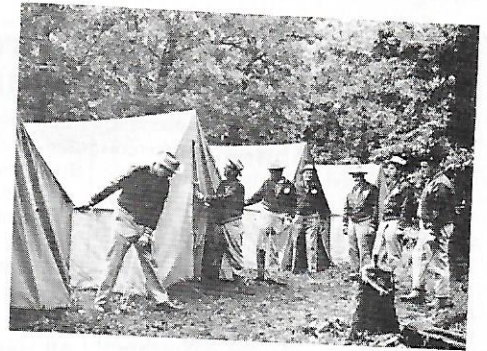




(Left) The California Training Camp was held at Shaver Lake, Calif. Johnnie Barnes (center front) is the National Commander of the Royal Rangers Program. (Right) The trainees in the Missouri Training Camp set up their own tents before the camp began.



NATIONAL TRAINING CAMPS HELD FOR ROYAL RANGERS LEADERS

RECOGNIZING THE VITAL NEED for trained leaders in the Royal Rangers program, the Royal Rangers division of the national MF department conducted four National Training Camps in 1968. These were held in Missouri, Colorado, California, and New York.

Each camp was organized into a large outpost with the camp director becoming the outpost commander and camp instructors becoming lieutenant commanders. The trainees were organized into patrols, and for three exciting days they lived in tents, cooked over campfires, and received around-the-clock training.

The opportunity of fellowshiping with other Christian men from various parts of the country added to the excitement and enthusiasm of participating in patrol compe-

tion, projects, and activities. Many of the men discovered why boys enjoy Royal Rangers so much, as lasting friendships were made among the commanders.

Joe Pottle of Massachusetts commented, "This experience was unique in that I saw the Royal Rangers program from a boy's viewpoint."

An overnight hike, a backpack trip, and colorful council fires were among the events that made NTC an outdoor adventure the men will never forget. "I have received training in the U.S. Maritime Service and in the Boy Scouts," stated Raleigh Johnson of New Jersey, "but this is the greatest training experience I have ever had."

Training classes were held in winning boys to Christ, the problems of boys, conducting council fires, ropecraft, toolcraft, firecraft,

compass and map, lashing, first aid, camp safety, nature study, conducting outpost meetings, and tips on leadership training. The men not only received instructions but were also required to demonstrate their knowledge of these subjects.

In the toolcraft class, for example, they were required to sharpen an ax. In ropecraft they each spliced a rope; in firecraft they started a fire with flint and steel; and in the compass class they followed several compass courses specified by the instructor. Ed White of Florida feels this was a "rugged experience to be remembered for a lifetime."

In addition to the outstanding training, the men received a spiritual refreshing as the Holy Spirit moved in the camps. Many were broken and weeping before God as they dedicated themselves anew for

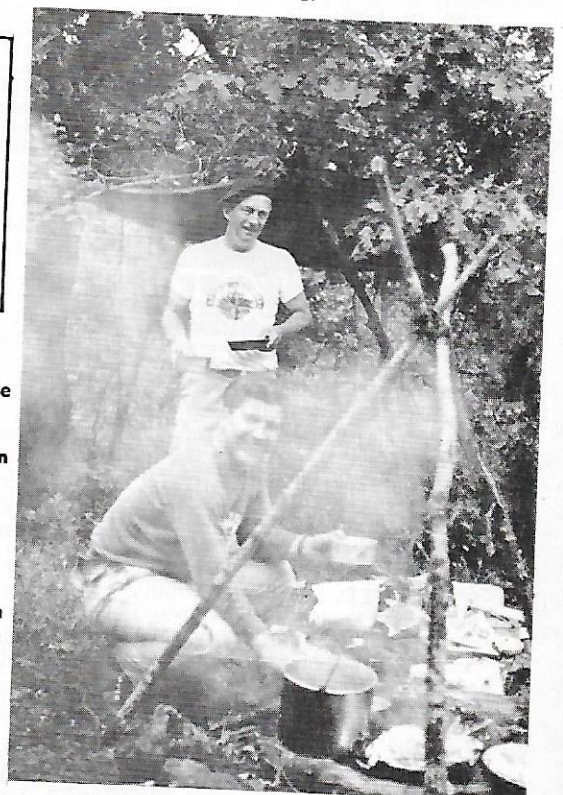
service to Him. In the words of Jerry Longwell of Texas, "This has been the greatest experience in my Royal Rangers career. I praise God for the opportunity of rededicating my life to Christian leadership of boys."

At the end of the camps, the men who had completed the training program received a certificate and a blue beret with the NTC patch on it as marks of their achievement.

The words of Don Franklin of Texas sum up the National Training Camps very well: "The administration was excellent, the program was wonderful, food was very good, devotionals inspiring, the organization superior, setting superb, the subject materials highly informative, and the quality of instruction excellent. I was greatly pleased with every aspect of NTC."



NATIONAL TRAINING CAMPS FOR 1969
TEXAS—Fort Hood Reservation, Belton, Tex.—April 10-13, 1969.
OZARK—Camp Arrowhead, Marshfield, Mo.—May 22-25, 1969.
WEST COAST—Shaver Lake, Calif.—July 16-27, 1969.
ADIRONDACK—Adirondack Wilderness, Newcomb, N. Y.—August 7-10, 1969.



Training classes (above left) were a part of each camp. Here Instructor Paul Johnson (Calif.) teaches the class. (Left) Overnight backpack hikes added to the outdoor adventures of each camp, as did cooking all meals over an open campfire (right). These camps were structured so around-the-clock training was received by all trainees.

