



# ROYAL RANGERS

# NATIONAL NETWORK

A Quarterly Source of News Impacting Royal Rangers

www.royalrangers.ag.org

While we are updating and making changes for the future of Royal Rangers it is also important to recognize that the Royal Rangers program has many assets. One of these assets is "Leadership Training." The Leadership Training Course (LTC) has been a valuable asset for Royal Ranger leaders. The question we need to address is the high number of leaders dropping out of Royal Rangers each year. Many districts have stated that as much as 90% of their leaders leave before attending LTC, which would help them understand how to work with boys.

Many commanders agree with me when I say, "We don't have problems getting boys into the Royal Rangers program, our biggest problem is retaining our LEADERS!" Because of this, boys see many different leaders coming and going which can bring instability to the outpost. Many boys have stopped coming due to the instability of the leadership.

As we plan for the future of "Reaching Boys for Christ" we need to review some of our existing procedures, policies, and methods for training our leaders and ask ourselves the following question: "What can we do, or what can we do differently to retain the leaders we are losing?"

We are excited about the LTC updates we are producing and developing into modules. The updated LTC training will help to improve the retention rate of our leaders. The following is an example of where we are in the process, for both LTC and National Training Camps.

## LEADERSHIP TRAINING: A "KEY" to Success

By Richard Mariott

### National Academy

#### National Academy

The purpose of National Academy is to prepare leaders to be instructors for NTC, ANTC, NTT, NCE, and WNTC. You must have a recommendation from your district commander and pastor to attend National Academy. Prior to attending the National Academy, you must have successfully completed the "SIT" home study course.



#### Advanced Academy

The purpose of Advanced Academy is to prepare staff for the two positions of "Senior Guide" and "Camp Commander." The Academy trainees will not be a part of your responsibility. You will be given specific instruction in both Senior Guide and Camp Commander training. You will be required to demonstrate your proficiency in both areas of instruction. Your evaluation will be determined on your accuracy in following the outlines and instruction. You may be certified in one or both of the positions.



The Staff Academy Instructors will perform the trainee evaluations. You must be nominated by your District Commander and recommended by your Regional Coordinator to qualify for Advanced Academy.

#### Academy Instructor

This is the designation for staff members who become certified as Academy Instructors for National Academy and Advanced National Academy. Requirements for this are currently being written. Merely serving on the staff will not qualify you for the "Academy Instructor" certification. There are several existing staff positions at the various Academies that will not meet the certification criteria.



#### Ranger Basics

The Ranger Basics course is an eight-hour course. It could be on a Sunday morning or a weeknight in four 2-hour settings, or one 8-hour Saturday session. We are also considering an Internet training site for Ranger Basics. The training will have a comprehensive handbook for the students to complete, with the instructor using a PowerPoint or overhead slide presentation. The training will consist of useful outpost teaching tips to help a new commander get started and become successful. After completing the Ranger Basics, he would earn the "Ranger Basics" patch which can be worn on the left pocket or vest. The Ranger Basics along with the weekly Meeting Planner, which will have "Leader's Tips," will be invaluable to help us retain leaders in the outpost.



#### Leaders Medal of Achievement

The LMA will continue to be the main goal for a leader to attain. After completing the Ranger Basics course, the leader will be encouraged to continue his training and take the additional modules required to earn the LMA. This represents approximately twenty additional hours of training for the specific age group where the leaders are involved.



#### Ranger Kids Training Conference

The Ranger Kids Training Conference will replace the present "Straight Arrows/Buckaroos Training Conference." This conference will be packed full of activities, games, outdoor day activities, songs, and special ceremonies for weekly meetings and day outings. This conference will be available in two formats: all day Friday and Saturday, or two all day Saturdays.



#### National Training Camp

The purpose of NTC is for leaders to learn and understand the importance of the "Patrol Method." We are developing improved PowerPoint presentations and workbooks for the trainees. Many of these materials will be ready prior to the March 2002 release date of the new program. We will use the updated materials for NTC, ANTC, NTT, NCE, and WNTC as they are finished. The NTC is a prerequisite for the following National Camps; ANTC, NTT, NCE, and WNTC.



#### Advanced National Training Camp

The purpose (new) for ANTC is to learn the importance of building a "team." Understanding the team concept and the importance of building a team will be designed into the evening classroom sessions. The outdoor sessions will continue to have advanced cooking, advanced lashing with rope towers and rope bridges, advanced map and compass—with GPS being added, building native shelters, plant identification, learning pageantry tips with costumes, staging, special effects, and manuscripts. The final night will be a wilderness campout.



#### National Canoe Expedition

The purpose of NCE is to learn the techniques of operating a canoe and how to plan for water adventures. Skills that will be demonstrated are canoe handling, canoe safety, proper canoe strokes, packing, launching, landing, and portaging the canoe.



