



# 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-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 METHODS OF ROYAL RANGERS

The seven methods of Royal Rangers represent seven aspects of the program used to mentor boys into Christlike manhood. Although the manner in which these methods are implemented may vary from one outpost to another, all seven methods are represented in every Royal Rangers outpost in some way.

## 1 FRIENDSHIP BUILDING HEALTHY, CHRIST-CENTERED RELATIONSHIPS AMONG MEN AND BOYS

Ministry flows from relationship, and men and boys form relationships by spending time together around common interests. In Royal Rangers, we provide environments where friendships can grow and thrive among men and boys.



## 2 ACTIVITIES BRINGING MEN AND BOYS TOGETHER AROUND A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES THAT PROVIDE SOMETHING FOR EVERY BOY

Activities provide the platform upon which relationships are built. As men and boys spend time together, boys develop new skills and interests while building relationships with their leaders and one another.

## 3 IDENTITY INVITING BOYS TO CONNECT AND BELONG TO A COMMUNITY OF CHRISTLIKE MEN

Boys enjoy being part of something big and important. Royal Rangers provides a way for a boy to identify with a worldwide movement of men and boys that is changing the world for Christ. Identity in Royal Rangers is represented by uniforms, outpost and district insignia, patrol displays, and more.

## 4 ACHIEVEMENT PROVIDING EVERY BOY WITH A PATHWAY FOR GROWTH AND RECOGNITION

Every boy wants to excel at something. Every boy needs to know that he can compete and succeed in some way. Royal Rangers provides a pathway for boys to learn new skills and achieve recognition for their accomplishments in a fun, hands-on environment.







## **5 DISCIPLESHIP** **GROWING BOYS INTO CHRISTLIKE MANHOOD THROUGH A SYSTEMATIC, GUY-SPECIFIC DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS**

The most important outcome of any Royal Rangers program is the ongoing development of Christlike character in the life of boys. Every Royal Rangers meeting, activity, or event in some way promotes that objective by providing boys with a picture of Christlike manhood and a process for getting there, and by giving every boy a spiritual foundation for life.

## **6 LEADERSHIP** **DEVELOPING SERVANT LEADERSHIP AND PERSONAL GROWTH WITHIN A SMALL GROUP ENVIRONMENT**

Every boy in Royal Rangers is a member of a patrol—a small group of boys that participates in meetings and activities together. By working with the other members of their patrol, boys learn leadership and teamwork skills, become better friends, and grow together spiritually.



## **7 SERVICE** **ENGAGING BOYS IN SERVICE TO GOD, THEIR FAMILY, CHURCH, AND COMMUNITY**

Every time a boy recites the Royal Rangers Pledge, he makes a promise to do his best to serve God, his church, and his fellowman. In Royal Rangers, boys are given opportunities to serve others alongside

“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,  
Pastor of Central Assembly in Springfield, MO.*



# FLEXIBLE FORMAT, VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES, CONSISTENT MISSION

Your ministry to the boys of your church and community can take many forms, but the most effective form will most likely be the one that best meets the unique needs of your situation. The Royal Rangers program provides a significant degree of flexibility in the way the program can be applied. Consider the following options as examples of a few ways a Royal Rangers program could be conducted in your church.

## OPTION 1: ROYAL RANGERS “LITE”

This could be considered the easiest, simplest, and most basic form of Royal Rangers. This option would have all the boys combined in one group with everyone working on the same materials together, regardless of age or grade. Leaders would use the Royal Rangers curriculum to teach skills and activities based on the interests and capabilities of the boys, but would ignore all the requirements for merits or advancement awards.

## OPTION 2: ROYAL RANGERS “LITE PLUS”

The leaders would divide the boys into multiple groups based on activities and interests rather than age or grade. Boys are allowed to choose which activity they will participate in. The leaders teach skills and activities and present custom certificates for completion of the activity as defined by that leader. The boys could make their own custom T-shirts to identify their group.

## OPTION 3: ROYAL RANGERS “LIMITED”

The leaders would divide the boys into two groups—elementary boys (grades K–5) and teen boys (grades 6–12). These groups would work on official Royal Rangers merits (skill, Bible, and leadership), but not advancement steps. Boys would wear official Royal Rangers T-shirts and awards vests to display their accomplishments.

## OPTION 4: FULL-FEATURE PROGRAM

This option represents Royal Rangers in its full, traditional format with four separate age groups. Each group would work on material specific to their advancement trail. Boys would earn regular merits and advancement steps, and would wear the full official Royal Rangers utility uniforms and awards vests.



