

ROYAL RANGERS

FREQUENTLY ASKED  
**QUESTIONS**  
ABOUT THE NEW  
**PROGRAM**



**Greetings Friends:**

The excitement and anticipation across the nation is building as we near the release of the new materials. Here are the answers to the most often asked questions. I personally believe that God will use Royal Rangers beyond our wildest dreams. Catch the Vision:

**"Ready  
for Anything!"**



**Rich Mariott**  
national commander

**Q.** How is the actual structure of the advancement system being improved?

**A.** The advancement system will have options for both circular work (to be done in the weekly meeting for Ranger Kids) and linear work (to be done both inside and outside the weekly meeting for the older age groups). Advancement awards will be based on the number of merits a boy earns, giving tremendous flexibility to a standard for advancement.

**Q.** How is the advancement system being made easier to understand?

**A.** It is being designed to be visual, making it easy to understand for the boys, parents, and commanders. One of the more significant changes is that the system will feature weekly planning guides and workbooks for advancements and Bible study. A commander can use the pre-plan outline or build-a-quarter to reflect a different theme.

**Q.** Is the program being "watered-down" by the advancement changes?

**A.** Absolutely not. The advancement system will have significant changes to reflect the new program and to allow for different options, but will not require less from our boys. Conversely, the new system will allow additional advancements to be earned along the Advancement Trail. This can be done without making the system complex.

**Q.** How will the awards and merits change for the boys and leaders?

**A.** There will be a new system of medals, patches, and ribbons for awards, including:

- Merits in the form of very colorful patches (more than 240), rather than the current pins. (Class B style ribbons also will be available in 7-color borders with numerals.)
- Leaders may earn the merit awards along with the boys.
- New guidelines for the placement of awards and merits on the uniform.

**Q:** What about the Gold Medal of Achievement?

**A:** The current advancement system is primarily requirement-driven. The Gold Medal of Achievement has been a merit-driven award where a list of merits was required for completing the GMA. Now the Discovery and Adventure Rangers advancement systems will provide a logical progression to the GMA because they will be merit-driven systems also.

There will be several changes from the old GMA. First, merits with the same theme or emphasis will be placed into groups. For example, the missions theme is reflected by the Christian Missions or the Light For The Lost merit. A boy may select either option to complete the requirement for the GMA.

The CPR, Hobby, and Wilderness Survival merits will be missing from the old GMA list. The CPR requirement has been absorbed by the First Aid merit since CPR training is now a part of any certified First Aid Course. The Hobby merit will be absorbed into the new Royal Rangers curriculum as a non-GMA option. The Wilderness Survival merit will now become part of the RCF "Trail of the Grizzly" Wilderness advancement.

Finally, the total number of merits required for the GMA is 24. This is consistent with our commitment to maintain equivalency with the Boy Scout Eagle Award.

**Q:** Will there be a transition time from the old to new programs?

**A:** Yes, there will be a transition period through the year 2003 for boys to complete or switch over to the new program. A conversion chart will credit a boy for his current advancement work and show his standing in the new program. In most cases the boys and leaders will choose to change to the exciting new program and its "Premier Advancement System."

**Q:** What other changes will there be to help leaders?

**A:** The leader's training system will undergo a complete restructuring to make it more user-friendly and specific to meet individual commanders' needs such as:

- The Leadership Training Course (LTC) will be redesigned into a modular system to include seminars, weekly instruction, and video study. This modular system will allow commanders to study for the specific age group with whom they are working. With workbooks for the trainees and PowerPoint presentations for the instructors, the modular design provides for specialized training in a specific time frame.
- A commander who completes the Ranger Basics 6-8 hour course and learns from the hundreds of commander tips in the weekly planning outlines will be successful at the outpost meeting.
- After completing the Ranger Basics the leader will be encouraged to continue and earn the Leaders' Medal of Achievement, which is an additional 20 hours of training.
- National Training Camps will continue to be a focus point for Royal Rangers training with updates as needed.

**Q:** When should we start budgeting the money for the change over?

**A:** Start setting money aside (in a church reserve account) as soon as possible. We are recommending a minimum of six months to one year before the release date. The size of the outpost will determine how much you will need to budget. Be watching our website for new program cost information beginning in the summer of 2002.

**Q:** What about Camping?

**A:** Royal Rangers is a purpose-driven ministry. Its purpose is multi-function. Royal Rangers will continue to include outdoor activities and camping. Many non-camping merits will be available as options. Cooking, Compass, Fire craft, Lashing, Tool craft, and Rope craft are merits that can be earned at the outpost in an outdoors setting. These are valuable personal skills to learn, even for the non-camping enthusiast. The camping merit is required for the GMA Outdoor activities, campouts and other exciting outdoor outings are outlined in the quarterly planner.

**Q:** How will FCF Change?

**A:** The "Trail of the Grizzly" is designed to prepare boys and leaders to successfully complete each of the FCF advancements by including a unique set of merit award requirements for the "Frontiersmen," "Buckskin," and "Wilderness" steps. All of the "Trail of the Grizzly" merit awards are easily identified with a grizzly paw print. The Frontiersmen merit awards display a Green Grizzly Paw on the merit. The Buckskin merit awards display a Black Grizzly Paw on the merit, and the Wilderness merit awards display a White Grizzly Paw.

After completing the required merit awards, an application can be submitted for advancement to the district FCF chapter. The "Frontier" Adventure trail is still required for Frontiersman, the Buckskin prerequisite study and testing for Buckskin, and the Wilderness Vigil for Wilderness.

**Q:** Will the names of the various age groups be changing?

**A:** Yes! We are moving away from thematic names to neutral themes that will fit any culture. The boys will be grouped by grade rather than age. The new group names will be:

- Ranger Kids - Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades.
- Discovery Rangers - 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades.
- Adventure Rangers - 6th, 7th, and 8th grades.
- Expedition Rangers - 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades.

**Q:** Will the uniforms change for the boys? What about the leaders?

**A:** The boys' uniforms will remain basically the same while the advancements and awards (and their placement) will undergo significant changes to reflect the new program.

- Class A and Class B uniforms will have the American flag placed below the RR emblem on the left sleeve.
- Ribbon awards (formerly called the Class B ribbons) can also be worn on Class A uniforms as an alternative to medals. Medals are approved for the Class A uniform or dress blue blazer.
- An awards vest for each outpost group for advancements, activities, and merit awards will be available.
- No patches will be worn on the lower arm sleeve such as first aid, Jr. LFTL, and year stars.
- Class C clothing consists of a Royal Rangers T-shirt, Royal Rangers hat, and blue jeans or fatigue-type pants to be worn during activities and camps at the commander's discretion.
- New "casual-wear" RR clothing featuring:
  - Knit Royal Rangers polo-type shirt;
  - Button down long and short sleeve Royal Rangers shirts; and
  - Pants to be nice casual type slacks, i.e. Dockers-type pants.
- The leader's "dress-blue" uniform is optional, similar to present, using the small insignias now used on your Class A or B uniforms.