



2003 - Present



1908 - 1957



1957 - 1961

Royal Ambassadors History



1994 - 2003



1987 - 1994



1961 - 1987

Compiled by
Keith Mack
Texas Baptist Men

Royal Ambassadors General Questions

Royal Ambassadors began in 1908.

1. Why did the National WMU create a separate organization for boys twenty years after they began?
2. What is the purpose of RAs?
3. What is the purpose of Advancement?

Early Beginnings of Royal Ambassadors

The Bible speaks about the importance of educating boys concerning God's Word. Moses directed the leaders of Israel to teach their children about a relationship with God.

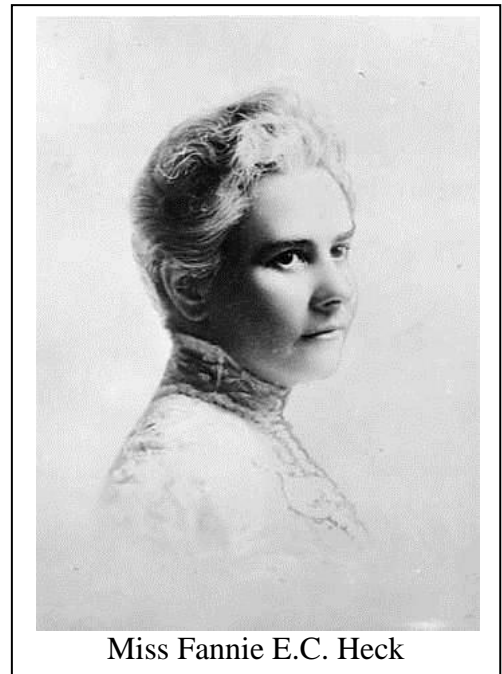
"These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them to your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)

The author of Proverbs talks about the wisdom of teaching children. *"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."* (Proverbs 22:6)

The earliest recorded missionary organization for boys in the Southern Baptist Convention dates back to 1883. In that year, a group of boys from 12 to 14 years of age had a definite missionary organization at Owensboro, Kentucky. They met regularly with their pastor to study missions and gave money to support a girl in Miss Lottie Moon's school in Tengchow, China. There were other sporadic efforts in providing missionary training for boys in the 1890s and into the first years of the twentieth century. Five "Boys' Mission Bands" reported gifts to missions in North Carolina in 1907.

National Beginning – 1907-1908

Miss Fannie E.C. Heck, president of the Woman's Missionary Union, was aware of the fact that boys' missions groups were already meeting in a number of Southern Baptist churches. She, along with other WMU leaders, recognized the need for a convention-wide organization for Baptist boys. In October 1907, the Executive Committee of the Woman's Missionary Union appointed a "Committee on Mission Work for Boys," with Miss Heck serving as the chairman. During that year, Miss Heck and another member of the committee, Miss Elizabeth Briggs (later Mrs. T.C. Pittman) attended a young people's missionary conference in Asheville, NC. A quartet of young men from Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, sang a hymn entitled "The King's Business" that was written in 1902. The women discussed a phrase from the song, "Ambassadors to be of realms beyond the sea," and its appropriateness for a boy's mission organization. Miss Briggs suggested the name "Ambassadors" and Miss Heck added the "Royal." "The King's Business" became the first hymn for Royal Ambassadors.



Miss Fannie E.C. Heck

At the 20th annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Union that was held in Hot Springs, Arkansas in May 1908, Miss Heck asked Mrs. E.J. Willingham of Georgia to preside while she presented the report of the Committee on Mission Work for Boys. On behalf of the committee, Miss Heck moved that the Woman's Missionary Union sponsor a missions organization for boys ages 9-17, that the name be the "Order of Royal Ambassadors," and that it fit into the WMU organization under Sunbeam superintendents. The committee also had suggestions for a Royal Ambassador Constitution, Motto, and Pin.

There was considerable debate on the motion. Opposition seemed to focus upon three areas. Some wondered how a women's organization would be able to enlist the support of men. They believed that men should be involved in the work with boys. Others felt there would be a problem finding someone to promote the new organization, since WMU employees at that time were not salaried. Still others felt that the organization would be more appealing to boys if it were separate from the Sunbeam bands for children. The motion was adopted by a vote of 40 to 25.

Mrs. W.M. Petway, a messenger from North Carolina, was so excited about RAs that she left the convention early and hurried home to Goldsboro, NC to form the first Royal Ambassador chapter in the Southern Baptist Convention – the Carey Newton Chapter of First Baptist Church, Goldsboro.

Order of Royal Ambassadors 1908-1957

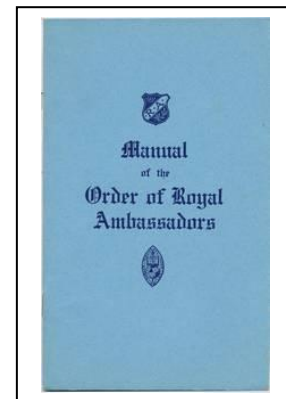
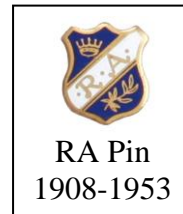
Royal Ambassadors began as a Baptist missionary organization for boys, with its own constitution, motto and pin. The purpose of RAs is found within the RA constitution.

The object shall be to study God's Word for a better knowledge of Him, of His principles, precepts and plans; to study the lives and works of great missionary heroes who, as His ambassadors, have represented Him in other lands, in other times as now; to endeavor by our conduct and contributions to make Christ known to the world that many may know and be reconciled to Him.

The Royal Ambassador Motto: "We are Ambassadors for Christ." (2 Corinthians 5:20) was selected in 1908 and has remained the RA Motto throughout the years.

The first manual of the Order of Royal Ambassadors and the RA pin became available October, 1908. The manual was offered free to anyone interested in organizing an RA chapter. The RA pin in gold plate with blue and white enamel cost 25 cents.

Within the RA constitution is the first meaning for the RA insignia. "The colors of the Order shall be royal blue and gold. The RA pin is shield-shaped, done in blue enamel with the crown for faithful service and the laurel of victory; the letters R. A. are on the white band of the shield."



Any boy between the ages of 9 and 17 was eligible to become a member on recommendation of the recruiting embassy (committee). A member of the recruiting embassy presented the boy's name for membership at a regular chapter meeting. He became a member of Royal Ambassadors by receiving a majority vote from the members.

Each Royal Ambassador group was encouraged to organize into a chapter with boys serving as officers that presided over each meeting with adults serving as counselors. The officers of the chapters were elected annually or semi-annually. Work that was usually entrusted to committees by other organizations was done in RA chapters by embassies. Embassy leaders or chairmen were called chief envoys of their embassies. The following list the titles for each of the Royal Ambassador Officers and their responsibilities.

Chief Counselor provided the general oversight of the RA work, and served as a member of the Advisory Staff and ex-officio member of all embassies. The Chief Counselor was elected by the church after nomination by the Woman's Missionary Society.

Ambassador-in-Chief presided at each meeting and appointed embassies not otherwise covered. As presiding officer of his chapter the success of the RA work largely depended upon him. He was encouraged to lead a life of strong manliness with prayerful thought and study of mission work and Royal Ambassador plans. He served as the chief envoy of the Program Embassy.

First Assistant Ambassador presided in the absence of the Ambassador-in-Chief, or at his direction. His work demanded careful living up to Royal Ambassador aim and ideals, and knowledge of Royal Ambassador activities outside of the local chapter. He served as chief envoy of the Recruiting Embassy.

Second Assistant Ambassador presided over meetings when both major officers were absent. He served as chief envoy of the Recreation Embassy.

Chapter Recorder kept minutes of each meeting and a roll call of members according to rank. He served as chief envoy of the Ranking Embassy.

Chapter Scribe corresponded with state officers, sent reports as directed, and kept his chapter in contact with other chapters. He served as chief envoy of the Knightly Deeds Embassy.

Chapter Steward enlisted members in systematic giving to missions and the church program according to the plan of the church. He was responsible for the money collected and forwarded as directed. He kept an accurate account of all money received and spent and balanced his account book monthly with the Recorder. He served as chief envoy of the Stewardship Embassy and aided in teaching stewardship in giving.

Chapter Custodian kept and carefully filed all papers, clippings, maps, and curios written, collected or made by the chapter and was in charge of the missionary library of the chapter. He served as the chief envoy of the World Alliance Embassy.

Chapter Herald was responsible for the publicity work of the chapter, reporting activities to the newspaper, preparing announcements and placing posters of RA interest in prominent places. He served as chief envoy of the Publicity Embassy.

In chapters where fewer than eight boys attended regularly, the duties of some officers could be combined such as “Recorder-Scribe” or “Herald-Custodian” to allow chapters to meet the requirements for a charter. The nine officers of the RA chapter served as an Executive Committee known as the Advisory Staff. The Ambassador-in-Chief served as chief of the Advisory Staff. The advisory staff met at least quarterly for discussion and planning of RA work.

Each time a meeting of the Order of Royal Ambassadors was called to order, the members participated in the following responsive reading known as the Commission and Declaration. The first Commission and Declaration of the Order of Royal Ambassadors provided an emphasis for most of the officers. The Commission and Declaration was modified several times in later publications.

Commission and Declaration of the Order of Royal Ambassadors

Ambassador in Chief. What is an Ambassador?

All. An ambassador is one who represents the person of a king at the court of another.

Amb. in Chief. To whom must an ambassador render an account?

All. To the king from whom he receives his commission.

Amb. in Chief. As ambassador whom do you represent?

All. We are ambassadors for Christ

Amb. in Chief. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.

All. That everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

1st Asst. Amb. Knowing therefore, the terror of the Lord we persuade men.

2nd Asst. Amb. For the love of Christ constraineth us.

All. He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves but unto him which died for them and rose again.

Chapter Scribe. Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creature.

Recorder. Old things are passed away.

All. Behold, all things are become new.

Chapter Steward. God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself.

All. And hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Amb. in Chief. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ.

Herald. As though God did beseech you by us.

All. We pray you in Christ's stead be ye reconciled to God.

Program materials for boys first appeared in *Our Mission Fields*, a WMU publication for women that included materials for youth organizations. Beginning in July 1908, the boys' programs were called "Suggestions for the Boys." In the October 1908 issue, the title of the program was changed to "Suggestions for Royal Ambassadors." In 1914, the WMU magazine *Royal Service* replaced *Our Mission Fields*. October 1922, *World Comrades*, a new magazine designed for youth organizations, was published and presented curriculum ideas for RA leaders. These program materials offered suggestions to Royal Ambassador leaders on ways to make the organization appealing to boys in addition to teaching them mission principles.

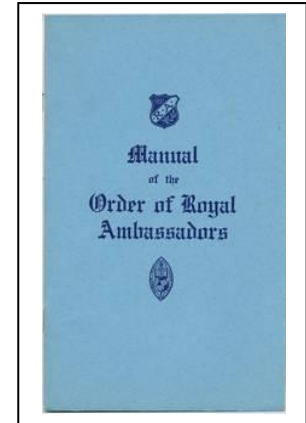


In 1924, RAs were divided into two age groups, Junior Royal Ambassadors (ages 9-13) and Intermediate Royal Ambassadors (ages 13 and up). Also in 1924, a ranking (advancement) system for Royal Ambassadors was established, written by Mr. John Cunningham of Alabama, Mr. G.L. Boles and Mr. O.E. McCullough of Arkansas. The ranking system was built upon ambassador ideas set forth in 2 Corinthians 5:20 and the knight errantry. The advancement plan called for boys to pass four ranks – Page, Squire, Knight and Ambassador. Each level of the ranking system was designed to help educate the boy how he is part of a missionary organization within his chapter, church, state, nation and world. After the boy completed all requirements for each rank to the satisfaction of his counselor, he appeared before a Reviewing Council that was comprised of leading men (pastor, deacons, and laymen) in the church. The assignment of the Reviewing Council was to see how well the boys knew and understood, as a whole, the work that they had completed.

RA Armbands introduced in 1926 were worn by RAs to signify each part of the Royal Ambassadors ranking system completed. The original armbands constructed from felt were comprised of four parts: the armband with the RA shield (4½” x 5”), RA bar, crown, and laurel branch. Pages wore the armband with the RA felt shield outlined in gold felt. Squire ranking RAs added the felt white cross bar with the embroidered letters RA. Knights added the felt crown in the upper part of the shield. Ambassadors added the felt laurel branch to complete the RA insignia. In 1953, ranking pins replaced the original RA armbands to signify ranks completed. A new RA armband with blue letters was worn by all members that completed the rank of Page.



The 1928 copy of the *Manual of the Order of Royal Ambassadors* was used by both the Junior and Intermediate Royal Ambassador chapters. This manual provided the order for the chapter meetings in addition to the requirements for Page, Squire, Knight and Ambassador. A simplified Commission and Declaration was introduced in 1928 for Junior RAs.



Commission and Declaration for Junior Royal Ambassadors

Ambassador in Chief. What is an ambassador?

All. An ambassador is one who represents the person of a king at the court of another.

Amb. in Chief. To whom must an ambassador render an account?

All. To the king from whom he receives his commission.

Amb. in Chief. As ambassadors, whom do you represent?

All. “We are ambassadors for Christ” – 2 Corinthians 5:20

Amb. in Chief. What is the motive of your service?

All. “The love of Christ constraineth us” – 2 Corinthians 5:14

Amb. in Chief. What is the eternal message of your service?

All. “We pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God” – 2 Corinthians 5:20

Two additional lines were added in 1933 to the Commission and Declaration.

Amb. in Chief. What is the King’s command?

All. “Go ye therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world” – Matthew 28:19-20

The simplified Commission and Declaration was adopted by both Junior and Intermediate Royal Ambassador chapters in 1933.

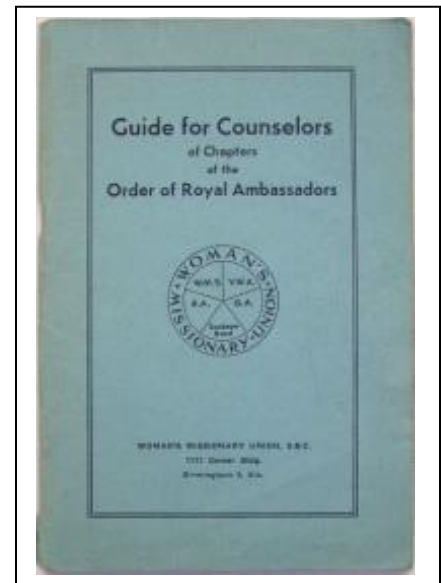
Although Royal Ambassadors was sponsored and promoted by the WMU, the women sought to get men involved in the RA work. They recognized the importance of male role models in working with the boys, although much of the overall planning and leadership in the local churches was carried out by the ladies.

In 1929, two higher ranks, Ambassador Extraordinary and Ambassador Plenipotentiary, were added to RA Advancement system for Intermediate RAs for boys ages thirteen and up. An Ambassadorial Sash, 4 inches wide that was half blue and half gold grosgrain, was worn over the left shoulder across the chest to the right side of the boy that completed ten projects and earned the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary. A Plenipotentiary Stripe, a white grosgrain stripe that snaps over the sash to form a white line separating the blue and gold in the sash was worn by boys that completed eight additional projects and reached the rank of Ambassador Plenipotentiary.



Ambassadorial Sash
Ambassador Extraordinary

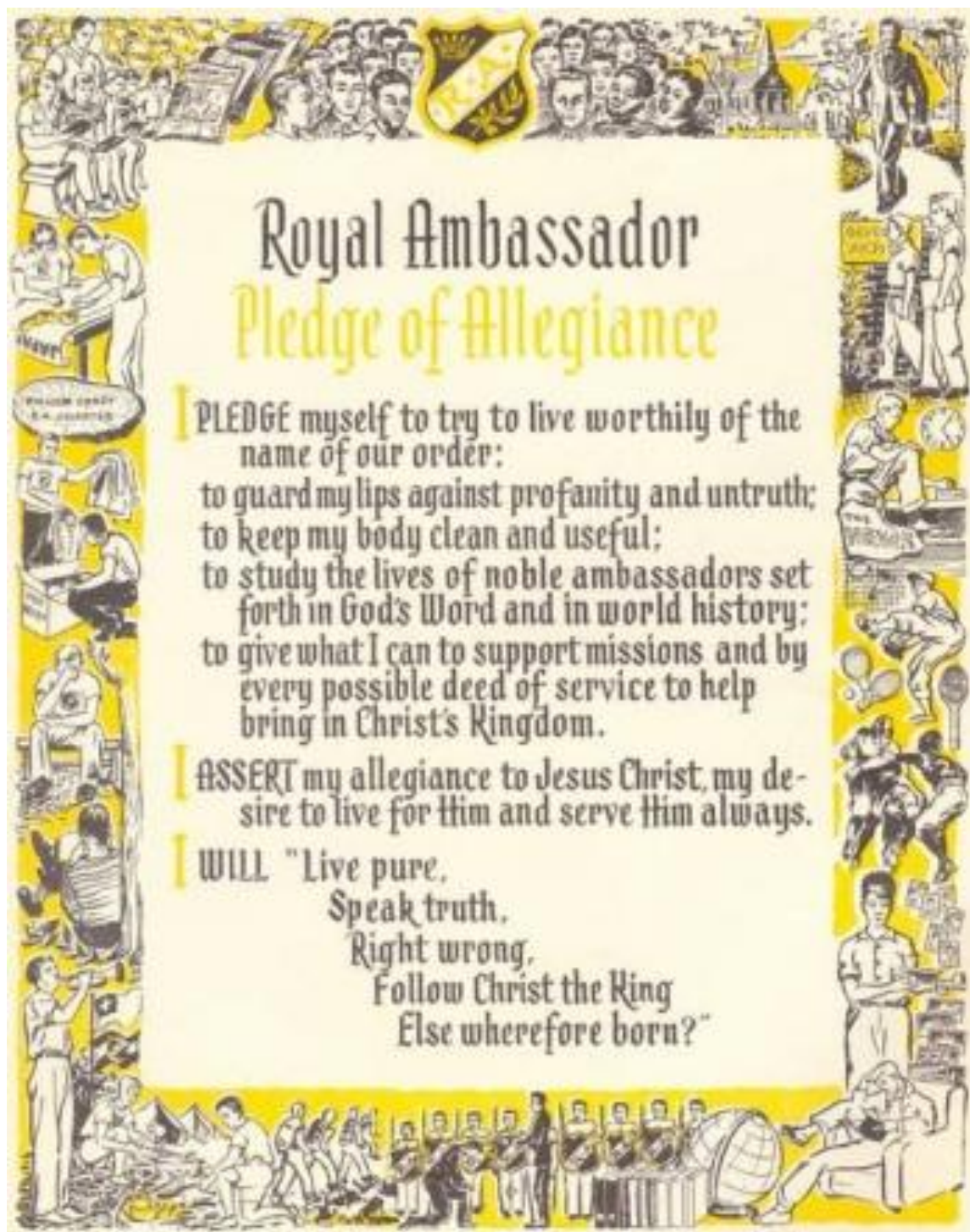
The *Guide for Counselors of Chapters of the Order of Royal Ambassadors* was published in 1933. Mr. John Cunningham, a pastor in Selma, Alabama and state counselor for Royal Ambassadors, and Mr. O. E. McCullough, a prominent educator and RA counselor in Arkansas, served with a committee from the WMU to produce this first guide book for counselors. This book contains a catch phrase that was echoed in later publications: “It is better to build boys than to mend men.” These leaders emphasized the importance that missionary education has in training future church leaders in addition to creating denominational loyalty. “The purpose of Royal Ambassadors is to meet the need of missionary education of the boys in our Southern Baptist constituency to develop in the areas of missionary knowledge, prayer, stewardship, and service.”



The Royal Ambassadors ranking system was revised slightly in 1933. Instead of combining methods and materials for both Junior and Intermediate chapters into one manual, two manuals for the Order of Royal Ambassadors were produced. The manual for Junior RAs contained slightly simplified requirements for Junior Royal Ambassadors. The Intermediate manual included the two higher ranks for Intermediate Royal Ambassadors.



The Royal Ambassador Pledge of Allegiance first appeared in the guide for counselors in 1933 and also in the junior and intermediate manuals for RAs. The RA Allegiance was recited at the beginning of chapter meetings and Royal Ambassador gatherings.



The last two paragraphs, beginning with, "I assert my allegiance to Jesus Christ" was only to be repeated by boys in the chapter that professed Christ as Savior.

Also in 1933, the Royal Ambassador insignia was described with more meaning and representation within the guide for counselors and manuals for RAs.

- The Shield which forms the background speaks of faith and means that the boy is an Ambassador for Christ. (Ephesians 6:10-17) It was to remind a Page that he was to live worthy of the name that he had taken upon himself by becoming a member of the Order of Royal Ambassadors.
- The Bar across the shield with the letters R.A. upon it means that a Royal Ambassador is a worker. It was to remind a Squire that his task was to give Christ to the world and what it means to be a Christian.
- The Crown means faithful service to Christ the King and fellow men. It signified the rank of Knight. The five points of the crown represented the five points of the Royal Ambassador Allegiance and also for the five ideals of RA work: Bible study, Mission study, Prayer, Stewardship, and Service through Knightly Deeds.
- The Laurel Branch represents victory and is a symbol of the victory which must be gained through Christ and for Christ. It was to remind the boy of two promises. The first promise of God the Father that His Word, when preached to any people, would not return unto Him without results. The second promise of companionship with Christ who is with us always even unto the end of the world as we are obedient to His commands and abide with Him. It signified the rank of Ambassador and completed the arm band.
- The colors of the insignia are royal blue, gold and white. Blue stands for Loyalty: Loyalty to Christ the King; Loyalty to his church and its program; Loyalty to the RA organization and its ideas. White stands for Purity: Purity of body; Purity of mind; Purity of soul in the worship of one God and him alone. Gold stands for Worth: The Worth of Christ to the boy when he takes Him as his Savior, Counselor and Guide; The Worth of the boy to Christ as he finds God's place of service for him and serves in that place to the best of his ability; Worth in stewardship and in service.



The first convention wide promotion of Royal Ambassadors was RA Focus Week, in August, 1936. In 1940 the RA Focus Week was moved to the first week in November. This event has been promoted every year since. In 1960 the name was changed to "RA Week."

In 1937, an enamel pin for Royal Ambassador Extraordinary and Key Guard for Royal Ambassador Plenipotentiary were introduced. The Counselor's pin was also introduced in 1937. This pin was smaller than the RA members pin and was designed to be worn on the coat lapel. The Star Ambassador pin (not shown) was also introduced at this time to be worn by Ambassadors chosen to the rank of Star Guard by their chapters.



A Royal Ambassador Sword and Shield were added for use in recognition ceremonies and chapter decorations. The Royal Ambassador Sword (constructed from plywood 42 inches long) was given to each boy that passed the rank of Knight. The Royal Ambassador Shield (16" x 18" made of wood and patterned on the shape of the RA insignia, painted in official colors) was given to each boy that passed the rank of Ambassador. The RA Shield first appeared in 1939 and the RA Sword appeared in the early 1940s. The RA Sword and Shield continued until 1961.



On September 1, 1943, the National WMU employed Mr. J. Ivyloy Bishop to become the first full-time Southern Baptist Royal Ambassador Secretary. Mr. Bishop had served for two years prior in Mississippi, Alabama and South Carolina promoting Royal Ambassador work within these states. Mr. Bishop served as the National RA Director until the fall of 1953. During his ten years of leadership, Mr. Bishop emphasized the importance of getting men involved in leading boys in missions education. He worked with each state WMU department in selecting men to lead the Royal Ambassador work within their state.

Mr. Bishop noted that many chapters viewed the ranking system that was established in 1924 as an extra and chose not to incorporate it into their chapter plans. The chapters that incorporated the ranking system into their chapter plans found that it was a method of building a lasting foundation of mission interest in the hearts and minds of the boys. In 1944, Mr. Bishop added the ranking system as part of the Standard of Excellence for RA Chapters. Also in 1944, the requirements for membership were changed to read a boy "shall become a member upon completing the requirements for the rank of Page."



Bishop with full ranking Ambassadors



The first RA Flag appeared in the November, 1945 issue of *World Comrades*. Chapters were encouraged to order the new flag and new charter for RA Chapters to use during the Focus Week for the Order of Royal Ambassadors, the first week of November.



Ambassador Life, a magazine designed to promote missions and interest to boys, was first published in June, 1946 and continued in circulation until September, 1970. *Ambassador Life* contained stories about missionaries, Royal Ambassador groups, RA mission projects, sports, camping and other boys' interest articles.

Official Royal Ambassador T-shirts became available around 1947 and could be worn by RA members that had completed the rank of Page. T-shirts were available in two styles: white shirts with block lettering and the RA logo in the center or gold shirts with script lettering and the RA logo on the left side of the shirt.



