

Fathers, Sons & Royal Rangers

Mentoring ministry promotes family bonds for nearly half a century

BY JORDAN SCHRANDT

Jose Maldonado says he wouldn't trade a single day spent with his four sons in Royal Rangers for any other activity. Maldonado and his sons — Lucas and Jacob, 16; Matthew, 14; and David, 12 — are actively involved in the Royal Rangers Outpost at Lifeline Assembly

discipleship-training, faith-growing organization.

In 1962 the Assemblies of God established Royal Rangers to help boys cultivate a deep foundation in God's Word, prayer, worship and spiritual growth through a variety of activities. Royal Rangers' founders recog-

nized that boys benefit most from a curriculum immersed in action, adventure, hands-on training, and mentoring from older Christian men in the church, often their own fathers.

"Although boys can and need to learn Christian manhood from a community of men, no man

is as important in the life of a boy as his own father," says John Hicks, national programs coordinator for Royal Rangers. "The chief component in a boy's journey to manhood is dad —

his modeling, his involvement."

"It's awesome that my dad is involved in Royal Rangers with me," says Lucas Maldonado. "It makes our bond stronger."

Matthew Maldonado adds that Royal Rangers has allowed him not only to spend more time with his dad but also to know him better.

The Rangers program starts for boys at age 5 in Ranger Kids and continues until age 18. Luis Batista of New York City has been a part of Royal Rangers since 1985, when his son, Alexy, was 12 years old.

"The Royal Rangers program has made our bond as father and son stronger," Luis says. "I am glad I had a major part in instructing him through life, but it was Royal Rangers that allowed me to mold him into the man he is today. I could have prioritized other activities like baseball, soccer and football, but none has the biblical fundamentals that the Royal Rangers program has that brought us closer to God together."

The legacy of God-fearing



Jose Maldonado and his four sons are active in Royal Rangers.

of God in Radcliff, Ky. They are among the thousands of father-son sets benefiting from the camaraderie-building,