

ROYAL RANGERS® QUICK START GUIDE

Mentoring Future Men



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A LOST VISION FOR MANHOOD

It's painfully obvious. Boys have lost their way on the journey to manhood. The statistics tell the story.

Compared to girls, boys are:

- 3 times more likely to be registered drug addicts
- 4 times more likely to be diagnosed as emotionally disturbed
- 6 times more likely to have learning disabilities
- 12 times more likely to commit murder

Boys make up 90% of those in drug treatment programs and 95% of minors in the juvenile court system.

This generation will carry unresolved problems with them into adulthood, impacting our families, churches, communities, and places of employment.

The best time to build a man is while he's still a boy, but the path from boyhood to manhood is no longer clear. Fathers are often absent or disengaged. The media imprints young minds with its own empty vision of manhood, while peer groups propagate the distortion. The lack of positive male influences leads boys into destructive passivity or aggression. In his book *Bringing Up Boys*, Dr. James Dobson warns, "Now, more than ever, boys are experiencing a crisis of confidence that reaches deep within their soul."

Today's situation presents many challenges, but there is a clear way forward that provides boys and young men a vision of true manhood. Your church can secure the next generation of godly men through a partnership with the *Royal Rangers* ministry.

Dr. James Dobson warns, "Now, more than ever, boys are experiencing a crisis of confidence that reaches deep within their soul."

"My son has Down Syndrome, but that is not what defines him. He serves each week as a junior leader in the *Royal Rangers* group I lead. I cannot begin to express the important role *Royal Rangers* has played in his personal development and self-worth. What an awesome ministry!"

*Bruce Witt, leader and father
Wisconsin/Northern Michigan District Council*

RESTORED VISION FOR MANHOOD

While mentoring boys, *Royal Rangers* leaders cast a vision by modeling godly manhood and servant leadership in their personal and public life. Boys and young men are invited to embark upon a life of adventure, to seek strength of character, and to discover a deeply personal task or purpose to live for. The story of Peter exemplifies this process.

ADVENTURE

Manhood is an adventure—an adventure where boys do what God asks them to do. Consider when Jesus told Peter to get out of the boat and come to Him across the water (Matthew 14:25-29). Like Peter, boys need to have faith to obey. When Jesus asks them to do something—to help the needy or run for class president or embark on a missions endeavor—it's an invitation to adventure. *Royal Rangers* mentoring program helps boys relate to God and people by teaching them to do what God asks in the adventures of their lives.

CHARACTER

Battles are inevitable in the adventurous life of a young man. Jesus invites boys to adventure, which leads to the battles where their character is forged. Boys build the right character by watching Jesus. Just look at what happened when Peter took his eyes off Jesus—failure. However, that doesn't mean complete disaster. Peter failed but Jesus was still there to lift him to safety. Similarly, Christ lifts us when we fail. Best of all, if filtered properly, failure can often build character.

TASK

Peter experienced multiple successes and failures before he realized his purpose in life. It was only after Jesus was gone that Peter began to fulfill his role as a leader of the newly established church. He came alive with boldness and determination, preaching a sermon where three thousand souls gave themselves to God (Acts 2:1-41).

Here we see the fulfillment of the *Royal Rangers* program's vision of manhood: Through the process of adventure and character development comes the discovery and empowerment of lifelong task. Jesus knows His task for your boys. *Royal Rangers* ministry will help your boys learn their great tasks in life and ensure they have the skills they need to accomplish them.

While the *Royal Rangers* mentoring program helps provide the vision of manhood, your church plays a key role in mentoring future men. Paul instructed Titus to forge strong men who were "temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love, and in endurance" who would "encourage the young." Men are to be an example to the next generation by "doing what is good" and by showing "integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us" (Titus 2:1,6-8).

The *Royal Rangers* program is a platform that empowers your church to mobilize, inspire, and resource men to mentor today's boys—tomorrow's men—with a vision for godly manhood.