#### Winter National Training Camp

The purpose of WNTC is to learn winter survival and how to perform various activities in the snow. Training and events involve the use of snowshoes, cross-country skis, winter shelters, snowmobiles, toboggans, and sleds. The camp is very limited in size, generally 24 to 30, due to equipment needs. One of the final activities is the "team competition" timed event with a team member participating in each of the following activities: snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and tobogganing. Team members will be carrying and passing a baton to the next team member. The timed event involves two teams competing at the same time. This camp helps a leader learn winter camping skills for outpost outings.



#### National Training Trails

The purpose of NTT is to learn backpacking and hiking skills while on the trail so these skills can be taught to your outposts. Skills that will be demonstrated are trail cooking, clothing, conservation, field sanitation, compass and map, and much more.



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# Junior Leader's Training Academy

The committee is currently updating the Junior Training Camps course and requirements.

## JTC Basic



**Junior Training Course**—The JTC Basic will offer an instructional video and handbook for the outpost commander to provide for the assistant guide, guide, and senior guide in each level of the Discovery, Adventure, and Expedition Rangers. It will give them specific instruction on their position and leadership responsibilities and will define their function at the outpost level.

The section could sponsor this as a one-day training event. Eventually it will be required prior to attending JTC. Many of the topics of the JTC will prepare junior leaders to attend the Junior Training Camp.

## JTC



**Junior Training Camp**—The JTC uses much of the same materials now being used in JLTTC. We will be working with each district to determine the minimum requirements needed to receive the JTC patch.

After completing JTC Basic and JTC, you will have the option to attend JTT, JWC, or JCE. (It would be necessary to attend one of the three prior to attending the Advanced Academy).

## JTT



**Junior Training Trails**—The JTT requirements are now being determined by committee members. They will be similar to present requirements.



## JCE

**Junior Canoe Expedition**—The JCE requirements are now being determined by committee members. They will be similar to present requirements.



## JWC

**Junior Winter Camp**—The JWC requirements are now being determined by committee members.

## Advanced JTC



**Advanced Junior Training Camp**—The Advanced JTC will be the final Junior Camp needed to graduate from the District Junior Leadership Training Academy. You must have successfully completed the JTC Basic, JTC, at least one (JTT, JWC, or JCE) and have completed the Advanced Junior Training Camp. These requirements are now being determined by committee members.



The Elite JTC is for the honor guards and for the special Royal Rangers Cords. Many of the advanced academies cover this prior to graduation. Use this patch with special White Honor Guard Beret.



**National Junior Academy Camp** is for boys and leaders who want to learn leadership traits for serving on district JTC and DLTC.

## Why Wait for 2002?

By Mike Laliberty

One of the most frequently asked questions concerning the new Royal Rangers program deals with the Gold Medal of Achievement (GMA). It's usually stated something like this. "I have a Royal Ranger who will be close to completing his GMA requirements at the time the new advancement system comes out. Will he have the option of completing his GMA under the old advancement system?"

The answer of course is **YES!!** Our original discussion centered on the idea of providing an 18 month transition period. The question was then asked, "Why wait for 2002? The Gold Medal of Achievement has always been a merit driven award. And the Pioneer and Trailblazer advancements are being changed to a merit driven advancement system too. Is there a way to start the transition sooner?"

The answer of course is YES!! Now is the time to start preparing your boys for the Gold Medal of Achievement — Transition Option. The GMA — Transition Option provides a logical transition from the merit requirements under the old GMA to the new defined requirements under the new GMA.

The table to the right lists all the requirements needed to complete the GMA — Transition Option.

Please note there are several changes from the old GMA. First, there are several logical groupings of merits that contain the same theme or emphasis. For instance, the missions theme is reflected by the Christian Missions or Light For The Lost merit options. A boy may select either option to complete the requirement for the GMA.

There are only two(2) old merits missing from the list; the CPR and Hobby merits. The CPR requirement has been absorbed by the First Aid merit since CPR training is now a part of any certified First Aid Course. The Hobby merit will be absorbed into the new Royal Rangers Curriculum as a non-GMA option.

The \*\* identifies several new GMA options. For example, if a boy has not already completed his Wilderness Survival merit, he may choose to complete the Public Speaking merit instead. The requirements for the new merit options are listed on the Royal Rangers website.

Finally, the total number of merits required for the GMA has been reduced from 29 to 24. This is consistent with our commitment to maintain equivalency with the Boy Scout Eagle Award. The Boy Scout Eagle Award requires a total of 21 merits for completion. A comparison of the Boy Scout Eagle Award and the Royal Rangers Gold Medal of Achievement can be found on the Royal Rangers website.

