



ROYAL RANGERS

NATIONAL NETWORK

A Quarterly Source of News Impacting Royal Rangers

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The Value of Camping

The Value of Camping could be stated in several different ways: Using Camping as a Tool to Reach and Teach Boys, Boys Love the Outdoors, and The Great Outdoors Is a Boy's Playground, and all of these would be great themes.

The new Royal Rangers program has many options. Through the merit-driven advancement system, boys may choose to work toward non-camping merits that may be more suited to their personalities. However, this issue of *National Network* will be devoted to the value of camping.

Camping can reveal the true character of a person. A few years ago a pastor said, "Brother Rich, I made a mistake in selecting a staff member several years ago and found that we were not compatible working together. Do you have any suggestions to help me as I interview others?"

After thinking a moment, I said, "When you have a good candidate in mind, before you offer him the position, ask him to go camping with you for two or three days!"

He asked me to explain. I said, "When you go camping, you will find out what type of a worker/leader he is. You will quickly learn if you have to continually give instruction to accomplish setting up camp, cooking the meals, washing the dishes, gathering firewood, and other camp chores. This will help show you if he is self-motivated or requires continuous supervision. Being together, you will experience the different skills and talents you both have and see if they complement each other. You will have the opportunity to talk in the evenings and find out his family values and, most important, his personal values. This will give you a dry run for the two of you to see your ability to work together.

"Please understand, this is not to take the place of prayer and God's direction in your selection, only a demonstration to see his character and compatibility with your goals and work ethic."

Taking boys camping and working on weekly merits to learn camp craft skills has tremendous value in the development of the social and physical skills of boys.

Socially, boys learn to work as patrol members and develop skills working together as a team. The mental processing and decision-making experience made for groups sometimes differs from an individual. When they start working together as a patrol, they find benefits that yield tremendous results that could not have been accomplished alone.

Many times boys are allowed to try new areas of interest in which they were not aware they had talents, and the experience becomes a lifelong interest or profession.

Physical skills are also important for boys to develop. Many of you remember the story last year about my grandson Kody, now in Discovery Rangers. Kody has a real interest in continuing his skills in building and has many new interests that are a result from being exposed to the experiences while working on new merits.

Camping helps develop a boy into a leader as he becomes proficient in his skills and develops a better understanding of the outdoors. He learns the importance of low impact camping, which helps him have a better appreciation of our God-given natural resources and teaches him how to respect and protect them for future generations.

The value of camping is significant to the Royal Rangers leader because he knows that one of the greatest opportunities we have as leaders to share the Great Commission is around a campfire with the boys and dads.

I remember as a leader in Outpost 271 that we had annual father-son campouts. I don't remember the dad's name, but I remember that he came every year to be with his son on the campout. He

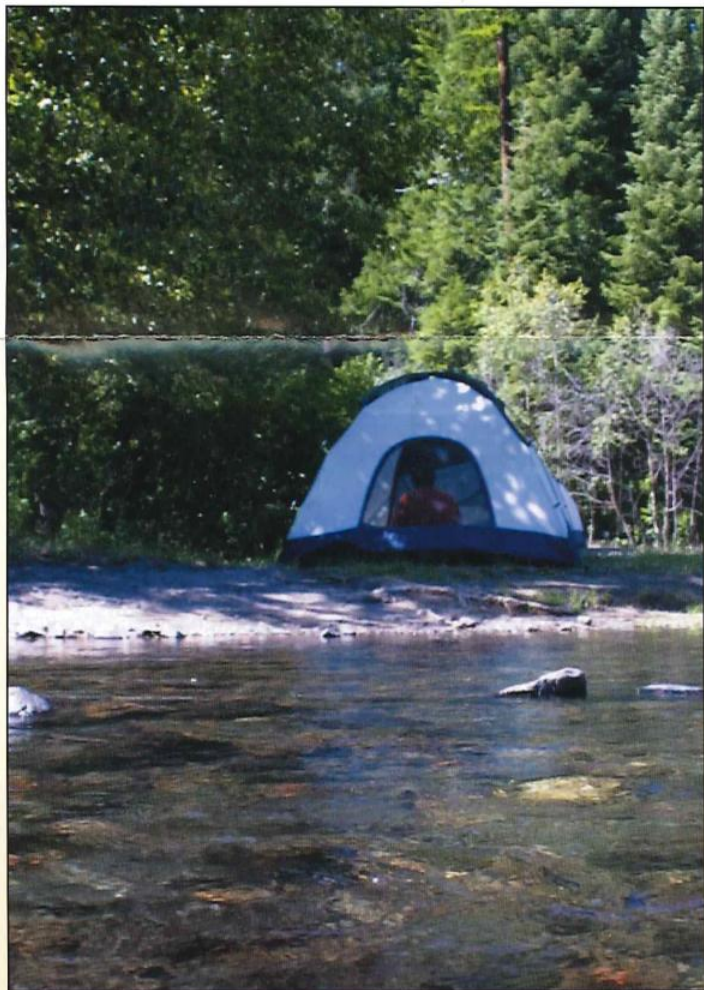
didn't attend church and declined our invitation to attend each year, but the third time he attended the father-son camp, he came forward for salvation and began attending church.