Crafts at RA Camp



Snack time at RA Camp

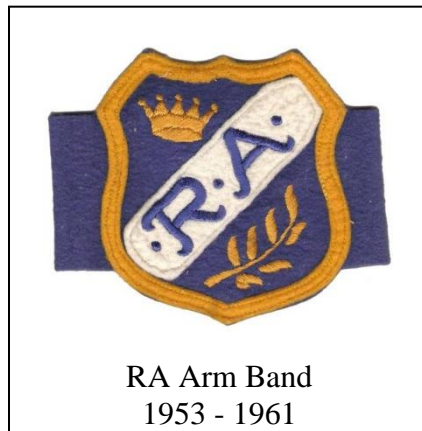
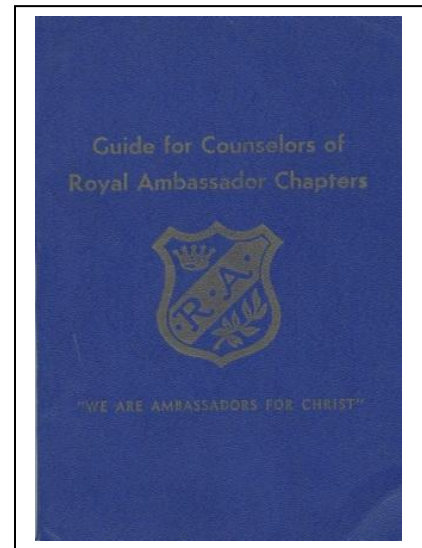
Boys age 9 and up were considered a candidate for membership after they had attended three chapter meetings. Once he completed the requirements for Page to the satisfaction of the chapter and participated in an initiation service, he then became a full member of the RA group and could wear the RA pin. Prior to 1944, a boy became a member of RAs by receiving a majority vote from the members of the RA chapter.

Guide for Counselors of Royal Ambassador Chapters written by Mr. Bishop was published by the WMU in 1953. This manual points out “that a boy needs a missionary organization that will open his eyes to the most thrilling adventure and the highest challenge that has ever laid claim to the boy life of any country. Royal Ambassador chapters seek to give an adventure with Christ that will lead each boy to be God’s man in God’s place seeking to carry out God’s will for his life. Royal Ambassadors is an organization to reach each boy through the study of the Bible from a missionary viewpoint, through mission study, prayer, stewardship, and service.”

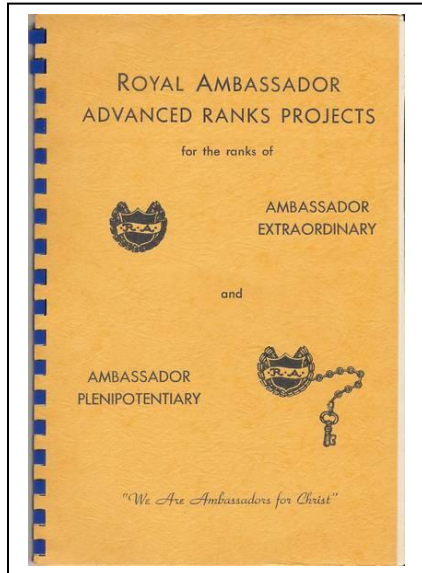
The *Guide for Counselors* listed the object for Royal Ambassadors within the RA constitution:

The object is to study God’s Word from a missionary viewpoint that his kingdom plans may be known; to study the lives and works of missionary heroes who as his ambassadors, have represented him in all lands, in other times as now; to endeavor by our conduct, contributions, and prayers to make Christ known to the world that many may know and be reconciled to him.

On July 1, 1953, a complete set of RA Ranking pins became available to signify ranks completed by the Royal Ambassador members. The Page, Squire and Knight pins were introduced. The original RA insignia pin that was worn by RA members now represented the rank of Ambassador. The complete RA insignia Armband that originally indicated that the person had completed the rank of Ambassador was now worn by those who completed the requirements for Page and became a member of the Royal Ambassador chapter.



In 1953, ranking cards were introduced and issued to each boy and served as a membership card. The cards were folded as illustrated and kept in the boy's pocket or billfold. One card was issued for the lower ranks of Page, Squire, and Knight. The high ranking card was issued for the ranks of Ambassador, Ambassador Extraordinary, and Ambassador Plenipotentiary. The cards listed the requirements for each rank and were signed by three members of a reviewing council.

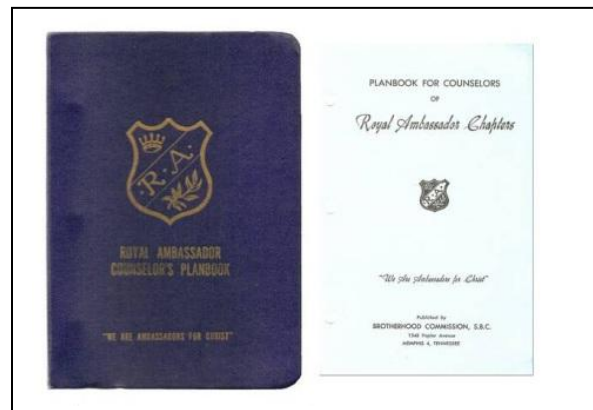


The Royal Ambassador Advanced Ranks Projects manual outlined 56 projects that an Ambassador could choose from to earn the ranks of Ambassador Extraordinary and Ambassador Plenipotentiary. He completed ten projects to earn the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and an additional eight projects to earn the rank of Ambassador Plenipotentiary.

Royal Ambassadors began experiencing rapid growth and expansion of the organization during the 40s and 50s. Several factors are listed below that helped influence the growth in the RA program:

- State and National RA leadership working together in promoting RAs, in addition to enlisting and training men to work with Royal Ambassadors.
- In 1954 the Southern Baptist Convention voted to transfer the sponsorship of Royal Ambassadors from WMU to the Brotherhood Commission over a three year period.
- The population explosion known as the "Baby Boom" that began in 1945 and tapered off in 1961 accounted for the large number of boys during this period.
- Denominational loyalty to Southern Baptist publications and programs.

The first *Royal Ambassador Counselor's Planbook* was published by the Brotherhood Commission in 1955. The planbook for counselors included forms to record information on officers elected, budget sheets, prospect list, monthly roll call, monthly planning sheets, ranking sheets, guidance information sheets for each RA member, the Standard of Excellence chart, chapter minutes sheets, monthly and quarterly report forms, and a Royal Ambassador calendar of activities. Prior to this date, each registered chapter received a report book annually from the state WMU office.



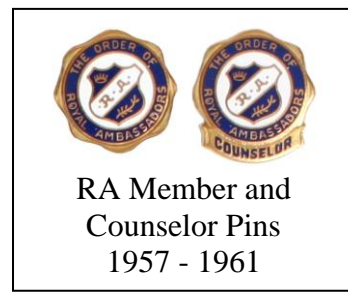
The Order of Royal Ambassadors 1957 - 1961

The Brotherhood Commission assumed sponsorship of Royal Ambassadors in 1957 under the leadership of Edward Hurt, Jr. Mr. Hurt's background as a coach and teacher was a tremendous factor in the success of his leadership in RAs. He served as the National RA leader from 1955 until 1968.



Edward Hurt pointing at RA Shield

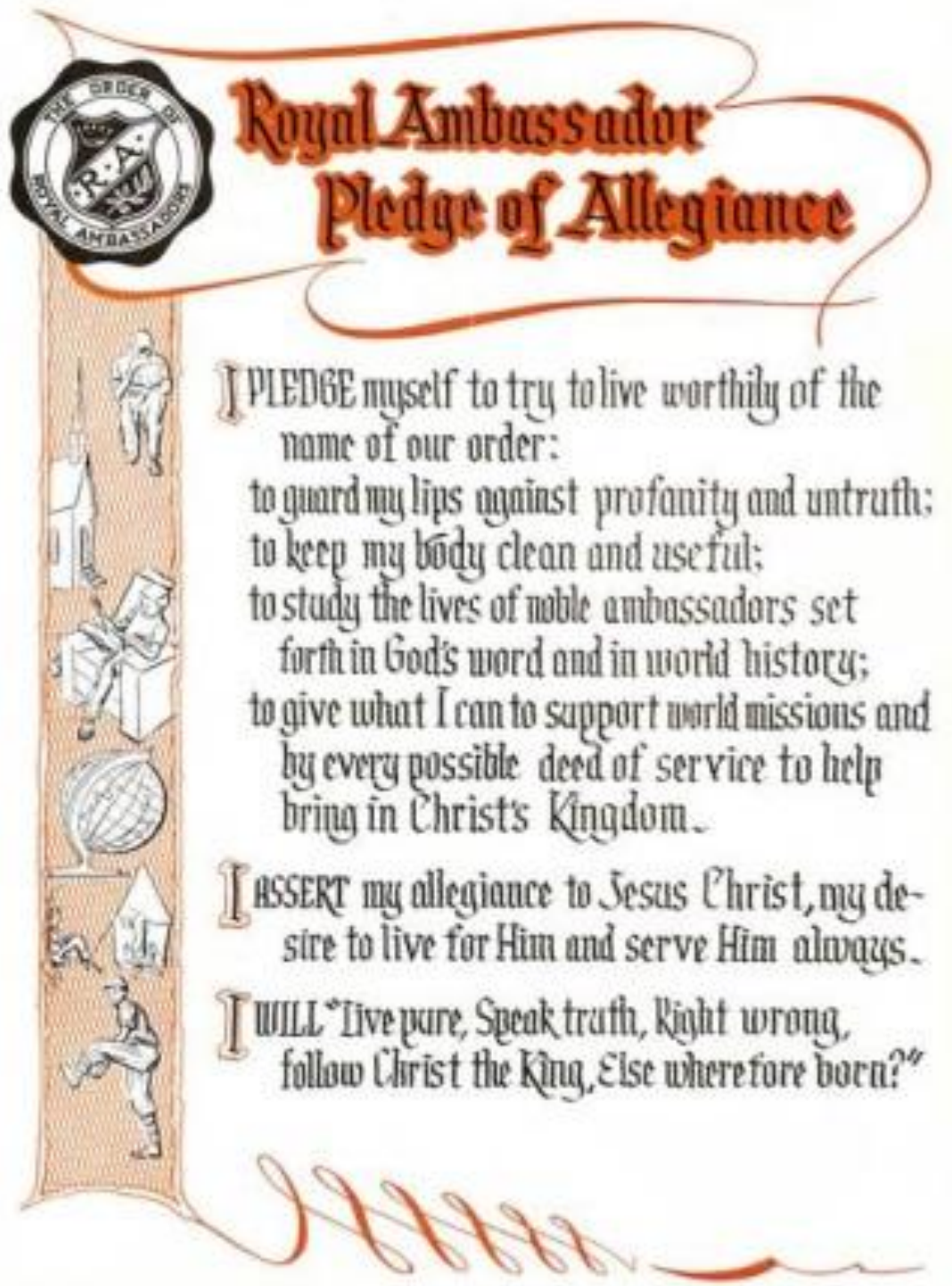
The Brotherhood Commission introduced a new RA insignia, flag, and pins.



The RA insignia consisted of the Ambassador shield encircled by the name of the organization and the irregular outline of the Brotherhood insignia, showing the relationship that RAs is part of the Brotherhood organization. The meaning of the RA insignia:

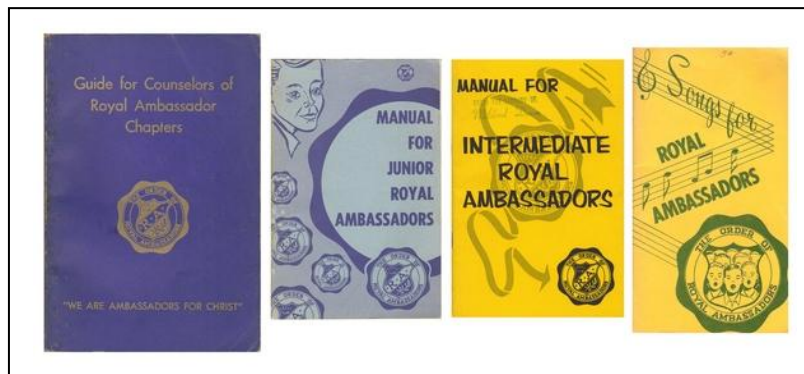
- The Shield at the center of the emblem speaks of faith and that the boy is an Ambassador for Christ. It was to remind a Page that he was a member of the Order of Royal Ambassadors. He was to try to live worthy of the name and purpose of the organization that he has chosen to join.
- The Bar across the shield with the letters R.A. upon it means that a Royal Ambassador is a worker. It was to remind a Squire that their task was to give Christ to the world and what it means to be a Christian each day.
- The Crown means faithful service to Christ the King and fellow men. It signified the rank of Knight. The five points of the crown represented the five points of the Royal Ambassador Allegiance and also for the five ideals of RA work; Bible study, Mission study, Prayer, Stewardship, and Service through Knightly Deeds.
- The Laurel Branch represented victory through Christ and for Christ. It signified the rank of Ambassador and completed the shield. The Bible says that God's Word will not return without results, and that Christ will be with his followers even to the end of the world.
- The colors of the insignia are royal blue, gold and white. Blue stands for loyalty: loyalty to Christ, our King; loyalty to his church and its program; loyalty to the RA organization and its ideals. White stands for purity: purity of body, mind, and soul. Gold stands for worth: the worth of Christ to the boy when he takes him as his ideal, accepts him as his Savior and builds his life around that great example.

The Royal Ambassador Pledge of Allegiance was reprinted with the new Order of Royal Ambassadors insignia.



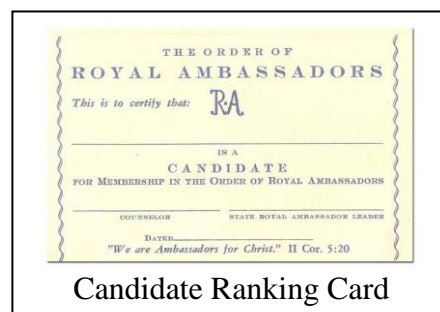
The last two paragraphs, beginning with, "I assert my allegiance to Jesus Christ" was only to be repeated by boys in the chapter that professed Christ as Savior.

The content of the leadership and boy's manuals remained similar to WMU publications. RAs continued using the same organizational leadership structure in addition to the advancement plan and awards established by the WMU.

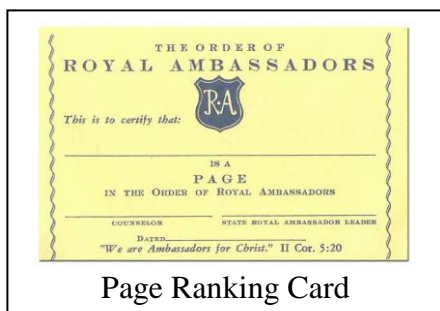


Any boy between ages nine and thirteen (Junior RAs) or thirteen and up (Intermediate RAs) could become a candidate for membership of the chapter upon recommendation of the recruiting embassy and a majority vote of the chapter membership. The boy became a member when he completed the requirements for the rank of Page. He maintained his membership on good behavior, regular attendance and participation in the work of the chapter. He earned other ranks when he fulfilled their requirements.

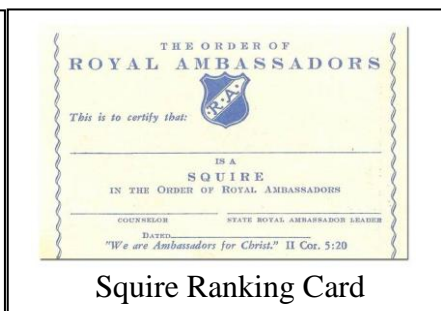
In 1957, new ranking cards were issued to the boys by the counselor as they progressed through each rank: Candidate, Page, Squire, Knight, Ambassador, Ambassador Extraordinary, and Ambassador Plenipotentiary. These seven cards served as membership cards and included a check list on the back of each card that outlined the requirements to be completed to achieve the next rank. The cards also included a section to record the names of the men that participated on the Reviewing Council that examined each boy. These cards could be folded as illustrated to be carried in the boy's billfold.



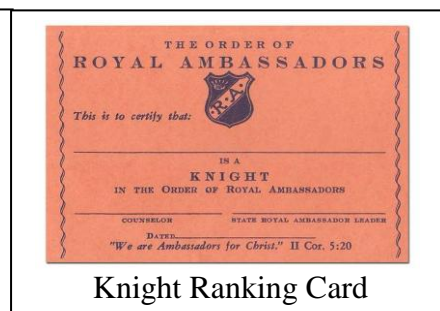
Candidate Ranking Card



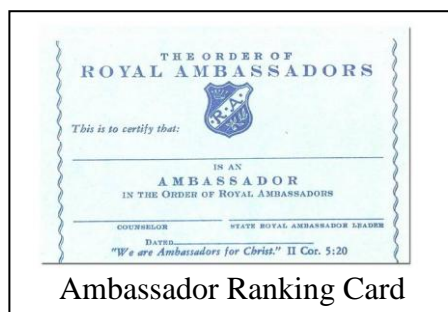
Page Ranking Card



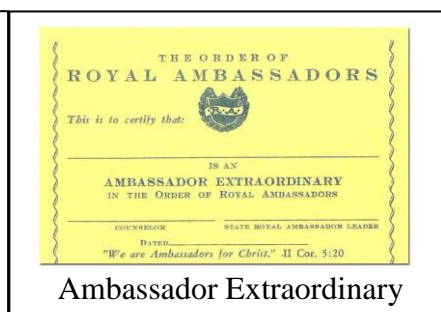
Squire Ranking Card



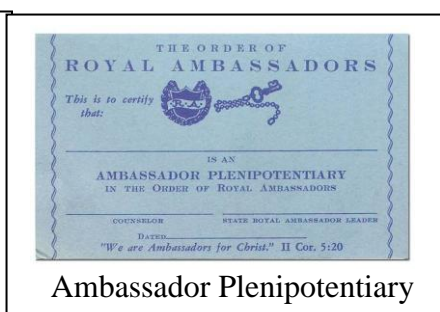
Knight Ranking Card



Ambassador Ranking Card

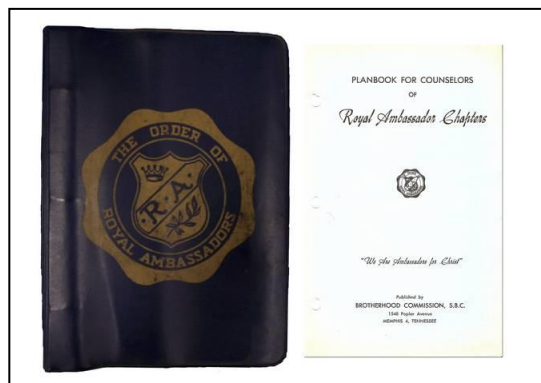
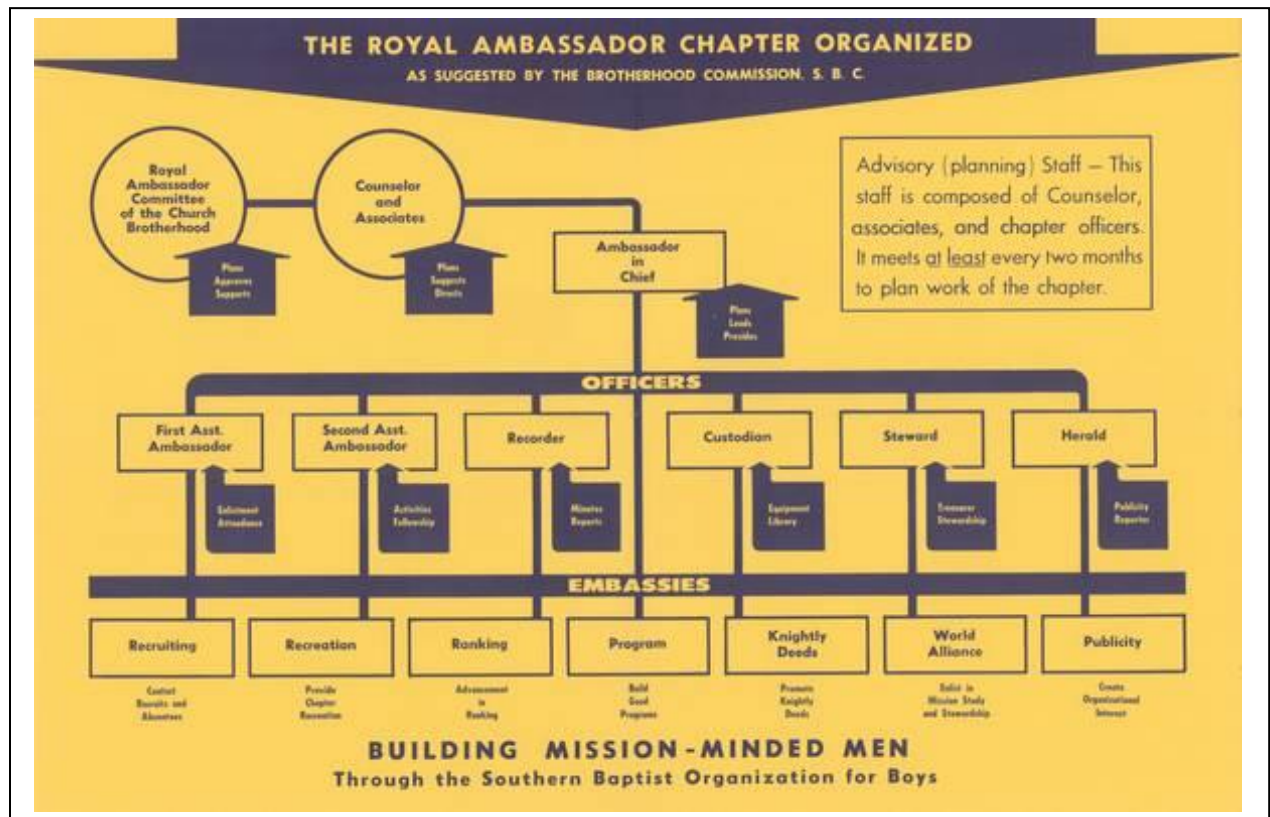


Ambassador Extraordinary Ranking Card




Ambassador Plenipotentiary Ranking Card

Chapter officers were elected annually (or semi-annually) to allow boys to develop leadership skills. Elections were scheduled one month prior to officers taking office to allow the boys to learn their responsibilities. No officer was allowed to succeed himself more than once to allow for new leadership. Work usually entrusted to committees by organizations was done in RA Chapters by embassies. Embassy leaders or chairmen were called chief envoy of their embassies. RA Counselors were encouraged to spend time in helping the elected officers and envoys understand their responsibilities and the best way to accomplish their assigned task. The organizational chart below outlines each of the RA officers and their primary responsibilities.

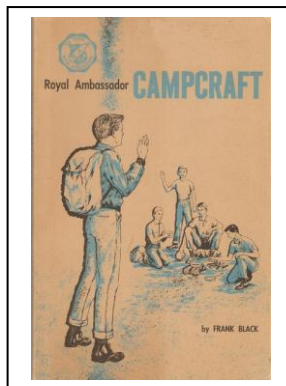


The second Royal Ambassador Planbook published by the Brotherhood Commission was released in 1957. The planbook included forms to record semi-annual chapter roll, information on officers elected, budget sheets, prospect list, monthly planning sheets, ranking sheets, guidance information on each RA member, the Guide for Achievement, meeting minutes sheets, monthly and quarterly report forms, and a Royal Ambassador calendar of activities.

In 1957 the Guide for Achievement replaced the original Standard of Excellence. The purpose of the guide was to establish a well-rounded mission program and improve the quality of work done by the chapter. Chapters that registered with the state office received a large Guide for Achievement poster. Chapters that reported exceeding the minimum standards of the guide received a Certificate of Recognition and were recognized as an Approved Chapter.

