, uprooted trees, and knocked down fences. They picked on other animals and fought among themselves. The wildlife managers began to piece the puzzle together.

Young orphaned elephants had been relocated to the area. Perhaps their parents or their herd had been killed for their ivory or died of natural causes. Whatever the reason, the society of elephants had been disrupted. Now the growing teenage elephants were on their own and they acted like rowdy, out-of-control bullies. Why? They didn't know how well-behaved young elephants should act. Without mature adults they had no positive role models. At last, a possible solution!

They wondered what would happen if they brought mature elephants into the region. It was worth a try—otherwise the young aggressive elephants would have to be destroyed.

Carefully, huge adult elephants were tranquilized, captured, and shipped to the area where they were needed. Immediately the rowdy street gang elephants recognized the authority of the adults. They knew they had met their match. They quickly responded to the lessons from mature adults who knew how to live in harmony—not only with other elephants, but with other animals as well. Learning by example from positive role models gave the young elephants a chance to live a full life in peace and harmony.

We all learn best by example—good examples in all areas. But no matter how hard they try, people are far from perfect and we all fall short. But God loves us so much that He gave His only begotten Son, Jesus, as our perfect example. Jesus knows that each generation must learn valuable lessons, then pass them to each other in order to live fulfilling lives.

When faced with life's many challenges, we can depend on our reliable teacher and guide, Jesus. Before flying off the handle, saying the first thing that pops into your head, or following your first impulses, stop and ask yourself one simple question—“What would Jesus do?” Following His perfect example eliminates the guesswork!



Devotionals for Boys

by David & Mary Boyd

LESSON ONE

Getting Warmer

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Any small item such as: a marble or a golf tee

DIRECTIONS:

Getting Warmer: Choose one boy to search for the object to be hidden. Choose two boys to "assist" them by saying "warmer" (meaning they are getting close to the object) or "colder" (meaning they are going farther away from the object). The goal is to find the object in the allotted time. Have the chosen boy step out of the room. Hide the object somewhere in the room. Choose one of the boys to try and delay the search. The other will try to help the person find the item.

Bring the boy back into the classroom. Explain that one of the other two boys will be trying to help them and the other will be trying to delay them. Say "Go"! As the boy who is searching moves around the room the two boys shout out "Warmer" or "Colder" as the boy nears the object or moves away from it. (Instruct the rest of the boys to remain quiet.) The chosen boy will have to figure out which of the other boys is telling the truth in order to follow the correct instructions.

GOSPEL APPLICATION

Explain to the boys that throughout our lives some people will tell us to do things that lead us closer to God and others will try and lead us away from God. We need to learn to recognize the right voice to follow and follow that voice. When we recognize the wrong instructions we have to disregard them and continue to follow the instructions we receive from God and godly people. (John 10:27; John 12:26)

LESSON TWO

Blind Man Hands

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Blindfold, various items such as: a mousetrap, toilet brush, dog leash, can opener, bottle cap, dog dish, etc.

DIRECTIONS:

Blindfold a boy. Hand them an item and see if they can guess what it is by feeling it. Once they guess the item, have another boy try.

Note: You will need to gather various items to play this game. The dollar store is a great place for ideas of crazy things that you may not think about.

Explain to the boys that you can tell what an item is by using your sense of touch. You can feel for the shape and of the item. "Attribute" is a big word which describes the features of something or someone. They can guess the item once they have discovered the "attributes" of the item.

GOSPEL APPLICATION

God has "attributes." We can learn about Him even though we cannot see Him. We can learn what He is like by reading about Him in His Book—the Bible. In the Bible we know that God is loving, kind, wise, and powerful. We know that He is just and that He hates sin. We know that He wants us to go to heaven because He sent His son Jesus to forgive us of our sins and show us how to live. We can learn the "attributes" of God by seeing how Jesus lived. Jesus is the example for us to follow. (Matthew 16:24)

LESSON THREE

Winding Up on Target

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Two or more simple balsa wood airplanes with wind-up propellers.

DIRECTIONS:

Winding up on Target: Divide the class into two or more teams. Give each team a wind up airplane. Choose a boy from each team to go first. Choose a target across the room for each boy to try to hit. Choose targets such as: the doorknob, the window, the teacher's chair, the corner, the table, etc. The first boy on each team then stands at the opposite end of the room from the target and tosses their airplane at the target. The boy who comes closest to the target gets a point for their team. Give the airplane to the second boy on each team. Let them try to hit it. Continue this until all have had a chance to try. The team with the most points wins.

For added fun, go outside and set up targets such as hoops, cones, etc.

