

# Royal Rangers Buyer's Guide

## Merits/Advancements

### *What patches have changed size and shape? Why?*

- Advancement patches from all groups are now the same size and shape to create uniformity. All advancement patches include Velcro® backing and footprint. This saves time by allowing parents to sew the footprint on once for easy removal and replacement of quarterly advancement patches. It also saves money by allowing boys who have not outgrown their uniforms but are graduating from one group to another to continue wearing them.

### *Is it true some merits are changing color? Why?*

- Yes. All age groups (except Ranger Kids) will utilize one color for skill merits, one color for leadership merits, and one color for Bible merits. This keeps the advancement system simple to understand.
- All Discovery Rangers skill merits will be blue, leadership merits will be red, and Bible merits will be orange.
- All Adventure Rangers skill merits will be green, leadership merits will be gold, and Bible merits will be brown.
- All Expedition Rangers skill merits will be silver, leadership merits will be sky blue.

### *When does this take effect and how does it effect my purchasing of merits?*

- Generally speaking, the new colored merits will not be available until the old colors have been depleted. The color, however, has no impact on its significance within the advancement system or its display on the vest. In the meantime, when ordering merits, be less concerned with merit color and more concerned with the merit name for each age group.
- In regard to Discovery Rangers merit ribbons, skill merits whether red or blue should be displayed on the blue merit bar. The red bar will be reserved for the Discovery Rangers leadership merits.
- In regard to Adventure Rangers merit ribbons, skill merits whether gold or green should be displayed on the green merit bar. The gold bar will be reserved for the Adventure Rangers leadership merits.
- This will take immediate effect when TRaCclub is launched in 2010.

### *When will the new leadership merits be available?*

- The leadership merits are a new feature of the advancement system. The first group of merits will be included in the initial release of TRaCclub (The Rangers Curriculum Club), the online curriculum, in 2010.

### *Is it true Bible merits are being rewritten, and if so, when will they be available?*

- All Bible merits for Discovery and Adventure Rangers are in the process of being revised. They are scheduled to be released via TRaCclub. Discovery Rangers Bible merits will be released in late 2010. Adventure Rangers Bible merits will be available with the initial launch of TRaCclub. Expedition Rangers Spirit Challenges will continue to exist but will be complimented by the use of other recognized non-Ranger curriculum.

## Patches/Pins

### *How have the local leadership insignia changed?*

- Previously referred to as commanders bars or rank insignia (for leaders and boys), local office insignia have been migrated from the collar to the left sleeve and from metallic pins to embroidered patches. These patches include Velcro® backing and footprint, allowing for periodic change (when, for instance, a boy moves from

being an assistant patrol leader to a patrol leader). The change from pin to patch reduces costs and makes the utility uniform more functional for Rangers activities.

### ***How have leadership titles changed?***

- Pastor (remains the same)
- Outpost Chaplain (remains the same)
- Senior Commander = Outpost Coordinator
- Assistant Outpost Coordinator (newly created position)
- Outpost Councilman = Outpost Committee
- Commander = Churches can use the term Commander or the term Group Leader; there is a local office insignia for each. The terms mean the same.
- Lt. Commander = Assistant Commander or Assistant Group Leader
- Junior Commander = Junior Commander or Junior Group Leader
- Senior Patrol Guide = Senior Patrol Leader
- Patrol Guide = Patrol Leader
- Assistant Patrol Guide = Assistant Patrol Leader
- Quartermaster = Gear Manager
- Scribe = Communications Specialist
- Historian (remains the same)
- Chaplain Aide = Chaplain's Aide
- Scout (remains the same)

### ***How have district staff insignia changed?***

- All district-level organizational leaders will wear one of two organizational office insignia on their collar. (Metallic on their dress uniform—previously referred to as Class A or B—and embroidered patch on their utility uniform.)
- All non-executive district staff members (such as area, section, division, auxiliary staff, etc.) will wear the district staff insignia with a silver starburst on a navy blue field.
- All executive district staff members (including district director, training coordinator, outreach coordinator, FCF president, communications coordinator, etc.) will wear the district executive staff insignia with a silver starburst and silver wreath on a navy blue field.