	<h1>ROYAL AMBASSADOR GUIDE FOR ACHIEVEMENT</h1>
	<h2>FOR AN APPROVED CHAPTER</h2>
I	MISSIONARY EMPHASIS <p>A monthly missionary program and stewardship emphasis, using basic materials provided in <i>Ambassador Life</i>. Include the regular Periods of Prayer and Offerings for Foreign, Home and State Missions according to church plan.</p> <p>*Complete a mission study book listed in <i>The World in Books</i>.</p>
II	LEADERSHIP <p>A minimum of one meeting of the Royal Ambassador committee of the sponsoring organization.</p> <p>An adult counselor recommended by the sponsoring organization and elected by the church.</p> <p>The counselor studying, or having studied, the <i>Guide for Counselors of Royal Ambassador Chapters</i> and <i>Junior or Intermediate Manual</i>.</p>
III	RANKING <p>A minimum of three ranking meetings.</p> <p>*A minimum of twenty-five per cent of beginning enrollment advancing at least one rank during the year.</p>
IV	MEMBERSHIP <p>An average attendance of at least fifty per cent of the beginning enrollment at regular chapter meetings.</p> <p>Fifty per cent or more of beginning enrollment receiving <i>Ambassador Life</i>.</p>
V	KNIGHTLY DEEDS <p>Chapter Knightly Deeds performed three times under the direction of the counselor and Knightly Deeds Embassy.</p>
VI	STEWARDSHIP <p>At least fifty per cent of the Baptist boys enrolled giving regularly to the Cooperative Program through the church—or</p> <p>At least twenty-five per cent of beginning enrollment enlisted as tithers.</p>
VII	REPORTS <p>*Chapter registered in the state office.</p> <p>Reports forwarded to the state Royal Ambassador leader as requested.</p>
VIII	RECREATION <p>Participate in at least one planned out-of-door activity (camping, hiking, athletics, etc.), or in at least one handicraft project.</p>

The first embroidered Royal Ambassador emblems became available in 1960. The Royal Ambassadors patch on the left was available from the Baptist Book Store (now called LifeWay) and was to be worn on the left sleeve. This patch was also sewed on the Royal Ambassador Baseball Cap. The Order of Royal Ambassadors patch was produced by the Brotherhood Commission.



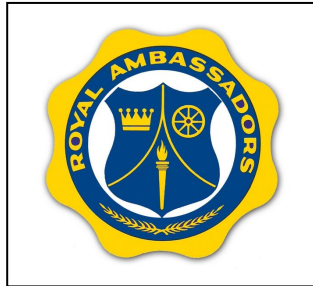
Camping has always been a very popular interest activity with Royal Ambassadors. The first *Royal Ambassador Campcraft* manual written by Frank Black was published in 1960. The first RA Campcraft patches were done in the RA colors (blue, gold, and white). The *Campcraft* manual (\$1.00 each) and patches were only available from the Brotherhood Commission. The first convention wide campcraft course was held at Camp Kittiwake in Mississippi. All state Brotherhood and Royal Ambassador Directors, Commission staff and other key leaders who attend the training course were qualified as American Camping Association Campcrafters. The ACA had an established adult campcraft training certification.



Royal Ambassadors 1961-1987

October 1961, the Brotherhood Commission introduced newly revised program materials for Royal Ambassadors. The new manuals emphasized providing experiences in group participation, individual advancement, relationships with others, and service projects.

The name of the organization officially changed from “Order of Royal Ambassadors” to simply “Royal Ambassadors” with a new RA insignia, flag, patch, pins, and RA Pledge.



RA Member & Counselor Pins
1961 - 1987

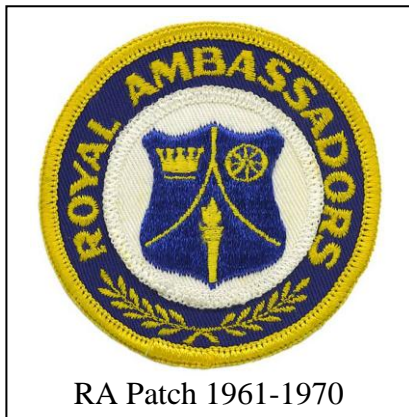
Royal Ambassadors 1961-1970

Royal Ambassadors were divided into the following three age divisions (chapters): Crusaders (ages 9-11), Pioneers (ages 12-14), and Ambassadors (ages 15-17). The Royal Ambassador emblem illustrated the three divisions within the RA organization.

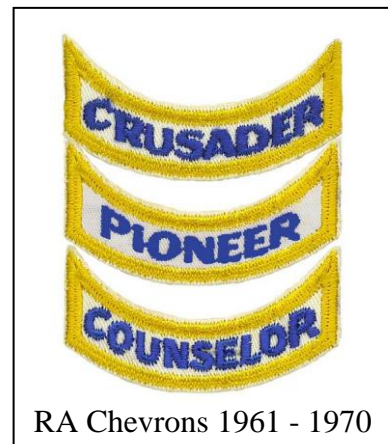
At the center of the Royal Ambassador Insignia is a Shield that represents faith in Christ. The Crown identifies the Crusader program. The crown represents Christ the King, and the five spokes of the crown represents the five parts of the RA Pledge. The Wagon Wheel identifies the Pioneer program. The eight spokes of the wheel represents the virtues of the Pioneer Code found in 2 Peter 1:5-7. The Torch identifies the Ambassador program and the lighted torch represents the light of the world, Jesus Christ. The Laurel Branch represents victory in Christ. The colors of the RA emblem are blue, gold and white. Blue stands for loyalty to Christ, to the church, and to the RA organization. Gold stands for the worth of Christ to each RA who accepts him as Savior and Lord and the worth of each boy who seeks God’s will and serves in the place God has chosen for him. White stands for purity of body, mind, and soul, as each boy tries to pattern his life after Christ.

Each boy received the RA Pin and/or RA Patch when they became a member of Royal Ambassadors. RA Chevrons designated age level group and leadership responsibility. These chevrons were worn under the Royal Ambassador Patch.

Royal Ambassador Officers were elected and served as leaders within the Crusader and Pioneer chapters. The three RA Officers were: President, Vice-President, and Secretary.



RA Patch 1961-1970



RA Chevrons 1961 - 1970

The Royal Ambassador Pledge written by Frank Black in 1961 replaced the RA Allegiance. The RA Pledge served as a focal point for Royal Ambassadors. RA members recited this pledge at each chapter meeting and were encouraged to live out the principles contained within the pledge.

the Royal Ambassador PLEDGE

As a Royal Ambassador I will do my best:

*to become a well-informed,
responsible follower of Christ;*

*to have a Christlike concern for
all people;*

*to learn how the message of Christ
is carried around the world;*

*to work with others in sharing
Christ; and*

*to keep myself clean and
healthy in mind and body.*



Crusaders

The Crusader Motto: “Serve Others in Christ’s Name.” Boys, ages 9 through 11, were eligible to join Royal Ambassadors when they completed the following membership requirements:

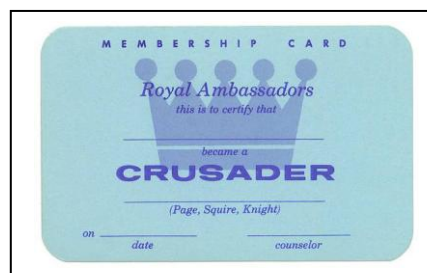
- Attend three out of four regular chapter meetings.
- Learn, recite and explain the RA Motto, “We Are Ambassadors for Christ.”
- Learn, recite and explain the Royal Ambassador Pledge.
- Read John 6:1-15. Read these verses to your parents and talk about what they mean.
- Learn and recite the Crusader Motto, “Serve Others in Christ’s Name.”
- Describe and explain the meaning of the Crusader shield.

Each boy was to have his parents initial that they had completed each of these requirements.

Then the members of the Crusader chapter welcomed each boy by:

- Accepting them as a member by a majority vote of the chapter members.
- Officially welcoming them into the chapter by participating in a Welcoming Ceremony planned by the chapter members.

Each boy that completed the membership requirements and participated in the welcoming ceremony received a membership card and the Lad shield. Then they could begin the Crusader Quest.



The Crusaders advancement known as the Crusader Quest (Adventure) used three advancement manuals: *Page* (age 9), *Squire* (age 10) and *Knight* (age 11). A boy could begin earning their age level shield or choose to earn the advancement pins in sequence. The Crusader Quest was built upon the following mission fields: My Life, My Home, My Chapter, My Church, My Community (Page), My State (Squire), My Nation (Knight), and My World (Knight). Once a boy earned his advancement pin, he could earn elective awards known as “Bars and Stars” by completing additional projects. Crusader leaders used the *Crusader Counselor’s Guide*.



The meaning of the Crusader shield is symbolized in the Crusader pins. Each pin is in the shape of a shield that represents faith in Christ and signifies that the life and teachings of Christ guide Crusaders in their daily lives. The white bar across the shield of the Page pin represents service to others in Christ’s name. The crown on the Squire shield represents Christ the King, and the five spokes of the crown represents the five parts of the RA Pledge. The laurel branch on the Knight shield represents victory as Crusaders worked to achieve the points of the RA Pledge.

Pioneers

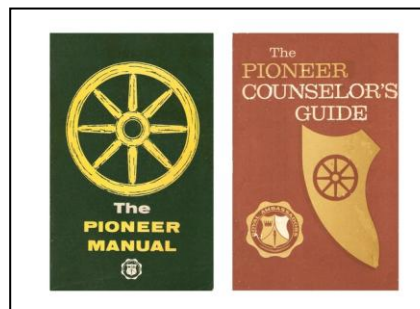
The Pioneer Motto: “Go Forward in Christ’s Name.” A boy was eligible to join a Pioneer chapter when he reached 12 years of age and continue to participate in the program until age 15. He became a member by completing the following requirements:

- Learn and explain the Royal Ambassador Pledge.
- Learn and explain the Pioneer Motto.
- Learn the eight parts of the Pioneer Code (2 Peter 1:5-7).
- Learn and explain the Pathfinder verse (Psalm 27:1) and the meaning of the Pathfinder badge.
- Be accepted by the members of the Pioneer chapter by participating in a Pioneer Initiation Service planned and conducted by the chapter.

Each boy received the Pioneer membership card and the Royal Ambassador pin and/or RA patch during the initiation service.



Pioneers used one advancement manual entitled *The Pioneer Manual*. The Pioneer advancement plan known as the Pioneer Trail included four stations: Pathfinder, Trailblazer, Ranger, and Guide. These stations were earned in sequence. At each of these stations a Pioneer had to complete the following four requirements: Pioneer Check-Up, Pioneering in God’s Word, Pioneering in Missions, and Pioneering with Your Chapter. Pioneer leaders used the *Pioneer Counselor’s Guide*.



The Pioneer Code (a system of principles or rules) outlined in 2 Peter 1:5-7 (faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly-kindness, love) served as a statement of general guideline to help a young man fulfill the Pioneer Motto: “Go Forward in Christ’s Name.”

The Pioneer badge is a shield enclosed by a gold circle. The shield stands for faith in Christ and signifies that the life and teachings of Christ guide Pioneers in their daily lives. The circle represents God’s unending guidance available to Pioneers. The colors on the badge are blue, gold, and white. Blue stands for a Pioneer’s loyalty to Christ, to his church, and to his Pioneer chapter. Gold stands for the worth of each Pioneer who accepts Christ as Savior and Lord. It indicates the worth of each Pioneer who seeks God’s will and serves in the place God has for him. White stands for purity of body, mind, and soul as each Pioneer tries to pattern his life after Christ.

Ambassadors

The Ambassador Motto: “Share the Light of the World.” A young man had to complete the following requirements to become a member of an Ambassador chapter:

- Be at least 15 and not more than 17 years of age.
- Know and willingly subscribe to the Royal Ambassador Pledge and Motto.
- Know and willing subscribe to the Ambassador Motto.
- Explain the significance of the Ambassador shield.
- Attend at least two chapter functions, including at least one regular chapter meeting.

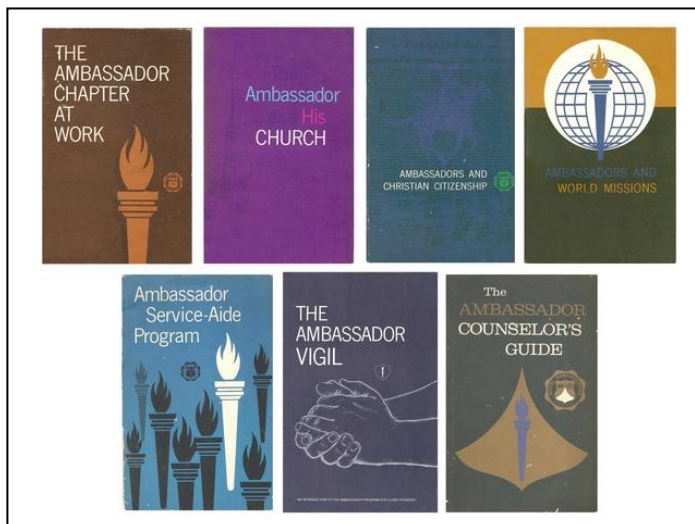
When a young man completed the above requirements, the members of the Ambassador chapter voted to admit him as a new member. Young men that receive an affirmative vote participated in the *Ambassador Vigil* and an Ambassador Signature Service. The *Ambassador Vigil* was a time alone with God participating in a spiritual inventory. The Ambassador Signature Service was the welcoming ceremony for Ambassadors. Each young man received the Ambassador membership card and the Ambassador pin and/or patch during the signature service.



The Ambassador shield is comprised of a lighted torch of gold on a background of blue. The shield stands for faith in Christ and signifies that the life and teachings of Christ guide Ambassadors in their daily lives. The lighted torch represents the light of the world, Jesus Christ.

Ambassador Star Tabs (not shown) were worn under the Ambassador Pin and indicated the number of years that a young man was active in the Ambassador program.

The *Ambassadors Counselor's Guide* was used by Ambassador leaders. Ambassadors used four booklets to become aware of their mission fields: *The Ambassador Chapter at Work*, *The Ambassador and His Church*, *Ambassadors and Christian Citizenship*, and *Ambassadors and World Missions*. Through the *Ambassador Service-Aide Program*, a young man could earn a Service Aide award by completing 150 hours of study and service in several ministry opportunities.



The Service-Aide Award was a gold wreath that attached to the Ambassador Pin. This was the highest achievement that a young man could earn as an Ambassador. Ambassadors that completed 150 hours of service and study under the supervision of a service-aide advisor earned a Service-Aide award and received a Service Aide Certificate.



Ambassadors
Service-Aide Award

**SERVICE
AIDE
CERTIFICATE**

This is to certify that:

*a member of the _____ chapter
of the _____ church in _____
has satisfactorily completed the requirements as
_____ AIDE and is hereby awarded
this certificate in recognition of his achievement.*

SERVICE-AIDE SUPERVISOR

DATE

COUNSELOR

ROYAL AMBASSADOR LEADER

STATE BROTHERHOOD DEPARTMENT

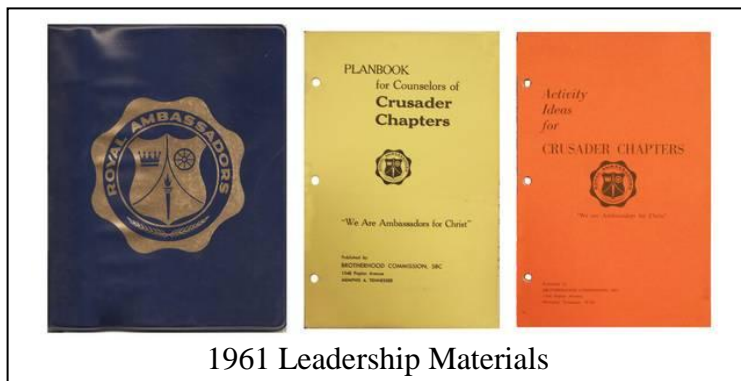
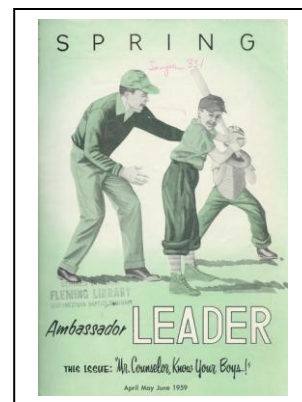


Young men could earn one or more Service-Aide awards in each of the following suggested ministry areas: Pastor's Aide, Educational Aide, Music Aide, Royal Ambassador Program Aide, Church Office Aide, Church Library Aide, Camp Counselor's Aide, and Camp Conservation Aide.

Royal Ambassador Resources

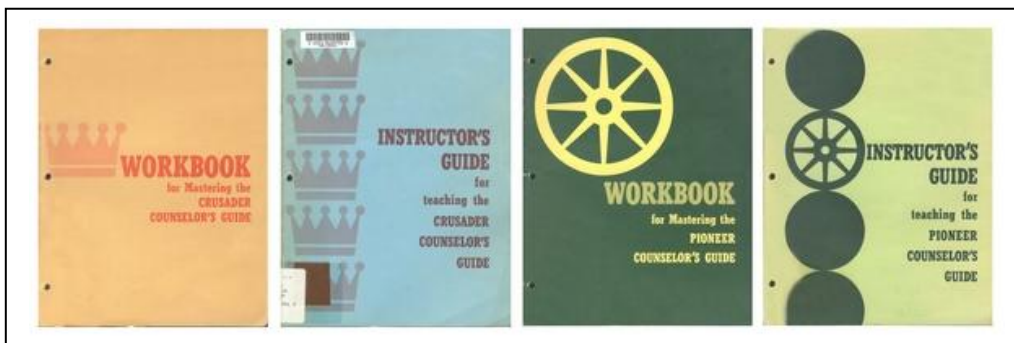
Ambassador Leader, a magazine for RA leaders began in the spring of 1959 and continued in circulation until the fall of 1970. This magazine provided helpful suggestions for leaders.

The *Planbook for Counselors* provided forms, guidance sheets, ranking record sheets and other valuable materials for leaders. The *Activity Ideas for Chapters* provided suggestions for mission projects and games. Both of these undated resources fit into a 7"x9" three ring binder.

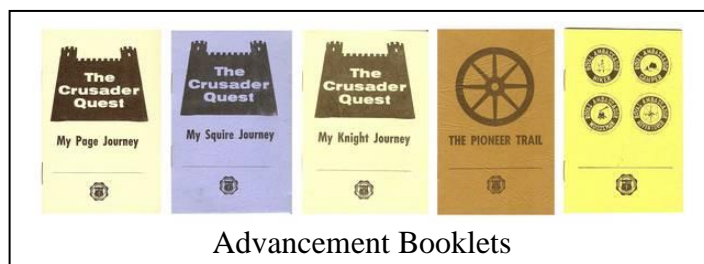


1961 Leadership Materials

Leadership Training Conferences provided an opportunity for new and experienced leaders to get together and exchange ideas. Each year hundreds of leaders attended the training conferences that were hosted by the regional leadership around the state. Workbooks and instructor's guides provided structure and curriculum in learning the basics of working with Royal Ambassadors.



Small advancement booklets (3" x 4") were introduced in 1961 to serve as a method of record keeping for the advancement awards. Boys initialed and dated each advancement requirement and counselors signed and dated each section when the boy completed the requirements. Advancement booklets were replaced by advancement record charts that were displayed on a wall of the chapter room.

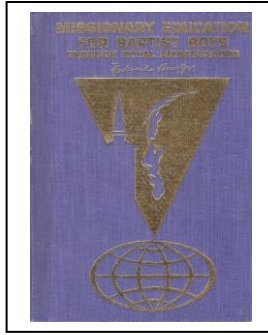


Advancement Booklets

In 1961, a new Standard of Achievement was introduced, replacing the Guide for Achievement. Listed below are the twenty goals of the Standard of Achievement:

1. The chapter has elected officers on an annual or semi-annual basis.
2. Every member of the chapter has been given an opportunity to participate in each meeting and serve on committees.
3. The chapter has a counselor approved by the Brotherhood and elected by the church.
4. Meetings of the chapter are held weekly.
5. The counselor of the chapter participates in regularly scheduled training sessions.
6. Training sessions for officers are held at least annually.
7. The counselor spends some time with officers preceding each meeting to plan and check on plans.
8. Membership in the chapter is open to new boys and young men.
9. The members of the chapter are formally welcomed into the chapter at a well-planned ceremony.
10. Each member is properly recognized for his advancement in the Crusader Quest, Pioneer Trail or Ambassador Service.
11. The chapter continually attempts to maintain a membership of not less than eight or more than 12 active members. It uses a specific plan to visit absentees and enlist new members.
12. The regular meetings of the chapter include all the elements of a chapter meeting, that is: Before the Meeting activity, Opening, Business, Meeting Feature, Counselor's Time, Closing, After the Meeting (clean up and evaluation).
13. Periodic chapter planning meetings are held in the homes of members at least three times a year.
14. The chapter members plan and participate in at least one service project each month.
15. Graded mission study is conducted during the months of November and February.
16. A plan has been developed for properly recognizing members who advance to older chapters.
17. A plan has been developed for inviting boy members of younger mission organizations when they become old enough to attend the chapter.
18. The counselor uses the evaluation form in the counselor's book to check the effectiveness of his chapter.
19. The counselor meets at least once a month with the Royal Ambassador Leader and committee to discuss the progress of his chapter.
20. The chapter members plan and participate in at least six outdoor events annually such as hiking, camping, games and sports, and mission visits.

Leaders were encouraged to evaluate their programs based on the standard established and set goals to meet and exceed these goals. Chapters that achieved the 20 goals established over a twelve month period of time received a large gold seal to attach to the left hand corner of their Registration Certificate.



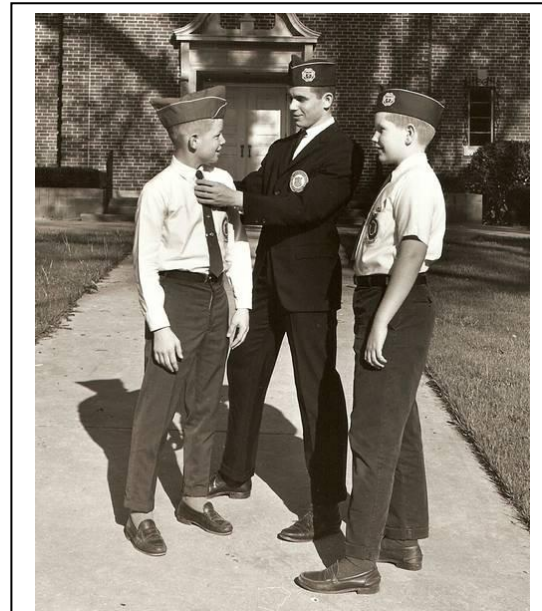
Missionary Education for Baptist Boys through Royal Ambassadors, written by Edward Hurt and published in 1967 served as a guide for Royal Ambassador leaders. This book states that: “The objective of Royal Ambassadors is to support the church in its task of bringing boys to God through Christ by leading them to a deeper commitment to missions, a more meaningful prayer life for missions, a larger stewardship on behalf of missions, and a personal involvement in missions. Royal Ambassadors seeks to reach this objective by providing boys opportunities for missionary education and missions involvement through experiences based upon their spiritual, social, intellectual, and physical needs.”

Royal Ambassador Uniforms

In October 1962, a Royal Ambassador uniform was introduced. The uniform consisted of a white dress shirt, dark blue trouser, an “overseas” type cap, the appropriate blue neck tie, and RA belt.

Ambassadors could also wear a dark blue sports coat. The RA emblem, shields, and other identifying items were worn as illustrated.

The Crusader neck tie was imprinted with a crown emblem, the Pioneer tie with a wheel emblem, and the Ambassador tie with a torch emblem. Other uniform accessories included a tie clip, cuff links, bolo tie and slide



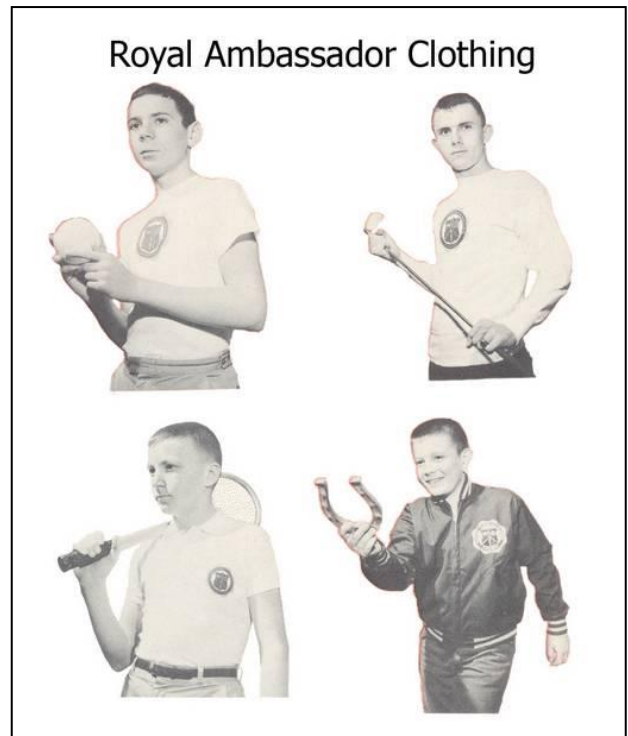
RA Uniforms 1962 - 1970



Royal Ambassador clothing with the new RA emblem was introduced in 1962 and was worn during casual and recreational activities.