GOSPEL APPLICATION

Talk about trying to hit the mark. The Bible talks a lot about Christians aiming for the mark or the prize God has for us. If we continue to live for Jesus, we are staying on track and eventually will win the prize of heaven! (2 Timothy 4:7-8; Hebrews 12:1; Philippians 3:14)

LESSON FOUR

Faith Walk

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Tape
- Blindfold

DIRECTIONS:

Faith walk: Tape a small circle to the floor on the far side of the room. Blindfold a boy and turn him around once. Face him towards the circle, and let him try to walk to the circle blindfolded. He is to try to find the circle and stand in it. When he has done his best, take off his blindfold and show him how close he came. Let several boys try this.

After several boys have tried this, repeat the process but the rules will change slightly. This time, allow a second boy to guide the blindfolded boy by giving him verbal instructions. The blindfolded boy will be able to come much closer to the circle because the boy who can see is able to guide him to it.

GOSPEL APPLICATION

Explain to the boys that God is our guide and He guides us towards things that we cannot see. If we trust Him, listen to what He tells us to do, and act out in faith, then God will lead us through difficult times. (Proverbs 3:5)

These games are part of a book entitled "Spicy Gospel Games" by David & Mary Boyd. These are available by calling 417-823-8834 or e-mailing them at dboyd@ag.org.





Get Busy Helping Change the World — One Boy at a Time!

By G. Robert Cook, Rocky Mountain district superintendent

What an encouraging sight! There they were, two boys the age of typical Royal Rangers, standing at attention and saluting. We were riding in a funeral procession, escorting the body of one of our veteran Rocky Mountain ministers to a cemetery. I'm sure the two boys had no idea whose funeral procession it was, but they stood next to their lemonade stand on that residential street in Littleton, CO., and stood at attention, saluting until the entire procession passed by. When we arrived at the cemetery, numbers of people remarked how special that was, to see two American boys show the level of respect they did.

Yes, our newspapers are filled with tragic stories of young boys who end up ruining their lives because of horrible choices made in their formative years. Just a few days before the "funeral salute" incident, we read the news of two other boys in our area who had been arrested for unspeakable abuse of other small children. How can that happen? What can we do to stop the vicious cycle of violence and abuse?

More than ever before, it is time for our churches to emphasize the crucial importance of our Royal Rangers programs. In a day when story after story of scandalous behavior of church leaders toward minors appear on our news, it is time for the church to offer quality, loving, pure, consistent leadership to our young boys.

We all know that the two most powerful adult influences in a young man's life are his father and mother. But we also know the tragic statistics of our culture—that many thousands of young boys in America have never known the love and attention of a caring father. Do we as a church have the right to sit

back and say, "Tsk, tsk, too bad?" Absolutely not. We have the duty as the church of Jesus Christ to come alongside those single moms, to come alongside those lonely boys and provide the kind of quality leadership that will eternally impact their lives.

For boys who are privileged to grow up in a loving

family with a father and mother who love each other and their children, the Royal Rangers leader can complement those parents' efforts. But for boys without that family, the Royal Rangers leader can fill the desperate vacuum. The leader can actually serve as a lifesaver; young boys can be snatched from the horrible designs of the enemy by a caring, genuine Royal Rangers leader.

Let's not be people who bemoan the fact that God hasn't allowed us to speak to thousands of people in a crowded stadium, or that God hasn't given us a wonderful solo voice.

Let's get busy helping change the world—one boy at a time! May we be leaders with character, honesty, compassion, patience, tenacity,

flexibility, and grace so that we can impact for eternity the generation of young boys God has given us!



G. Robert Cook is the superintendent of the Assemblies of God, Rocky Mountain district. Prior to that, he pastored in Boulder, Colo., and Provo, Utah, and also served on the faculty of Bethany College of California. He and his wife Sherilyn have two sons, one daughter and one granddaughter. He has never played professional baseball or football and has never appeared on the Larry King show, but he does love chocolate.

Friday the 25th of January was a pretty, sunny day. My friends Ame, Tim, and I started off for Cedar Creek, Mo., which is where Tim lives. After dropping him off at home, Ame and I continued on to Springfield, Mo., where we had some errands and shopping to do. As the late afternoon wore on, the sky got darker and cloudy. It turned very chilly, which sent us looking for our coats against the cold, although we still didn't perceive the weather as being all that bad.

