



Leader Guide

An Online Meeting Plan for Royal Rangers Outpost Leaders

In response to the global pandemic currently underway resulting from the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the resulting quarantines currently in place across the nation, the Royal Rangers national office has provided the following program plan as a guide for outposts in conducting weekly outpost meetings online with boys connecting remotely from home until regular physical meetings and activities can be resumed.

Materials have been provided for a series of weekly meetings. Content that relates to the boys' advancement trails is unique for each age group while other content may be the same for all age groups. Leaders are free to utilize these materials as they see best, helping their boys to complete official Royal Rangers skill merits or achievement awards if they so desire or using these materials as a basis for fun activities together. If official awards are to be completed, it may be necessary to get parents involved in reviewing and approving requirements when completed.

Note that these materials provide a template for outpost leaders to follow when creating additional content for their outpost. The process followed in the creation of these materials may be replicated by outpost leaders using the same resources that were used to create these materials.

In addition to weekly meetings, leaders are encouraged to seek out ways to join with their boys periodically in online activities that build relationships, help boys learn new things, and serve as opportunities to enjoy fun times together.



Please note that the plan provided here represents one possible method of keeping your boys engaged in Royal Rangers during this quarantine period. Your church leadership may choose to pursue an alternative method for providing ministry services online. We, therefore, recommend that you coordinate your efforts with your church leadership before beginning this process.

Our prayers are with you as we partner together in continuing the process of shaping boys into biblical, Christlike manhood.

RoyalRangers.com/Remote

CONTENT SUMMARY

The following resources have been made available for free download from the Royal Rangers website at “RoyalRangers.com/remote.” Videos are provided in MP4 format. Documents are in PDF format.

SERIES INTRODUCTION VIDEO FOR LEADERS & PARENTS

This video accompanies the document you are reading now and provides an overview of the “Remote Rangers” concept, a description of the content being provided, and suggestions on how each piece may be used to conduct a form of a Royal Rangers meeting remotely online.

WEEKLY VIDEOS FOR BOYS

Each week two videos are provided.

- **Meeting Introduction Video:** A brief introduction video will be provided each week to welcome the boys and provide an overview of the night’s activities. One video will be provided for all age groups.
- **Devotional Message Video:** Each week will include a 5 to 10-minute devotional video for boys in all age groups by one of our national leaders.



BIBLE LESSONS

Age-specific Bible lessons are provided for each age group in the program. If boys from multiple age groups are participating in your online meeting, it will be necessary to either separate boys from different age groups into different online meetings or have all the boys in the meeting complete the same Bible lesson. If everyone is completing the same lesson, select the lesson most appropriate for the ages of the boys participating.

- Ranger Kids (grades K-2): RK Bible lesson

- Discovery Rangers (grades 3-5): Orange Bible lesson
- Adventure Rangers (grades 6-8): Brown Bible lesson
- Expedition Rangers (grades 9-12): Spirit Challenge lesson



SKILL MERITS & ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The Royal Rangers advancement system in Discovery, Adventure, and Expedition Rangers uses awards known as “skill merits” to teach boys a variety of skills and to serve as the basis for fun things done together. In Ranger Kids, these awards are referred to as “achievement awards.” Every five weeks a new set of skill merits and achievement awards will be made available.



For example, the following materials have been provided for use during the skill development portion of your remote outpost meetings for the first five weeks:

- **Ranger Kids (grades K-2) – Clean Body Achievement Award:** The Clean Body award encourages boys to identify good personal hygiene habits and then practice them for one month.
- **Discovery Rangers (grades 3-5) – Cooking Merit:** This merit provides boys with an introduction to cooking, meal planning, and nutrition. *SPECIAL NOTE: To complete this merit at home, boys may use any method for cooking and any process for washing dishes by hand. They do not have to be completed over a campfire or backpacking stove, and they do not have to use the three-bucket method for washing dishes.*
- **Adventure Rangers (grades 6-8) – Bachelor Merit:** This merit provides middle school boys with an introduction to various duties around the home, such as cooking, laundry, ironing, cleaning house, and more.
- **Expedition Rangers (grades 9-12) – Bible Doctrines Merit:** This merit follows the new skill merit format and provides high school boys with an introduction to the Bible doctrines of the Assemblies of God as well as our core beliefs and position papers. Boys participating in Royal Rangers at a church not affiliated with the Assemblies of God may substitute the doctrines of their own church or denomination.



GAME IDEAS

Each week we will provide new game ideas for fun things you and your boys could do. These ideas are merely suggestions and are not required for the boys’ advancements.