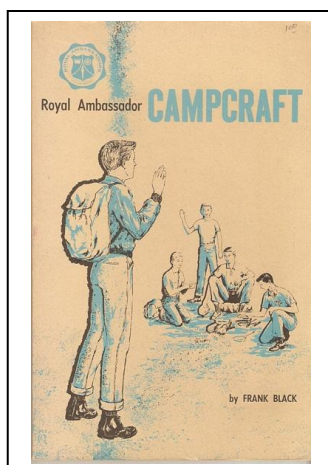
Royal Ambassador Clothing



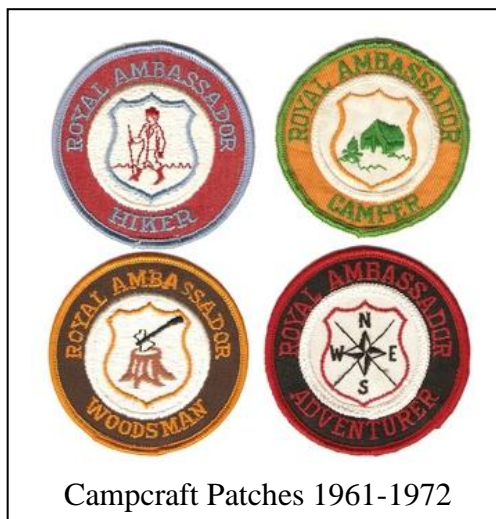
Royal Ambassador Recognition Service

Royal Ambassador Recognition Services were held during a worship services as a formal way for the church to recognize the accomplishments of each Royal Ambassador member. Recognition services were conducted annually (or semi-annually) by churches.

Campcraft

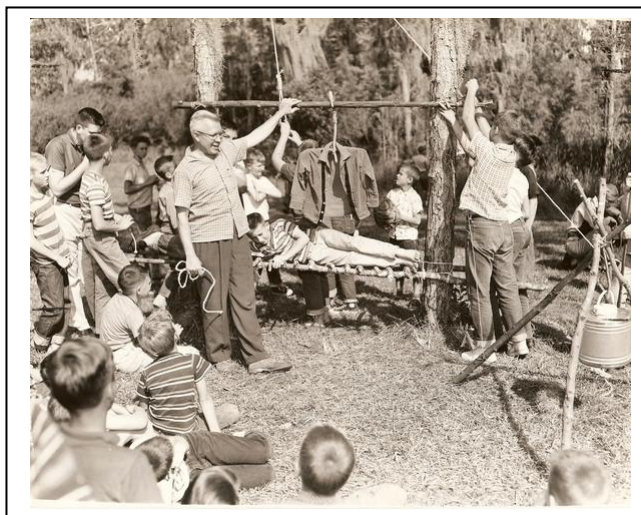


The *Royal Ambassador Campcraft* manual, written by Frank Black in 1960 was updated with the 1961 RA insignia. The Campcraft program for RAs had four progressive campcraft levels: *Hiker*, *Camper*, *Woodsmen* and *Adventurer*. The original campcraft patches were modified in 1961 with colored patches. The Campcraft manual and patches were available from the Baptist Book Store (LifeWay).



Campcraft Patches 1961-1972

The Royal Ambassador Campcraft program provides an interest activity for boys to learn basic outdoor living skills in the areas of Trip Planning, Equipment and Shelter, Rope Craft, Tool Craft, Fire Craft, Cooking, First Aid, Safety and Sanitation, Map and Compass, Nature, Conservation, and Fun and Worship. The campcraft program also allows an opportunity for leaders to share God's Word with the boys in the splendor of God's creation.



Over the years many missionaries have expressed thanks to their former RA leaders for teaching them basic and advanced campcraft skills that they used in primitive mission assignments. These missionaries were able to utilize the knowledge and skills that they had acquired through campcraft training to survive comfortably in remote outdoor living conditions.

In the early 1960s, the American Camping Association campcraft program was used to train Royal Ambassador leaders in campcraft skills. The skill levels that could be earned were: Campcrafter, Advanced Campcrafter, Tripcrafter, Trip Leader, Tripcraft Instructor, Campcraft Instructor, and Director of Instructors.



In Texas, more than 30 men were certified as ACA Campcraft Instructors. Most of these men served in key RA leadership positions around the state. Their influence upon the Royal Ambassador program is still being reflected today. Texas Baptist Men used this campcraft program for adults until 1977.



Herb Weaver and Milton Schmidt
Instructing a Campcrafter course - 1966



ACA Campcraft Instructors

Royal Ambassadors 1970-1987

October 1970, the responsibility of missions education for boys ages 6-8 was transferred from the Woman's Missionary Union to the Brotherhood Commission. The Royal Ambassador organization was refined that year with new guidance materials grouping boys to their school grade rather than age. RAs were divided into two age groups: Crusaders chapters included boys in the 1st through 6th grades and Pioneers chapters included boys in the 7th through 12th grades.

The *Crusader Counselor's Guide* encouraged RA leaders to allow the boys to participate in making decisions. "Boy participation in the chapter is necessary for best results. This means helping boys:

- Satisfy their desire to be of worth to some group outside the home.
- Have a measure of freedom from their parents and still maintain their sense of parental security.
- Become involved in a laboratory of Christian living where they can learn to give and take through close association with others their own age.
- Face the consequences of their own actions.
- Have fellowship with Christian boys which helps them feel their worth as they contribute to the chapter.

The chapter setting provides boys opportunities to make decisions, abide by the decisions of the majority, and to share responsibilities. It also provides opportunities for the boys to build a foundation of Christian values to guide them in life, and serves as a natural setting for boys to get to know many friendly Christian adults."

Crusader chapters were to provide opportunities for boys to serve as helpers rather than having elected officers as in previous years. Crusader leaders were to appoint different boys each week to assist in different parts of the chapter meeting such as leading the group in saying the RA Pledge, saying the Crusader Motto, checking attendance, arranging the room, and running errands.

Pioneers still elected officers at least once a year to assist the counselor in leading the chapter. Beginning in 1970, there were four leadership positions as Pioneers officers: President, Secretary, Mission Activity Leader, and Interest Activity Leader.



RA Patch 1970 - 1994



RA Chevrons 1970 - 1976

In 1970, the meaning of the RA insignia changed slightly to reflect the two programs of the RA organization.

In the center of the insignia is a shield which represents faith in Christ (Ephesians 6:16). Faith in Christ is the beginning point of missions. The shield is divided into three parts. The crown represents the Crusader program and is symbolic of the crown of life promised to those who love God (James 1:12). The wheel represents the Pioneer program, symbolizing the pioneer spirit of probing into the depths of spiritual adventure (2 Peter 1:5-8). The torch represents the mission task of these two programs. As a Royal Ambassador, the boy is made aware of God's mission for him – representing Christ in all areas of life (2 Corinthians 5:20). The boy is to let his light so shine before men that they may see his good works and glorify God (Matthew 5:16). Below the shield is a palm leaf symbolizing achievement. In the Christian's life, a boy can tire of always doing the right thing without seeing visible results. The Bible says Christians eventually will see results, if they faint not (Galatians 6:9).



In 1978, the meaning of the RA insignia was modified again reflecting the two programs of the RA organization.

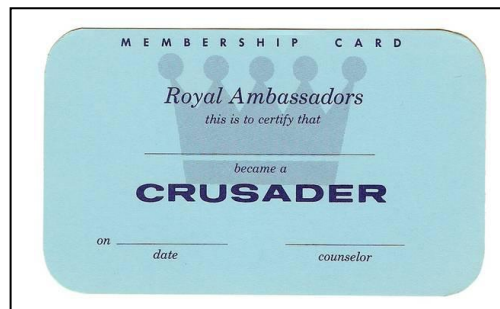
A shield of faith, (Ephesians 6:16), occupies the center of the Royal Ambassador emblem. The Crusader crown represents Christ the King. The five parts of the crown represent the five parts of the Royal Ambassador pledge. The eight spokes of the Pioneer wheel signify faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love as described in the Pioneer code, 2 Peter 1:1-7. The lighted torch represents the light of the world, Jesus Christ and Ambassadors holding forth the light of the world. A foundation to the word Royal Ambassadors is a laurel branch which represents victory in Christ Jesus. The entire emblem is surrounded by the scalloped circle which is symbolic of the Brotherhood program, and represents the unending guidance that one may receive from God. Royal Ambassador colors are blue, gold and white. Blue stands for the boy's loyalty to Christ, to his church and his chapter. Gold stands for the worth of each boy who accepts and serves Christ as Savior and Lord. White stands for purity, a clean body and mind, as each Royal Ambassador tries to pattern his life after Christ.

Crusaders

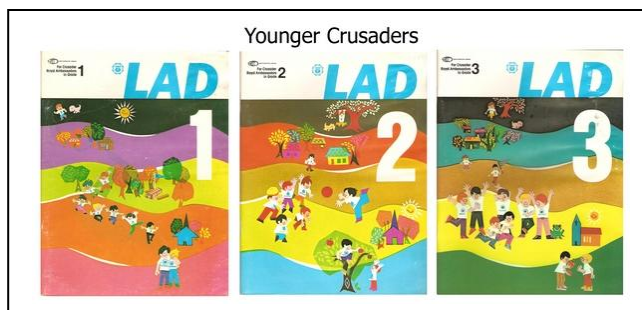
Revised Crusader Motto: “Help Others in Jesus’ Name.” A boy in the 1st through 6th grades could join a Crusader chapter when he completed the following simplified membership requirements:

- Learn and explain the Crusader Motto.
- Read (or have read to him) John 6:1-15 and explain the passage to his parents.
- Be in a Welcoming Ceremony.

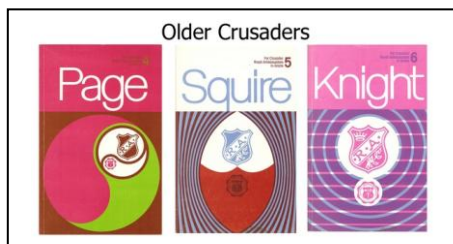
The Crusader membership card and the Royal Ambassador pin and/or patch was presented to the boy during the welcoming ceremony.



Crusaders were divided into two groups based upon their age level characteristics. Younger Crusaders for boys in the first through third grades used the advancement manuals that corresponded to their school grades: *Lad 1* for 1st graders, *Lad 2* for 2nd graders, *Lad 3* for 3rd graders. The advancement program for younger Crusaders focused upon the following mission fields: Your Life, Your Home, Your Chapter, Your Church, and Your Neighborhood.



New manuals for Older Crusaders corresponded to their school grades. The *Page* manual was used by 4th graders, *Squire* for 5th graders, *Knight* for 6th graders. A new Squire pin with a laurel branch on the Crusader shield instead of a crown replaced the previous Squire pin, which meant that a boy now received the crown on the Crusader shield when he completed the requirements for Knight. The advancement program for older Crusaders focused upon the following mission fields: Your Life, Your Home, Your Chapter, Your Church, Your Community (Page and Squire), Your State (Squire), Your Nation (Knight), and Your World (Knight). Athletic Patches were available for Older Crusaders.

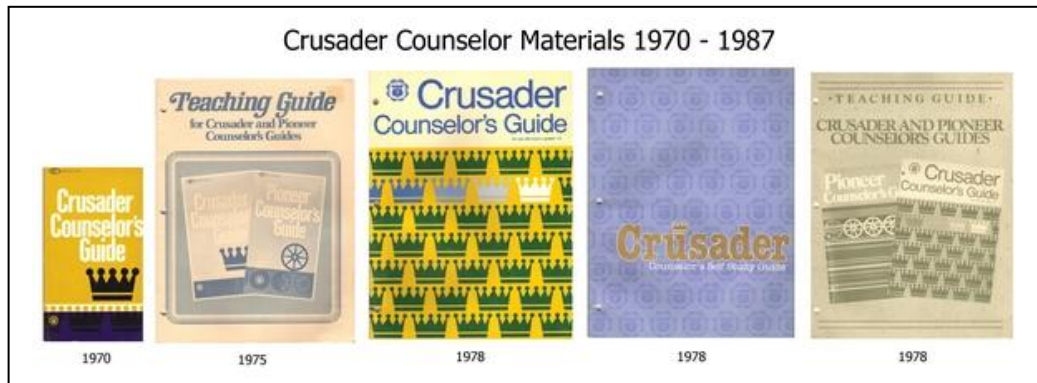


Crusader Awards

From 1970 until 1973, younger Crusaders that completed the *Lad 1* and *Lad 2* manuals received a certificate and boys that completed the *Lad 3* manual received the Lad pin. In 1973, the Lad 1 and Lad 2 advancement pins replaced the certificates. In 1975, elective bars and stars became available for younger Crusaders. In 1976, the Lad 3 pin replaced the Lad pin. The Lad Athletic Patch was earned only by a Lad 3.



Crusader leaders used the *Crusader Counselor's Guide*. The *Crusader Counselor's Guide* was updated in 1978. This guide book provided an overview of the Royal Ambassador organization and suggestions for working with boys, their parents and other leaders.

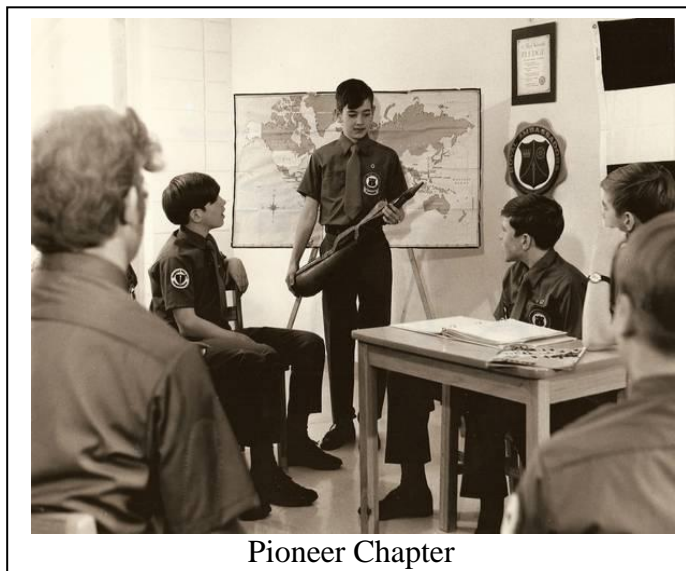
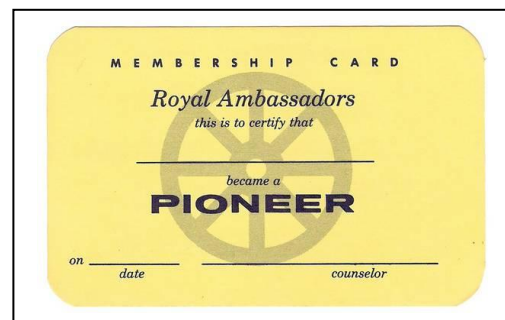


Pioneers

The Pioneer Motto: “Go Forward in Christ’s Name” based upon Matthew 28:19-20. Young men in the 7th through 12th grades were encouraged to participate in this missions organization for male youth. A young man became a member of a Pioneer chapter when he completed the following simplified membership requirements:

- Learn and explain the meaning of the Royal Ambassador Pledge.
- Learn and explain the meaning of the Royal Ambassador Motto.
- Learn and explain the meaning of the Pioneer Motto.
- Participate in a Pioneer Initiation Service.

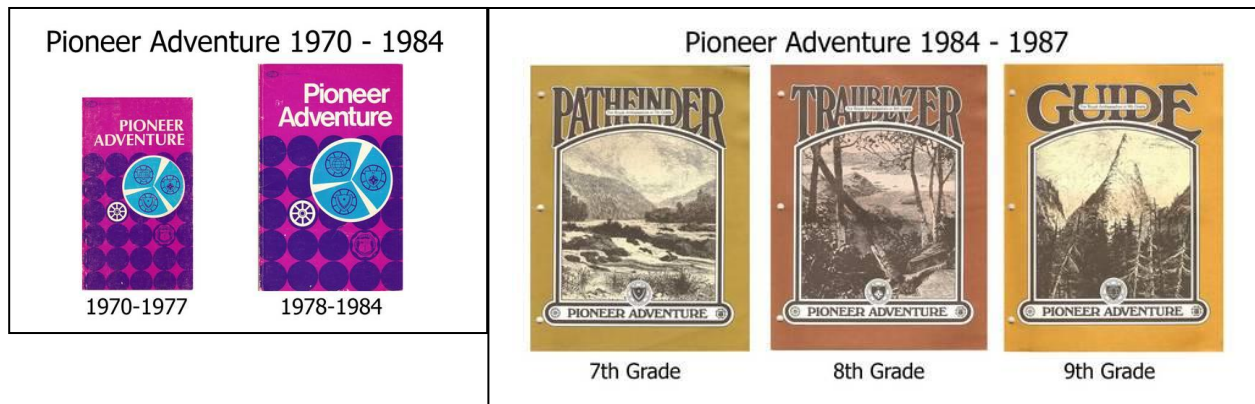
The young man received a Pioneer membership card and the Royal Ambassador membership pin and/or Royal Ambassador patch, if he did not receive one as a Crusader.



Pioneer Chapter

Pioneers were divided into two age groups. Younger Pioneers for boys in the 7th through 9th grades and Older Pioneers for young men in the 10th through 12th grades.

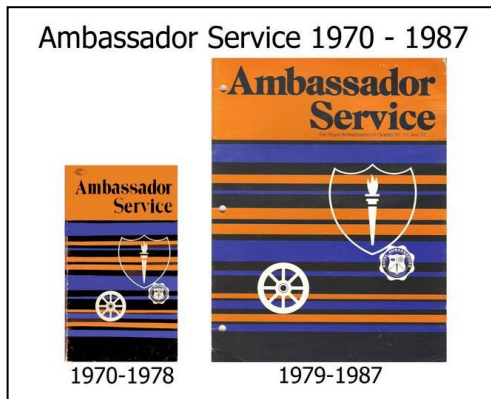
Younger Pioneers for boys in the 7th through 9th grades used the *Pioneer Adventure* manuals for their advancement plan. The Pioneer Adventure was built upon the five parts of the RA Pledge: informed and responsible, Christ-like concern, world missions, mission activity, and character and fitness. Pioneers from 1970 until 1984, earned the Pioneer Adventure awards in succession. From 1984 until 1987, the *Pioneer Adventure* manuals were associated with a grade level.



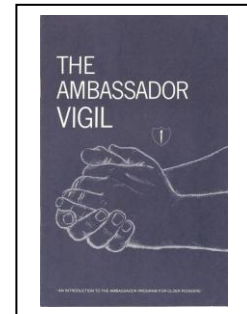
The Pioneer Adventure Awards: Pathfinder, Trailblazer, and Guide pins and chevron were awarded to boys that completed the 15 advancement requirements for each of these levels. The Pioneer Achievement Award patch and certificate was presented to each boy that completed 20 additional mission projects. The Pioneer High Achievement Award patch and certificate was presented to boy that completed an additional 25 mission projects.



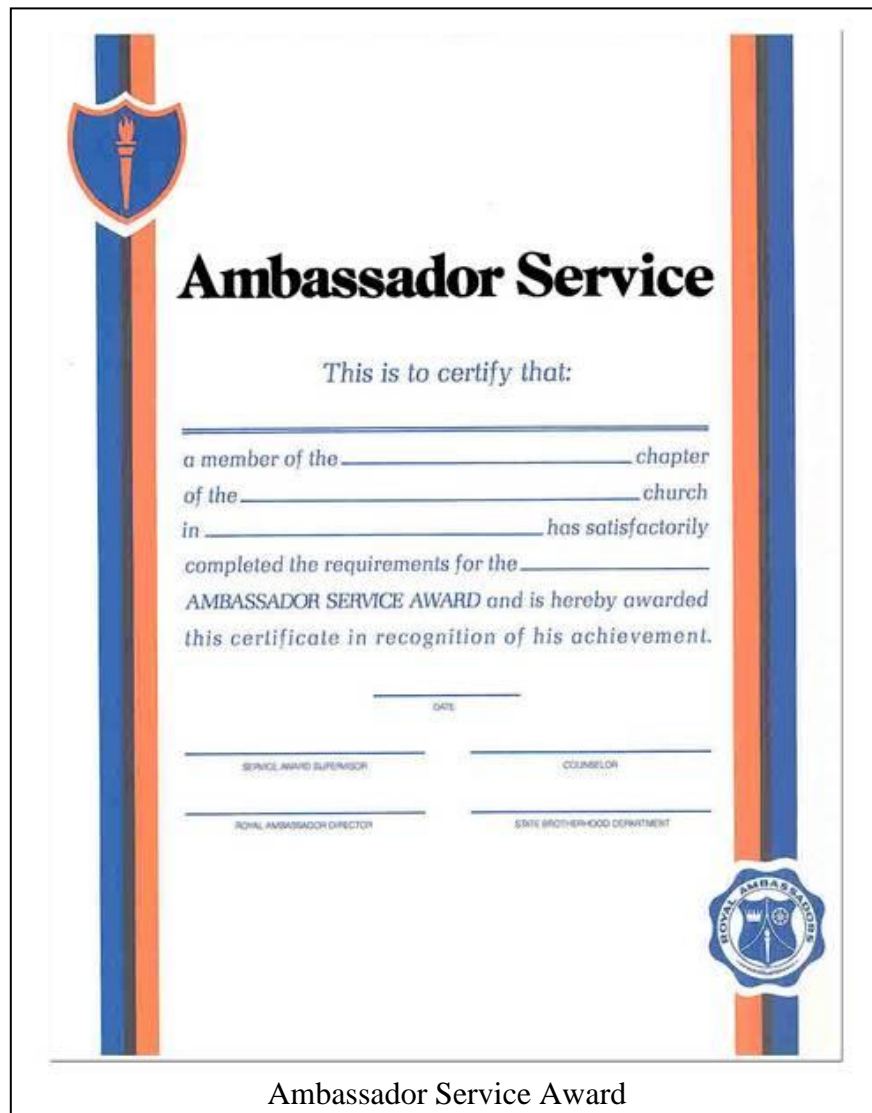
A Pathfinder is a person who *discovers a way*. He must find his mission and seek out the best possible way to arrive at his goal. A Trailblazer is a person who *makes a way* toward a new goal. As he blazes a trail, he will gain knowledge and develop attitudes that will help him to be an Ambassador for Christ. A Guide has already discovered, chosen, and made a way toward the goal. He studies to understand all he can about his responsibilities of being an Ambassador for Christ so that he may *help another find the way*.



Older Pioneers for young men in the 10th through 12th grades used the *Ambassador Service* manual as their advancement plan. Before beginning the Ambassador Service requirements, each young man participated in the *Ambassador Vigil*, a “watch with God” and spiritual inventory.



Ambassador Service Aide awards were earned by high school young men who completed 150 hours of study/service in one of the following service areas: Worship, Witness, Ministry, Education, and Application. Ambassador Stars that once indicated years of service now indicated additional Service Aide Awards.



Once a young man completed 150 hours in all five service areas for a total of 750 hours, he could apply for and receive the National Service Award from the Brotherhood Commission. The first two Ambassador Service National Awards were presented to David Butler and David Bratcher of North Dallas Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas at the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, MO, June 1970.



The Ambassador Service Project patch was a national award presented to young men for special accomplishments or who participated in a project of one week in length or longer.

Pioneer leaders used the *Pioneer Counselor's Guide*. In 1978, the *Pioneer Counselor's Guide* was updated. This guide book provided an overview of the Royal Ambassador organization and suggestions for working with young men, their parents and other leaders.



Royal Ambassador Resources

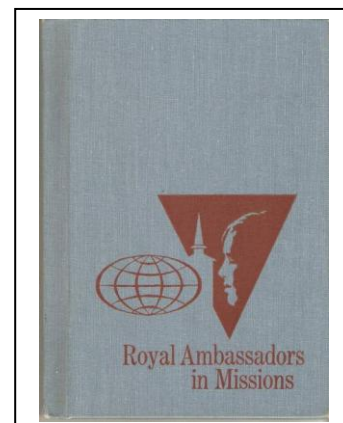
October 1970, the first issues of *Crusader* magazine for grades 1st-6th and *Probe* magazine for grades 7th-12th were released replacing *Ambassador Life* that had been in publication since 1946. New leadership magazines, *Crusader Counselor* and *Probe Leadership Edition* were also introduced replacing *Ambassador Leader* that had been in publication since 1959. *Brotherhood Builder* began as a quarterly magazine providing guidance for Royal Ambassador leaders in addition to the *Crusader Counselor's Guide* and *Pioneer Counselor's Guide*. Annual RA Planbooks provided additional information and helps for leaders.



The following leadership resources were used by the Royal Ambassador Director, Committee, Counselors and Assistants in understanding boys, beginning and maintaining the Royal Ambassador programs, and involving boys in missions.



