



ROYAL RANGERS

NATIONAL NETWORK

A Quarterly Source of News Impacting Royal Rangers

www.royalrangers.ag.org

Let's Be Guilty of Doing Good for Others — You Never Know Who Is Watching!

A few years ago, when I was a district commander, I was invited to a Royal Rangers meeting for an awards ceremony to honor the boys for their accomplishments. This church was near my home and had new RR leadership since the last time I was there, so I was looking forward to being with them.

After the awards ceremony was completed, they had asked if I would speak to the boys, families, and church family to help promote Royal Rangers.

The senior commander, whom I had just met prior to the meeting, introduced me. "Friends, it is my privilege to introduce our district commander and I would like to tell a little story on him. You see, I had not officially met him until tonight, but I did know him from the photos and articles the district had published. I also knew that he lived in our area of town."

He continued, "Brother Mariott doesn't know this, but I work at a major chain grocery store, and not long ago I saw him coming into our store. I knew he did not know me, but I wanted to watch him as he and his daughter got out of their car and came toward the store. The shopping carts are at one end of the store outside. He got a cart and started into the store. When an older lady was coming down the sidewalk to get a cart, he stopped and gave her his cart. He did not know this lady, but he gladly gave his cart to her and went back and got another cart for himself.



"I am so impressed that a leader of Royal Rangers would be so kind to others and display this example to his daughter and others like myself." He turned to me and said, "Commander it is a privilege to serve with you and your fine example."

I was so embarrassed that I struggled to concentrate on the short speech I was about to give. I was embarrassed that I had only done the example he stated a few times in my life. I was embarrassed that this commander was using

this as an excellent example for us to follow, when this was not normal for me. I was embarrassed that I had not done it more often.

I now see the value of being guilty of doing good for others, because you never know who is watching. It really doesn't matter who is watching—be guilty of doing good for others.

National RR Council quickly approaches. With release of the new materials for Ranger Kids in September and Discovery and Adventure Rangers in March 2003, we are anticipating many applications for the Bronze and Silver Medals as well as Gold Medals.

I would like to commend your district leadership. In the 40-year history of Royal Rangers, this past year a record was set for the most Gold Medals of Achievement awarded in a 12-month period with 362, up from 296 in 2001. What a great way to finish the 40th anniversary of Royal Rangers!

This year at National Council we will be asking districts to set goals that are measurable and obtainable with a measure of faith.



Richard A. Mariott

Richard Mariott
National Commander

Discovery Rangers and Adventure Rangers by Mike Laliberty

What's Happened?

Four years ago Royal Rangers was presented with the challenging task of enhancing the Royal Rangers program to provide workload relief for the local commander, increase participation on the part of our smaller churches, update the training process to prepare leaders for effective ministry, and reverse our ministry's declining numbers. The first portion of that task was completed with the August and September 2002 release of the Ranger Kids materials. That release covered about 35%

of our leader and boy population. The second portion of the program enhancement arrives in March 2003 with the release of the Discovery Rangers (3,4,5 grades) and the Adventure Rangers (6,7,8 grades) materials. This release will equip an additional 55% of our leader and boy population. That's 90% coverage—leaving just the Expedition Rangers materials to be completed in August 2003.



The truly amazing thing about the Discovery and Adventure Rangers process is that more than 4,000 pages of materials have been created in less than 3 years. This is the result of more than 60 Royal Rangers commanders and numerous other resource members from around the country working together to make this a reality. It was a team effort developed in and by the field.

What's Different?

There is some change that is immediately noticed—like changing the program names from Pioneers and Trailblazers to Discovery Rangers and



Adventure Rangers, respectively. There are changes in the names of the advancement steps. There are even a few minor uniform changes. But the big changes come in the form of curriculum for the leaders and workbooks for the boys. The leaders still teach skill topics to the boys, and the boys still demonstrate their knowledge of these skills by completing a list of requirements. However, these skill requirements are now logically grouped into age-appropriate merits rather than being distributed across all advancement steps.

This design feature marks a major change in the advancement trails for Discovery Rangers and above. In the past, the Gold Medal of Achievement (GMA) was the only merit-based award. Now all the advancement steps are merit-based. The design provides the leader with an effective method of successfully moving each boy through the advancement trails. The leader teaches the same merit to all the boys at the same time. Each boy then moves up the advancement trail based on the number of merits he has completed. The new boy may be completing his first merit while another boy, a veteran of two years, may be earning his 12th merit.

