



Royal Rangers

A Detailed Overview

What is Royal Rangers?

Most sponsoring churches run Royal Rangers like an alternative to more secular youth programs such as Scouting. Royal Rangers is a worldwide movement of the Assemblies of God designed to provide young people with positive activities while providing them with Godly spiritual mentorship. A camping theme is at the heart of most activities, along with a merit award system whereby Royal Rangers must demonstrate specific knowledge and abilities to achieve advancements. Since its creation in 1962, this program has spread from the Assemblies of God to many other denominations and from the United States to over 73 countries worldwide.

In the United States, Royal Ranger boys are divided into four groups:

Ranger Kids (Kindergarten-2nd Grade)



Discovery Rangers (3rd Grade-5th Grade)



Adventure Rangers (6th Grade-8th Grade)



Expedition Rangers (9th Grade-12th Grade)



A Brief History of Royal Rangers

In the early 1960s, the Assemblies of God leadership was concerned about the large number of teenage boys who were dropping out of the church. The Men's Fellowship Department (now HonorBound: Men's Ministries) was asked to develop a program for boys. In October of 1962, Royal Rangers was launched as the AG ministry to boys. Johnnie Barnes was named the first national commander. The following timeline shows the progression of this movement through today.

1914 The Assemblies of God begins in April in Hot Springs, Arkansas.



1962 In January, Rev. Johnnie Barnes moves to Springfield, Missouri, to put together a program for boys. Rev. Charles Scott suggests the name "Royal Rangers." Rev. Barnes becomes the first Royal Rangers national commander.

1963 The Royal Rangers Leadership Training Course is developed.

1964 The first district-wide powwows (Camps) are held. The Gold Medal of Achievement and the Medal of Valor awards are first offered.

1966 Royal Rangers ministries are set up in Australia and Latin America. The Frontiersmen Camping Fraternity (later "Fellowship"; FCF) is formed. The first Royal Rangers Week is held. It celebrates the Royal Rangers ministry and encourages reaching, teaching, and keeping boys for Christ.

1968 National Training Camps for Royal Rangers leaders are held in four states: Missouri, Colorado, New York, and California.

1974 The first National Camporama, a camping event that happens every four years, is held at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

1977 The National Royal Rangers Council is formed and meets in Springfield, Missouri.

1986 The National Royal Rangers Training Center (now National Royal Rangers Center) at Eagle Rock, Missouri is dedicated. It is also called Camp Eagle Rock.

1989 National Commander Johnnie Barnes dies. For twenty-seven years he led the Royal Rangers, developing its ministry. Rev. Ken Hunt is named national commander. He guides the ministry for ten years.



Richard Mariott

1999 Rev. Richard Mariott is appointed national commander. He was the commander for the Northern California/Nevada District for seven years. His goals are to encourage Royal Rangers and develop new programs.

2002 Ranger Kids, the first portion of the newly revised Royal Rangers ministry, is tested and released to U.S. churches.

2003 Discovery Rangers and Adventure Rangers materials are released to U.S. churches.

2004 Expedition Rangers materials are released to U.S. churches.

The Royal Ranger emblem

The Royal Rangers Emblem is a stylized compass rose containing points in three different colors: Red, Blue, and Gold. Each color has a different meaning.

The Four **Red** Points represent the Four Main Teachings of the Church, which are:

- Salvation
- Baptism of the Holy Spirit
- Divine Healing
- Blessed Hope or the Rapture of the Church.

The Four **Gold** Points represent the four ways a person grows, as Jesus grew up as described in Luke 2:52:

- Mentally
- Physically
- Spiritually
- Socially

The Eight **Blue** Points represent the eight points of the Royal Ranger Code:

- Alert: "A Ranger is mentally, physically, and spiritually alert."
- Clean: "A Ranger is clean in body, mind, and speech."
- Honest: "A Ranger does not lie, cheat, or steal."
- Courageous: "A Ranger is brave in spite of danger, criticism, or threats."
- Loyal: "A Ranger is faithful to his church, family, outpost, and friends."
- Courteous: "A Ranger is polite, kind, and thoughtful."
- Obedient: "A Ranger obeys his parents, leaders, and those in authority."
- Spiritual: "A Ranger prays, reads the Bible, and witnesses."



Royal Rangers pledge and motto



Royal Rangers have their own pledge for the Royal Rangers flag (pictured on the left)
"With God's help, I will do my best to serve God, my Church, and my fellow man; to live by the Ranger Code; and to make the Golden Rule my daily rule."

Royal Rangers also have a motto

"Ready! Ready for anything! Ready to work, play, serve, worship, live and obey God's Word!"

The Royal Ranger uniform

Like the Boy Scouts, Royal Rangers have their own distinctive uniform. Other nations have variations of the uniform, but in the US, the uniform consists of a khaki shirt and khaki slacks with black or brown shoes. For the oldest group, Expedition Rangers, the classes are divided into subgroups by theme. (Air Rangers, Sea Rangers, Trail Rangers, and High Action Rangers) each has its own distinctive uniform.

The standard Class "A" Uniform is used for formal functions and is worn with a tie in the color of the age group (Leaders wear Navy Blue) as well as drape medals.

The Class "B" Uniform is worn for other functions and is worn with a bolo tie. Each age group has a specific color bolo tie to wear; however, many choose to wear one that they have custom made. Rather than drape medals, ribbons (called merits) are worn on the Class "B" uniform.