Royal Ambassadors in Missions was written by Jay Chance who served as the National Royal Ambassador Director from 1967 until 1975. Jay stated, "Royal Ambassadors today has the same mission purpose it had in 1908. The methods have changed to keep the interest of today's boys. Leaders of Royal Ambassador realize today the necessity of making it possible for boys to become more involved in the study of and participation in missions at their own level of development and understanding."

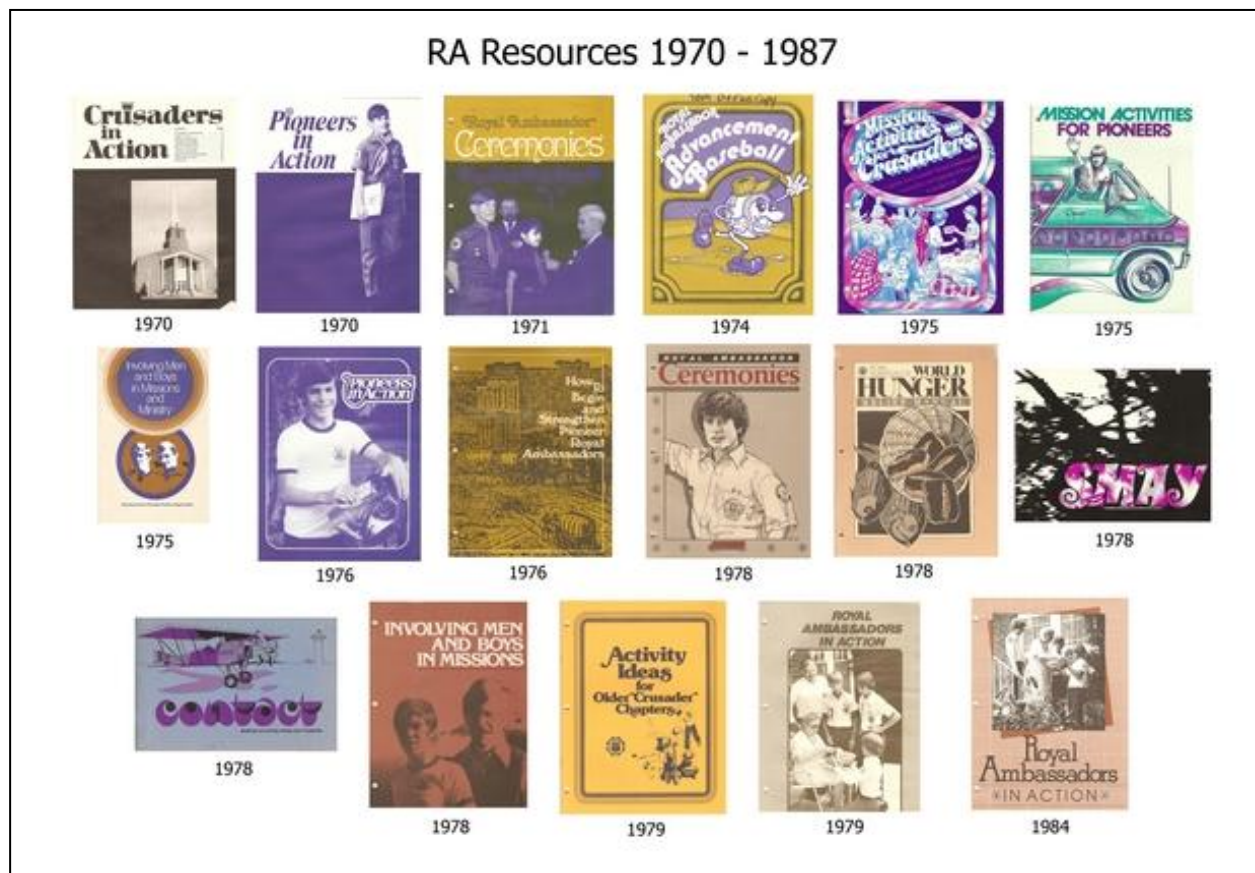
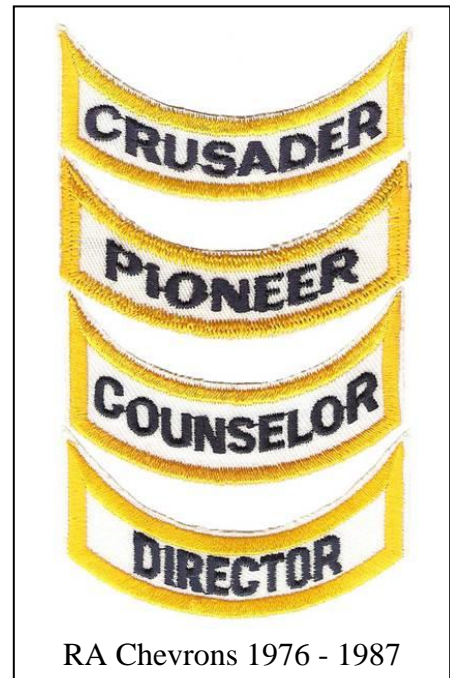


In 1976, the Director chevron replaced the Leader chevron that was introduced in 1970. The Royal Ambassador Director provided overall direction to the RA program in a local church. He enlisted and trained Counselors and kept the church informed about RA activities and needs.

The Royal Ambassador Committee worked with the RA Director in planning and carrying out the RA activities in the local church.

Chapter Counselors lead each RA chapter meeting, guiding the boys in mission study, advancement, mission projects and interest activities.

The following covers represent Royal Ambassador resources that were produced by the Brotherhood Commission for RA leaders from 1970 through 1987. The date under each resource indicates the first year of publication.



Mission and Interest Activities

Ambassadors (high school age RAs) selected by their state Brotherhood Department who served as Pages at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting received an Official Page patch from 1970 until 1987. SBC Pages who were RAs that served prior to 1970 wore either the Ambassador Shield or the Royal Ambassador Patch. High school age young men (now called Challengers) continue to serve as Pages at the SBC annual meeting.



The SMAY patch was awarded to RAs that participated in a week or longer Summer Mission Activity for Youth.



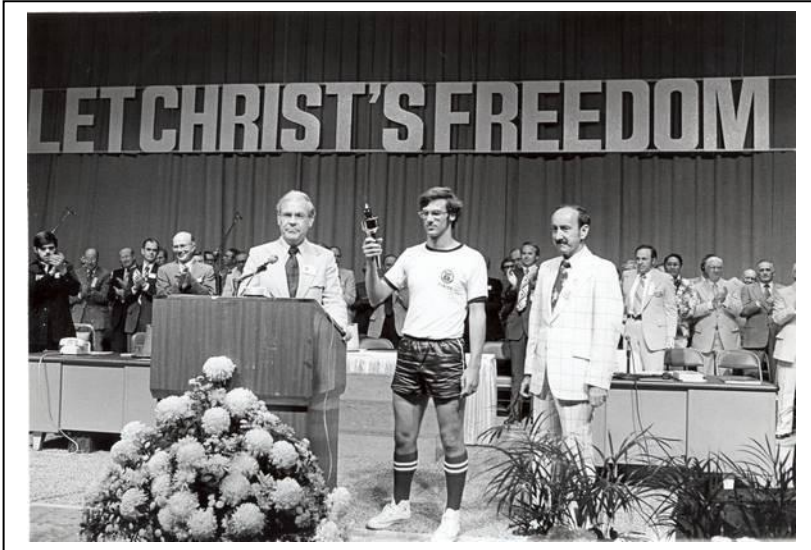
Page Patch 1970 - 1987

The RA Racer event was added to the Texas State RA Congress in 1972. Several associations were already hosting similar events around the state. The Royal Ambassador Racer patch and year chevrons became available for RA groups in 1985 and were awarded for participating in this interest activity.



RA Racers

On May 13, 1975, Royal Ambassadors gathered at Memphis Auditorium for a birthday breakfast celebration commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program that began in Memphis, Tennessee in 1925. During the celebration a torch was ignited and passed to Lamar Thomas from Chattanooga, Tennessee who was the first torch runner. There were 2,154 Ambassadors from several states who participated in the "Carry the Torch" project. Runners carried the torch a distance of more than 1300 miles on the journey from Tennessee, through Alabama and Georgia to arrive in Miami, Florida. The torch was officially presented to the messengers attending the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting on June 10, 1975.

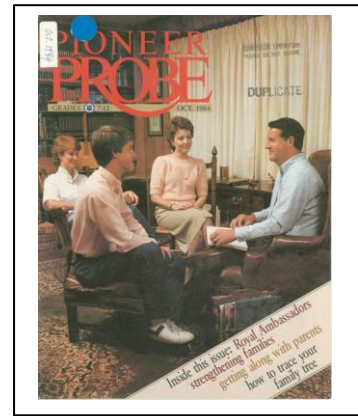


The Home Mission Hiker patch was designed by Pioneer Tom Brecht of Columbus, Ohio in 1975 as part of his Pathfinder advancement project. Tom was awarded the first Home Mission Hiker patch. The Home Mission Hiker patch and mile marker chevrons (added in 1976) were awarded to Royal Ambassadors for participating in a walk-a-thon mission project for Home Missions. RAs collected money and sent it to the SBC Home Mission Board. These patches were available from 1975 until 1984. Chevrons indicated cumulative miles walked over successive hikes for home missions.

In 1976, Texas Baptist Men responded to an invitation to provide assistance to the World Hunger Relief Research & Training Farm near Waco, Texas. Bosie Boswell, a RA leader and member of Texas Baptist Men, wrote a *World Hunger Relief Manual* for Royal Ambassadors that included four lesson plans for Younger Crusaders, Older Crusaders, Pioneers and Ambassadors. This manual also included several mission projects and games to play to help boys understand the importance in responding to world hunger. This manual was published by Texas Baptist Men and distributed to Royal Ambassador chapters throughout Texas. In 1978, the Brotherhood Commission produced a World Hunger Relief manual for Royal Ambassadors.



Pioneer Probe magazine for Pioneers replaced *Probe* in October, 1984, and continued in circulation until 1987 when it was replaced by *Pioneer* magazine.



The first World Walk cassette and patch were introduced in 1984 replacing the Home Mission Hiker patch. The chevrons for both Home Missions and Foreign Missions were awarded for Royal Ambassadors that participated in a walk-a-thon for each mission project.

The Home Mission and Foreign Mission Study patches were awarded to Royal Ambassadors that participated with their church in these mission studies. The RAs were encouraged to participate in the week of prayer for Home Missions each March and Annie Armstrong Mission Offering in addition to the week of prayer for Foreign Missions each December and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Annual chevrons were added for additional years of participating in these studies and week of prayer for missions.



Royal Ambassador Uniforms

In the fall of 1970, a new series of Royal Ambassador uniforms were introduced. Crusaders wore navy slacks and navy shirt with a 12" gold clip on tie. Pioneers and Counselors wore astro blue slacks and astro blue shirt with a gold tie. Pioneer ties were 45" in length and Counselor ties were 52" in length. Gray dress trousers with a navy blue blazer with the RA emblem and white dress shirt with gold tie were worn on special occasions.

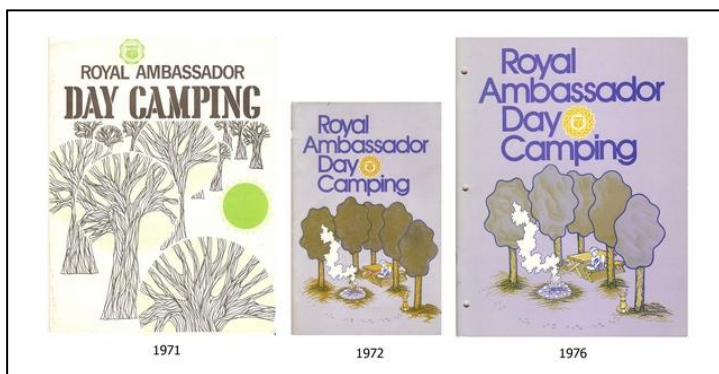
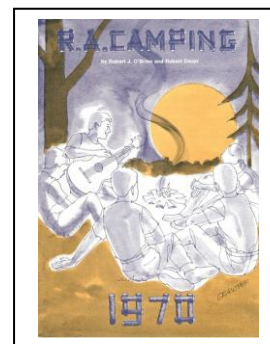
Royal Ambassador T-shirts and sweat shirts were still available and worn during recreational activities and events.



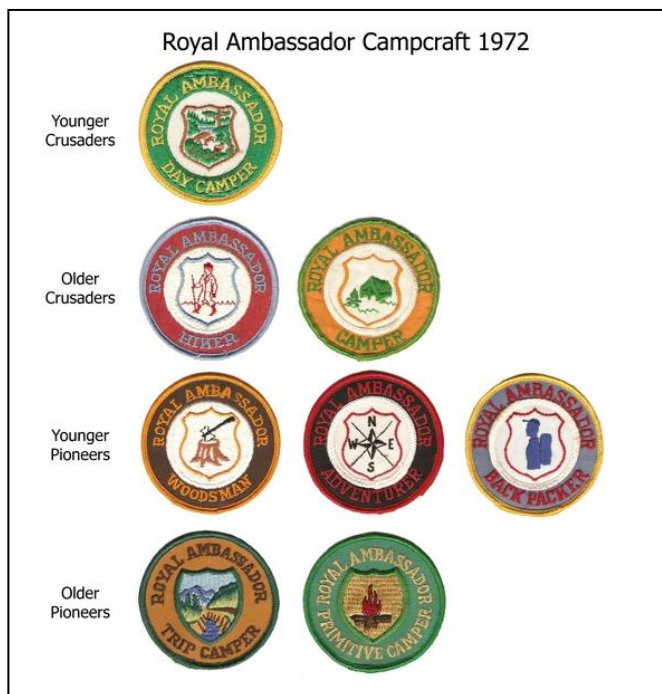
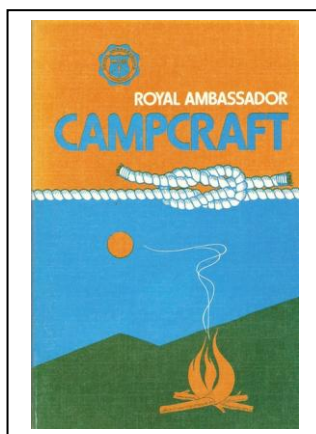
Royal Ambassador Uniforms - 1970

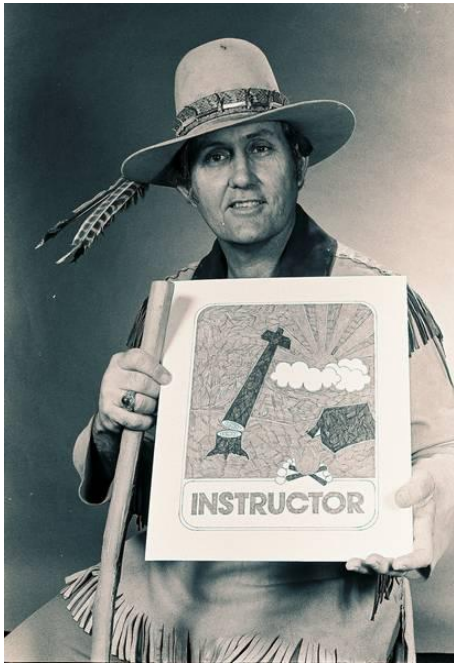
Campcraft

The learning of Campcraft skills has provided an effective way of reaching and teaching boys not only basic outdoor living skills but also about God's creation and how they were created to be a part of God's mission of sharing His light to others. In 1970, Robert O'Brian and Bob Dixon published *R.A. Camping* that outlined the importance of camping in the Royal Ambassador organization and incorporating teaching campcraft skills at camp.



The Day Camper patch introduced in 1972 was earned by Younger Crusaders that attended a day camping program. The Royal Ambassador Campcraft manual was revised in 1972 by Frank Black and Charles Doggett. The RA Campcraft program expanded with patches that older RAs could earn by learning twelve skills areas of campcraft and completing the requirements for each of these levels.





Jerry Bob Taylor presenting the TBM Adult Campcraft Program

In 1977, Texas Baptist Men introduced a new Adult Campcraft Training program. This training program incorporated spiritual applications and Biblical emphasis. This replaced the American Camping Association campcraft program that had become more youth oriented. The TBM campcraft training program consisted of four levels: *Frontiersman*, *Outdoorsman*, *Voyager*, and *Instructor*. These campcraft levels were earned in sequence. The Director of Instructors rating was by appointment only by the state office to coordinate campcraft trainings throughout the state. This program was shared with other state leaders and the Brotherhood Commission in 1979.

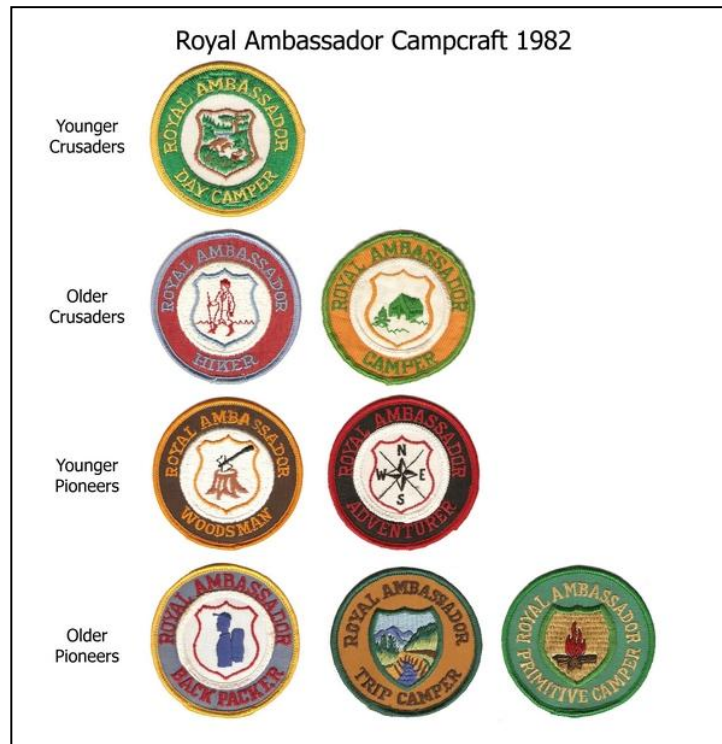
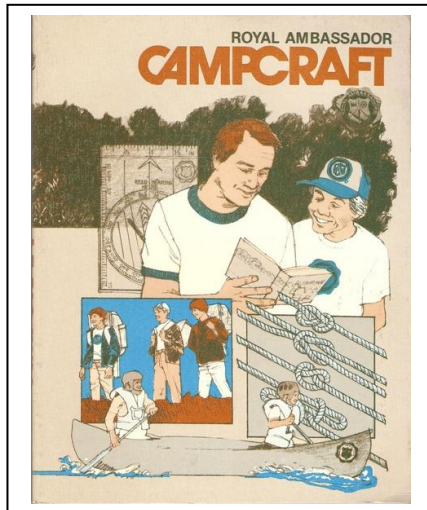


Adult Campcraft Patches

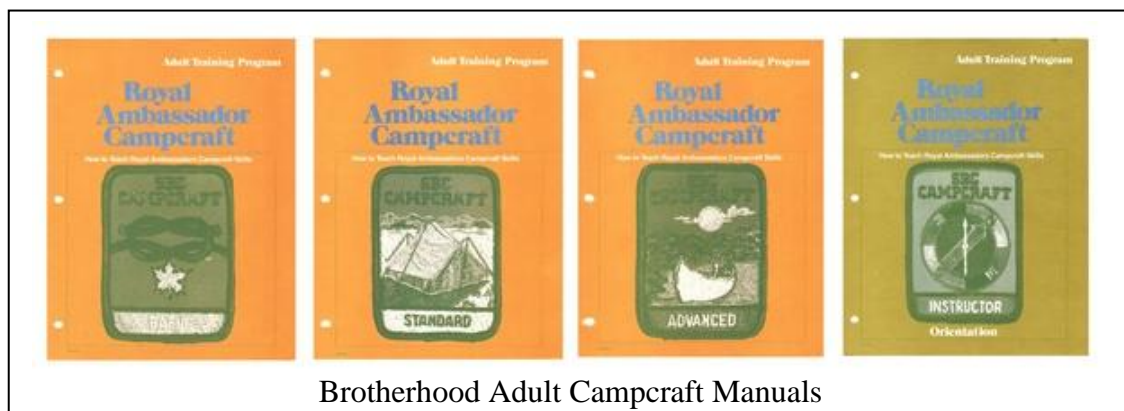


Adult Campcraft Training Manuals

In 1982, a new Royal Ambassador Campcraft manual was released. The RA Campcraft program remained the same except for the Backpacker level was moved to Older Pioneers.



In 1982, the Brotherhood Commission introduced a convention-wide adult campcraft training program. Training levels included: *Basic*, *Standard*, *Advanced*, and *Instructor* and *Advanced Instructor*. After completing the *Basic* and *Standard* campcraft courses, a person could earn the *Instructor* rating to teach the *Basic* and *Standard* levels. In order to achieve the rating of *Advanced Instructor*, a person had to complete the *Basic*, *Standard* and *Advanced* levels. The Royal Ambassador chevron was worn by Royal Ambassador leaders that completed one or more adult campcraft courses.



Royal Ambassadors 1987-1994

In October 1987, the Brotherhood Commission introduced new Royal Ambassador program materials. Royal Ambassadors became a missionary organization for boys in the 1st through 9th grades. RAs were divided into three age groups: Lads for boys in the 1st - 3rd grades, Crusaders for boys in the 4th - 6th grades, and Pioneers for young men in the 7th - 9th grades. Older Pioneers in the 10th - 12th grades became High School Baptist Young Men.

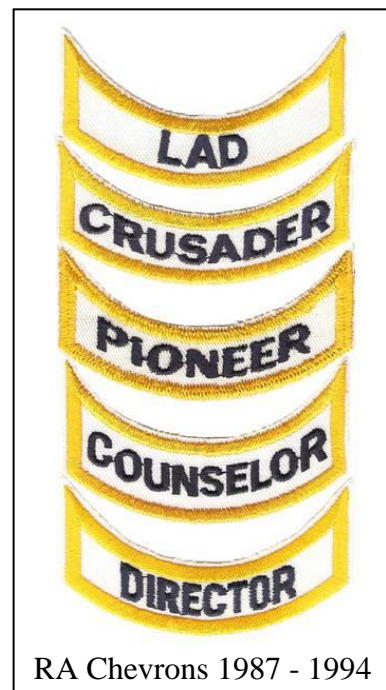
A modified RA insignia and RA flag symbolized the revised Royal Ambassador program. An outer ring replaced the scallop border of the 1961 RA emblem making the new RA insignia similar to the shape of the RA Patch. The RA Pledge remained the same as introduced in 1961. The Brotherhood Membership Pin was used by all Brotherhood organizations beginning in 1987.



Brotherhood
Membership Pin

The meaning of the RA insignia was modified to reflect the three programs within the Royal Ambassador organization.

A shield of faith (*Ephesians 6:16*) occupies the center of the Royal Ambassador insignia. In the lower center of the shield is the Lad torch representing Jesus Christ, the light and foundation of the world. The Lad torch appears at the base of the Royal Ambassador insignia. It is the very foundation of and supports the entire Royal Ambassador program. The Lad torch lights the pathway for the boy as he tries to learn and do what is pleasing to God. 'Walk as children of light, trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord' (*Ephesians 5:8b, 10 NAS*). In the upper left hand corner of the shield is the Crusader crown. The crown represents Christ, the King. The five points of the crown represent the five parts of the RA Pledge. In the upper right hand corner of the shield is the Pioneer wheel. The eight spokes signify faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love as described in the Pioneer Code, 2 Peter 1:5-7. Underneath the shield and as a foundation to the name Royal Ambassadors is a laurel branch. The laurel branch represents victory through Jesus Christ as Royal Ambassadors work to achieve victory through the RA Pledge. Royal Ambassador colors are blue, gold, and white. Blue stands for the boy's loyalty to Christ, to his church, and to his chapter. Gold stands for the worth of each boy who accepts and serves Christ as Savior and Lord. White stands for purity, a clean body and mind, as each Royal Ambassador tries to pattern his life after Christ's.



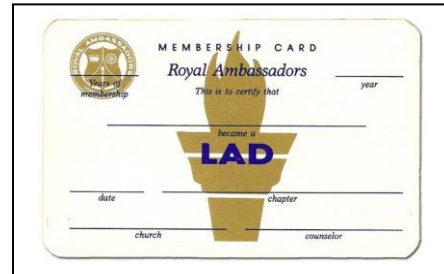
RA Chevrons 1987 - 1994

Lads

Boys in the 1st through 3rd grades became a separate program within the Royal Ambassador organization in 1987 known as Lads. Prior to this date, Lads had been considered as Younger Crusaders. Lads received their own chevron to wear under the Royal Ambassador patch and their own Lad Motto: “Learning And Doing in Jesus’ Name.”