All of a sudden, the sky opened up and snow fell in large wet flakes. Before we could get across town, there were a couple of inches on the ground. We had to creep along at about 40 miles per hour because visibility was little to none. We had fishtailed several times but had managed to stay on the road. As we were getting closer to home, we had dropped down into a low riding dip that must have had a layer of ice on it. We started sliding and spinning around in the road. We were facing the traffic that had been behind us. We continued our spin off into the ditch, hitting the embankment head on. But, thank God, we weren't driving that fast, so we weren't hurt. After we caught our breath, we started trying to pull back and forth to turn around and get out of the ditch. Every time we would get close to the top of the ditch, we would start spinning. Just when we were about to give up and start trying to call people we knew to pull us out of the ditch, two cars and a vanload of people pulled over and stopped. All kinds of young men started getting out and coming across the highway. We rolled the window down to talk to them. They asked if we needed any help. We responded with a resounding yes. It was then that we noticed they had on some sort of

uniform, but we didn't recognize the organization. We knew that they weren't Boy Scouts, because our boys belong to Boy Scout Troop 50 out of Mountain Grove, Mo. We asked what group they were with. They were Royal Rangers. We told them that we considered them our Good Samaritans. Then the leader had us straighten out our wheels and they began pushing. They told us once we got going not to stop for anything. As we pulled out on the highway, we hollered thank-yous out the windows.

Needless to say, we slowed down even more, doing only 20 miles per hour. Finally, we made it home safely 2 hours and 45 minutes after we left Springfield.

We would just like to say we have always believed in the good of humanity, good kids, deeds, and works, because we've seen firsthand the good the Scouts have done our community. But now we would like to congratulate this special group of Royal Rangers and their leaders for the bravery they showed by stopping to help complete strangers against the elements and the dangers of the slick highways. I wish there was something special I could do for them. I wish that we could meet in person to say "thank you." Maybe we could even get the Royal

Rangers and Boy Scouts together for a thank you dinner one day soon.

So with heartfelt thanks, the ladies in the big blue Dodge are really grateful to the Royal Rangers.

Thanking you and God,

Sincerely,

Ms. Cindy Wyrick, Ms. Ame Duey

P.S. I believe they deserve a hero's medal.

"...we would like to congratulate this special group of Royal Rangers and their leaders for the bravery they showed by stopping to help..."

TESTIMONIALS

Michigan Royal Rangers Get Excited About BGMC

by David BOYD

The Michigan District Royal Rangers galloped forward with spurs kickin' for BGMC at their annual western-themed Jamboree. Over 650 Pioneers, Trailblazers, Trail Rangers, and men made up this huge gathering of western-clad cowboys. These Michigan Rangers did more than whoopin' and hollerin' as they launched their first ever district-wide missions effort by telling their boys about BGMC.

The boys caught the vision of BGMC and missions big time! Outposts began to pledge what they could do for BGMC. One outpost announced they'd already raised \$1,000 for BGMC. Several pastors were in the crowd who stood to admit that their churches had not been involved in BGMC, but now would be. The crowd went wild!