Class "C" uniforms are worn in more relaxed settings, such as field day events or campouts. A Class "C" uniform consists of blue jeans or slacks and a Royal Ranger T-shirt. Additionally, an awards vest can be worn on the Class "B" or "C" uniform. Different types of headgear are also worn with each uniform, depending on the level of training of the boy or leader. Usually these hats are either a beret or a ball cap.



On the shirt of the class "A" are the following items:

Left sleeve (top to bottom)

- Staff Patch or Designation (If applicable)
- District Name Strip
- Outpost Number

Left shirt pocket (top to bottom)

- Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship Membership Pin (If applicable)
- Group Name Strip (Age Group for boys, generic "Royal Rangers" name strip for leaders)
- Name Tag (For leaders only, though if a boy has won Ranger of the year his Ranger of the year -Name Tag goes here)
- Event Patch

Right shirt pocket (top to bottom)

- Bronze/Silver/Gold Wings (For those involved in aviation)
- Leaders' Award Ribbons (Class A and B Uniforms)
- Merit Ribbons (Boys wear ribbons for merits they earn, leaders wear ribbons for merits they teach)
- Drape Medals (Class A and B Uniforms)
- Training patch

Right sleeve (top to bottom)

- Royal Ranger Emblem patch
- National flag

Shirt collar

- Title or Leadership Insignia (ex: Jr. Leader bars or Sr. Commander bars)

The following items can be placed on the class “C” or “B” awards vest:

Left front (Top to Bottom)

For Discovery or Adventure Rangers:

- Group Emblem
- Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship Membership Pin (If applicable)
- Ranger of the Year Name Tag
- Class A Medals (maximum of 6)
- Advancement Patches (maximum of 2 rows)

For Expedition Rangers:

- Group Emblem
- Frontiersmen Camping Fellowship Membership Pin (If applicable)
- Ranger of the Year Name Tag
- Achievement Medal Level Insignia
- Class A Medals (maximum of 9)

Right front (Top to Bottom)

For Discovery or Adventure Rangers:

- Royal Rangers Emblem
- Title or Leadership Insignia (ex: Jr. Leader bars or Sr. Commander bars)
- Training Patches (maximum of 2 rows)
- Advancement Patches (maximum of 3 rows)

For Expedition Rangers:

- Royal Rangers Emblem
- Title or Leadership Insignia (ex: Jr. Leader bars or Sr. Commander bars)
- Training Patches (maximum of 2 rows)
- Spirit Challenge Patches (maximum of 2 rows)

Back of vest (Top to Bottom)

- Merit Patches (centered at top of vest)
- Activity Patches (centered at bottom of vest)
- Trail patches for 25, 50, or 100 mile hikes (centered above activity patches)

Events and outings

Besides the weekly advancements and activities, special events have always been one of the major aspects of Royal Rangers. Each outpost and district holds numerous large and small events each year. These events include several campouts each year. The outposts have outings such as hikes, amusement parks, police stations, airports, and other various fun and educational field trips. Many outposts also have competitions such as pinewood derbies, camp crafts, and fundraisers. Each of these activities is designed to keep young people interested in the program, entertain as well as educate, and to achieve knowledge and skills, not only for merits and advancements but also for personal improvement.



Ranger of the year

Ranger of the Year is a competition held annually in which each Ranger is tested on his knowledge and skills. A Ranger's ability to qualify is based on the number of points they have earned from completing things such as merits or medals, attending camps, or wearing their uniform. This competition is held in every level (Outpost, Section, District, and Region) and at the lower three levels, every person who gets more than 85% of their testing right gets a medal. At the Regional level, the person who gets the highest score becomes the National Royal Ranger of the Year for that Region.

Royal Rangers Gold Medal of Achievement



Royal Rangers Gold Medal of Achievement is the highest honor a boy can earn. It is equivalent to the Eagle Scout award in the Scouting program and is recognized by organizations, employers, and educational institutions as its literal equivalent.

The Gold Medal of Achievement (GMA) is a medal of great distinction and honor. It was first offered in 1963 with the first recipient completing its requirements in 1964. In its 40 year history the GMA has been earned by over 5000 boys ages 12 through 17 years of age.

The average age of a boy earning the GMA is approximately 16 years of age. This indicates that a boy has been involved in Royal Rangers for at least 4-5 years before earning his GMA. At this time, slightly less than 1% of the boys involved in Royal Rangers each year earn the GMA. As a result of its challenging merit trail, it is truly a coveted award for any Royal Ranger boy. GMA recipients must be at least 12 years old and at least in the 6th grade, but less than 18 years old. He must be a Silver Medalist for at least 3 months and have completed 24 merits, 16 of which are chosen from a required list and 8 of which are personal choices. He must have served in a leadership (junior) position for at least 6 months, complete a 500 word essay on "The Value of Royal Rangers to Me", and complete a Christian Service Project.

A Final Note

As a whole, Royal Rangers exists to reach, teach, and keep boys for Christ. This is more important today than ever before. The majority of delinquent, criminal, and destructive behaviors so prevalent in today's society are directly related to the lack of a positive male roll model in the lives of boys. Upon visiting any of our nation's penitentiaries, you would find it difficult to find many inmates who had a positive relationship, if any, with their father. It is because of this lack of positive male roll models that the Royal Rangers exists. The program trains Godly men to mentor boys to become Godly men themselves. Strong Christian men are needed, to influence the next generation. It is also imperative that each boy gets as much support from home as possible from their parents and families. This ensures not only success in the program, but well-balanced relationships with God and others. If you are a parent of a boy or a man wishing to shape the next generation, please consider getting involved.