WHAT IS ROYAL RANGERS

The *Royal Rangers* program is an **activity-based, small group church ministry** for mentoring future men, grades K-12 with a mission to evangelize, equip, and empower the next generation of Christlike men and lifelong servant leaders. It provides Christlike character formation and servant leadership development for boys and young men in a highly relational and fun environment. **Simple and flexible**, it's a **cross-generational ministry** that **interconnects well with children, youth, and adult ministries** and **fits easily into the fabric of pastoral vision** and into the flow of church ministries.

The *Royal Rangers* program affirms the male hands-on, interactive learning style by featuring an **intentional discipleship journey for boys** and young men based on their unique design, needs, and interests. Every meeting, outing, or service activity is designed to encourage boys and young men in their walk with God.

We provide men with the tools to model Christlike manhood as they mentor boys on a Bible-based, Christ-centered, Spirit-empowered journey to maturity in the faith. Boys learn to study and apply what the Bible says about *integrity, doctrine, biblical worldview, cultural issues, and manhood*. In addition, the *Royal Rangers* ministry molds boys into servant leaders, teaching them vital social, equipping, attitude, leadership, and service skills.

GROUPS

The *Royal Rangers* program at a local church is referred to as an outpost and may consist of one or more groups. Each group follows a program of activities based on the interests and abilities of those boys:



RANGER KIDS®, GRADES K-2



DISCOVERY RANGERS®, GRADES 3-5



ADVENTURE RANGERS®, GRADES 6-8



EXPEDITION RANGERS®, GRADES 9-12

"I credit Royal Rangers for a lot of what I am doing today. Royal Rangers provided an extended family and a feeling that I wasn't alone when at times I felt I was. Rangers provided stability and security. It was so incredibly valuable to us to know that there were people who really cared about us and believed we had a future."

Hal Donaldson, cofounder and CEO of the international disaster-relief agency Convoy of Hope

Hal was 12 years old when his father died in an auto accident.

THE SEVEN EXPERIENCES

The *Royal Rangers* program uses seven experiences, or components, to guide boys on their journey to godly manhood. You can easily customize any of these experiences to reflect your church's vision, preferences, and practices.

1 FRIENDSHIP CONNECT WITH A COMMUNITY OF GODLY MEN

In his book, *Wild at Heart*, John Eldredge states, "Masculinity is bestowed. A boy learns who he is from a man and from the company of men in his life. He cannot learn it any other way." Boys and men build relationships side by side as they do activities together. Peer-to-peer influence is strong but is tempered by the influence of adult leaders who model godliness at every stage of the masculine journey. Regular and consistent interaction between boys and men is key.



MAKING IT WORK FOR YOU

Choose a location where men and boys can be active, doing things together to build relationships. Decide on the right frequency. Weekly is recommended, coupled with outings and service projects. Determine the best format, such as midweek, Sunday mornings or evenings, Saturdays, or an after-school program.

2 ACTIVITIES DO FUN THINGS TOGETHER

In his book *Why Men Hate Going to Church*, David Murrow states, "Men and boys are changed by what they experience together, not necessarily by what they are told." Boys want to participate in a variety of activities, and the *Royal Rangers* ministry features a vast collection of resources to support their interests. These include: outdoor experiences, sports, trades, technology, arts, and ministry. *Royal Rangers* leaders are encouraged to plan a wide range of activities to appeal to a broad spectrum of boys.

MAKING IT WORK FOR YOU

Make a list of all the activities the boys in your community have in common. Then compare that with a list of activities your men and church have the unique capabilities to provide. Where these lists intersect is a great place to start.



3 ADVANCEMENT SYSTEM GROW IN CHRISTLIKE MANHOOD

Boys and young men thrive on challenge and recognition. The *Royal Rangers* advancement system is an outcome-based discipleship journey. This highly flexible and measurable process guides boys through confidence and relationship-building activities, a biblical understanding of manhood, and servant leadership development experiences. Boys and young men are encouraged to earn special recognition in each group, quarterly and annually. The system intentionally connects the *Royal Rangers* discipleship process to the boys' journey to manhood—adventure, character, and task.



MAKING IT WORK FOR YOU

The *Royal Rangers* program offers a variety of ways to reward boys for their achievements, including medals, ribbons, and patches for display on a uniform; or medallions, coins, and certificates if you choose not to use uniforms; or a combination of both. These options ensure churches of any budget can honor their boys.