A boy in the 1st through 3rd grades could join a Lad chapter when he completed the following membership requirements:

- Learn and explain the Lad Motto. Talk with your parents about how you can learn and do in Jesus’ name.
- Read or have read to you 1 Samuel 2:26, 3:1-10. Talk with your parents about these Bible verses.
- Be in a Welcoming Ceremony.



The Lad membership card, the Brotherhood membership pin and/or the Royal Ambassador patch was presented to the boy during the welcoming ceremony.

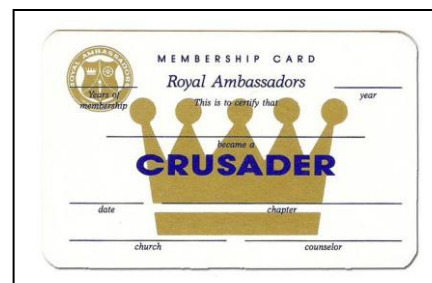
New advancement manuals for Lads became available in the fall of 1987: *Lad 1* (1st Grade), *Lad 2* (2nd Grade), *Lad 3* (3rd Grade). Once a boy became a member of Lads, he learned about and participated in missions activities in these five mission fields: Your Life, Your Home, Your Chapter, Your Church, and Your Neighborhood to earn his advancement pin. The boy earned elective bars and stars by participating in additional mission activities. The requirements for the grade level Lad Athletic patches were listed in the back of each of the Lad manuals.



Crusaders

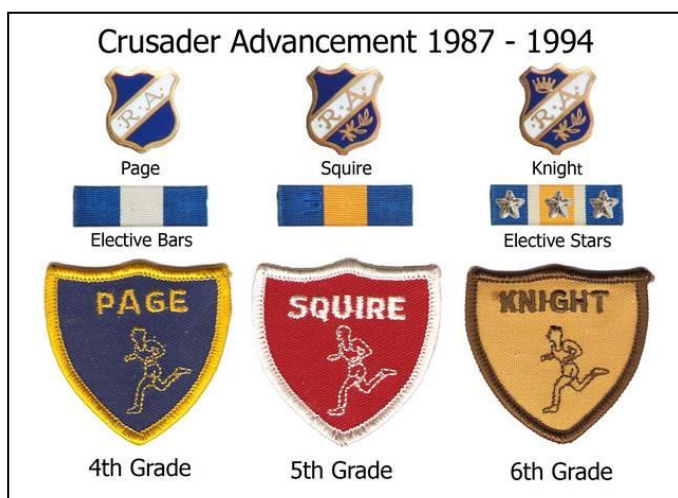
The Crusader Motto remained the same: "Help Others in Jesus' Name." A boy in the 4th through 6th grades could join a Crusader chapter when he completed the following membership requirements:

- Learn and explain the Crusader Motto. Discuss with parents how you can help others in Jesus' name.
- Read John 6:1-15 in your Bible. Talk with your parents about these Bible verses.
- Learn and explain the Royal Ambassador Motto: "We are Ambassadors for Christ."
- Be in a Welcoming Ceremony.



The Crusader membership card, the Brotherhood membership pin and/or the Royal Ambassador patch was presented to the boy during the welcoming ceremony.

Crusaders received new advancement manuals in the fall of 1987. Boys participated in the Crusader Quest (Adventure): *Page* (4th Grade), *Squire* (5th Grade), *Knight* (6th Grades). The Crusader Quest included learning about and participating in mission activities in the following mission fields: Your Life, Your Home, Your Chapter, Your Church; Your Community, Your State (Squires), Your Nation and Your World (Knights) to earn the advancement pin that corresponded to their grade. The boy earned elective bars and stars by participating in additional mission activities. The requirements for the grade level Crusader Athletic patches were listed in the back of each of the Crusader manuals.

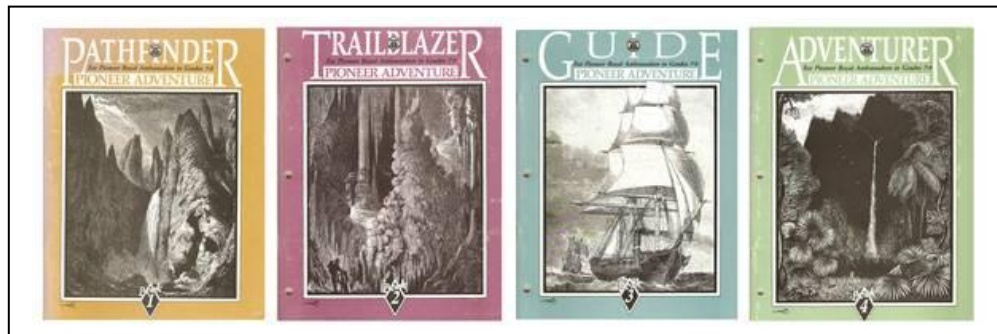
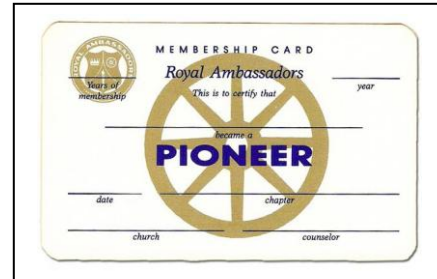


Pioneers

The Pioneer Motto remained the same: “Go Forward in Christ’s Name.” A boy in the 7th through 9th grades could join a Pioneer chapter when he completed the following membership requirements:

- Learn and explain the Royal Ambassador Pledge.
- Learn and explain the Royal Ambassador Motto.
- Learn and explain the Pioneer Motto
- Participate in a Welcoming Ceremony by members.

The Pioneer membership card, the Brotherhood membership pin and/or the Royal Ambassador patch was presented to the boy during the welcoming ceremony.



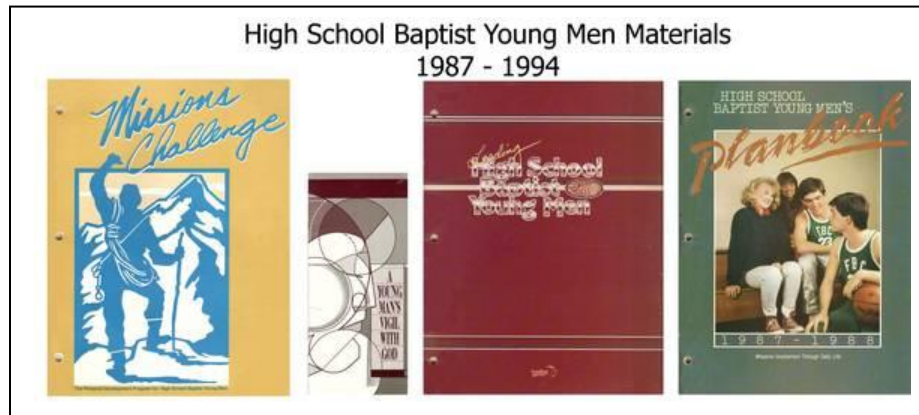
The Pioneer Adventure (*Pathfinder*, *Trailblazer*, *Guide* and *Adventurer*) was built upon the Royal Ambassador Pledge with five sections in each manual: Informed and Responsible, Christ-like Concern, World Missions, Doing Missions, and Character and Fitness. Young men completed the Pioneer Adventure manuals in sequence at their own rate to earn their advancement pins. A young man had to complete 25 activities listed in the Adventurer manual to earn the Adventurer pin, an additional 30 activities to earn the Adventurer wreath for the Experienced Adventurer award, and an additional 35 activities to earn the Adventurer star for the High Adventurer award.



Once a young man completed all of the requirements for the Pathfinder, Trailblazer, Guide and all three levels of the Adventurer, he could apply to receive the national award. In 1989, Matthew Dunaway, an eighth grader from Oxford, Alabama was the first recipient of the National Pioneer Adventure Award.

High School Baptist Young Men

In 1987, Royal Ambassadors became a missions education organization for boys in the 1st through 9th grades. Older Pioneers (Ambassadors) were separated from Royal Ambassadors and became High School Baptist Young Men, a missions education program for young men in the 10th through 12th grades.



The purpose of High School Baptist Young Men was to involve young men in missions by challenging them to live out their faith daily with personal experiences in witness and ministry, in addition to giving and praying to support persons involved in missions.

Each young man was encouraged to make a personal commitment to the following covenant.

High School Baptist Young Men's Covenant

As a part of the High School Baptist Young Men's Unit in my church, I commit myself to:

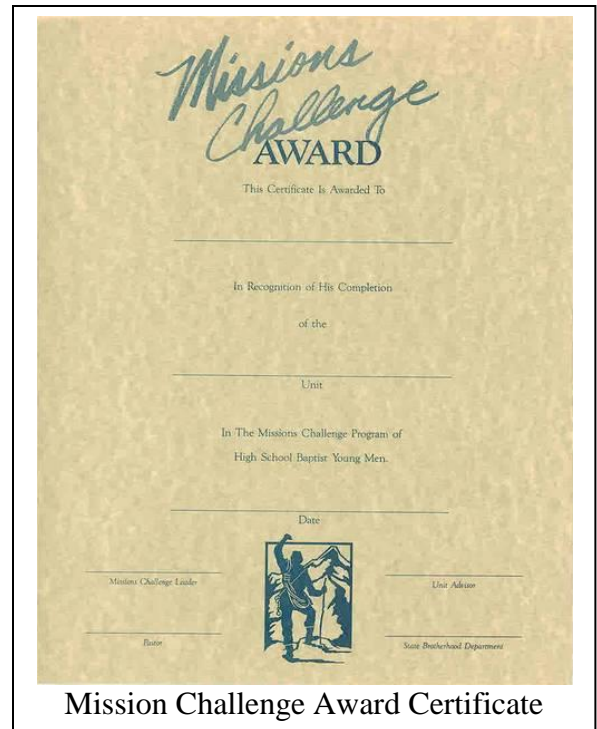
- GATHER regularly with other young men for fellowship, mission study, and mission action;
- ENCOUNTER God daily through a time for personal prayer and Bible study;
- DISCOVER my own calling to and gifts for service, witness, and ministry;
- PARTICIPATE in missions projects and ongoing ministries through my church;
- GIVE willingly to support missions around the world through the Cooperative Program;
- BECOME an informed and responsible disciple of Christ;
- CELEBRATE the Christian life through a commitment to weekly worship in my church.

High School Baptist Young Men units were lead by church elected officers that consisted of President, Vice President, Secretary, Missions Activity Leader and Mission Study Leader. The primary role of the High School Baptist Young Men's Advisor (adult leader) was to help guide the officers to involve teenagers in missions.

A Young Man's Vigil with God was a small booklet designed to be used by young men during a personal retreat "watch with God" to allow him to reflect upon his relationship with God and take a spiritual inventory of his life.

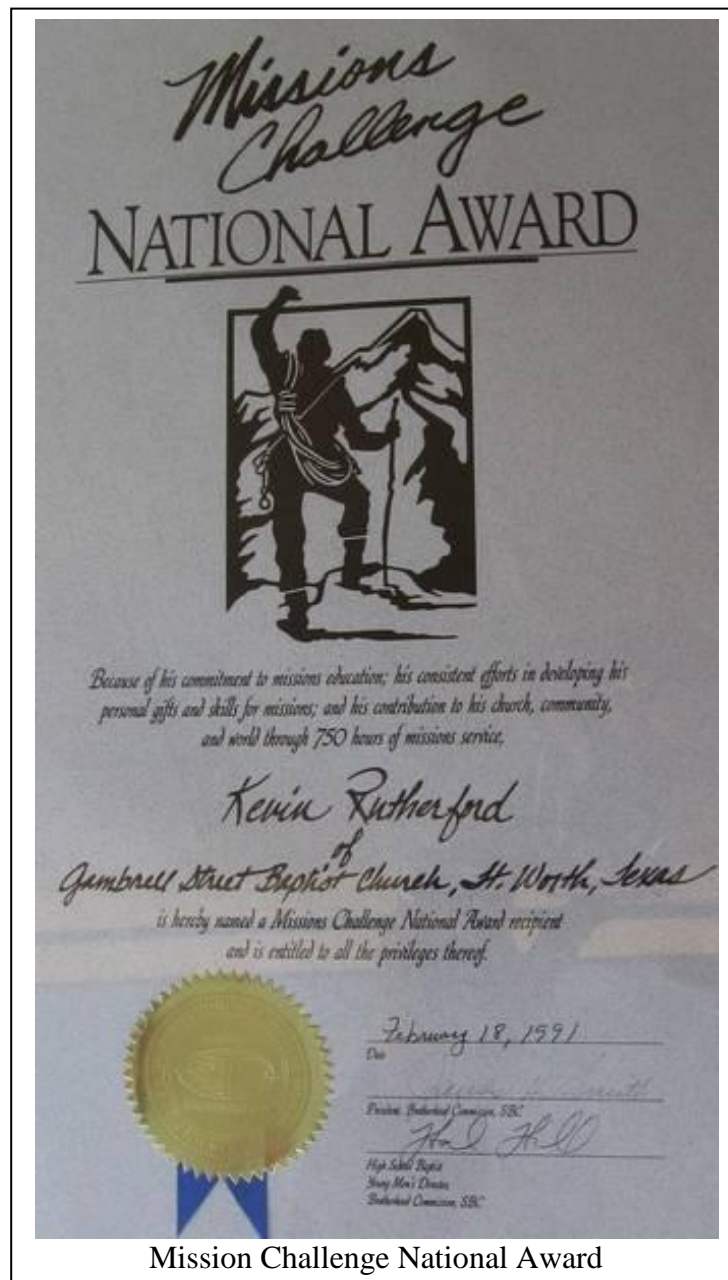
Leading High School Baptist Young Men with the Self Study Guide (not shown) in addition to the annual *High School Baptist Young Men Planbook* offered leadership helps and were used by leaders that work with the young men. The monthly publication *High School Baptist Young Men's edition of the World Mission Journal* published by the Brotherhood Commission provided mission stories and information.

Missions Challenge, a self-study approach to learn about and become involved in missions was designed to help young men face the challenge of personal missions involvement. Young men worked to complete five missions challenge units: the Base Unit, Worship Unit, Witness Unit, Ministry Unit, and Education Unit. The Base Unit, the beginning point consisted of two parts designed to prepare each young man on his journey. Part one of the base unit, the young man received 50 hours credit by completing fourteen activities designed to lead the participant to personal evaluation, missions research, and a commitment to involvement in missions. In order to complete part two of the base unit, the young man participated in 25 hours of volunteer ministry service in each area: Worship, Witness, Ministry, and Education. After completing the Base Unit, the young man received credit for completing the remaining missions challenge units by participating in service projects that totaled 150 hours of service in each unit.



A young man received the Mission Challenge T-shirt when he completed the Base Unit by contacting the Brotherhood Commission. At the completion of each Mission Challenge Unit, the young man received a Mission Challenge Award certificate and a brass plate to put on the Mission Challenge Award Plaque.

When a young man completed all five Mission Challenge units, he was eligible to receive national recognition by contacting his state Brotherhood department.



Mission Challenge National Award

Leadership Materials

In 1987, new leadership materials were introduced. *Leading Royal Ambassadors* was the primary leadership manual that outlined the Royal Ambassador and Brotherhood programs. Within this manual the purpose of RAs is defined as:

The purpose of Royal Ambassadors is to involve boys in missions. Involvement in missions is living one's faith daily, personal experience in witness and ministry, and giving and praying to support persons involved in missions. The Royal Ambassador program helps boys to become aware of the needs of people around the world and to respond to those needs. The organization seeks to lead boys to a personal commitment to Christ and assist them in their Christian growth experience. Through Royal Ambassadors, boys are led to an awareness of their responsibility to Christ and encouraged to become His ambassador. This purpose is outlined in the Royal Ambassador Pledge.

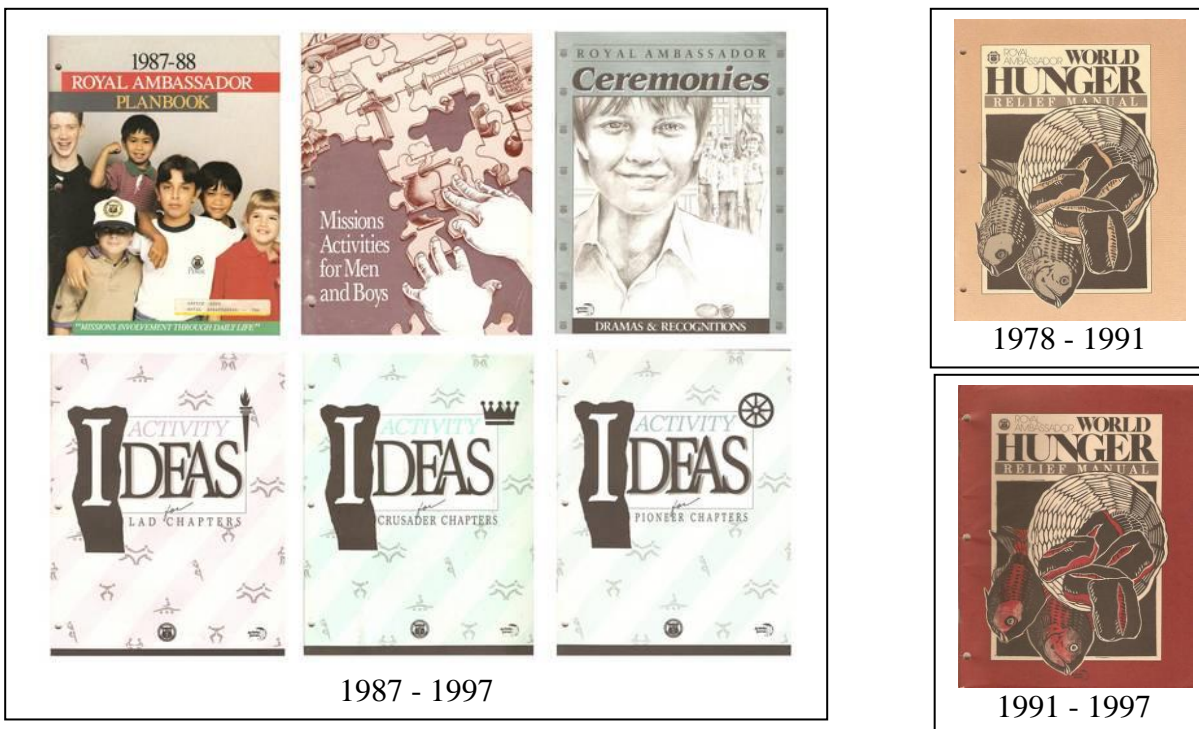
Age level *Self Study Guides* were used to help train the counselors, assistant counselors, RA director, and RA committee members for each of the three age groups. These manuals were used in conjunction with the *Leading Royal Ambassadors* manual and the annual *Royal Ambassador Planbook* to emphasize the importance of understanding the Royal Ambassador program and its purpose as a missions education organization for boys.



Beginning October 1987, the following monthly magazines were used by Royal Ambassadors. *Lad*, a new magazine was introduced for boys in the 1st through 3rd grades. *Crusader* was revised for boys in the 4th through 6th grades. *Pioneer* replaced *Pioneer Probe* and was for young men in the 7th through 9th grades. *Royal Ambassador Leadership* was edited for RA leaders and replaced *Crusader Counselor* and *Probe Leadership Edition* magazines.



Illustrated below are additional Royal Ambassador Leadership materials that were in print from 1987 until 1994. The only RA resource that was not revised in 1987 was the *Royal Ambassador World Hunger Relief Manual* that was produced in 1978. The *World Hunger Relief Manual* was updated in 1991 to include sections for Lads, Crusaders, Pioneers and an advanced studies section in addition to games and activities for awareness of world hunger issues.



The Standard of Achievement was modified in 1987 with two levels of achievement recognition - Basic and Advanced. Each age group (Lads, Crusaders and Pioneers) had their own Standard of Achievement that was designed to help Royal Ambassador counselors and boys achieve their assigned tasks in missions. The requirements of the standard covered six areas: Administration, Chapter Meetings, Advancement, Missions Activities, Interest Activities, and Meaningful Relationships.

Each age group chapter earned the Standard of Achievement recognition when all of the basic actions were completed that do not have an asterisk (*). The Advanced Standard of Achievement recognition was earned when all of the standard and advanced actions were completed. Chapters were encouraged to meet and exceed the standard level and maintain that level for 12 months.

Chapters could apply at any time during the year to their state office for their recognition certificate. In Texas, chapters that requested recognition for meeting the Advanced Standard of Achievement were recognized at the state RA Congress with an “Honor Chapter” plaque.

Standard of Achievement

Administration:

- 1 Counselor(s) completed reading *Leading Royal Ambassadors* and worked through the age level *Self Study Guide*.
- 2 Chapter has been named after an active Southern Baptist missionary (home, foreign, state or associational).
- 3 Chapter has registered this year with the state Brotherhood department.
- * 4 Counselor(s) earned Church Study Course credit for the study of *Leading Royal Ambassadors*.
- * 5 Counselor(s) planned an annual schedule of activities for the age group.
- * 6 Conduct or attend Pioneer officers training (Pioneer chapters only).

Chapter Meetings:

- 1 Meet weekly. (Pioneer officers plan and conduct the Pioneer chapter meetings)
- 2 Maintain an active membership with not more than (12 Lads, 14 Crusaders, 16 Pioneers) boys enrolled in each chapter.
- 3 Have a written plan for each meeting using *Royal Ambassador Leadership* and age group magazines
- 4 Have a net gain of 10 percent in enrollment this year.
- * 5 Maintain an average weekly attendance of 60 percent of enrollment

Advancement:

- 1 Each chapter meeting includes an emphasis on some phase of advancement.
- 2 Boys are recognized for advancement at least quarterly.
- 3 Fifty percent of the boys in chapter complete at least one phase of advancement each year. Earns shield (pin).
- 4 Parents are encouraged to assist boys with their advancement.
- * 5 Age group record charts are prominently displayed and kept up to date.
- * 6 Eighty percent of chapter completes at least one phase of advancement each year. Earns shield (pin).

Missions Activities:

- 1 Each member of the chapter is given an opportunity to help plan each mission activity and has a part in it.
- 2 Reports are made at chapter meeting on the progress made on a missions activity.
- 3 The reason for each missions activity is explained to members in chapter meetings.
- 4 Weekly prayer support of missions by using *Missionary Prayer Calendars* in chapter meetings.
- 5 Promote and encourage giving related to special missions offerings.
- * 6 Plan and conduct Foreign and/or Home Mission Study and/or *Royal Ambassador World Hunger Relief* manual study.
- * 7 The chapter plans and conducts at least one missions activity each month.

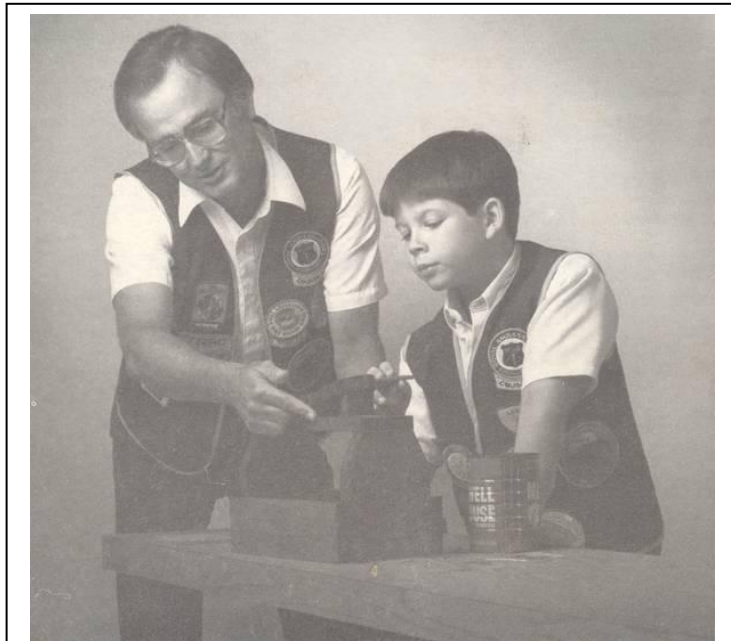
Interest Activities:

- 1 Plan and conduct at least one camping activity during the year.
- 2 Include games and/or crafts in regular chapter meetings at least once a month.
- * 3 Plan at least one outdoor activity each quarter, including at least two sports events each year.