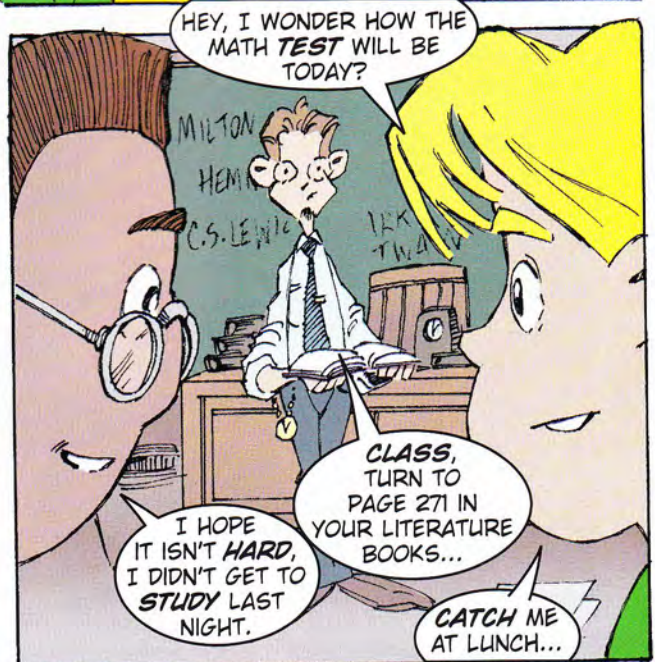
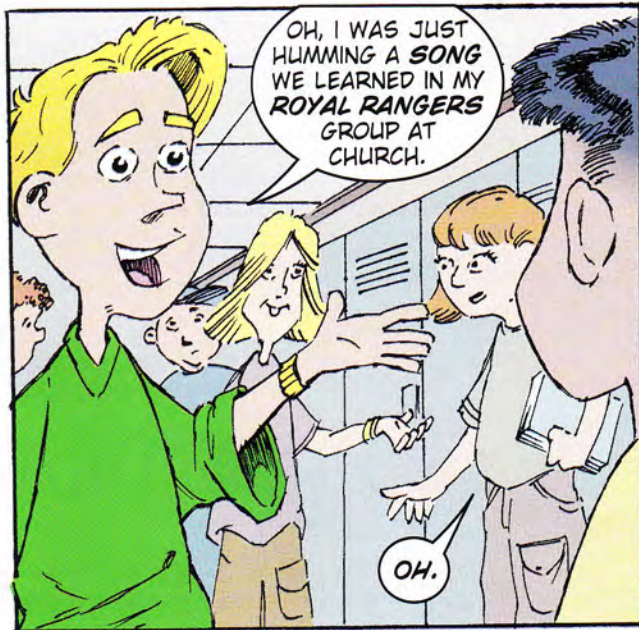
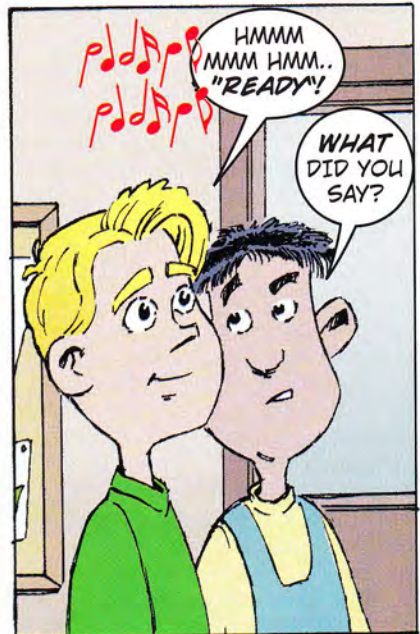
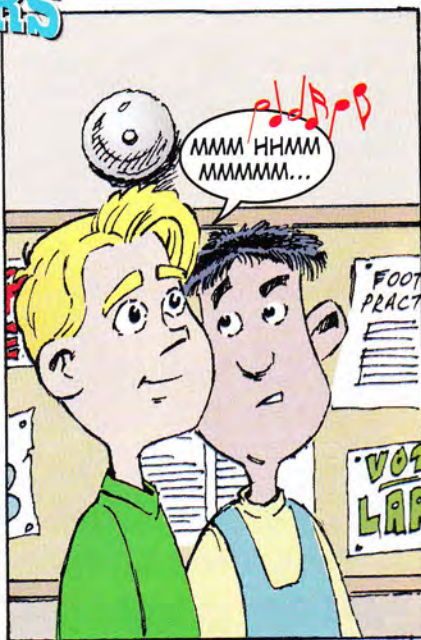
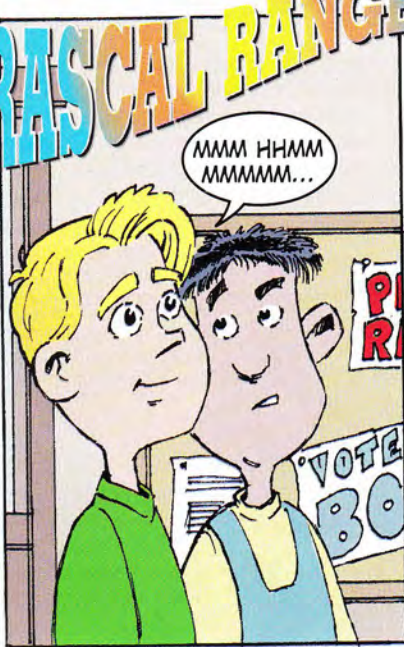
BGMC is the children's missions ministry that not only teaches children about God's plan for their lives and God's love for the world but also teaches the children to pray and give so that missionaries around the world can do a greater job to reach the world for Jesus. BGMC funds go to help our missionaries in the world with whatever supplies they need to spread the gospel.

