

ROYAL RANGERS

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Outpost Commander Robert Reid of the Webster Park Assembly of God, Springfield, Mo., is shown enlisting new boys into the local *Royal Ranger* program.

What Royal Rangers Did for My Church

BY WILLIAM HASSLER

Pastor, Webster Park Assembly of God, Springfield, Mo.

FOR SOME TIME I HAVE HAD A DEEP burden for the boys of my church and community. Many times I have prayed, "Dear Lord, help our church to inspire these boys to serve God with all their hearts." We needed a program or plan to reach boys and young men. Then I read this announcement, "Assemblies of God to launch new boys program, ROYAL RANGERS." Immediately I interviewed Johnnie Barnes, the national supervisor of this program. He explained the purpose and the goals of ROYAL RANGERS. This program designed to reach boys, to teach boys, and keep boys for Christ was just what our church needed. We immediately put ROYAL RANGERS into operation.

Robert Reid became our outpost

commander. His spirituality, experience, and love for boys made him an ideal leader. Bob worked untiringly at promoting ROYAL RANGERS. Hikes, cook-outs, trips and projects were planned and carried out. The church and parents were kept informed of the activities of the outpost through a mimeographed newspaper edited by Commander Reid. Under his leadership our group continued to grow.

Then things began to happen at our church. Because ROYAL RANGERS requires boys to attend Sunday school, boys who had never attended Sunday school before began to attend. We began to visit the parents of our ROYAL RANGERS who were not attending church. Because of our interest in their boys, we were welcomed in their homes. Soon many of the mothers and dads began to attend also. Our Sunday school increased.

Some of the young men began to accept Christ during the Outpost meetings. Soon a number were converted. We were having a revival among our ROYAL RANGERS.

This spiritual stirring began to spread into other departments of the church. Our entire church seemed to take on new spiritual life.

The boys themselves have become a real blessing to the church. They are engaged in passing out tracts, doing church visitation, helping in street services, and other forms of Christian service.

Recently some of the boys approached me asking the question, "Pas-



Pastor William Hassler and Outpost Commander Robert Reid examine a copy of the *Royal Ranger* camping handbook.

tor, what can I do to help out around the church?" What a thrill to see boys eager to work for Christ and His church.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Assemblies of God for beginning the new boys program, ROYAL RANGERS. I would encourage other pastors to establish ROYAL RANGERS in their churches. This program will be a real blessing to any congregation.

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