4 INTERACTIVE LEARNING LEARN IN FUN, HANDS-ON WAYS

The *Royal Rangers* ministry values the male learning style and has been designed to maximize the way boys learn by encouraging active, hands-on experiences. Boys learn best when they *hear* instruction, *see* it demonstrated, immediately *do* it themselves, and when appropriate, have the opportunity to *teach* others.



MAKING IT WORK FOR YOU

The age-appropriate, interactive, hands-on experiences that are built into the merit requirements offer boys and young men a variety of easy and advanced options to suit their interests, from cooking to home repair to wilderness survival.

"Using Royal Rangers in our church reached out to our schools and neighborhoods in untraditional ways. Utilizing Ranger Derby races and bicycles giveaways, we regularly ministered to hundreds of children who didn't even attend our church."

*James Bradford, general secretary of the Assemblies of God
Former pastor of Central Assembly in Springfield, Missouri*

5 UNIFORMS YOU BELONG TO SOMETHING BIG

Boys and young men want to feel as though they are part of a winning team or program. Attire contributes to a sense of belonging, to a sense of being part of something bigger than self.

MAKING IT WORK FOR YOU

The attire you select will reflect the culture of your church and create a sense of belonging. Choose from the utility uniform, sports jerseys, T-shirts, or awards vest.



6 PATROL SYSTEM LEAD YOURSELF AND OTHERS

The *Royal Rangers* program provides boys and young men with opportunities to learn and practice leadership skills that will help make their God-given dreams a reality. As boys mature, they'll be able to handle more responsibility and commitment.

MAKING IT WORK FOR YOU

Leaders should help each boy grow and stretch as a leader by assigning them responsibilities consistent with their age and maturity. Boys will help plan and lead meetings, outings, and service projects.



7 SERVICE & MINISTRY OUTREACH SERVE YOUR FAMILY, CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

The *Royal Rangers* program encourages and provides tools for boys to make a difference in the world around them. Church-based community outreach projects create an outward focus in boys that can only be developed through an intentional process.

MAKING IT WORK FOR YOU

In order to lead the boys in serving, leaders must model it. Create a list of ideas to help boys at every age level know how they can make a difference.



TYPICAL OUTPOST ACTIVITIES

While the church defines its activities based on their needs and interests, a typical outpost follows a basic schedule.

WEEKLY MEETINGS

Most outposts conduct regular weekly meetings, although some hold meetings biweekly or monthly. Regardless of the frequency, *Royal Rangers* meetings typically consist of these key elements. Ideally, meetings last 60-90 minutes.

- Bible studies and devotions
- Hands-on skill activities
- Recreation
- Student leadership development



REGULAR OUTINGS

Nothing's quite as fun as getting together with friends and leaders for an off-site activity. Typical outings may include:

- Community events
- *Royal Rangers* district events
- Training events
- National Camporama, "the ultimate event for guys"

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Outposts are encouraged to schedule a minimum of two service activities each year. These activities create opportunities to share Jesus with others and meet the needs of people in the community and around the world.

ANNUAL PLANNING

Outposts benefit from planning out the next year in one annual meeting to help reduce stress and volunteer fatigue. It's important to involve boys, parents, and church leaders in creating a balanced annual program of events that everyone buys into and helps shoulder.

RESOURCES FOR THE JOURNEY

CURRICULUM

Royal Rangers curriculum utilizes a combination of print and electronic curriculum components to achieve the optimum balance between flexibility and availability.

- TRaCclub: This is an online portal where leaders can find all their weekly meeting guides, age-specific activities, Bible lessons, leadership studies, and lots more. This affordable and accessible system makes the core teaching pieces easy to use—available anywhere, anytime you are connected to the Web.
- Print Curriculum: Every age level has a handbook for the boys to help guide them on their journey while mentors find what they need in the leader manual. Both men and boys will also find *A Guy's Journey to Manhood* and *A Guy's Journey to Servant Leadership* invaluable.