Also instead of just five advancement steps for each 3-year program, there are now 15 advancement steps for each group. Every fifth step results in a significant medal of achievement for both Discovery and Adventure Rangers.

How Should The Groups Be Organized?

One method will not work for everyone. Organization depends on the size of your outpost and how many leaders are available as group commanders. The merit-based advancement structure allows for a variety of organization options. Here are a few possibilities.

Large Church:

- Have one or two leaders for each grade level.
- Plan which merits will be taught at each grade level so that boys will not be taught a merit more than once.

Medium-sized Church:

- Combine grade levels together as needed, such as one third grade group, one combined fourth and fifth grade group, etc. Plan which merits will be taught for each combination.
- Have a Discovery Rangers group and an Adventure Rangers group.

Small Church:

- Have a Discovery Rangers group and an Adventure Rangers group.
- Have Discovery and Adventure Rangers combined into one group. The leader should consider teaching mainly red, gold, and green skill merits. Discovery Rangers would complete green merits (to be credited as optional merits) and red merits for their advancement steps. Adventure Rangers would complete red (four required), gold, and green merits for their advancement steps to the GMA.

When Should The New Program Be Started?

Again, there is not one method that will work for everyone. Most of the concerns with the new program revolve around the transitioning of the boys from the old advancement system to the new, not with the use of the curriculum. Keep in mind that the new curriculum and the lesson plans can be used immediately with the old advancement pins by using the March 2002 Transition brochure. This allows the outpost some flexibility to switch advancement awards and patches at an opportune time, such as the next Council of Achievement, the end or beginning of the school year, etc. There are many possibilities. The key to a successful kickoff for the new program is to carefully plan and schedule this important event.

Here are a few things to consider when selecting your church's kickoff date:

- Has your outpost been using the suggested transition plan for the Pioneer and Trailblazer groups which operates as a merit-based advancement system like the new programs?
- Did your outpost change its grade groupings (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, etc.) when the Ranger Kids program was launched?
- Have your leaders completed the Ranger Basics training and Transition training modules?
- When will your outpost order the new materials?
- Have the parents and boys been informed of the changes and the start-up schedule?

How Do We Transition From the Old to the New Advancement System?

The answer to the above "How Do We Transition" question has been made available in 3 different ways:

- The *Transitional Brochure* was distributed at the March 2002 National Council
- Printed in the Summer '02 *High Adventure Leader*
- Available on the National Rangers website: www.royalrangers.ag.org

Look over the following most frequently asked questions to assist your outpost with the transition process.

Q & A—Advancement Transition

Question: The Discovery and Adventure Rangers Handbooks have advancement charts that include requirements for Bible merits. The Transition charts do not mention Bible merits. Is the completion of Bible merits required at transition time?

Answer: No. First transition the boys from the old advancement pin to the new advancement patch. The completion of the Bible merit requirements now becomes required for earning all additional advancements in the new program. The boys may complete the Bible merit lessons in their workbooks on their own until they catch up with the advancement step they are working on.

Question: I have a boy who has earned his Tomahawk pin using the old Pioneer system but only has a total of 5 merits. What advancement patch should he be given?

Answer: A boy with the Tomahawk pin and less than 8 total merits would cross over to the Red Hawk award immediately. It is not necessary for him to catch up in order to keep his Tomahawk pin or receive the equivalent Red Hawk award. However, to obtain his Bronze Hawk, he would need to earn a total of 10 skill merits and 16 Bible merits.

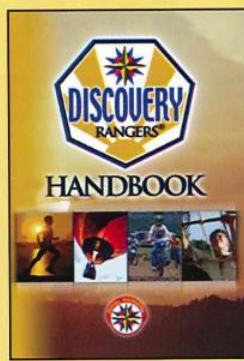
Question: I have a boy who has earned his Tomahawk pin using the old Pioneer system but has a total of 11 merits. What advancement patch should he be given?

Answer: In this case the boy with the Tomahawk pin and a total of 11 merits would cross over to the Bronze Hawk award immediately because he has earned more merits than the minimum required for the Red Hawk award. However, to obtain his Silver Hawk, he would need to earn only 1 more skill merit and 24 Bible merits.

