

## THE PONY XPRESS MARCH 2011

Dear Team,

It isn't our position that makes us happy or unhappy, it's our disposition.  
(1Thimothy 6:6-7)

A group of men were invited to reflect on their Royal Ranger experience as boys. The common thread was, "my Commander." Men who had once been Royal Ranger boys agree that their commander made the difference in their lives.

Men commonly characterized their appreciation for their leaders in four areas:

- 1) Preparation—The commander had a plan and was always prepared for meetings and events.
- 2) Relationships—The leader showed interest and concern for boys individually.
- 3) Excellence—The commander motivated the boys to set and pursue goals for their own growth and advancements.
- 4) Spiritual—The leader's words and actions led the boys to Christ or caused them to grow in their relationship with God.

During my studies with Royal Ranger curriculum I have learn allot about mentoring the next generation of Christ-like servant leaders. "(Teaching is giving instruction -- mentoring is coming along aside them interacting, and building relationships.)" When you go to the store to buy something you look at the brand and trust that it is consistent no matter what store is selling it. As a teacher, mentor, mother or father, and or friend you as well as I; as a District director for this state need to show forth in our character the Constancy of the product we are representing to this next generation. The curriculum is a powerful tool in the hands of a leader who is intent on evangelizing, equipping, and empowering the next generation of Christ-like lifelong servant leaders. The materials equip us, but it is the Holy Spirit that empowers us.

Our curriculum is very important, but it has no power to impact lives in itself. In Christ we do. God will help us effectively minister to children and youth as we prepare well for each class or event, as we build relationships with the children, as we motivate them to achieve and grow, and as we lead them spiritually. The materials can help, but only we can **inspire the journey**.

Training makes the difference! **We will influence more boys and young men than ever, more effectively than ever before.**

**This year God will challenge you and me to:**

- **Be the man**
- **Brand the ministry**
- **Become the brand leader**

Every son quotes his father in words and in deeds. Similarly, the influence of our leadership attitudes and habits will echo far into the future.

So, like John the Baptist, our aim should be clear communication in word and deed: 1) **Be the man** - Bear the fruit of manhood, which is Christ likeness; 2) **Brand the ministry** – Accomplish our mandate to mentor future men; and 3) **Become the brand leader** – Sacrifice and build a Christ honoring name and reputation for the Royal Rangers ministry that will bless generations still to come.

God is taking Royal Rangers on a journey to influence more boys and young men than ever, more effectively than ever. Momentum is building!

**Below is information YOU NEED TO KNOW, (YNTK)**

## Our Mentoring METHODS

Boys will be boys! They are God-designed to be assertive, competitive, and energetic. Our experienced mentors provide needed guidance, discipline, and structure, using the methods described below.



### **Friendship**

Our mentors are committed to insuring friendship charges our ministry atmosphere. Boys develop lifelong friends in Royal Rangers and meet wholesome men, who will affirm them and who they can look up to.



### **Activities**

Royal Rangers is about hands-on adventure and side-by-side relationship building. It's how boys learn and relate best. Beyond the fun, boys discover they have what it takes to be men as they spend time with mentors outdoors, in the gym, at the computer, on the service project site, or on the stage. Royal Rangers provides boys with fun activities in five areas of interest, which we refer to as our "core competencies": Outdoor Activities, Sports, Trade Skills, Technologies, and Arts. Many activities in Royal Rangers involve earning merits, which are awards based on the development of skills in one or more of these core areas. A complete list of the merits used in Royal Rangers can be found on our [Merit Index](#) page following.



### **Advancement System**

In Royal Rangers, boys and young men are challenged to embark on an adventure that requires them to participate actively. It is a spiritual journey that will forge their character and maximize their leadership potential. To the uneducated eye, boys are just learning survival skills in the wilderness, playing sports, producing a music video, repairing the home of an elderly person, etc., but in the process, our mentors are intentional about laying biblical foundations of sexual expression, worldview, culture, manhood, and leadership. By awarding merit badges, boys are guided on a measurable, personal, and spiritual growth process. (They think they are just having fun, so let's keep that our secret!)



### **Interactive Learning**

Personal development in Royal Rangers is all about hands-on fun and getting dirty! Boys learn by hearing, seeing, doing, and when appropriate, teaching others. It's learning by doing.



### **Uniforms**

Boys want to belong! Royal Rangers gives young men who want to band together to serve Christ wholeheartedly that place of belonging and an image and identity of which to be proud.



### **Patrol System**

Young men want to influence and try their wings. Guys-only small groups allow boys to have fun together, share responsibility for leadership, learn teamwork, and grow spiritually.



## Service & Ministry Outreach

"It's not all about me!" This is a lesson boys learn in Royal Rangers. Meaningful opportunities are provided for young men to move beyond themselves to help others, instilling attitudes and behaviors of lifelong servants.

