



Royal Rangers take a backpacking trip during National Training Camp conducted at Shaver Lake, Calif. These older Rangers from five districts formed a special patrol and received specialized training for future staff assignments at Junior Leadership Training Camps.

Preparing boys for life's challenges

By **JOHNNIE BARNES** / *National Commander, Royal Rangers*

READY" IS THE ROYAL RANGERS MOTTO. The central purpose of the program is to win boys for Christ. The fact that over 15,000 were won to Christ in the past year indicates that the program is achieving its purpose.

However, the goal is greater than evangelism alone. After a boy is saved he must be prepared to face life's opportunities and problems. Therefore our slogan for Royal Rangers week (June 21-26) is, "Preparing Boys for Life's Challenges."

Boys must have a code to live by. Many of America's leading writers are complaining that the youth of today have no moral anchors. There is little they can point to with conviction and say, "This I believe in." From the time he enters the Royal Rangers program, a boy is taught to memorize and live by the Ranger Code, as follows:

A ROYAL RANGER IS:

ALERT

He is mentally, physically, and spiritually alert.

CLEAN

He is clean in body, mind, and speech.

HONEST

He does not lie, cheat, or steal.

COURAGEOUS

He is brave in spite of danger, criticism, or threats.

LOYAL

He is faithful to his church, family, outpost, and friends.

COURTEOUS

He is polite, kind, and thoughtful.

OBEDIENT

He obeys his parents, leaders, and those in authority.

SPIRITUAL

He prays, reads the Bible, and witnesses.

In each meeting he pledges to "live by the Ranger Code." Each time he recites it, he is laying a better

foundation that will give him something solid to stand on and live by throughout life.

Boys must be prepared to "give and take." They must be taught that life is not a bed of roses. They must learn to bounce back after failure, and profit from their mistakes. They must be able to turn disappointments into stepping-stones, rather than stumbling blocks. They must develop the proper attitude toward difficult situations—realizing that anything worth doing is worth doing well.

The advancement requirements, stiff achievement goals, robust recreation, rugged camping activities, and inter-patrol competition teach a boy to give and take and to do his best regardless of the outcome.

A big boy learns to shoulder responsibility. In Royal Rangers he takes on many types of responsibilities, including advancement and other achievement goals. He takes leadership responsibilities as a patrol guide or assistant guide. During campouts he is responsible for pitching his tent, minding his gear, making his bed, sometimes cooking his food, washing his dishes, keeping his tent and campsite clean, plus sharing the responsibilities of wood gathering, fire building, and other camp projects. Many boys "stand on their own two feet" for the first time in life during a Royal Rangers campout.

Boys learn to work with others. By associating with other boys in an outpost situation they gain respect for the rights of their fellows. They develop a better understanding of each other. They overcome social, cultural, and economic barriers. Whether he is a banker's son or a laborer's son, each boy has to pull together with the rest of the patrol during the outpost activities.

During campouts democratic living is observed in its highest form. Boys cooperate in planning and become part of a team. They discover they cannot "goof off" while camping, but each must "pull his share." The boy who doesn't will feel the scorn of his fellow-campers! If he does wrong he must face the consequences of his ac-