I have prayed for countless young boys with special prayer requests, and I think most commanders would agree the number one request boys have is for salvation for their family members (parents, boys, sisters, or grandparents).

Once in a while I'm asked, "Is camping relevant?" The answer is absolutely! While camping is not for every boy, it is still one of the greatest avenues we have to develop young champions for His kingdom!

I'll close by saying thank you to every RR leader and pastor who recognizes the value of camping and takes their boys into our great out-of-doors.

Rich Mariott
National Commander



Royal Rangers Alumni

by Marvin Lemke

Many of us have reached the age that physical limitations dictate how much and what we can do. The trails seemed to be longer; the backpacks heavier; the sleeping pads in the tent offer less comfort; and, yes, the boys seem to sleep less at night. If this fits your situation, let me encourage you to become part of the Royal Rangers Alumni program.

During the 2004 National Royal Rangers Council the Royal Rangers Alumni (RRA) program was approved and is being launched by many of the districts. Contact your district commander for information.

The objective of the RRA is to provide opportunities for service and ministry for leaders 55 years old and older or leaders who are medically unable to serve as local commanders. You do not need to be retired to be part of the RRA.

Royal Rangers Alumni provides you the opportunity to "Continue to Serve" and be a vital part of Royal Rangers by providing assistance to your local outpost, district, or national office as your time permits.

Royal Rangers leaders, upon reaching retirement age or when medical or other reasons prohibit them from serving as commanders, may feel they no longer have a part in the RR ministry. This is certainly not the case, as many of these leaders have a wealth of knowledge and experience and are willing and able to serve on a limited basis.

So your uniform has shrunk while it was hanging in the closet, don't fret. The official RRA uniform is an RRA polo shirt and slacks. For camping an RRA T-shirt, blue jeans, and the RRA cap is appropriate.

Thank you for giving some of the best years of your life to reaching boys and molding lives for the kingdom of God. Won't you join me by "Continuing to Serve" in the ministry God has honored us with? Please contact me for more information by phone at (405) 728-1453, e-mail at mlemke@royalrangers.net, or check out our website at <http://rra.royalrangers.net>.

"Continuing to Serve,"

Marvin Lemke
National RRA President

"Camping helps develop a boy into a leader as he becomes proficient in his skills and develops a better understanding of the outdoors."

The Power of a Praying Commander

by Jerry PARKS

Revised and reprinted with permission from original author, LeRoy R. Bartel

Prayer must be a habit in the life of a Royal Rangers commander. It begins with a constant awareness of God. The praying person demonstrates a grateful spirit and is enveloped in a continual attitude of praise. Prayer is the first act of every morning and the last thing before slipping off to sleep at night (Psalm 92:1,2). A "spirit of prayer" is the context for the Royal Rangers ministry (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Commanders who have teaching impact show the following attributes in their praying:

1. Their prayers show evidence of preparation.

Attitudes and practices prepare the heart for effective prayer. First is the awareness of God's presence, the indispensable prelude to powerful prayer. Reverence captivates the mind and heart when one becomes aware of who God really is (Psalm 46:10). Praise, worship, and thanksgiving provide a dynamic atmosphere for prayer (Psalm 100).

2. Their prayers are personal.

Powerful prayer flows out of a personal relationship with the living God. It focuses on a Person and is expressed in sincerity of heart. Prayer is talking to the Father and ought to reflect the reality of that relationship (Matthew 6:5-13).

3. Their prayers are positive.

Dynamic praying expresses faith. The confidence that God cares, that God is able, and that God is willing and will act permeates the praying of an effective commander (Hebrews 11:6; Mark 11:22-24; Matthew 7:9-11).

4. Their prayers are powerful.

Fervency and conviction in prayer are natural by-products of a vital relationship with God (Acts 12:5). The last thing on earth Ranger boys need to hear is their commander praying in a boring, listless monotone.

5. Their praying is pervasive and perpetual.

Reading the Book of Acts or reviewing the history of the Pentecostal church reveals a common trait—believers prayed about everything. Scripture admonishes us to do the same (Philippians 4:6,7).

6. Their prayer is persistent.

These people just do not give up! They are not trying to overcome God's reluctance. Rather they know how to lay hold of His willingness. This is the attitude Jesus

commended in the parable of the unjust judge (Luke 18:1-8; Matthew 7:7,8). Such prayer does not display a lack of faith; rather it expresses strength of trust in God.

7. Their praying is purposeful.

Rangers commanders should determine to accomplish something when they pray. Prayer must never simply become "putting in time." Jesus rebuked that attitude and assured His disciples that they had the ear and concern of a loving Father (Matthew 6:7,8).