## Merit Index

Merits represent the fundamental building blocks of the Discovery, Adventure, and Expedition Rangers advancement systems. Boys earn awards and advance through the system based on the number of merits earned in each category. Merits are categorized by the color of the border on the merit patch and the type of material covered, such as leadership, skills, or Bible.

*NOTE: The advancement system was revised in 2010 and many skill merits were changed to another color category. For details on the 2010 program change.*

### Skill Merits

Skill merits serve to build confidence and competency through the development of skills in a variety of subjects. Completion of a specified number of skill merits is required for each advancement step in Discovery, Adventure, and Expedition Rangers. Skill merits are classified into three color categories, with BLUE representing basic skills, GREEN representing intermediate skills, and SILVER representing advanced skills.

- [Blue Merits](#)
- [Green Merits](#)
- [Silver Merits](#)

### Leadership Merits

[Leadership merits](#) are a new category of merits developed for the 2010 advancement system and are a required advancement component for all Discovery, Adventure, and Expedition Rangers. Leadership merits are RED for Discovery Rangers, GOLD for Adventure Rangers, and SKY BLUE for Expedition Rangers. For more information on Leadership Merits. Leadership merits are available exclusively through [TRaCclub](#), the online Royal Rangers curriculum.

### Bible Merits

Bible Merits represent the discipleship system for Discovery and Adventure Rangers. A total of 48 Bible merits are available: 24 orange Bible merits for Discovery Rangers and 24 brown Bible merits for Adventure Rangers. All Bible merits are available through [TRaCclub](#), the online Royal Rangers curriculum.

*NOTE: Bible merits are not used in Ranger Kids since discipleship material is incorporated directly into the weekly curriculum. Expedition Rangers likewise do not use Bible merits but rather utilize a weekly group Bible study format known as Spirit Challenges.*

## The Advancement Trail

Personal advancement is one of the core methods of the Royal Rangers program. As boys grow through their involvement in rangers they will encounter many opportunities for advancement. Each age group in Royal Rangers provides an advancement trail that is both challenging and rewarding to boys. Click on the group logos below to learn more about the advancement opportunities in each Royal Rangers group.





**Ranger Kids**  
Grades K - 2



**Discovery Rangers**  
Grades 3 - 5

**Adventure Rangers**  
Grades 6 - 8

**Expedition Rangers**  
Grades 9 - 12

## 2010 Program Updates

*Mentoring Future Men: Simple, Flexible & Effective. Royal Rangers will influence more boys and young men than ever, more effectively than ever!*

In 2010 the national Royal Rangers office released significant improvements to the ministry. These changes were made to create greater flexibility for a growing number of churches looking for cross-generational discipleship ministries that could be custom fit to the unique needs of each church and community. The updates can be classified into the following general categories.

### ***Mission & Focus***

The most fundamental update is a renewed focus on the original purposes of the ministry. Since 1962, Royal Rangers has successfully pursued a mission to "reach, teach, and keep boys for Christ." This clearly defined our core objectives of evangelism, discipleship, and leadership development. Since our founding, camping and outdoor skills have been used to accomplish our mission. So much so that Royal Rangers became more closely identified with our methods than with our mission. Mission and methods are valuable. But our mission is far more important than our methods. With a decline in interest in many boys and young men in camping, a broader activity-base is now called for so churches can influence a greater number and a more diverse group of boys and young men. Today, our activities include:

***\*Outdoor Skills \*Sports \* Sports \* Trades \* Technologies \* Arts***

The purpose of these is to establish mentoring relationships because men and boys develop friendships and much needed confidence by doing things together side-by-side. Relationships enable men to accomplish mission. Our mission statement has been rewritten to renew our original purpose and to compliment the other ministries of the local church: "Evangelize, equip, and empower the next generation of Christ-like men and lifelong servant leaders." Our aim is to be the premier, most sought after church ministry for next generation men, known more for our mission than our methods—Royal Rangers: mentoring future men.

For more information on recent changes to the Royal Rangers ministry and the future direction of Royal Rangers, view these resources:

- [Royal Rangers Leader Manual, 2010 edition](#) - Chapters 1 & 2
- [Seek & Save - Taking Royal Rangers to the iPod Generation](#)
- [Town Hall Meeting with National Director Doug Marsh](#)

## 2011 QUARTER CALANDER

### March

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- March 4-5, 2011 **Ranger Madness 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament** (Camp Crestwood)  
[Click here for registration](#)
- March 10-12, 2011 **National Council** ?
- March 25, 2011 **Executive Staff Meeting** (Location to be determined)

### April

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- April 1-3, 2011 **Junior Missions Camp** ([Click here for registration form](#))
- April 15-17, 2011 **FCF Big Adventure** (Rotary Scout Reservation)

### May

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- May 6-7 2011 **Rotary Scout Work Day** (Sign up available)
- May 14, 2011 **Ranger Kid Field Day**
- May 20-21, 2011 **Honor Bound Men's Convention**