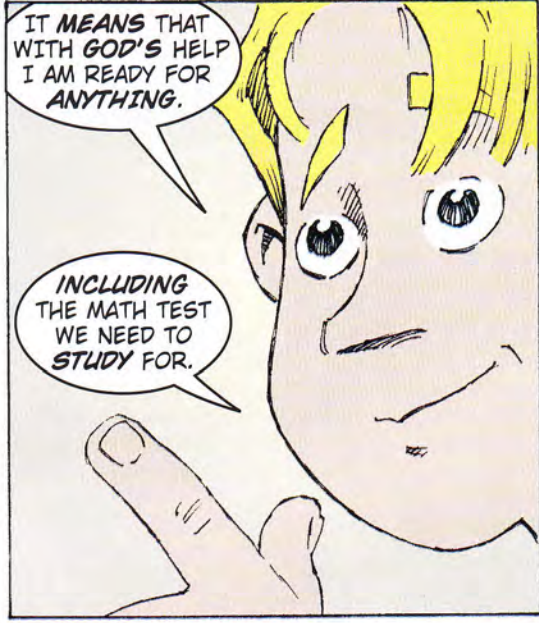
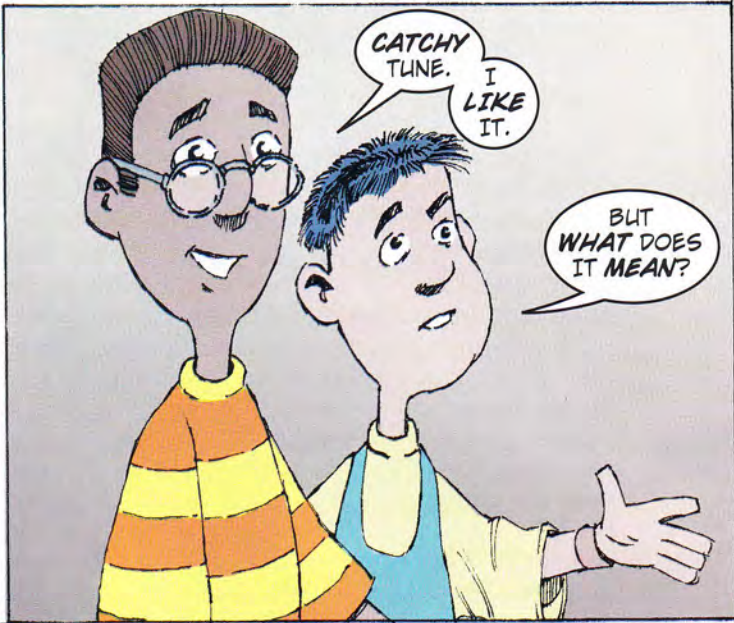
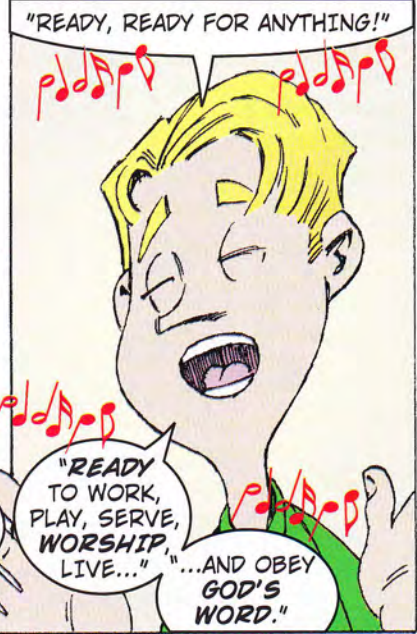
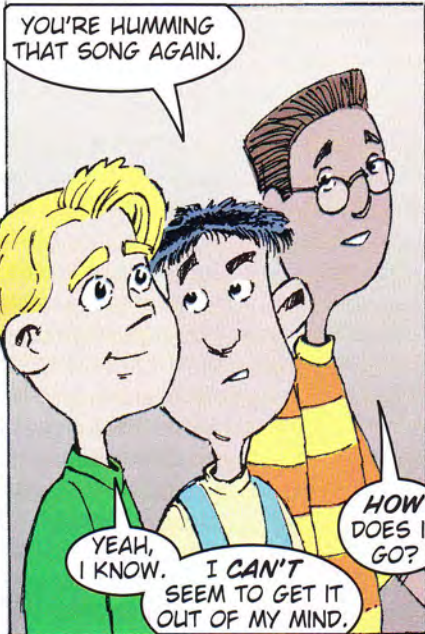


National Royal Rangers Commander Richard Marriott was the speaker at the Michigan Jamboree. He not only preached powerful messages to the children, but he echoed the need for boys and men to begin to have a greater passion for missions and for BGMC. His messages were praised by the men and boys of Michigan, and his passion for the lost people of the world was evident as he talked about BGMC.

