

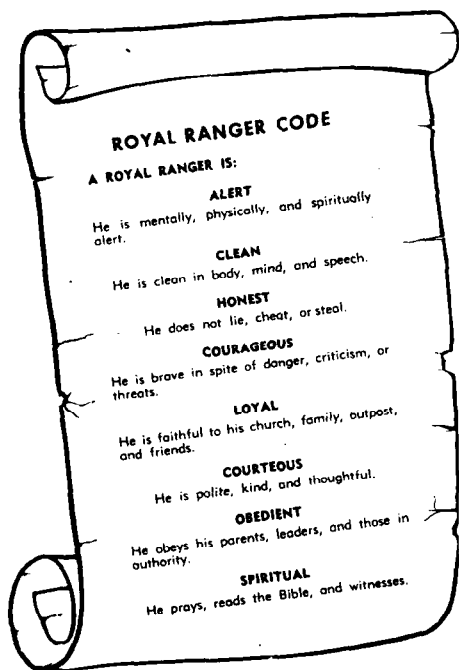
sary to the signers of the Declaration, is no less vital in our time.

Boys must be led into a life of dedication to the Lord. The Bible, hidden in their hearts that they might not sin against God, will call for their sincere consecration, their heart-worship, and their daily Christian testimony.

The Royal Rangers program directs the boy in a systematic approach to Bible reading and study. The four cardinal doctrines (salvation, divine healing, baptism of the Holy Spirit, and the Lord's return) are emphasized throughout the advancement process. Boys learn what our church teaches, and why.

Faithfulness to God's work is taught by example and actual experience. Boys learn to give their time, their finance, and themselves to the cause of Christ.

In building Christian men, Royal Rangers are following the American tradition. The high ideals of God's law governing the equality of man provide our sons with educational, spiritual, and even vocational challenges.



CAMPOUT IN THE HIGH SIERRAS

The occasion for this article was a trek to the High Sierras by the members of my son Paul's Sunday school class.

Most of the boys, ages 9 to 12, had never made the trip before. It was a great experience for all of us.

By car we traveled to Ridgepole, California, at the 6,700-foot level in Sequoia National Park. From there, with packs on our backs, we began the ascent.

The end of the first day found us at the "meadow." It is a more open expanse with fewer trees and two mountain streams fed by patches of melting snows above. We spotted a deer. Around us were patches of pressed grass where the deer had bedded down!

We built a fire from sticks of all sizes gathered by the boys and prepared our evening meal. We took our sleeping bags out of our packs and slept in the open, under the stars.

As the shadows lengthened, the songs of the birds began to fade, and the sound of rushing water from a nearby stream played on our ears. About midnight Tim and Scotty were awakened by a slight noise

and detected a movement in the moonlight shining through the trees. Later we learned what it was. A deer had bedded down within a few feet of my sleeping bag!

Upon awaking in the morning, we beheld an immense diamond formed by the sun coming over the top of the mountain. Its brilliant rays spread out in all directions forming a perfect pattern, reminding us that we serve the God of perfection.

The sharp chill was gone. The frost on the sleeping bags had disappeared, and we began to peel off the layers of socks, extra jackets, and wool shirts that had been our armor for the night. We knew the temperature would change from cool to warm and then to hot as the day progressed.

We crossed a stream and the path disappeared. It was up, up, up over broken rocks and boulders. The air became lighter. With less oxygen our hearts beat faster. It was necessary to take more frequent rest periods.

Each step was a careful one. Never must the body be off balance or there could be a twisted or broken ankle, an injured back. "Watch out for a loose rock, gravel, ice: any slip can be dangerous."

It took some effort, but finally we reached the 10,000-foot level. We were greeted with the deep blue of

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