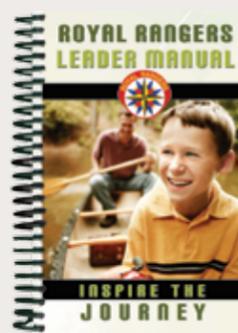


Ranger Kids Handbook 02MK2115

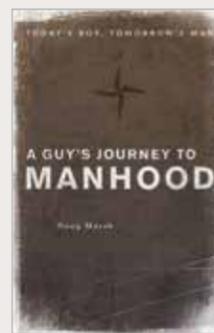
Discovery Rangers Handbook 02MK0615

Adventure Rangers Handbook 02MK0616

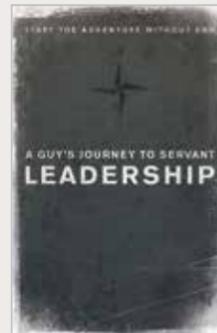
Expedition Rangers Handbook 02MK0617



Royal Rangers Leader Manual 02MK0707



A Guy's Journey to Manhood 02MK0618



A Guy's Journey to Servant Leadership 02MK0619

"For 17 years, I had the privilege of leading Royal Rangers in the three churches where I was a pastor. Families were added to our church as their boys became a part of this ministry and their parents followed."

David Boyd, National Boys & Girls Missionary Challenge director (BGMC)



TRAINING

The Royal Rangers Ministry Academy is designed to equip and resource mentors to be effective in ministry to future men. Adults who progress through the various levels of leadership training will be better equipped to enjoy a more fruitful ministry and leave a richer legacy to their boys.

The Outpost Leaders Advancement Levels are sponsored by the district and national Royal Rangers offices and we offer four levels of development to inspire and prepare your mentors—Ready, Safety, Trained, and Advanced. Leaders are encouraged to complete Ready and Safety levels as soon as possible and the two remaining levels within two years.

READY

Ranger Basics
Training for leaders ready to serve in the outpost.

Ranger Essentials
Training for leaders prepared to deepen their knowledge and commitment.

SAFETY

Ranger Safety
Training to prepare leaders to safely lead exciting Rangers activities and nationally certified First Aid/CPR.

AVAILABLE AS ONLINE MODULE

TRAINED

National Elementary Education Conference
Training for leaders eager to serve K to 2nd grade Rangers with excellence.

National Rangers Ministry Camp
Training to prepare adult leaders to mentor future men through a diverse range of activities.

- or -

ADVANCED

World Class Outpost
Designed to develop outpost leadership through the use of best practices, strategies, and tools.

WCO = 2 CONTINUOUS LEARNING ELECTIVES

FIND OUT MORE AT ROYALRANGERS.COM.

PROMOTIONS

Each year the national Royal Rangers office provides resources to help outposts promote participation inside and outside the church.

PARTNERSHIPS

Don't go it alone. The Royal Rangers program complements the ministries of your church.

- **Girls Ministries:** The *My Healthy Church* family is just as committed to ministry to girls as it is to boys. The *National Girls Ministries* program is the counterpart to the Royal Rangers program for the local church and provides age-level clubs that also focus on outcome-based discipleship. Visit their Web site at ngm.ag.org for more details.
- **Men's Ministries:** The Royal Rangers program provides the men of your church a significant way to be involved in ministry.
- **Children's and Youth Ministries:** Royal Rangers complements the ministries of the local church. Ranger Kids and Discovery Rangers align with children's ministries, while Adventure Rangers and Expedition Rangers align with youth ministries.



"I never really realized I didn't have a father around because I had my Royal Rangers leaders. I needed a godly man's influence, and my Royal Rangers leaders filled that role. I always felt bad for the other kids because they only had one dad and I had six!"

Doug Clay, general treasurer of the Assemblies of God

Doug's father passed away when he was very young.



TRaCclub is an online resource delivery system providing Royal Rangers leaders with everything they need to prepare for weekly outpost meetings. TRaCclub includes...

- WEEKLY MEETING GUIDES
- GUY-SPECIFIC BIBLE LESSONS
- SKILL MERIT ACTIVITY GUIDES
- LEADERSHIP MERIT ACTIVITY GUIDES
- DEVOTIONS
- AWARD AND PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK
- VARIETY OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Details on TRaCclub can be found online at RoyalRangers.com.