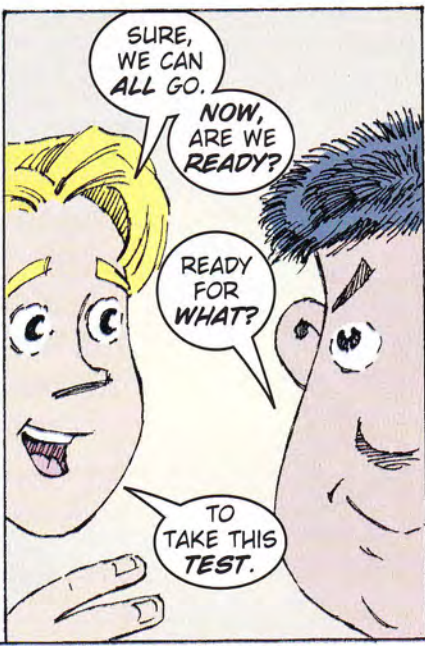
The Wild West Jamboree featured some exciting events, such as the old-fashioned outhouse race (a favorite with boys and men of all ages) and a hot and hotter chili cook-off! Even with these exciting, sizzling, and boot-slappin' events, the excitement over BGMC seemed to capture the Jamboree. Boys took home Buddy Barrels, vowing to fill them up for God. Outposts went home armed with pledges to make a difference in the world. Pastors and district leaders alike were thrilled with the response and felt that BGMC became as huge in the eyes of their boys as the huge 12-foot Buddy Barrel that stood on their stage!

RASCAL RANGERS





LATER, ON THE WAY
TO MATH CLASS...



Schkeen could loose his arrow, the elk spun about and leaped towards him. The first leap brought the elk within 10 feet of Cluegott Schkeen. The second leap carried the 400-pound elk right into the boy, knocking him over. The arrow shot up into the air and embedded itself deep into the soft wood of a young ponderosa pine. Cluegott Schkeen leaped back to his feet. The elk was gone! His favorite arrow was gone! But it was about to get worse. Behind him, sliding through the underbrush, was a mountain lion. The young Apache's eyes opened in surprise and fear as the huge cat leaped toward him as it chased after the elk. With movements as fast as the elk's, Cluegott Schkeen dropped to his knees. The cat flew over his head and down the slope as it sped after the elk.

White Mountain Apache Indian Reservation, AZ

— 2002 —

Arizona in July! Ouch! 110 degrees and climbing! It's a good thing that we were heading for the mountains. The temperature was down to a cool 76 degrees as we approached the Arizona Royal Ranger Camp-a-ree* that was being held high in White Mountains on the Apache reservation. Hundreds of Rangers had already set up their tents as we unpacked.

"Wow! Look at the tall trees!" I exclaimed to my dad, Commander Jones.

"Those are ponderosa pines, Darby," he replied. "This is the largest ponderosa pine forest in the world."

I looked around in amazement. The forest was full of trees—some tall, some short, and some fallen dead upon the ground. Grabbing the bow saw, I decided to cut some firewood from one of the dead trees. The branches cut up nicely into 2- and 3-inch diameter logs. Then I discovered the prize! This tree had a huge burl protruding from one side. I could already see the great bowl I could carve from this great piece of wood. Burls occur sometimes when a tree is cut or injured. The sap flows out of the tree to cover the wound. Eventually a large knot or burl

forms. Carefully, I cut the burl from the tree with the bow saw and while dad and the rest of the outpost cooked dinner, I began to carve.

The soft pine cut easily with my Swiss Army knife. With each cut the razor-sharp blade shaved wood curls into a pile on the ground. Suddenly, the knife hit something hard.

"Hmm, what could this be?" I wondered as I carefully removed wood from around the foreign object. Now this was a real prize. For out of the center of the burl came an Indian arrowhead! I knew that this would become my favorite arrowhead. Not only was it perfect in shape, but it had come to me in such an unusual way.

The rest of the patrol said that I was luckiest Royal Ranger in the entire world. I don't think it was luck. I think God just wanted to bless me. Why? Well, my dad described it this way. Every once in a while he brings me a gift home from one of his trips. These gifts were just little reminders of how much he loves me. I think that God sends each of us little surprises as we go through life. Each of them is just a little way to remind us how much our Father in heaven loves us too.





Word Search PUZZLE

by Gertrude Knabbe

Look forwards, backward, up, down and diagonally to find the following words.

