

# Royal Rangers Advancement System Options

The Royal Rangers advancement system consists of a series of four advancement “trails,” one for each age group. Each trail consists of a series of advancement “steps.” Boys earn steps by earning a specified number of “merits” of a specified type and color. Merits are earned by completing a specified set of merit requirements that are unique to that merit.

The Royal Rangers advancement system and all award requirements are fixed, as defined by the Royal Rangers national office, and are not subject to change by the local outpost. However, the outpost does have the freedom to determine the degree to which the advancement system will be used in their outpost. Although the advancement system is a core element of the program and its use as designed is highly recommended, it is understood that some churches face limitations that would make its full use impractical, such as number of boys attending, number of leaders available, church location and facilities, etc. Outpost leaders are, therefore, empowered to apply the advancement system as needed to fit their unique setting and environment.

The following represents a series of examples of ways the advancement system could be used. The following options should be seen merely as examples on a continuum and not as fixed options. Outposts are free to determine for themselves where they choose to fall along this continuum. However, it should be noted that whatever choices are made, the structure of the official Royal Rangers advancement system and the requirements for all RR awards may not be changed. If any official RR awards are presented, all official requirements must be met as prescribed on the RR website.

|                    | <b>Option 1<br/>No Advancement</b>   | <b>Option 2<br/>Custom Advancement</b>   | <b>Option 3<br/>RR Merits Only</b>  | <b>Option 4<br/>Full RR Advancement</b>  |
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| <b>Description</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ignore the entire RR advancement system</li> <li>No awards of any kind</li> <li>Provide “activities” based on RR skill merits (or other sources) but with no requirements or awards for completion</li> <li>Focus on “having fun together” rather than “achieving a set of objectives”</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ignore the RR advancement system</li> <li>Create your own awards system (certificates, buttons, hat pins, etc.)</li> <li>Provide “activities” based on RR skill merits (or other sources) but write your own requirements for completion</li> <li>Make it fun while providing a simple achievement process</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ignore the RR advancement steps and merit color categories</li> <li>Teach official RR skill, leadership, and Bible merits</li> <li>Teach the same merit to the entire group (any boy can earn any merit)</li> <li>Award RR merit patches but not advancement steps</li> <li>Wear official RR awards vests</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boys earn merits according to the types and color categories required for the official advancement system for their age group.</li> <li>Boys earn periodic advancement steps and annual medals.</li> <li>Boys wear RR awards vests and/or uniforms as defined in RR handbooks.</li> </ul> |

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| <p><b>Advantages</b></p>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simple &amp; easy to do</li> <li>• Most flexible, no schedules, fixed standards, or expectations</li> <li>• Lowest cost</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simple &amp; easy to do</li> <li>• No schedules &amp; expectations other than those you create yourself</li> <li>• Provides some form of achievement &amp; recognition, as simple or complex as you choose to make it</li> <li>• Potentially low-cost</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides a more balanced advancement process although in a limited format<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• Merits earned are “transferable” to a full advancement system later, if desired.<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Merit requirements, teaching materials, and award insignia are already available.</li> <li>• Merits earned are recognized by any RR outpost.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides a full &amp; balanced achievement &amp; recognition process</li> <li>• Enables boys to earn nationally-recognized pinnacle awards (GMA)</li> <li>• All materials and insignia are provided, with no customization required.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Disadvantages</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No achievement or recognition process</li> <li>• No standard by which to gauge a boy’s progress</li> </ul>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires effort to create a customized award process</li> <li>• Awards would not be recognized outside your church or outpost</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less flexible than options 1 or 2</li> <li>• Leaders must teach RR merits as written, and boys must meet stated merit requirements.</li> <li>• Moderate cost for merit patches &amp; vests or uniforms</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires a separate class for each age group (with more boys &amp; leaders) since advancement trails are unique</li> <li>• Least flexible because leaders must follow a fixed schedule to insure boys will complete their advancement trail before graduating to the next group</li> <li>• Assumes regular attendance by boys, or a potentially elaborate “make-up work” process to keep boys on schedule</li> <li>• Highest cost</li> </ul> |

<sup>1</sup> This option includes a balance of skill development, leadership development, and discipleship.

<sup>2</sup> This option provides benefits to churches who plan to eventually utilize the full advancement system.