### ***Have the district strip and outpost numerals been redesigned?***

- Yes. The geographic patch, previously known as the district strip, and the outpost numerals have both been reshaped and resized. The geographic patch has been redesigned with a flat edge along the bottom making it easy to align the outpost numerals. Both the geographic patches and numerals have been reduced in size for use on boys' and adult's uniforms allowing space below the outpost numerals for boys' advancement patches and leaders' training level patches above the roll-up sleeve tab and button on the utility uniform.

### ***How and when do we transition from the current titles and design to the new?***

- We recommend an immediate transition, but the final date for transition is July 31, 2011.

# Uniform

## *Has the Royal Rangers uniform changed?*

- Yes. There are now four uniform options to enable the church to reach the boys and young men in its community.

### **Special Uniform**

- Formerly Class C, the special uniform consists of multiple options including: t-shirt, polo, sports jerseys, hoodies, mock turtlenecks, sweat shirts, etc. worn with cargo pants, jeans, shorts, and the optional Royal Rangers caps or hats.

### **Utility Uniform**

- This is a new active wear uniform consisting of a khaki colored wicking shirt worn with optional Ranger Tac pants or jeans.

### **Dress Uniform**

- Formerly Class A & B, the dress uniform consists of khaki pants and shirt.

### **Formal Uniform**

- Formerly Dress Blazer, the formal uniform consists of a navy blue blazer, sky blue shirt, Rangers tie, black belt, charcoal grey pants, and black socks and shoes.

### **Vest**

- The vest can be worn with the special, utility, and dress uniforms.
- Visit the national ministry web site to download a uniform guide.

## *When will the new utility uniform be available?*

- The utility uniform is now available and can be ordered through the online Rangers Superstore.

## *Is the new utility uniform more expensive than the previous khaki uniform?*

- Some concern has been expressed that the new utility uniform is more expensive than the khaki uniform. On an item-by-item basis that is true. But when looking at all the options, it becomes a false statement. First of all, the utility uniform shirt may be worn with blue jeans. This means that the cost of the shirt becomes the only uniform cost for this option, undercutting the price of the current uniform by nearly 40%. Secondly, the prices for this type of shirt are very comparable to public market value. Nowhere will one be able to find shirts of this quality or in all the sizes being sold through GPH for nearly as low a price.

## *How and when do we transition from the current uniform and insignia placement to the new?*

- We recommend an immediate transition, but the final date for transition is July 31, 2011.

## *Are the vests changing color?*

- Yes. All age groups, including adults, will go to a standard color and material—dark navy canvas. Boys will no longer need a new vest when changing groups, therefore, saving parents money.

## *Will all groups use the same colored vest?*

- Yes. Dark navy canvas.

## *What can be worn on the vest?*

- Insignia placement remains the same for Discovery, Adventure, and Expedition Rangers and adult leaders vests.

***Why is the khaki uniform not in the catalog?***

- Contract negotiations with our supplier unexpectedly halted just before the catalog went to print. As soon negotiations with the supplier are completed the dress uniform (full khaki) will become available through the Ranger Superstore on the national web site.

***If our outpost number has less than three numerals (i.e. Outpost 6 or 75) do we need to add zeros to the front end (006, 075) so that the numerals are the same width as the geographic patch?***

- No. You only need to put the numerals of your outpost number. If your number is a single or a double digit, then it should be centered beneath and touching the geographic patch

## **Curriculum**

### **TRaCclub**

***What is TRaCclub?***

- TRaCclub is Royal Rangers online delivery of meeting curriculum and merit lessons. It stands for “The Rangers Curriculum Club.” It will consist of five tracks—one for each age group and one for leaders to supplement the Leader Manual. Each of the five tracks will be offered as an annual membership to individuals.

***What will be included in TRaCclub?***

- Each age group track will include weekly meeting guides and merit lessons (including skill, leadership, and Bible) or achievement award lessons specific to that group.
- The leaders track will contain supplemental materials to the Leader Manual to include devotions, activity ideas, planning helps, etc.

***When will it be available?***

- 2010

***In the meantime, should I buy print materials?***

- Yes.