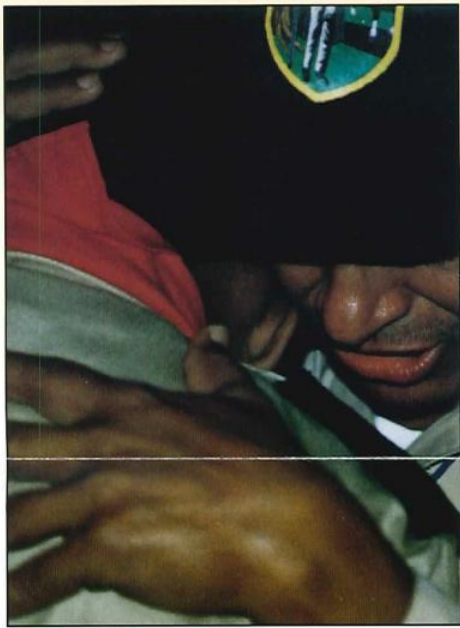
8. Their praying is Holy Spirit-assisted.

One of the greatest joys for a Pentecostal believer is the awareness of the role that the Holy Spirit plays in prayer. The Holy Spirit helps us express our love and praise to God (1 Corinthians 14:2, 14-19; Acts 2:7-11). He also prays through us when we do not know how to pray. He will groan intercession through us in keeping with God's will (Romans 8:26,27).

The Royal Rangers commander cannot hope to be successful by eternal standards without prayer. Prayer is the lifeline, the channel of divine power. It is something commanders do because they cannot do without it. They will allow nothing to push prayer out of their lives.

Effective commanders

teach their boys to pray with more than their words. They teach them to pray with their praying.



Jesus' Model for Praying

- Jesus prayed all night (Luke 6:12; Mark 6:45-48).
- He prayed every morning after exhausting hours of ministry the previous day (Mark 1:35).
- He prayed to prepare for all the crises and significant events of His ministry (Luke 3:21,22; 9:18-22; Mark 1:35-39; Matthew 14:23).
- He prayed to prepare himself for the temptation He saw approaching (Luke 22:39-45).
- He prayed about the ordinary matters of daily life (Matthew 14:19; Luke 24:30,31).
- He prayed standing (John 17:1; 11:41,42), kneeling (Luke 22:41), and lying on His face (Matthew 26:39).
- The last utterance of Jesus' earthly life was a prayer (Luke 23:34,46).



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RRA TESTIMONIALS

Do you know someone who has dedicated their life to the Royal Rangers ministry and is now inactive and over 55? There is a place for these quality leaders who may not be able to honor a weekly commitment to a local outpost, but who would be able to share their years of experience on a part-time vision. How is that possible? Contact your district commander for information about the Royal Rangers Alumni program or contact Marvin Lemke at by phone at (405) 728-1453, e-mail at mlemke@royalrangers.net, or check out our website at <http://rra.royalrangers.net>. Your testimony could echo with the same renewed enthusiasm for Rangers as these gentlemen.

"I became active in RR when the program was started in 1962. I have served in many positions from outpost commander to regional coordinator. About five years ago I had a brain tumor removed and was forced to resign as regional coordinator and from all other RR duties. Rangers was a big part of my life, and suddenly it seemed my ministry was gone. What a distressing feeling that was. I was excited when I heard about the RRA program and how I could continue to be involved in the ministry. I am 70 years old and still want to be involved in 'reaching boys for Christ.' The RRA provides me that opportunity."—

Shorty Wills, North Texas district, Athens, TX

"I am still involved in Royal Rangers, although I am 77 years old, as it gives me an outlet for my artistic talents as I prepare decorations for Rangers events, help the boys design and build their Pinewood Derby cars, make life-sized cutout cartoons for fundraising. I also use my Army training (sergeant in Korea) to help with the orderly assembly of the boys at outpost meetings and campouts."

Sal DiGaetano, Outpost 64, Orchard Park, NY

"Our local RR outpost has the longest continuous charter in Iowa. My father-in-law was among the first commanders in the original group. I have two sons who have gone through the Rangers program, and have an 8-year-old grandson who is currently a Ranger here in Keokuk. My work schedule has not allowed me to be a full-time commander for several years. However, the RRA concept has given me opportunities to minister in our local outpost once more. I am pleased to be able to help again as my schedule allows. It is most rewarding to see young men grow in their faith as they advance in the Rangers program. The many activities (campouts, Pinewood Derby, fishing trips, etc.) help to teach them life skills, and the outpost meetings teach them spiritual skills. The RR ministry has been a most important part of our fellowship since 1962."

John Pollitt, Iowa district, Keokuk, IA

"Royal Rangers will always be a big part of my life. I have been active in RR for 25 years and have traveled overseas on several occasions as part of a national training team. Two years ago I was hospitalized with an aneurysm. My doctor advised me to curtail all activities that would cause stress or excitement as this condition could reoccur. I was thrilled when Commander Lemke told me about the RRA and how I could continue to be part of Rangers as my health permitted. I attended the district powwow this past year and helped in the concession stand. What a joy it is to be involved in RRA and be able to encourage other young men to carry on the RR ministry."

Bob Posey, Oklahoma district, Oklahoma City, OK

Do you have a great idea for an object lesson?

Share it with other Ranger Commanders around the US. Send it to jparks@ag.org for consideration in the *High Adventure* Leader's edition.

Do you know of any former Royal Rangers who are currently serving in the military?

Send their name, home church and location, branch of the military, and their location to the *High Adventure*, 1445 N. Boonville Avenue, Springfield, MO 65802-1894