

# Advancement System Update 2023

In October of 2020 a team was formed to explore potential changes to the Royal Rangers advancement system in hopes of addressing two problem areas:

- Our current advancement system seems complicated to new leaders
- Boys who do not attend consistently have difficulty advancing due to the challenges with earning skill merits (*Although recent changes have provided flexibility in earning Bible and leadership merits, that same flexibility is not currently available when earning skill merits*)

The following represents an updated advancement process that addresses these issues. This system will be implemented according to the timeline described at the end of this document.

## UPDATE SUMMARY

1. Merits will no longer be a direct component of the advancement trail. Boys may still earn merits if they choose, but they are no longer required for advancement (except for the GMA as noted below). Earning merits will be optional and separate from earning the advancement steps.
2. Boys will earn each quarterly advancement step by completing any (8) weekly lessons (see #7 below). Each lesson includes a pre-defined Bible lesson and a skill or leadership lesson<sup>1</sup> Leaders may substitute alternative Bible or skill/leadership lessons if they choose (see #5 below).
3. Boys must memorize one Bible verse at each advancement step. These verses will be taken from a pre-selected list of verses (4 verses per year, 12 per age group)
4. ER Spirit Challenge patches will now represent quarterly advancement steps for Expedition Rangers, similar to DR and AR. For each step, boys must complete (8) ER weekly lessons and memorize (1) specified scripture verse (similar to DR & AR groups).

<b>Advance. Step</b>	<b>Spirit Challenge Patch Color</b>	<b>Cumulative Number of Lessons Required</b>	<b>Cumulative Number of Scripture Verses</b>
1	Green	8	1
2	Orange	16	2
3	Violet	24	3
4	BRONZE	32	4
5	E1 Award		
6	Blue	40	5
7	Yellow	48	6
8	Red	56	7
9	SILVER	64	8
10	E2 Award		
11	Teal	72	9
12	Amber	80	10
13	Maroon	88	11
14	GOLD	96	12
15	E3 Award		

<sup>1</sup> A new curriculum delivery system is in development using the Moodle online platform that will provide these pre-built weekly lessons.

5. For leaders who choose to teach something other than the pre-defined weekly lesson:
  - a. Bible lessons can be taken from any RR Bible lesson set or any lesson approved by your Pastor (this is already our current standard)
  - b. Skill or leadership lessons can be taken from ANY RR skill or leadership merit, of any color (to accommodate combined groups in smaller outposts)
6. Although NOT required for advancement, skill, leadership, and Bible merits may be earned by completing the necessary requirements.
  - a. Bible merits may be earned by completing (8) weekly lessons and reading one full chapter of the Bible from the weekly lessons just completed.
  - b. Leadership merits will return to their original format where each merit will be earned by completing a specific set of (5) lessons associated with that merit.
  - c. Skill merits will remain as they are – Tool Craft, Lashing, etc. – and will be earned by completing a specific list of requirements.
7. Lesson credit is based on the lessons as taught by the outpost leader, not the lessons as defined in the skill merit activity guide (if any). For example, if a leader takes 7 weeks to teach the Tool Craft merit, boys receive credit for 7 skill lessons, regardless of the fact that the Tool Craft merit teaching materials may only include 5 lesson plans. For merits that do not contain lesson plans, outpost leaders may define the number and structure of the lessons they will teach (unchanged from current standard). When leadership or skill merits are taught in a weekend format, (1) lesson credit is given for every 30 minutes of instruction.
8. To earn an annual year-end award (medal) a boy must meet the following requirements:
  - a. Complete/participate in any (32) weekly lessons (4 quarters @ 8 lesson each)
  - b. Complete one service project (format & time to be determined by outpost leadership).
  - c. Other additional requirements as currently stated in the boy's handbooks (unchanged from current requirements)
9. To earn the highest award in an age group, boys must earn all three annual year-end awards (medals), and meet any additional requires as currently stated.
10. **OPTIONAL GMA TRACK:** Boys have option of pursuing a GMA track in addition to the standard advancement trail as described above. The GMA track represents a list of optional additional requirements that must be completed to earn the GMA.
  - a. Earn a specified number of buffalo awards (see below)
    - GMA – (2) buffalo awards (excluding Copper /Ranger Kids)
    - GMA with Merit – (3) buffalo awards
    - GMA with Honors – (4) buffalo awards
  - b. Complete the following additional requirements (unchanged)
    - Read the entire Bible or listen to it as an audio book.
    - Be at least 12 years of age and not yet reached 18 years of age.
    - Be an active member of a Royal Rangers outpost for at least (3) years.
    - Complete the GMA Capstone Project.
11. **Buffalo Awards** represent the completion of standard advancement trail as well as specified merits in each age group in pursuit of the GMA.
  - a. Copper Buffalo
    - Earn the RK Gold Trail award
    - Earn (24) RK achievement awards
  - b. Bronze Buffalo
    - Earn the Gold Eagle award
    - Earn the First Aid Skills, Global Missions (blue), and Bible Knowledge (blue) merits
    - Earn (3) red or gold leadership merits

- Earn an additional (12) blue or green skill merits
- c. Silver Buffalo
  - Earn the Adventure Gold award
  - Earn the Healthy Body, Global Missions (green), and Bible Knowledge (green) merits
  - Earn (3) gold or sky blue leadership merits
  - Earn an additional (12) green or silver skill merits
- d. Gold Buffalo
  - Earn the E3 award
  - Earn the Citizenship, Bible Doctrines, and Budget & Finance merits
  - Earn (3) gold or sky blue leadership merits
  - Earn an additional (12) silver skill merits

### **IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE**

This new system has been built into the new Royal Rangers mobile app curriculum delivery platform and will be released at the time that platform is launched. The date of that launch is dependent on the progress of the Every Boy Initiative in enlisting a specified number of financial sponsors for the Royal Rangers program.