GETTING STARTED

Consider the following when starting a *Royal Rangers* program. For additional details visit StartRoyalRangers.com

ENLIST YOUR LEADERS

Any thriving *Royal Rangers* ministry is built on the foundation of strong and committed leaders. Spend time in prayer and listen to the Holy Spirit. Allow Him to lead you into conversations with key men in your church who understand the value of mentoring the next generation.

Remember that vision is much more compelling than the tasks that will be completed. Lead with the vision of changing the destiny of the boys!

Screen them as you would any adult working with children and youth, and start their training immediately. We recommend your leaders finish Ready and Safety levels before launch.

Charter your outpost online. Chartering is a simple online process where you report the number of members in your *Royal Rangers* ministry to the national *Royal Rangers* office. For a small annual fee, chartering provides benefits that far exceed the cost. Visit the national *Royal Rangers* Web site for more details.

PLAN YOUR JOURNEY

Review the seven experiences of the journey and decide how to apply each to your church setting.

GATHER YOUR RESOURCES

The following resources represent what you will need to start.

For each age group:

- Print Resources: *A Guy's Journey to Manhood* (#02MK0618) and *A Guy's Journey to Servant Leadership* (#02MK0619)
- TRaCclub: Purchase one membership for each group you start or one membership for each adult leader. (see RoyalRangers.com)
- Charts: A program poster (#23MK9005) and an advancement poster (#23MK8946)



For each leader:

- *Royal Rangers Leader Manual* (#02MK0707)
- Rangers apparel (see product catalog)

For each boy:

- *The age-appropriate group handbook* (see page 10)
- Rangers apparel (see product catalog)

LAUNCH YOUR OUTPOST

Promote and launch your first three meetings. Guides for these meetings are available on the national ministry Web site. After your first meetings, start using the activity, Bible, and leadership development resources available in TRaCclub.

For more info visit StartRoyalRangers.com

GO THE DISTANCE

Consider these words of advice from experienced Ranger mentors:

- Remain committed to adult and student leadership development. Trained leaders enjoy greater success and longevity.
- Create an effective communication system connecting your *Royal Rangers* ministry with leaders, parents, pastors, and boys. Keep parents engaged in the journey.
- Keep *Royal Rangers* mentors in step with the overall culture, vision, and ministry goals of your church. This requires appropriate pastoral oversight and, when possible, involvement.
- Maintain a safe ministry environment. Screen leaders and minister to their families. Healthy leaders provide healthy ministry.
- Charter annually. It's required and the benefits far outweigh the cost.
- Connect with district and national offices for events, inspiration, news, program updates and more.
- Share your stories and ideas on the national *Royal Rangers* Facebook page.

The *Royal Rangers* mentoring program is active in over 90 nations around the world and is growing every year.

Central Assembly of God in Springfield, Missouri, uses the *Royal Rangers* program to reach out to the public schools in the neighborhoods around their church. Using Ranger Derby and bicycle giveaways, they regularly minister to hundreds of children who don't even attend the church.



Launching in April of 1988 with five leaders and fifteen students, the *Royal Rangers* of the Gospel Forum in Stuttgart, Germany, is today an outpost that meets in fourteen locations and ministers to 1,300 students with 270 leaders. Using homegrown leadership, both adult leaders and Rangers have a vision to see the families of their city reached for the gospel of Christ.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the *Royal Rangers* mentoring program or for assistance in getting your group started, visit the national *Royal Rangers* Web site at RoyalRangers.com or contact the national office at (417) 862-2781, ext. 4181. Request a FREE product catalog at 1.855.642.2011

A church in Alabama uses a *Royal Rangers* outreach strategy to the disenfranchised communities in their area. Every Tuesday night they bus in over 80 boys from low-income government housing neighborhoods, feed them, and teach them how to be godly men. On Wednesday nights, they offer *Royal Rangers* to their regular attendees.



In Camden, New Jersey, *Royal Rangers* group is partnering with a charter school to change the lives of its students. With *Royal Rangers* as an after-school activity, dozens of boys are ministered to and see their lives holistically affected. Their behavior and grades get better as Christ begins to reign in their lives.





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