



Uniform Options for Today's Outpost

by Ryan Beaty, National Programs Specialist

From its inception, Royal Rangers has been a uniformed ministry. Uniforms are important. They provide a sense of belonging. Military branches, for instance, have a variety of uniforms appropriate for their many duties: a spit-shine look for ceremonies, a formal look for galas, utility uniforms for fieldwork, and so on. These uniforms allow them to accomplish their many duties as members of a unit, giving each member a sense of belonging. Sports teams place greater emphasis on their team name than on the individual name, creating a sense that members are part of something bigger. Uniforms also enhance discipline. Whether for military personnel or sports teams, uniforms are important. They are also very important to Royal Rangers.

In recent years, however, uniform wear and sales among Royal Rangers have been in decline. One only needs to attend a district camp to make this observation. Take a look at this picture of the 1982 National Camporama in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.



Can you find anyone out of uniform? Unfortunately, it is unlikely we will ever be able to capture such a photo again. Today's boys and young men want to belong to a team and a cause that is greater than they are, but they also want options. Churches are asking for choices that will allow them to leverage the benefits of the uniform. Churches know their communities and which uniform(s) will enable them to attract and retain boys in their Royal Rangers outreaches. We must be responsive. We must provide options.

Interviews, questionnaires, and focus groups have shown numerous causes for the declining interest in our current uniform. The style of the uniform is no longer appealing to a growing number of this current generation of young men. Another issue is the functionality of the uniform. Royal Rangers has always been an activity-based program. The problem is that our uniform is no longer conducive for outdoor wear and for the many other activities offered our members. While our churches hold the U.S. military in high regard, some have expressed concern over the military look of the uniform; the look is very favorable in some areas of our country but a limiting factor in others. We are wise to provide a wide range of uniform options.



So let's take a look at the uniform line.

The Formal Uniform

Royal Rangers has always had a formal uniform for special occasions. Traditionally, this has been referred to as the dress blazer. This uniform is undergoing a makeover. It will no longer be the uniform worn during award ceremonies but will be worn when representing Royal Rangers among pastors and business people. The new look of the uniform will allow the leader to seamlessly transition into the professional world of ministers and business people with a sophisticated and modern look while also maintaining a uniquely Royal Rangers appearance.

The Jacket: The jacket will continue to be navy blue but will not require alterations. Any leader can use the navy blue sports coat he already has or go to any men's store to purchase one. Jackets may be either two or three button. No epaulets will be added to the shoulders, and no insignias or medals will be worn. The leader may choose one Royal Rangers lapel pin of his or her choice (i.e., RR lapel pin, RRI pin, Pathfinder Missions, or other official pin). A pocket slide, which will hold both the Royal Rangers emblem and the individual's silver plastic nametag, will be placed in the front left pocket. Women's formal jacket will reflect the same qualities as the men's.

The Shirt: The shirt will be sky blue with no patterns. Women will wear a sky blue blouse.

Tie: The tie will be specially designed and distributed by GPH. It will have diagonal red and blue stripes with a subtle Royal Rangers emblem embroidered at the bottom. This will not be a clip on, and no tie tack will be required. Women will not be required to wear a tie.

Pants/Skirt, Belt, Socks, & Shoes: These will remain the same as the current guidelines for the formal uniform. The pants/skirt will be charcoal grey with black belt, socks, and shoes.

The Dress Uniform

The dress uniform is the new evolution of the traditional khaki uniform. This is the uniform that will be worn for formal events, e.g., banquets, award ceremonies, etc. This uniform will be what has traditionally been known as the dress khaki uniform. These uniforms will be available for purchase from GPH and will only be available for Adventure and Expedition Rangers and all leaders.

The Shirt: The shirt will only come in long sleeve and will have the military pleats already sewn into them. A solid white Royal Ranger t-shirt will be worn under the dress shirt. Boys and leaders may wear the bolo tie of their choosing.

On the left uniform sleeve, the Royal Rangers emblem and the local office insignia (e.g., Outpost Chaplain, Patrol Guide, etc.) will be worn. On the right sleeve, the geographic patch with district name will be worn. Directly below the geographic patch will be the outpost numerals. Beneath the outpost numerals will be the advancement level of the boy or leader.

The only insignia that will be placed on the collar is for organizational leaders, i.e., regional coordinators, district training coordinators, etc. They will be metal pins.

Above the left shirt pocket, the RRI pin, indicating you are a monthly ministry partner, will be worn. The award ribbons, which should never number more than eighteen, will be worn above the pocket and beneath the RRI pin. One awarded medal may be displayed on the pocket but not while the award ribbon is also being displayed. The patch signifying the highest level of training earned may be worn on the left breast pocket.

The right pocket will remain unchanged from the current uniform style. The FCF pin will remain situated above the group tag, which is placed flush against the top of the pocket. The individual's nametag will be placed on the flap. An event patch of the individual's choosing will be worn, centered on the right pocket.

Pants/Skirt, Belt, Socks, Shoes – These will remain the same as the current guidelines for the dress uniform. The pants/skirt will be khaki with khaki web belt and black socks and shoes.



