

welcomed them with open arms. He said he had tried for a long time to get the boys interested in religion but had failed. He gave us the opportunity to hold an informal service for them.

"After singing some songs, playing the guitar, and giving some simple testimonies, we showed them the plan of salvation. When the call was given, the response was tremendous. Forty-four boys stood and gave their hearts to the Lord. Praise God!

"In the very near future we will have half an hour to explain our program to the administrative staff of the home. The boys may be permitted to attend our services and our Rangers program. Please pray with us about this very important matter."

Another occasion that commanders are successfully using for evangelism is the council fire service during overnight camp-outs. Here is one leader's description of such a council fire:

"Twilight was falling when we finished cleaning up. Fireflies flittered about as we made our way to the council fire. There is something almost magic in the atmosphere of a campfire. The flickering flame, the crackling wood, the crickets in the background—we seem to be in a different world. There is a bond of fellowship here that only the camper knows.

"How boys can sing around a campfire! It matters little if they are off key; it's volume that counts as they give vent to inner contentment and joy.

"A few stunts, more songs, then devotions. The devotional was very simple. We told them how Christ changed a certain boy's life. We explained the simple plan of salvation.

"As the invitation was given to the boys who wanted to accept Christ, we were unprepared for the response. Suddenly several boys were standing before me. There was Jimmy, our biggest discipline problem; Gary, whose father was a drunk; Ben, the sarcastic 'wise guy'; Tim, the quiet, shy boy; and others. They stood looking up at me with searching, questioning eyes. I felt very humble when I prayed for Christ to come into their hearts.

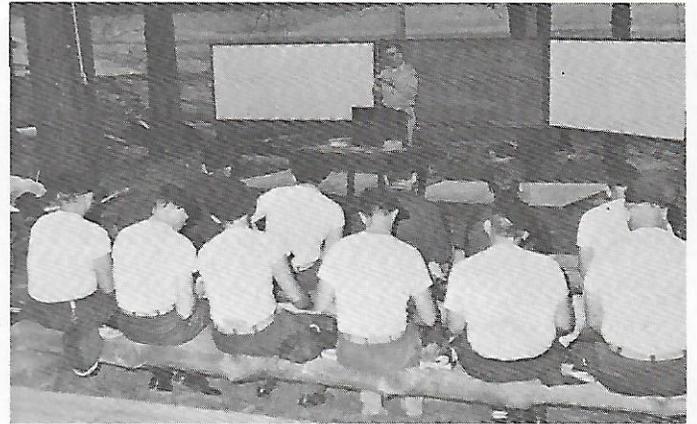
"A leader who has looked into the shining face of a boy who is accepting Christ for the first time will never be the same. I was no exception. Suddenly all the work, time, and effort invested in Royal Rangers paid off.

District-wide powwows are also proving to be an ideal

opportunity for fellowship, campcraft training, inter-outpost competition, and a fruitful evangelistic outreach. Thirty districts conducted powwows this past year and reported over 600 boys won to Christ during these events.

The National Royal Rangers office is endeavoring to train outpost leaders in the techniques for winning boys to Christ so they can take advantage of the unusual opportunity of reaching boys through the program. One section of the Royal Rangers leadership training course is devoted to instructions on winning boys to Christ. Over 9,000 leaders are presently enrolled in this correspondence course.

Another opportunity for Royal Rangers leaders to receive training in soul winning is during National Training Camps. One evening service is designed to teach men the art of leading boys to Christ. After receiving special instructions the men are divided into teams of



Johnnie Barnes teaches a class on evangelism at the National Training Camp at Shaver Lake, Calif.

twos. Using marked New Testaments, they practice these techniques on each other. Last year leaders from 25 districts attended these National Training Camps which were located in Missouri, Colorado, California, and New York. Five more National Training Camps will be held in 1969 and will be located in Texas, Missouri, California, New York, and Florida.

Many Royal Rangers leaders are experiencing the thrill of winning boys to Christ. Together they are making the slogan, "To reach, to teach, and to keep boys for Christ," a reality in the Royal Rangers program. 

Leaders and boys from the St. Louis area gather for morning assembly at a Southern Missouri Regional Powwow.