Available March 2003

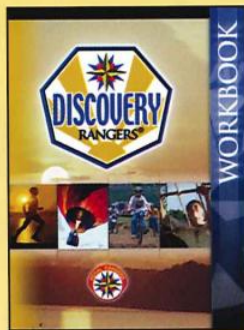
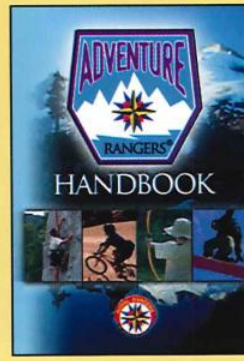
Discovery Rangers Handbook

Designed for boys and their parents. Provides uniform information, merit listings, requirement steps, and check-off lists for the Trail to the Gold Eagle. There are also age-appropriate chapters on "Becoming a Man of God" and "What Should I Believe," which includes a simple method for leading someone to Christ. 132 pages.



Adventure Rangers Handbook

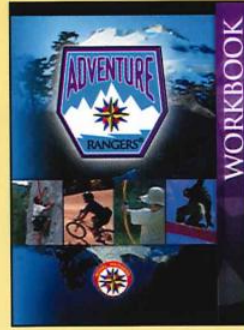
Designed for boys and their parents. Provides uniform information, merit listings, requirement steps, and check-off lists for the Trail to the Gold Medal of Achievement. Includes age-appropriate chapters on "You and Your Bible" and growing up physically, spiritually, mentally, and socially. The handbook also includes a simple method for leading someone to Christ. 240 pages.



Discovery Rangers Workbook

Provides age-appropriate worksheets for the boys to complete the lesson plan and non-lesson plan merits. A total of 50 Red- and Blue-bordered skill merits are included in this workbook. Also includes all of the Bible merit worksheets for the 24 Orange-bordered Bible merits; 120 Bible study lessons in all. The program is designed

so that boys can join Discovery Rangers at any time during the year and be able to immediately begin completing merits on their advancement trail. About 400 pages. 3-ring binder.



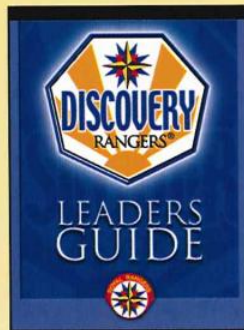
Adventure Rangers Workbook

Provides age-appropriate worksheets for the boys to complete the lesson plan and non-lesson plan merits. A total of 72 Gold- or Green-bordered skill merits are included in this workbook. Also includes all of the Bible merit worksheets for the 24 Brown-bordered Bible merits; 120 Bible study lessons in all. The program is designed

so boys can join Adventure Rangers at any time during the year and be able to immediately begin completing merits on their advancement trail. About 450 pages. 3-ring binder.

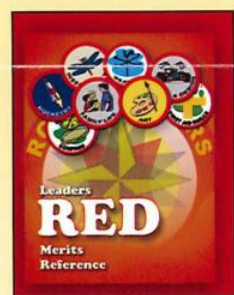
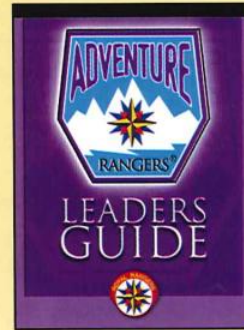
Discovery Rangers Leaders Guide

144 complete 10-point meeting plans for 3 years of Discovery Rangers program material. Includes devotions, Bible studies, plans for 12 Council of Achievement ceremonies, and leadership training tips. About 800 pages. 3-ring binder. Program features are selected by the leader from the Red or Blue Merit Reference Books.



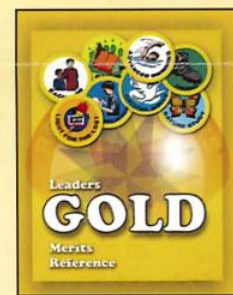
Adventure Rangers Leaders Guide

144 complete 10-point meeting plans for 3 years of program material for Adventure Rangers. Includes devotions, Bible studies, plans for 12 Council of Achievement ceremonies, and leadership training tips. About 800 pages. 3-ring binder. Program features are selected by the leader from the Gold or Green Merit Reference Books.