The Utility Uniform

The field has requested a uniform that boys, young men, and adult leaders will find attractive and comfortable while engaging in fun activities. The utility uniform will accomplish both of these goals. It will be rugged enough to withstand rigorous activities while remaining stylish enough for boys and young men to wear proudly. One of the most attractive aspects of this uniform is that patches that are routinely changed (e.g., local junior office insignia) can be fastened to the uniform with Velcro footprints. This option can be used in lieu of sewing them on.

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LEFT POCKET



LEFT SLEEVE



RIGHT SLEEVE

This uniform will also be the standard uniform for all age groups, Ranger Kids through Ranger leaders. The Ranger Kids uniform will slowly be phased out (see transition plan below). This will eliminate the necessity for parents to purchase a different uniform as boys move from Ranger Kids to Discovery Rangers, saving our families and churches money.

Shirt: The shirt will be made from khaki, wrinkle resistant, hi-tech wicking material. It will be long sleeve with the ability to be rolled up and buttoned above the elbow. It will have a flat bottom cut with vents in the back of the shirt. The shirt will most often be worn untucked but must be tucked in if the individual is wearing his or her pins and medals. The pockets will be welted but lie flat and will be closed by Velcro on the corners. An undershirt should be worn; however, there is no official color preference. Weather appropriate undergarments are also encouraged. When wearing the shirt untucked, it is recommended that no bolo be worn. While wearing the shirt tucked in, a bolo tie is required. The bolo tie is of the individual's choosing.

With the exception of newly designed patches for each FCF level and the cloth organization patches for the collars, the patch designs and locations on the utility uniform will be identical to that of the dress uniform.

Pants: The individual has three pant options. 1) For Ranger Kids and any other Ranger who chooses, blue jeans will be worn. The next two options can be worn by Discovery, Adventure, and Expedition Rangers and all leaders. 2) The solid navy blue RangerTact pants are a new cargo style pants, designed for outdoor activities with a modern style. The pants will have the Royal Ranger emblem sewn into the right pocket and other outrageous Ranger features. 3) The solid navy blue, hi-tech convertible pants will be made from abrasion resistant fabric. The Royal Rangers emblem will be embroidered on the right pocket and will be embossed on the web belt buckle.

Belt: A belt is always required, except when the activity dictates otherwise, e.g., backpacking, etc. When wearing blue jeans, a black, dark navy blue, or brown belt, matching your shoes is acceptable. Black or brown boots/shoes with matching belt are encouraged. Because Royal Rangers is a Christ-centered



RIGHT POCKET

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the ROYAL RANGERS UNIFORMS

Current Name	New Name	Intended for...
Dress Blue Blazer	Formal Uniform	Adult leaders
Class B	Dress Uniform <i>(The Class A uniform will be phased out over three years.)</i>	Adventure Rangers Expedition Rangers Adult Leaders
	Utility Uniform <i>(Ranger Kids uniform will be phased out over three years.)</i>	Ranger Kids Discovery Rangers Adventure Rangers Expedition Rangers Adult Leaders
Class C	Special Uniform <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Casual • Casual • Sports • Work/Camping 	Ranger Kids Discovery Rangers Adventure Rangers Expedition Rangers Adult Leaders



ministry, the type of belt buckle should reflect well on the ministry and on Christ. When wearing RangerTact pants, a black web belt with a chrome buckle is required.

Shoes: When wearing blue jeans, wear the shoes that are appropriate for the occasion (e.g., tennis shoes, boots, and sandals). Black or brown boots/shoes with matching belt are encouraged. When wearing RangerTact pants, black boots or shoes are required. Under no circumstances may pants ever be bloused in the boots.

Socks: When wearing jeans, the socks appropriate for the occasion are worn. When wearing RangerTact pants, black socks are required.

Vest: Vests for all age groups will change to a navy blue canvas vest. Although the vests are optional, they are highly encouraged. They are worn only with the outdoor camping uniform, the new utility uniform.

Special Uniform

The special uniform offers a variety of options for the local outpost for numerous types of activities and personalization.

Business Casual: Polo shirt or long sleeve shirt with embroidered RR emblem, business slacks, shoes, and belt of choice.

Semi-casual: Polo shirt, long sleeve shirt, casual pants (such as blue jeans), and shoes of choice. Each new GPH catalog will offer a new trendy design. As usual, GPH will always carry the standard navy blue polo shirt with the full Royal Rangers emblem.

Sports: We will make available a number of t-shirts that can be customized for the individual outpost. We will begin with three different sports jerseys of various colors, embroidered with the new Royal Rangers sports logo, which can be personalized for individuals, patrols, or outposts. When the line of sports jerseys is complete, there will be six to eight different styles. Hoodies will also be offered.

Headgear: Any Royal Rangers cap or hat, purchased through GPH, or other hats given at Royal Rangers events or training camps can be worn. Other hats, such as beanies, boonies, and outback style hats, may also be worn with the appropriate uniform.

Transition plan

The new line of uniform items will be available early 2009. A three-year transition to the new uniforms will be observed. Rangers can wear the old uniforms until July 31, 2011. This will allow Rangers to out grow or wear out their current clothing. ☺

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