Meaningful Relationship:

- 1 Plan and conduct Royal Ambassador Week activities that involve parents and other church members.
- 2 Plan and conduct one activity that involves family of chapter members.
- * 3 Participate in at least one event with other missions organization (Girls in Actions, Acteens).
- * 4 Participate in at least one event with a chapters outside your church in the same age range (summer camp. associational events).
- * 5 Participate in a state Royal Ambassador activity.

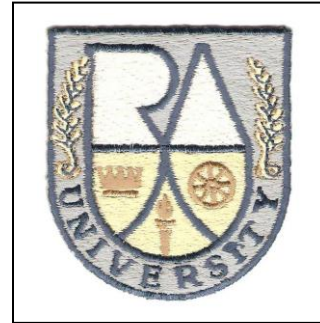
Standard of Achievement certificate awarded to chapters that fulfill each requirement not marked with an asterisk (*) Advanced Standard of Achievement certificate awarded to chapters that fulfilled all requirements listed above.



Royal Ambassadors Vest

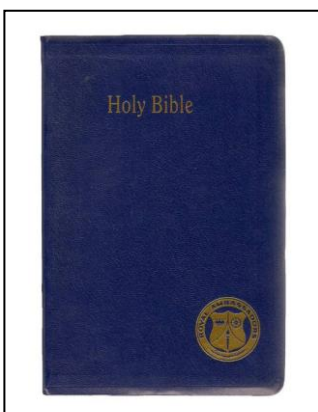
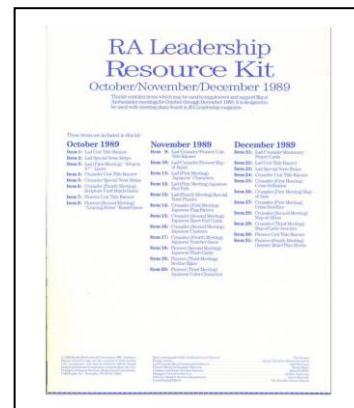
The Royal Ambassador Vest made of blue denim and trimmed in gold, was introduced in 1984 as a way to display extra awards earned. Current RA awards were to be worn on a white dress shirt.

By 1987, the RA Vest became the standard uniform for Royal Ambassadors and their leaders.



May, 1989, the first Royal Ambassador University sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission was held at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee. This national training conference for Royal Ambassador leaders provided an opportunity to train state and associational RA leaders. Texas Baptist Men chartered a bus that was filled to capacity with regional RA leaders that agreed to attend the Royal Ambassador University and return back to provide leadership and conduct associational RA training events.

Fall, 1989, the first quarterly *RA Leadership Resource Kit* became available for RA leaders. The resource kit contained visual aids and supplemental activities that leaders could chose to utilize in teaching the monthly missions stories in the *Lad*, *Crusader* and *Pioneer* magazines.



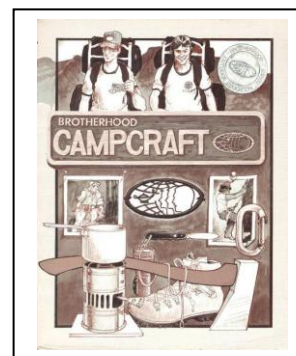
The first Royal Ambassador Bible (New American Standard) was published by Holman in 1992. This Bible was presented to Royal Ambassadors and their leaders for special recognition.

The Brotherhood Commission began a capital funds campaign in 1992 entitled Opportunity Now. Royal Ambassadors that participated in this project could receive the Opportunity Now patch. Dated chevrons were issued for subsequent years of participation.



Campcraft

The *Brotherhood Campcraft* manual, published in 1987, replaced the *Royal Ambassador Campcraft* manual and served as the primary resource for learning campcraft skills. New campcraft patches for Lads were introduced. The campcraft advancement skill sheets were removed from the campcraft manual and replaced with age level campcraft workbooks. The Lad, Crusader and Pioneer Campcraft Workbooks, published in 1987, listed the requirements and helps in earning age level campcraft patches. The Adult Campcraft Workbook was published in 1988.



Discoverer patches were earned according to the Lad's grade. Crusader patches (Hiker, Camper, Woodsman) were earned in progression. Pioneers had to complete the Hiker, Camper and Woodsman levels before beginning the Frontiersman. Once a Pioneer completed the Frontiersman they could choose which advance campcraft level they wanted to earn next, either Backpacker or Trip Camper. The Adventurer campcraft patch was changed to Frontiersman in 1987 when the *Pioneer Adventurer* manual was added to the Pioneer advancement program.

The adult campcraft program was modified in 1987 with four levels: Basic, Advanced, Basic Instructor and Advanced Instructor. The requirements for the Basic and Advanced patches were listed in the *Adult Campcraft Workbook*. Adults who completed the Basic campcraft level could earn the Basic Instructor rating. Adults that completed the Advanced campcraft level could earn the Advanced Instructor chevron. Royal Ambassador leaders wore the Royal Ambassador chevron.



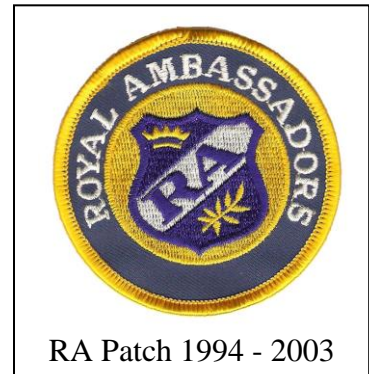
Royal Ambassadors 1994-2003

In 1994, the Brotherhood Commission published new missions education materials. Royal Ambassadors became a missionary organization for children in the 1st through 6th grades. The program was divided into two age groups: Lads for children in the 1st through 3rd grades and Crusaders for children in the 4th through 6th grades. Pioneer RAs and High School Baptist Young Men programs merged into a new mission education organization for young men called Challengers.

A new Royal Ambassadors insignia symbolized the revised RA program. A new Royal Ambassador flag, patch, member pin and leader pin were introduced. The RA Pledge remained the same as introduced in 1961.



The meaning of the Royal Ambassador insignia was simplified. "The shield stands for faith in Christ. The bar represents work for Christ. The crown is for service to Christ and others. The laurel branch represents victory gained through Christ. Royal Ambassador colors are blue, gold and white. Blue stands for the boy's loyalty to Christ, to his church, and to his chapter. Gold stands for the worth of each boy who accepts and serves Christ as Savior and Lord. White stands for purity, a clean body and mind, as each Royal Ambassador tries to pattern his life after Christ."



The Royal Ambassador member pin was awarded to any individual who memorized and recited the RA Pledge after completing the age level membership requirements.

The Royal Ambassador patch and chevron were presented to each person when they completed the membership requirements. These patches were worn on front left side of the RA vest.

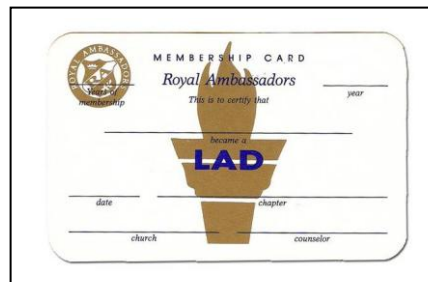
The designation for Royal Ambassador groups changed from Chapters to Clubs in the new RA materials. RA materials were presented as gender neutral to allow leaders the option of conducting Royal Ambassadors as a co-ed missions education program for children.



Lads

Children in the first through third grades could join a Lad club when they completed the following membership requirements:

- Learn the Lad Motto: “Learn And Do in Jesus’ Name.” Be able to tell what the motto means. Talk about it with your RA leader, your parent, or an adult. Tell how you can “learn and do in Jesus’ name.”
- Read or have read to you 1 Samuel 2:26, 3:1-10. Talk about these verses with your RA leader, your parent, or an adult. Tell how this story helps you know the meaning of the Lad Motto.
- Be in a Welcoming Time with other Lad RA Club members.



The Lad membership card and Lad membership patch was presented to the child during the welcoming time. The Lad Torch verse: *“I have come as light into the world, that everyone who believes in Me may not remain in darkness.” (John 12:46)* Leaders used the Lad torch to share with the boys that Christ is the light of the world and that as His Ambassadors we are to let His light shine through us.



New advancement manuals for Lads were published in 1994. Lads learned about and participated in missions activities in these five mission fields: Your Life, Your Home, Your Chapter, Your Church, and Your Neighborhood to earn his advancement pin or patch.

Lads earned elective bars and stars by participating in additional mission activities. The requirements for the age level Lad Athletic patches were listed in the back of each of the Lad manuals.

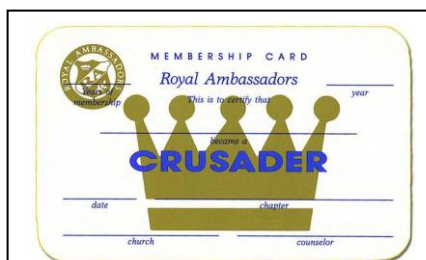


Crusaders

Children in the fourth through sixth grades completed the membership requirements listed in the booklet entitled *Going Places* in order to become a Crusader and join an RA club.

- Learn and explain the Crusader Motto: "Help Others in Jesus' Name." Be able to tell what the motto means. Talk about it with your RA leader, your parent, or an adult. Tell how you can "help others in Jesus' name."
- Read John 6:1-15 in your Bible. Talk about these verses with your RA leader, your parent, or an adult. Tell how this story helps you know the meaning of the Crusader Motto.
- Learn and explain the Royal Ambassador Motto: "We are Ambassadors for Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:20)
- Be in a Welcoming Time with other Crusader RA Club members.

The Crusader membership card and patch were presented to the child during the welcoming time.



Going Places Brochure



Crusader Patch

New advancement manuals for Crusaders were published in 1994. Crusaders learned about and participated in missions activities in these five mission fields: Your Life, Your Home, Your Chapter, Your Church, Your State (Pages), Your Nation (Squires), Your World (Knights) to earn their advancement pin or patch.



Crusaders earned elective bars and stars by participating in additional mission activities. The requirements for the age level Crusader Athletic patches were listed in the back of each of the Crusader manuals.



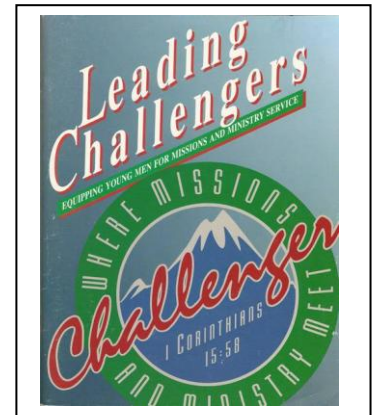
Challengers

In 1994, the Pioneer Royal Ambassadors and the High School Baptist Young Men (formerly called Ambassadors) programs merged into a new mission education organization for young men in the 7th through 12th grades called Challengers.

Leading Challengers manual provided an overview of the Challengers program and organizational structure. The purpose of the Challengers program was to interpret missions as a biblical mandate and instruct youth and those who lead them toward mission and ministry action.

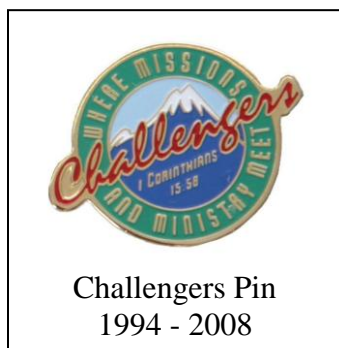
Challengers encourages young men to:

- Gather regularly with other youth for fellowship, mission study and mission action.
- Encounter God daily through a time of personal prayer and Bible study.
- Discover their own calling to and gifts for service, witness and ministry.
- Participate in ongoing missions and ministry opportunities through their church.
- Give willingly to support missions around the world through the Cooperative Program.
- Become an informed and responsible follower of Christ.
- Celebrate the Christian life through commitment to weekly worship in their church.



Challenge was a monthly magazine for Challengers that offered Bible-based experiential information about foreign, home and personal missions. *Challenge* also included two Bible studies each month, missions and ministry projects, and instructions for personal development. *Challenge, Leader Edition* contained all materials found in the student edition plus it provided session plans and other planning helps for the Challenger leader.

The Challengers Director and Challengers Leaders worked together with the church staff to develop a successful Challengers program. The Challengers Leader prayerfully selected student leaders for the following leadership positions: President, Reporter, Missions and Ministry Leader, and Interest Leader.

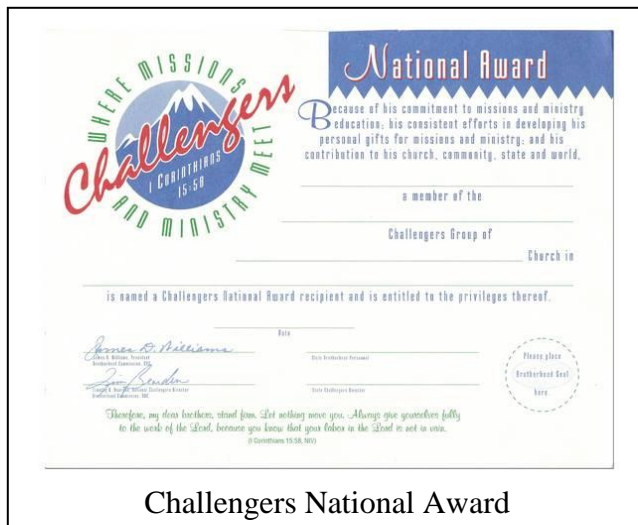


Challengers Pin
1994 - 2008



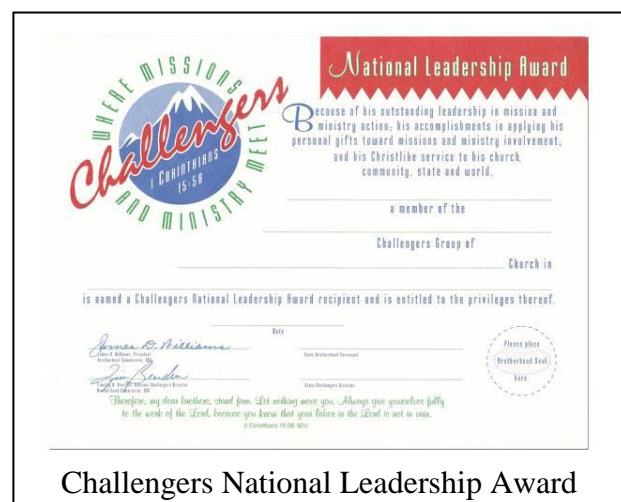
Challengers Patch with Star Pins
1994 - 1998

Challengers received recognition based upon the number of personal development activities they completed. Each year Challengers could earn awards in two levels: the First Mile and the Second Mile. The young men had to complete 12 Bible studies and 12 missions and ministry activities or projects for each mile. Projects could be accomplished individually or with his Challengers group. Missions project credit was subject to the approval of the Challengers Leader. Challengers had to complete the Bible study materials in the Challenge magazine to receive credits for each mile. Each year the First Mile Award included a certificate and one star pin to place on the Challengers patch. The Second Mile Award included a certificate seal and one star pin.



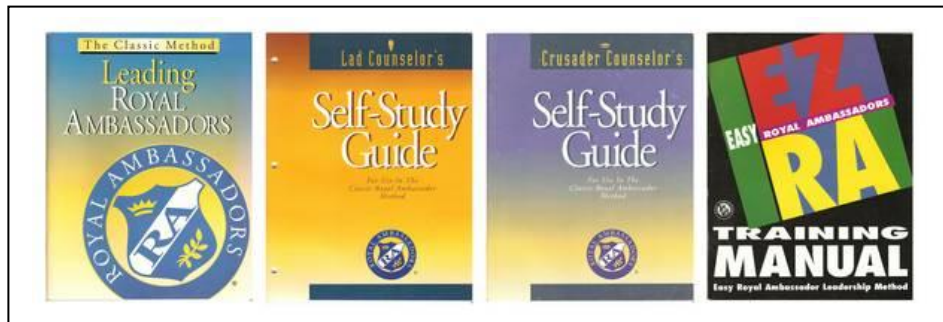
Challengers were eligible to receive the Challengers National Award when they completed a total of 192 activities over four or more years (96 Bible studies and 96 missions projects). A young man could only receive this award once.

Each year young men could be selected to represent their state as a Challengers National Leadership Award winner. This award was presented to individual Challengers who had received the Challengers National Award and nominated by their state Brotherhood leader. Young men were chosen for outstanding leadership in Challengers and could receive this award more than once.



Leadership Materials

New leadership materials were introduced in 1994 with two methods of leading Royal Ambassadors: Classic Royal Ambassadors and EZRA (Easy Royal Ambassadors).



Leading Royal Ambassadors, The Classic Method was the primary leadership manual that outlined the traditional Royal Ambassador program. Within this manual the purpose of RAs remained the same as defined in 1987.

The purpose of Royal Ambassadors is to involve boys in missions. Involvement in missions is living one's faith daily, personal experience in witness and ministry, and giving and praying to support persons involved in missions. The Royal Ambassador program helps boys to become aware of the needs of people around the world and to respond to those needs. The organization seeks to lead boys to a personal commitment to Christ and assist them in their Christian growth experience. Through Royal Ambassadors, boys are led to an awareness of their responsibility to Christ and encouraged to become His ambassador. This purpose is outlined in the Royal Ambassador Pledge.

Self Study Guides were used to help train the counselors, assistant counselors, RA director, and RA committee members for each of the age groups. These manuals were used in conjunction with the *Leading Royal Ambassadors, The Classic Method* manual and the annual *Royal Ambassador Planbook* to emphasize the importance of understanding the Royal Ambassador program and its purpose as a missions education organization for boys.

EZRA (Easy Royal Ambassador) training manual outlined a modified approach to leading Royal Ambassadors. Royal Ambassadors was defined as “a Southern Baptist club for children in grades 1-6 that meets weekly to study, support and do missions.” “Royal Ambassador clubs have P.O.P. – Purpose, Objectives, and a Primary focus.”

- **Purpose:** The purpose of Royal Ambassadors clubs is found in the Royal Ambassador Motto: “We Are Ambassadors For Christ.” The motto was taken from 2 Corinthians 5:20 in which Paul explains that as Christians we represent Christ to the world. The first step in our purpose is to lead children to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and then to a missions lifestyle. In our purpose, evangelism is a major concern and church outreach is one of our major works.
- **Objectives of Royal Ambassadors:** Objectives explain how we fulfill the RA Motto and our purpose. The Royal Ambassador Pledge explains the objectives of the RA program. Each person in the program is required to know the pledge.
- **Primary Focus:** Developing a missionary lifestyle in children is the primary focus of Royal Ambassadors. Royal Ambassador clubs achieve this by doing missions, learning about Southern Baptist missionaries, learning to pray for missions, and giving to Southern Baptist missions efforts.

Royal Ambassador Meetings

Outlined below are the Classic RA and Easy RA methods for conducting weekly meetings.

Classic Royal Ambassadors

Before the Meeting: (15-20 min.)

What you do here will determine the success of the meeting. Prepare yourself and the meeting room.

While the Boys Arrive: (10 min.)

Set the tone and establish control. Greet the boys and get them involved in an activity.

Opening: (2-5 min.)

A dignified – impressive ceremony.
Opening prayer. RA Pledge.

Business: (5-10 min.)

Time to check attendance, make announcements, and plan upcoming events.

Meeting Feature: (20-30 min.)

Work on advancement, learning activities, songs, Bible verse, mission story, mission games, mission video.

Counselor's Time: (5 min.)

Focus Thoughts. What did we learn?

Closing: (2-5 min.)

Brief ceremony for an ending. Prayer time for missions. RA Motto.

After the Meeting: (10-15 min.)

Clean up the room, remove and store equipment, evaluate meeting, planning for next meeting.

Easy Royal Ambassadors

Mission Games & Activities: (15-20 min.)

Exciting, fun-filled, mission games led by the Mission Games and Activity leader teach children about basic mission ideas. Crafts lead children to creatively identify with people with other cultures who need Jesus. Hands-on mission experiences involve children in meeting other's needs and in sharing Jesus' love.

Bible/Advancement: (15-20 min.)

R.A. advancement led by the Advancement advisor, offers members a way to earn recognition for the personal study of missions. Awareness of mission needs and Scripture memory are highlighted in each advancement book. Advancement books match the child's grade level in school. As children progress in advancement, they earn awards.

Mission Focus: (15-20 min.)

The Mission Focus leader shares the gospel of Jesus Christ and His mission command. Lively mission stories and activities located in *Lad* and *Crusader* magazines provide children with current mission information. Children will learn what Southern Baptist are doing in missions around the world. The individuals featured in the stories model for children what it means to be "on-mission" with God.

Many RA leaders used a "Blended Approach" by combining activities and ideas or alternating the format style for conducting the weekly chapter meetings. Classic Royal Ambassadors encouraged a Royal Ambassador Director to work with a RA Committee and RA Counselors to conduct the RA program. EZRA encouraged a shared leadership approach with the EZRA Director working with a Mission Games and Activities Leader, Advancement Advisor, and Mission Focus Teacher.

Classic Royal Ambassadors and EZRA (Easy Royal Ambassadors) both used the *Lad* and *Crusader* monthly magazines for missions stories and interest articles for boys. *Royal Ambassador Leadership* was a quarterly magazine that provided RA leaders suggested lesson plans and activities. The *Royal Ambassador Planbook* provided annual calendar planning helps and record keeping forms for RA leaders.



Illustrated below are additional RA leadership materials published by the Brotherhood Commission from 1987 until 1997. *Mission Games and Activities for Children* was published in 1988 and promoted as a resource in the EZRA manual for EZRA clubs.



Memorizing Scripture has always been an important part of Royal Ambassadors. Bible Memory Medals were introduced in 1994, to recognize children for learning Scripture and motivate them to learn additional Scriptures. A bronze medal was given to individuals who memorized 25 missions Bible verses in one year. A silver medal was awarded to those who memorized 50 missions Bible verse in one year. A gold medal was presented to the person who memorized 75 missions Bible verse in one year. Silver stars were added to the medals each year the award was earned again. A list of verses to be memorized was located in the Royal Ambassador advancement books, Royal Ambassador magazines, or in the preface of the RA Bible.



Advancement Trophies were introduced in 1994, to recognize children that completed two or more advancement books. A child that completed two advancement books could receive the Ivyloy Bishop Award trophy. After he/she completed four books, they could receive the Isaac Tichenor Award trophy. Upon completion of all six books the child could receive the William L. (Bill) Wallace Award trophy. Trophies were available from the Brotherhood Commission.



Mission Squares game pack included four missions squares (colored bean bags) in addition to descriptions and instructions for 28 activities that were adapted from games played by children around the world. RA leaders incorporated this game pack into their weekly meetings as a fun easy way to learn Scriptures and missions games times.



The EZRA motivational award system was designed to encourage participation, help discipline, and provide instant reward for leader approved actions. Club members received an EZRA ink stamp impressions by doing the following actions: completed assignment in advancement book, attendance in RA uniform, complete magazine story/activity, bring a friend, complete assigned craft activity or missions game, mission project participation.

Lads collected their ink stamp impressions on a round Lad Shield that they created. Crusaders collected stamps in their Crusader Passport books. When a child decided to trade their stamps for awards, the leader removed or crossed out the stamps from the passport book or shield.

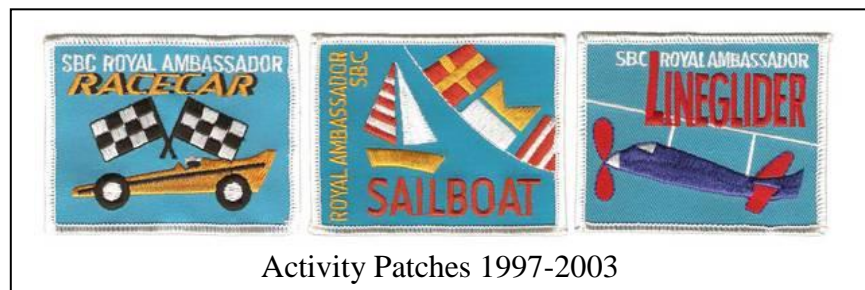
Each motivational award system kit contained colored ink stamps, materials to construct the Lad Shields, Crusader Passport books, and a mixed assortment of toy awards for award levels 1-3. Higher level awards such as the RA Knife, RA Compass or RA Bible could be purchased from the Brotherhood Commission. Suggested award levels are as follows: 10 stamps for a level 1 award, 25 stamps for a level 2 award, 50 stamps for a level 3 award, 75 stamps for a level 4 award, and 100 stamps for a level 5 award.

In June 1997, the Foreign Mission Board officially changed its name to the International Mission Board (IMB) an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention. The Brotherhood Commission, Home Mission Board, and Radio and Television Commission merged to form the North American Mission Board (NAMB) an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention. NAMB was assigned the responsibility of missions education for children, youth, adults by the SBC and became the sponsoring agency for the Royal Ambassadors and Challengers organizations.