So, the question remains, "Why Wait for 2002?" The kickoff for the new Royal Rangers program is September 2002. Start your 18 month transition clock right now. There's no need to hold your boys back from earning their GMA. Applications for the GMA — Transition Option will be available from the national office or may be downloaded from the national Royal Ranger website at [www.royalrangers.ag.org](http://www.royalrangers.ag.org) after 3-1-2001.

## Gold Medal of Achievement

(Transition Option) VALID 1/1/2001 — TO — 12/31/2002

### Optional Merits

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

### Required Merits

- 16) Physical Fitness
- 15) Hiking or Advanced Swimming
- 14) Camping
- 13) Nature Study
- 12) Citizenship or God & Life Award
- 11) Bachelor
- 10) Communications\*\* or Public Speaking\*\* or Wilderness Survival
- 9) Christian Service or God & Church Award
- 8) First Aid
- 7) Home Safety or Camp Safety
- 6) Christian Missions or Light For The Lost
- 5) Bible
- 4) Safety
- 3) Tool Craft
- 2) Cooking
- 1) Family Life\*\* or God & Family

### General Requirements

- 8 optional merits
- 16 required merits
- 500 word essay
- Gold medal Christian service activity\*\* at the local church or read the Royal Rangers Leader's Manual
- 6 months in leadership position as: Completed all Trailblazer Requirements

\*\*The requirements for these merits will be listed on the national Royal Rangers website at [www.royalrangers.ag.org](http://www.royalrangers.ag.org) after 3/1/2001.



## What's New In 2002?

In the previous article you had an opportunity to examine the Gold Medal of Achievement — Transition Option. Now let's look at the requirements for the Gold Medal of Achievement (GMA) for September 1, 2002. The table listing all of the requirements for the 2002 GMA is located across from the GMA — Transition Option for an easy comparison.

Please note the similarities with the Transition Option. Once again there are several logical groupings of merits that contain the same theme or emphasis. In fact, a number of the themes now provide additional options. For example, the outdoor activity emphasis now contains an additional option called Cycling. The nature awareness emphasis contains another option called Environmental Science. The missions emphasis contains another option called International Service.

## Gold Medal of Achievement

VALID STARTING 9/1/2002

### Optional Merits

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

### Required Gold Merits

- 12) Personal Fitness
- 11) Hiking or Swimming or Cycling
- 10) Camping
- 9) Environmental Science or Nature Study
- 8) Citizenship or God & Life Award
- 7) Bachelor
- 6) Communications or Public Speaking
- 5) Christian Service or God & Church Award
- 4) First Aid
- 3) Emergency Preparedness or Home Safety or Camp Safety or Lifesaving
- 2) Christian Missions or International Service or Light For The Lost
- 1) Gold Bible Merit or All 25 New Testament and 23 Old Testament Bible Merits

### Required Red Merits

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

### General Requirements

- 8 Optional, green, gold or silver merits
- 12 Required gold merits
- 4 Required red merits
- 500 word essay
- Gold medal Christian service activity at the local church
- 6 months in leadership position as:
- 6 months as a Silver medalist



There is now an option to the standard Bible merit in the form of 25 New Testament merits and 23 Old Testament merits. Portions of these merits can be earned during the Bible Study portion of a regular meeting. That's six(6) years of Bible study the boys will be able to manage in bite-sized pieces.

One of the most notable groupings is the grouping of gold and red merits. Merits are now designed for age appropriateness. The red merits are designed for the Discovery Rangers(3rd, 4th, 5th grades) age group. The gold merits are designed for the Adventure Rangers(6th, 7th, 8th grades) age group. Half of the Bible merits are designed for the Discovery Rangers, half for the Adventure Rangers. In this way a boy entering Discovery Rangers is immediately working on his GMA merit trail.

One additional old GMA merit is now missing from the list. It is the Wilderness Survival merit. It has now become part of the Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship's "Trail to the Grizzly" Wilderness advancement requirements. Information regarding the "Trail to the Grizzly" can be found at the national Royal Rangers website at [www.royalrangers.ag.org](http://www.royalrangers.ag.org).

The greatest change in the 2002 GMA is not the merit name changes or merit groupings, but in the merits themselves. Each of the merits has been reviewed in detail. Individual merit requirements have been modernized and updated. Unnecessary repetition of requirements in various merits has been eliminated. New areas of emphasis have also been added to various merits. For example, the Bachelor merit has been updated to include requirements that focus on money management and the development of a budget. The Christian Missions merit has been updated with options for other approved churches using the Royal Rangers program to direct their boys to gather information and resources from their missions organizations.

So, what's new in 2002 for the GMA. A new excitement, an enhanced challenge, a modernized and updated merit system, flexibility, and lots of options, options, options!!

**WHY WAIT, LET'S GET STARTED!!**

**CAN'T WAIT TO GET STARTED!!**