# 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.



“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 superintendent 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](http://RoyalRangers.com).

# RESOURCES FOR THE JOURNEY

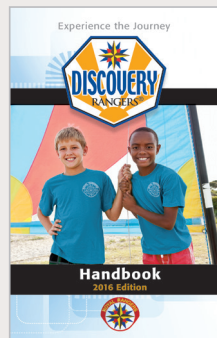
## CURRICULUM

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

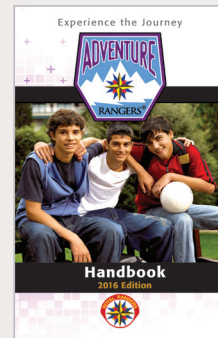
- TRaCclub: This is an online portal where leaders can find all their weekly meeting guides, age-specific activities, Bible, lessons, leadership studies, and lots more. This affordable and accessible system makes the core teaching pieces easy to use—available anywhere, anytime you are connected to the 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 Servant Leadership* invaluable. *A Guy’s Journey to Manhood* is available in e-book format.



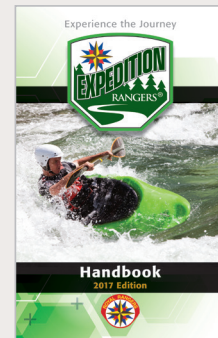
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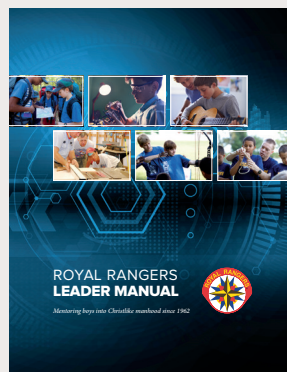
Discovery Rangers Handbook 02MK0615



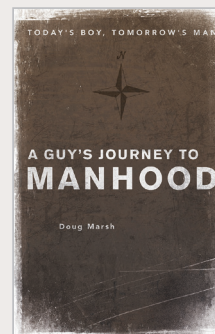
Adventure Rangers Handbook 02MK0616



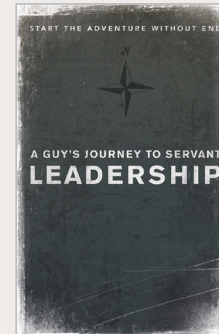
Expedition Rangers Handbook 02MK0617



Leader Manual (text only) 02MK2171



A Guy’s Journey to Manhood E-book only



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 Foundations**  
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](http://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 website at [ngm.ag.org](http://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.





# GETTING STARTED

Consider the following when starting a *Royal Rangers* program. For additional details, visit [StartRoyalRangers.com](http://StartRoyalRangers.com) or contact the national Royal Rangers office at [Rangers@ag.org](mailto:Rangers@ag.org).

## 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* website for more details.

## PLAN YOUR JOURNEY

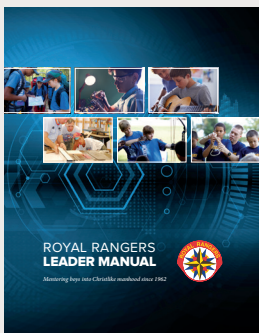
Review the Seven Methods of the journey and decide how to apply each to your church setting.

## GATHER YOUR RESOURCES

The following resources represent what you will need to start.

### For each age group:

- Resources: *A Guy's Journey to Manhood* (ebook) 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](http://RoyalRangers.com))
- Charts: A program poster (#23MK9005)



### For each leader:

- *Royal Rangers Leader Manual* (#02MK2171)
- 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 website. After your first meetings, start using the activity, Bible and leadership development resources available in TRaCclub.

**For more info visit [StartRoyalRangers.com](http://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, has used the *Royal Rangers* program to reach out to the public schools in the neighborhoods around their church. Using Ranger Derby and bicycle giveaways, they have ministered 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 Full 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.





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, the murder capital of the United States, *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.





**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* website at [RoyalRangers.com](http://RoyalRangers.com) or contact the national office at (417) 862-2781, ext. 4181.







ROYALRANGERS.COM

## THE ROYAL RANGER PLEDGE

"WITH GOD'S HELP, I WILL DO MY  
BEST TO SERVE GOD, MY CHURCH, AND  
MY FELLOWMAN; TO LIVE BY THE  
RANGER CODE; TO MAKE THE  
GOLDEN RULE MY DAILY RULE."

