

Boys need to be loved

By JOHN ELLER

Our world is filled with boys. We see them at the street corner, on playgrounds, in family recreational parks, and on bicycles. They come in assorted sizes and ages, but they all have one thing in common. They need to be loved!

Competition for the attention of boys is intense in our time. Amusement centers created by the giants of the video game industry match technology with science fiction and television to capture their interest and imagination.

But when the game is over, the screen is dark, and the switch is off, their lives are empty, without love.

Royal Rangers is an answer to a boy's basic need for love and understanding. Testimonials are now coming to us of men who reflect on their days in Royal Rangers as the time when they became personally acquainted with the love of God and found His will for their lives.

Myke Crowder is pastor of the Assembly of God in Carl Junction, Missouri, and youth representative for the Joplin Section.

"It was my privilege to become a Royal Ranger in the early days of this ministry," Brother Crowder said. "I came to know Christ and discover

John Eller is pastor of the Assembly of God in Galena, Kansas, and Royal Rangers national aide-de-camp.



His call upon my life because of leaders who loved me and cared about my future.

"The examples and teaching I received became the foundation for my whole life, with rules of conduct and faith to guide me."

David Franklin is an Assemblies of God minister who once served as our national scout in the Frontiersmen Camping Fraternity.

Brother Franklin said, "The love that reached me through Royal Rangers came in the good examples set by the leaders."

Keith Elder, district Royal Rangers commander and youth director in Montana, remembers his experience in Royal Rangers.

"I was fortunate to go through the program as a boy, and to learn, from a boy's viewpoint, the value of boys being guided by men who love God," Brother Elder said.

Nature has dictated that boys mature slower than girls. This causes the adult world to seem confusing and frustrating for the growing boy. His curiosity and energies can be channeled in the right direction by those who demonstrate love.

Royal Rangers loves boys

The heart of this ministry is to reach, teach, and keep boys for Jesus

Christ. Love guides them to grow physically, spiritually, mentally, and socially. This follows the pattern set by our Lord who "increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52).

Horses and many other animals are sensitive to the moods and feelings of man. Even houseplants have better chances of survival when someone cares.

Boys are much more keenly aware of love than the most intelligent animals and will usually respond with their best efforts in Royal Rangers.

Leaders love boys

Leaders begin with a basic requirement that they like boys and enjoy working with them. They continue their involvement by seeking to become good role models for the boys in their outpost.

Boys have a tendency toward higher status males and are oriented toward growth and advancement. Boys are quick to ascertain when leaders "have it all together," and they make these men their heroes.

Extensive training programs have been instituted which require a high level of participation by an individual leader. These require an investment

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