ACORNS	CAMERA	FOOTHILLS	PACE	STOP
ANIMALS	CAMP	FRESH AIR	PARKS	THERMOS
BACKPACK	COUNTRY	GEAR	RAVINE	TRAILS
BEAUTY	DEER	HAWK	REST	TREES
BEGIN	ENJOY	NESTS	ROAD	WALK
BIRDS	EXERCISE	NUT	SCENERY	WOODLANDS
BOOTS	FAMILY	OBSERVE	SNACK	
BRIDGES	FERN	ORCHARD	STICKS	

W B Y R E N E C S L I A R T
A S O B S E G D I R B R C T
L T J O E X N B C R F E A R
K I N V T A Z K E O V M M I
P C E V L S U H O N B A P A
A K A D V R A T M V I C G H
C S O P E W H Z Y E R V E S
E O V E K I C B D T D T A E
W X D E L C T R C K S H R R
A B E L E R A F O C L E O F
C E S R E H E B U A A R A N
O G R E C R M S N N M M D E
R I S R N I N U T S I O B S
N N O P O T S P R L N S M T
S O B S E R V E Y P A R K S

The HUMAN Body

A Living Miracle

by Brenda BONE

Did you know you use an average of 43 muscles to frown? To smile, you would use 17. Seventy-two different muscles must interact to produce human speech. How much blood do you think the average heart pumps in a lifetime? Answer: 48 million gallons.

In the average human life span one blinks the eye 6,205,000 times. Bet you didn't know that your body contains the following:

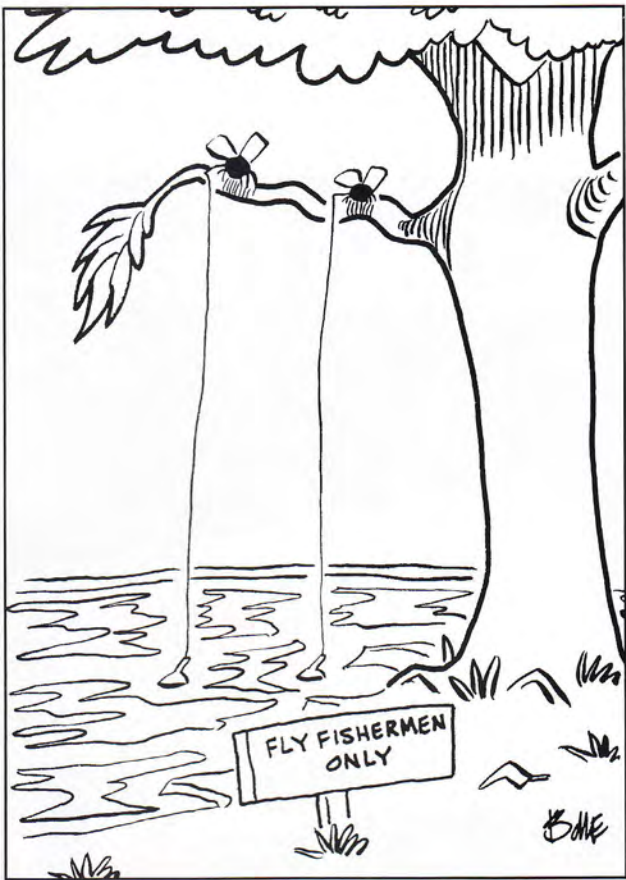
- enough water to fill a ten gallon tank.
- enough carbon that it would make 900 pencils.
- enough iron to create a 3-inch nail.
- enough fat that you could get seven bars of soap from it.
- enough sulfur that it would kill all the fleas on an average dog or cat.

Your heart will beat 3,000 million times if you live to average human age. You'll produce 10,000 gallons of saliva during your lifetime.

The most important thing about your body, though, is that God created it. You belong to Him. In sickness or in health, the Lord loves you and wants you to depend on Him. How long does God's power and love last? Forever!

Source: Mind-Boggling Trivia, Internet website

COMEDY CORNER



What did one eye say to the other eye?
*There's something between you and me
 that really smells!*

Which country receives rainfall everytime?
BAH-RAIN!



"I'm sorry, but I don't think you'll get a merit badge
 for static electricity."

Why did Joe keep his trumpet in the fridge? *He likes cool music.*

What did the mother broom say to the baby broom? *It's time to go to sweep dear!*



"Well, it says 'X' marks the spot, but I
 can't seem to find it anywhere!"

Where's the best place to see a man eating fish?
A seafood restaurant!

If a rooster lays an egg on top of a pointed roof,
 which side does it roll down on?
Roosters do not lay eggs.

TEACHER: "Why are you standing on that
 chair in music?"
"So I can reach the high notes!"