***What if I don't have Internet access?***

- For a limited time, TRaCclub will be available via CD delivery. However, the online version is preferable because it will be regularly updated.

### **Print Curriculum**

***With the launch of TRaCclub in 2010, what items will remain in print?***

- Leader Manual
- Ranger Kids Handbook
- Discovery Rangers Handbook
- Adventure Rangers Handbook
- FCF Handbook
- Adventures in Camping

## Logbooks

### *What are logbooks?*

- Logbooks are a visual, low-cost tool to track and celebrate advancements for boys, young men, and leaders. It is a full-color portfolio in which stickers are placed when advancements, merits, training, and other awards are achieved. This is a cost effective way to recognize Royal Rangers.

### *When will logbooks be available?*

- Fall 2009

## General Information

### *Why is the LFTL Jr. Councilman information no longer available on the web site?*

- The LFTL Jr. Councilman program was discontinued by the national Men's Ministries department in 2006 due to various changes in the structure of the LFTL program nationwide. The red Jr. LFTL merit has been replaced by the blue Global Missions merit and the gold LFTL merit has been replaced by the green Global Missions merit. These two new merits should be viewed as equivalent replacements to the two LFTL merits at all places throughout our advancement system where the LFTL merits were referenced, regardless of color category.

### *Where is the U.S. flag patch on the new uniforms?*

- From 1962, when Royal Rangers was founded, until 2002, the American flag was never placed on the uniform, except temporarily when leaders represented the ministry overseas. The flag was added seven years ago as a demonstration of patriotism following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. However, since its addition to the uniform, the flag placement has been hotly debated and become a very contentious and emotional topic.
- Like all US citizens, Royal Rangers leaders love America and feel deeply grateful to God for our heritage. We are equally committed to our evangelism, discipleship, and leadership development mandate. It has become clear to us that these two very positive things—love for our nation and love for the lost—are starting to collide because of deep disagreement among many of our Ranger leaders over whether or not our uniform should include the flag, and if so, where and in what manner it is properly displayed.
- Former military and non-military personnel alike have claimed that according to the US Flag Code, Title 4, United States Code chapter 1 (an executive order given by the President of the United States) Royal Rangers does not qualify to wear the flag patch. It reads, "A flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen, and members of patriotic organizations." The National Royal Rangers Ministry, however, having consulted with experts on the subject, believes that we could qualify to display the flag as a patch on our uniform under the spirit by which the order was created. However, we have received overwhelming feedback from veterans and current military personnel within Royal Rangers who strongly preferred we not use the flag patch on our uniform so as not to create further dissention within Royal Rangers over our duty to be both good citizens and good proclaimers of the gospel.
- Therefore, the National Royal Rangers Executive Committee felt the controversies—wearing or not wearing the patch and how to wear it properly—were beginning to detract from our mission to "evangelize, equip, and empower the next generation of Christlike men and lifelong servant leaders." With a deeply prayerful heart, this was our only motivation in making this decision. Royal Rangers leaders are and will always remain patriotic and supportive publicly and privately as we pray for our nation, our leaders, and our military personnel. The committee begs for your understanding, prayers, and support as this was a very difficult decision and one that could easily be misunderstood or misrepresented.

### *How does the Gold Medal of Achievement (GMA) compare to the Boys Scouts Eagle Scout rating?*

- The Gold Medal of Achievement and the Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout rank are frequently compared to one another. Since both are the highest award in the respective organizations, the comparison is natural. However, the two organizations strive towards different goals, operating under separate values, missions, and purposes; therefore, any further comparison is coincidental. The Eagle Scout is awarded to a young

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man who has excelled in woodsmanship and citizenship. Royal Rangers values both of those characteristics, but the Gold Medal of Achievement honors discipleship and dedication to becoming a Christlike man and lifelong servant leader. In both BSA and Royal Rangers, our highest awards reflect our missions. Furthermore, the Boy Scouts of America and Royal Rangers share a policy of not displaying awards earned in one program on the uniform of the other. There is mutual respect between our two organizations, thus this reciprocal policy is intended to help eliminate unnecessary confusion.