ALTERNATIVE IDEAS

Leaders are free to select alternative Bible lessons, skill merits, achievement awards, and games if they so choose. Alternative devotions are also available although not in video form. Alternative materials can be found in each age group track of TRaCclub. Information on TRaCclub can be found online at tracclub.org.



BEFORE YOU BEGIN YOUR MEETING

Effective communication and advance preparation are essential to the success of online meetings. Consider these suggestions when preparing for your first online meeting:



1. **Involve the Parents:** Connect with parents to ensure they approve of their boys' participation in the online meeting and that they will be ready and available when the time comes for the meeting to begin.
2. **Setup the Software:** Ensure everyone has the correct software installed on their computers or other devices. In most cases, they will need to have an account set up and have the software open and logged in to participate. Popular online video conferencing platforms include Skype, Zoom, and Google Hangouts, but many other options are also available. Be aware of any limitations your chosen platform may impose, such as Zoom limiting calls to 40 minutes or Google Hangouts limiting calls to 10 participants. Be sure to use a platform all your boys can connect to. It may also be a good idea to briefly connect with each person individually before the meeting to ensure their connection is set up and working properly.
3. **Send Reminders:** Make sure everyone is aware of the day and start time of the meeting. Send reminders a few minutes before the meeting to ensure everyone is ready.
4. **Keep it Simple:** Start on time, keep it moving, and don't go too long. Keep in mind that some of your boys may be using their parent's cell phone or computer, which they may not want to be tied up with your Royal Rangers meeting for a long period of time. An online meeting of 30 to 45 minutes should be long enough.

In most instances, it will be necessary for the leader to send out materials and instructions to the boys in advance to ensure they have everything necessary on hand before the meeting begins. This will require advance communications with parents and potentially direct parental involvement during the meeting.

1. Download all weekly materials from the Royal Rangers website.
2. Watch the Series Introduction Video.
3. Look over the skill merit materials for the week and gather any necessary supplies.
4. Review the Bible lesson for the week to ensure you are prepared for the discussion questions.
5. Communicate with parents to ensure they have everything they need before the meeting begins, such as:
 - a. Bible lessons
 - b. Skill Merit/Achievement Award worksheets or handouts
 - c. Skill activity gear and materials (depending on the activities being conducted)
 - d. Game materials, as needed

RECOMMENDED REMOTE MEETING FORMAT

Once you are ready to begin your meeting, consider the following steps:

1. Ensure everyone is connected and welcome each boy by name.
2. Watch this week's introduction video together. Depending on the platform you are using, this could be done by sharing your screen or by simply showing the video on a large screen TV behind you.
3. Complete the Bible lesson as a group, including any discussion questions at the end.
4. Complete the skill merit lesson together. This might involve the leader demonstrating some type of skill in front of the camera or showing something on his desktop. Then give the boys the opportunity to try it at home.
5. Watch this week's devotional video together and discuss the message.
6. Play the suggested game together.
7. Close the meeting with an encouraging word and prayer. Thank each boy for participating and remind them of the day and time for the next meeting.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Activities beyond the weekly meeting have long been a central part of the Royal Rangers experience. Leaders are encouraged to seek out ways to enjoy online activities with their boys. However, keep in mind that any activities conducted online that involve boys must be done with the full knowledge and approval of every boy's parents. Activities could include the following:

- Find a video on YouTube related to the skill merit you're working on. Share the link with your boys and ask them to view it. Then, discuss it during your next online meeting.
- Play a game together online or via an app on smart devices. Popular games include Monopoly, Risk, and Worms.
- Organize a "Family Movie Night" where all your boys are encouraged to watch a specific online movie with their families at a designated day and time. Then, converse together during the movie via text message or some other messaging app. Old, corny movies work great for this. The worse, the better!
- Encourage boys to make a video with their family acting out a familiar story, such as "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" or "The Three Little Pigs." Then ask them to upload their videos to a private YouTube page or similar private video sharing service for everyone in your group to see.



SHARE YOUR STORY

Leaders across the country are facing the same challenge you are in meeting with your boys. Many would be greatly encouraged to hear how your outpost is overcoming those challenges. Take a few moments to tell the world how it's going. Take photos or videos of the things you're doing together and post them to Facebook, YouTube, or some other online platform but avoid showing images or videos of boys unless you have their parent's permission. Share your posts with the Royal Rangers national office at rangers@ag.org. We'd love to hear how your "Remote Rangers" experience is going.