Leaders Red Merit Reference

Provides lesson plans, resource materials, masters for handouts and overheads, and reproducibles for 19 out of the 20 Red-bordered merits. Leader answer sheets are provided for all lesson worksheets and merit requirements. About 450 pages. 3-ring binder.



Leaders Gold Merit Reference

Provides lesson plans, resource materials, masters for handouts and overheads, and reproducibles for 14 out of the 21 Gold-bordered merits. Leader answer sheets are provided for all lesson worksheets and merit requirements. About 380 pages. 3-ring binder.

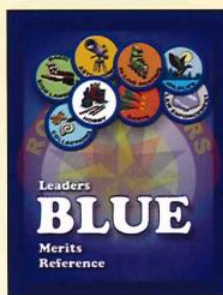
Red Merits (with 5 prepared lesson plans)

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Art | Bird Study | Church |
| Compass | Cooking | Family Life |
| Fingerprinting | Fire Craft | First Aid Skills |
| Insect Study | Jr. LFTL | Lashing |
| Models & Designs | Rocketry | Rope Craft |
| Safety | Space Exploration | Tool Craft |
| Weather | | |

Red Merit (non-lesson plan) BGMC

Leaders Blue Merit Reference

Provides lesson plans, resource materials, masters for handouts and overheads, and reproducibles for 14 out of the 30 Blue-bordered merits. Leader answer sheets are provided for all lesson worksheets and merit requirements. About 400 pages. 3-ring binder. This reference includes the following merits.



Blue Merits (with 5 prepared lesson plans)

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|-----------------|----------------------|-----------|
| Astronomy | Basic Sign Language | Chess |
| Coin Collecting | Disability Awareness | Dog Care |
| Firearm Safety | Law Enforcement | Hobby |
| Marksmanship | Pioneer Lore | Sculpture |
| Senior Citizens | Wildlife | |

Blue Merits (non-lesson plans)

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Basketry | BB Gun | Collections |
| Darts | Fishing | Ice Skating |
| In-Line Skating | Junior Bible Quiz | Music |
| Painting | Pets | Presidents |
| Railroading | Reading | Roller Skating |
| Rowing | | |

Gold Merits (with 5 prepared lesson plans)

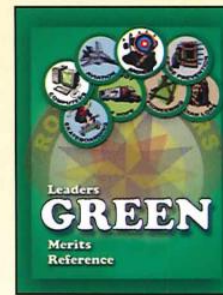
- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Bachelor | Bible | Camp Safety |
| Camping | Christian Service | Citizenship |
| Communications | Cycling | Hiking |
| Environmental Science | Home Safety | Nature Study |
| Physical Fitness | Public Speaking | |

Gold Merits (non-lesson plans)

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Advanced Swimming | Christian Missions |
| First Aid-CPR | Emergency Preparedness |
| International Service | Lifesaving |
| Light for the Lost | |

Leaders Green Merit Reference

Provides lesson plans, resource materials, masters for handouts and overheads, and reproducibles for 23 out of the 51 Green-bordered merits. Leader answer sheets are provided for all lesson worksheets and merit requirements. About 750 pages. 3-ring binder.



Green Merits (with 5 prepared lesson plans)

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|--------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Adv. Marksmanship | Archery | Aviation |
| Backpacking | Carpentry | Computers |
| Church History | Crime Prevention | Energy |
| Dutch Oven Cooking | Family History | Forestry |
| Indian Lore | Knife and Hawk | Orienteering |
| Photography | Pioneering | Plant Science |
| Primitive Shelters | Primitive Snares | Puppeteer |
| Reptile Study | Woodcarving | |

Green Merits (non-lesson plans)

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Academics | Advanced Disability Awareness | American History |
| Air Rifle | Amateur Radio | BB Gun |
| Baseball | Basketball | Canoeing |
| Bible Quiz | Bugling | Football |
| Convoy of Hope | Fire Safety | Horsemanship |
| Gardening | Home Repair | Salesmanship |
| Leather Craft | Pottery | Sports |
| Skateboarding | Soccer | Tennis |
| Stamp Collecting | Swimming | |
| Truck Transportation | Wrestling | |