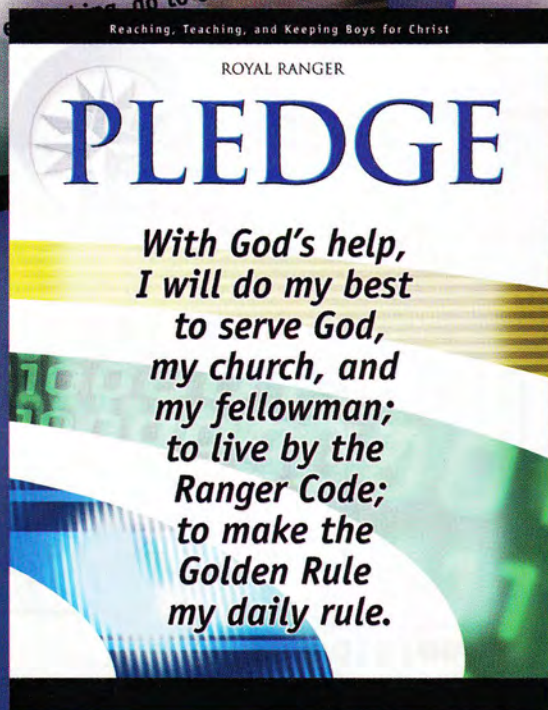
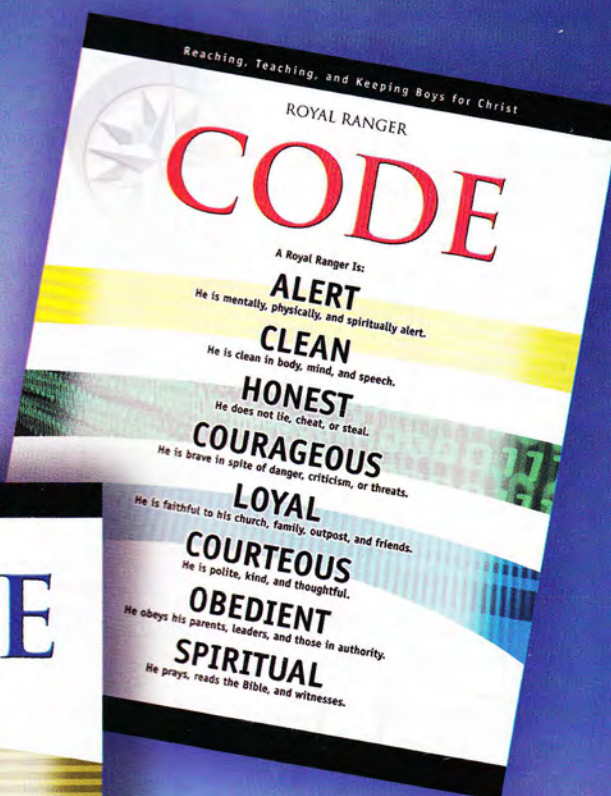
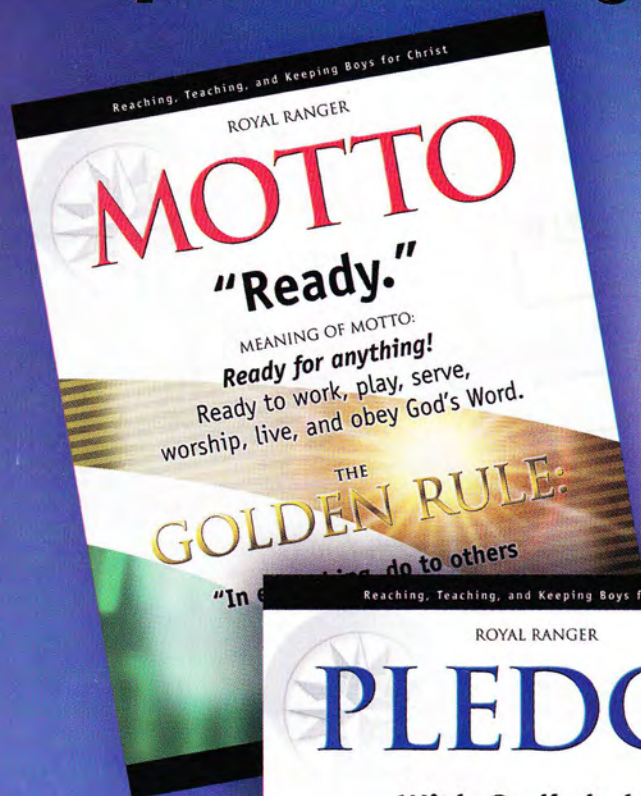
"Mom says the reason I go to the dentist is
 so that I won't have to go to the dentist."

Why do golfers wear two pair of pants? *Just in case they get a hole in one!*

How do you make anti-freeze? *Put ice cubes in her bed!*

Attention Senior Commander

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