Groups that participated in the North American Missions Study, week of prayer for missions and offering earned the North American Study patch. Groups that participated in the International Missions Study, week of prayer and offering earned the International Mission Study patch. RAs that participated in a walk-a-thon to raise money for a North American or International Mission project earned the World Walk patch. Those who also participated in a world hunger study and missions projects to collect money for a world hunger offering and sent it to either their state convention, North American Mission Board or International Mission Board earned the Royal Ambassador World Hunger Relief patch. Royal Ambassadors could earn these patches once. In subsequent years, a dated chevron was awarded for participation in these missions studies and activities.

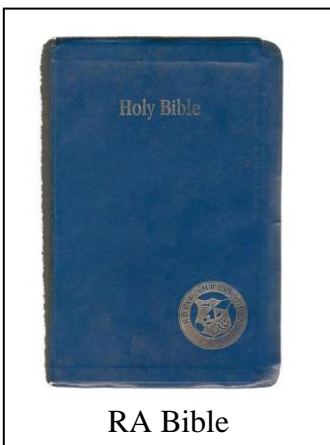
New activity patches were introduced in 1997.



The Standard of Achievement for Lad and Crusader chapters was found in *Leading Royal Ambassadors (The Classic Method)*. The requirements remained the same as the standard that was modified in 1987 with two levels – Basic and Advanced.

Chapters could apply at any time during the year to their state office for their recognition certificate. In Texas, chapters that requested recognition for meeting the Advanced Standard of Achievement were recognized at the state RA Congress with an “Honor Chapter” plaque.

Royal Ambassadors celebrated 90 years as Ambassadors for Christ in 1998. Items that marked this celebration were a 90th anniversary patch, a 90th anniversary plaque, and a 90th anniversary commemorative knife in a rosewood display case.

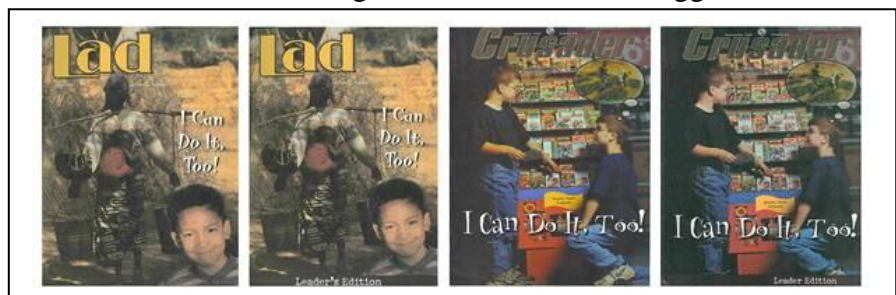


The second Royal Ambassador Bible (New International Version) was published by Broadman & Holman in 1999.



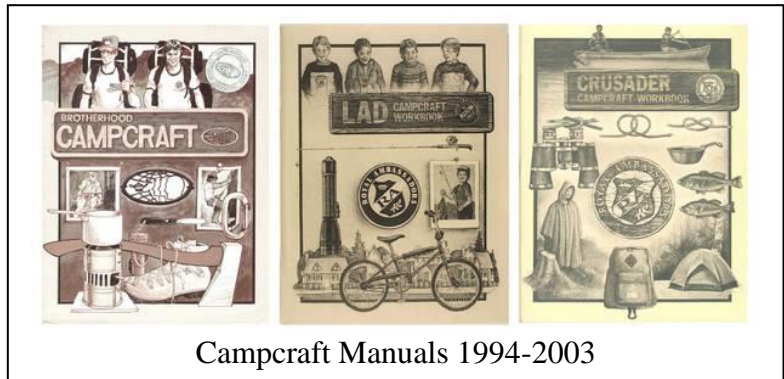
Several changes were made to the Royal Ambassadors organization in September 1999.

- September now marked the beginning of the church calendar year for RAs. Prior to this date, October officially marked the beginning of the church calendar.
- The first RA Annual Resource Kit was introduced that contained visual graphics and supplemental teaching materials that corresponded to the missions stories in the *Lad* and *Crusader* magazines.
- *Lad Leader* and *Crusader Leader*, monthly magazines for RA leaders were introduced that replaced *Royal Ambassador Leadership* that was a quarterly magazine. Both magazines were identical to *Lad* and *Crusader* magazines, but contained suggested weekly lesson plans for both Classic RAs and EZRA programs.

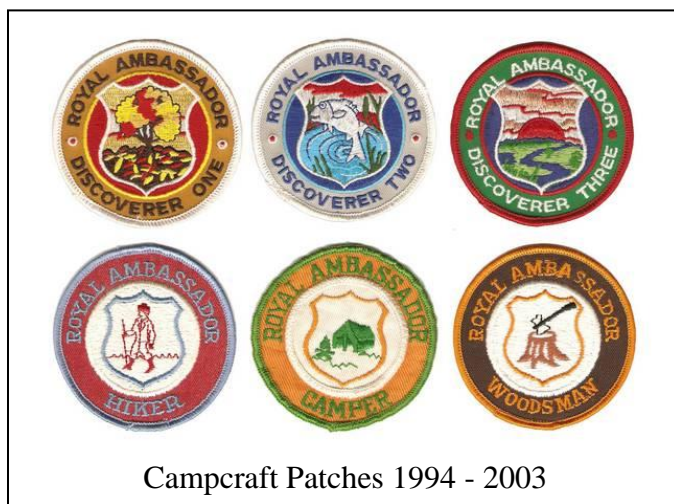


Camprcraft

Brotherhood Camprcraft continued as the primary source for learning camprcraft skills. Lad and Crusader camprcraft workbooks were reprinted with the 1994 RA insignia on the cover. These workbooks listed the requirements that Lads and Crusaders needed to complete in order to earn their camprcraft patches.



Camprcraft Manuals 1994-2003



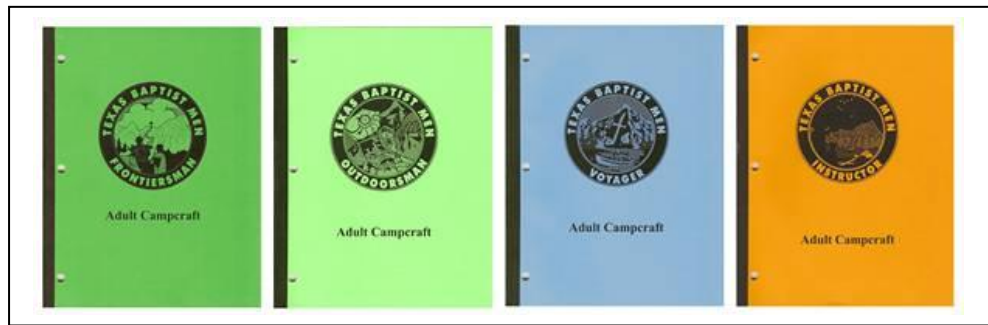
Camprcraft Patches 1994 - 2003

Lads could earn the *Discover One*, *Discover Two*, and *Discover Three* patches according to their grade level. Crusaders could earn the *Hiker*, *Camper*, and *Woodsmen* patches in succession. In 1994, the higher level camprcraft patches were discontinued by the Brotherhood Commission.



Royal Ambassador Campout

Seventy Campcraft Instructors meet together at Latham Springs Baptist Encampment in January 1999 to discuss revising the campcraft materials for Texas. Twelve of these Campcraft Instructors were selected to form a campcraft committee with the task of revising the adult campcraft materials. January 2001, a revised adult campcraft training program was introduced to the Campcraft Instructors in Texas. The *Frontiersman*, *Outdoorsman*, *Voyager* and *Instructor* manuals outlined the requirements for the adult campcraft program and utilized the Brotherhood Campcraft manual as the primary source for learning campcraft skills in addition to supplemental materials.



The Adult Campcraft program introduces adults to camping skills in order to increase their personal knowledge, abilities and comfort levels with experiences in outdoor living. The levels are progressive requiring satisfactory completion of one level prior to advancing to the next. This program is also designed to prepare adults to teach the Royal Ambassadors, Challengers and other adults campcraft skills.



The Frontiersman level is the introduction into the adult campcraft program. It focuses on basic campcraft skills and prepares adults to teach all Royal Ambassador Campcraft levels and the Challenger Pathfinder level.



The Outdoorsman level focuses on intermediate campcraft skills. It prepares adults to teach the Challenger Adventurer and Backpacker levels.



The Voyager level focuses on advanced campcraft skills necessary for extended campouts. It prepares adults to teach the Challenger Trip Camper and Primitive Camper levels.



The Trip Leader level introduces the skills necessary to lead others safely into extended wilderness trip camping experiences.

The Instructor levels are designed to prepare adults to teach the various levels of the Adult Campcraft program.

Royal Ambassadors 2003-2012

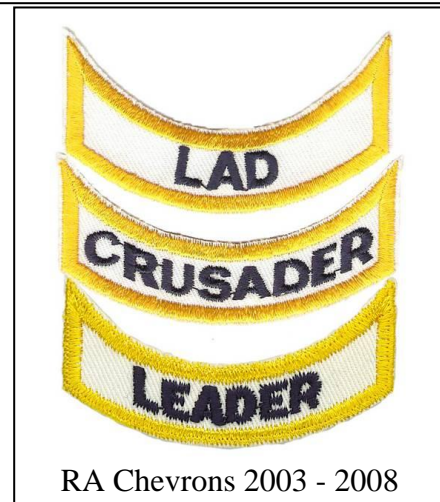
The North American Mission Board published new missions education materials in 2003 for RAs. Royal Ambassadors continued to be divided into two age groups: Lads for boys in the 1st through 3rd grades and Crusaders for boys in the 4th through 6th grades. Challengers continued as the missions education organization for young men in the 7th through 12th grades.

A new Royal Ambassadors insignia symbolized the RA program. A new Royal Ambassadors flag, patch, and pin were introduced. The RA Pledge was modified.



The meaning for 2003 Royal Ambassadors insignia is only located on the National Royal Ambassadors website at www.royalambassadors.org.

- The Words RA - Royal Ambassadors: An ambassador is a representative in a court or nation other than his own. Royal Ambassadors are representatives of Christ the King bringing good news of salvation to people everywhere. The RA Motto reads, "We are Ambassadors for Christ" (2 Cor. 5:20, HCSB).
- The Shield: The shield stands for faith in Christ (see Eph. 6:16). This symbol represents the journey of faith and a commitment to having faith in Christ.
- The Crown: The crown stands for Christ the King and what He represents (see Jas. 1:12). As a follower and ambassador of Christ, we are to stay focused on Jesus and His message to the world.
- The Branch: The branch is for achievement and victory in the work of being an Ambassador for Christ (see Matt. 25:21). Combining skills and actions help accomplish the goal of carrying the gospel to people needing to hear it.
- The Colors: Blue represents the boy's loyalty to Christ, His church, and each other. Gold represents the worth of the boy to God's mission. White represents purity of living, which makes him an effective ambassador.



The Royal Ambassador Pledge was revised, modifying the 1961 version. The phrase: “to learn how the message of Christ is carried around the world” was changed to a more active statement, “to learn how to carry the message of Christ around the world.”



As a Royal Ambassador I will do my best:

- to become a well-informed,
responsible follower of Christ;
- to have a Christlike concern for
all people;
- to learn how to carry the message
of Christ around the world;
- to work with others in sharing
Christ; and
- to keep myself clean and
healthy in mind and body.



The Royal Ambassador Pledge and Virtues



“To build the Christian character needed to keep the promises of the RA Pledge, RAs learn biblical virtues such as Loyalty, Friendship, Courage, Responsibility, Honesty, Faith, Compassion, Perseverance, Teamwork and Self Discipline. They also learn about God’s mission, participate in on-mission activities, pray for and give to missions, develop and use mission skills, and learn about and support the mission work of their church and denomination.”

The Royal Ambassadors Pin is presented to a boy or RA leader who learns the Royal Ambassador Pledge and explains what the pledge means to them. Some RA leaders refer to the RA Pin as the pledge pin.



Lads

Boys in the first through third grades could join a Royal Ambassadors chapter/group when they completed the following membership requirement:

- Learn to say the Royal Ambassador Motto that comes from 2 Corinthians 5:20: “We are Ambassadors for Christ.” Tell it to your parent or RA leader. Talk to them about what it means.
- Write your name and date on the “Becoming a Royal Ambassador” page in your Personal Growth Plan book. Have your parent or RA leader sign their name.



RA Membership Card

The Royal Ambassadors patch, membership card and Lad patch are presented to the boy when he becomes a member of the Royal Ambassadors chapter/group.



Lad Patch

Personal Growth Plan manuals for Lad Royal Ambassadors were published in 2003. Lads participate in activities to earn points and learn about the virtues of loyalty, friendship, courage, responsibility, and honesty. He can receive his Lad pin and/or patch once he has earned five bars from the five virtue sections. RAs earn a bar for each section that he completes. Each bar requires 75 points in that virtue section. Additional points can be used to earn Service Stars. Each star requires 25 points.

Athletic patches are awarded to boys that serve as Ambassadors for Christ while participating in a team sport or agreed upon athletic activity for at least three months. Each patch corresponds to the boy's grade level.



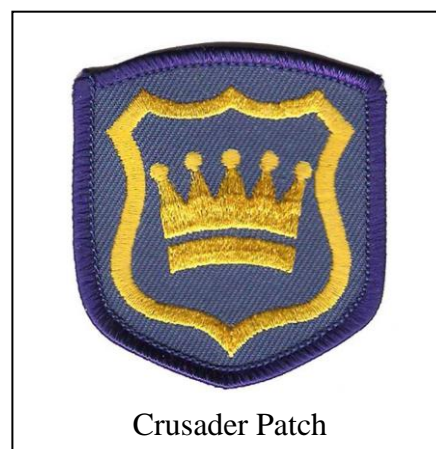
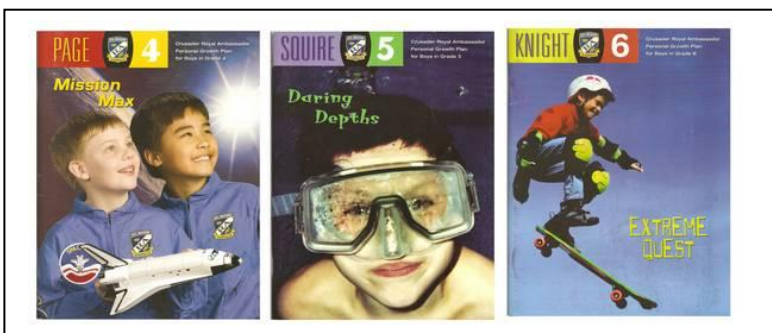
Crusaders

Boys in the fourth through sixth grades could join a Royal Ambassadors chapter/group when they completed the following membership requirement:

- Learn to say the Royal Ambassador Motto that comes from 2 Corinthians 5:20: “We are Ambassadors for Christ.” Tell it to your parent or RA leader. Talk to them about what it means.
- Write your name and date on the “Becoming a Royal Ambassador” page in your Personal Growth Plan book. Have your parent or RA leader sign their name.



The Royal Ambassadors patch, membership card and Crusader patch are presented to the boy when he becomes a member of the Royal Ambassadors chapter/group.



Personal Growth Plan manuals for Crusader Royal Ambassadors were published in 2003. Crusaders participate in activities to earn points and learn about the virtues of faith, compassion, perseverance, teamwork, and self discipline. He can receive his Crusader pin and/or patch once he has earned five bars from the five virtue sections. RAs earn a bar for each section that he completes. Each bar requires 75 points in that virtue section. Additional points can be used to earn Service Stars. Each star requires 25 points.

Athletic patches are awarded to boys that serve as an Ambassador for Christ while participating in a team sport or agreed upon athletic activity for at least three months. Each patch corresponds to the boy's grade level. The grade number was added to the Crusader athletic patches in 2003.



Challengers

The North American Mission Board began the process of re-writing the Challengers curriculum in 1998. The purpose of Challengers is described as an organization that targets young men and works to help them encounter God, then lead them to develop an “on mission” lifestyle with God. Challengers provide an opportunity for building relationships between Christian men and teenagers that will encourage the young men to grow in their Christian commitment through a mentoring process.

Alan Huesing, the National Director from 1998 until 2004 stated that “Challengers is best described as a mission accountability group for young men.” Accountability is a necessary element for any group whose members are to develop an on mission lifestyle. Accountability assumes a commitment has been made or a goal is required. The Challengers Commitment Statement sets the goal forth in the form of a personal and group commitment that each member signs and then is encouraged, supported, and held accountable to keep.

Challengers Commitment Statement

As a Challengers member, I will . . .

- Gather regularly with other youth for fellowship, mission study and mission action.
- Encounter God daily through a time of personal prayer and Bible study.
- Discover my own calling to and gifts for service, witness and ministry.
- Participate in ongoing missions and ministry opportunities through my church.
- Give willingly to support missions around the world through the Cooperative Program.
- Become an informed and responsible follower of Christ.
- Celebrate the Christian life through commitment to weekly worship in my church.

Membership in Challengers is generally limited to young men in 7-12 grades or whatever age is considered to be eligible to be included in the youth ministry of their church. Students in junior high or middle school (7-9 grades) are called Younger Challengers (Challengers I) and students in high school are called Older Challengers (Challengers II).

Membership requires each student to complete the following:

- Challengers will review the Challengers Commitment Statement and agree to, and sign a commitment statement they will follow as members of a Challenger group.
- Challengers will become familiar with the Challenger logo.
- Challengers will memorize 1 Corinthians 15:58
- Challengers will have a personal time alone with God using the Challengers Vigil and show their leader that they have completed the vigil.

The Challengers Vigil is a personal time alone with God. It is a periodic spiritual checkup to help a Challenger examine how he is doing in keeping his on mission commitment to God as expressed in the Challengers Commitment Statement. Each Challenger should complete this “watch with God” as a membership requirement and at least annually thereafter. Challengers should keep the completed copies of the checklist in their Challenger Notebook.

The Challengers logo contains the organization name, key verse, and motto.



Challengers:

Challengers are those who are commissioned to challenge non-Christians to trust and follow Jesus Christ. They also challenge fellow Christians to be on mission with God.

Mountains:

The mountains on the logo represent the challenges in a teenage young man's life. These are the academic, physical, emotional, social, as well as spiritual challenges of growing up in today's world.

1 Corinthians 15:58:

"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." (NIV)

"Where Missions and Ministry Meet":

Our mission is to join God in His Mission of reconciling the world to Himself. Ministry is meeting human needs all around us in obedience to Christ's command to love our neighbor as ourselves. The Challengers motto indicates that we will use ministry as a method of going to the world with the gospel.

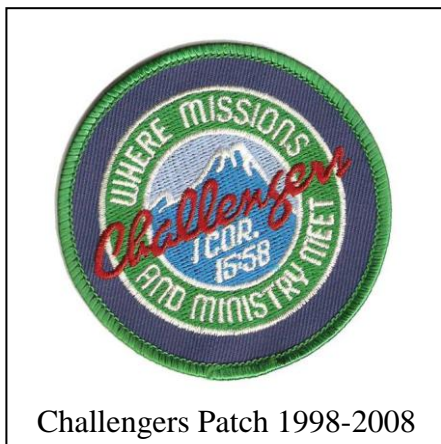
Colors:

The colors of the Challengers logo represent four disciplines of the Christian life. They are:

- Red = *sacrifice*
- Green = *growth*
- White = *purity*
- Blue = *loyalty*



Challengers Pin
1994-2008



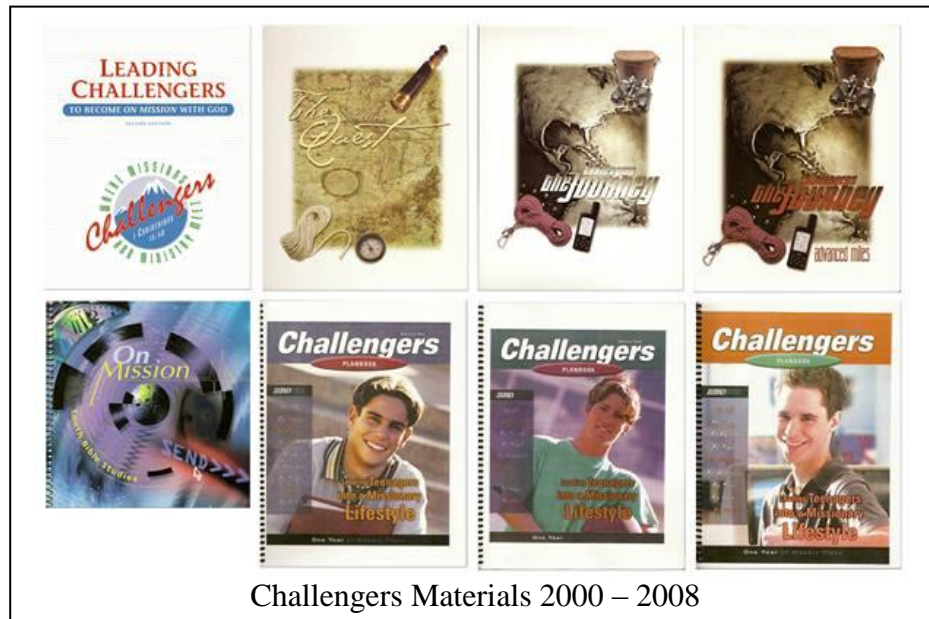
Challengers Patch 1998-2008



Challengers Flag 3' x 5'

Texas Baptist Men produced the Challenger flag in 2000 for use at Challengers State Events.

The North American Mission Board published *Leading Challengers (Second Edition)*, *The Challengers Journey*, and *On Mission Youth Bible Studies* in the fall of 2000. *The Challengers Quest* and *The Challengers Journey Advanced Miles* were published in 2001. The *Challengers Planbooks* provided an annual collection of 12 unit session plans for use in Challengers meetings.



Challenge was a monthly magazine for Challengers that offered Bible-based experiential information about foreign, home and personal missions. *Challenge, Leader Edition* contained all materials found in the student edition plus it provided session plans and other planning helps for the Challenger leader. *Challenge* and *Challenge, Leader Edition* magazines were replaced in September 2000 by *Go! Challengers Edition* a special edition of the bi-monthly magazine that included sixteen pages designed for Challengers that included feature stories, missionary files, On Mission Bible studies, youth strategies, and Challengers news. *Go!* magazine was discontinued in the spring of 2004. In 2006, all Challengers materials were discontinued in print and only available as downloads from the National Challengers website at www.challengerscentral.com.

Each Challenger needs his own personal Challengers notebook. Each Challenger notebook is divided into five sections:

- **Accountability Team:** This section includes a list of the contact information and all other materials related to the accountability team. A copy of the group's Challenger Commitment should be included in this section.
- **Prayer Journal:** Record personal and group prayer request as well as God's answers and responses.
- **Bible Reading:** This section is for collecting and tracking team Bible reading sheets and Journey Bible studies from the On Mission Youth Bible Studies.
- **Mission/Ministry Projects:** This section is for the current Challengers bi-monthly calendar and information about past and upcoming mission and ministry projects.

- Journey/Quest: This section contains the pages of the Challengers Journey or Quest workbook. The workbooks are distributed as loose-leaf, three-hole punched write in pages.

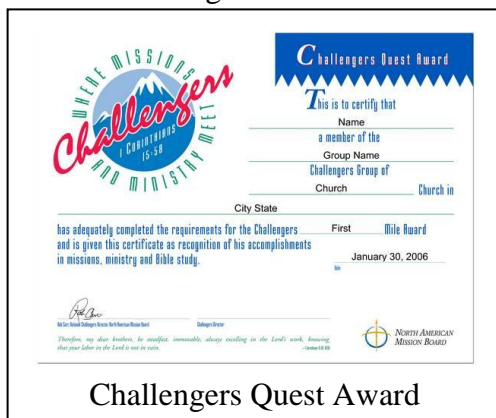
Churches with Challengers are encouraged to have a Challengers Director, a primary team of men for each group in addition to other resource people. Challenger student leaders (optional) are President, Mission Action Coordinator, Ministry Project Coordinator, and Interest Activity Coordinator. Some Challengers groups assign various responsibilities to students such as prayer leader, Bible study leader, session leader, and accountability team leader on a bimonthly basis.

Challengers advancement plans serve an important function in this mission education organization. They provide direction, accountability, and motivation to help individual and group work to accomplish educational goals. The Challengers advancement plan provides a detailed, developmental sequence of specific instruction and activities for on-the-job mission training. Accountability teams help Challengers to stay on track according to the plan. Awards, scholarships, and recognition at regular milestones provide the motivation and encouragement that many young men need.

The *Challengers Quest* is for Challenger members who have not established a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The *Quest* is a two-mile plan that is written on a junior high or middle school level. Challengers interact with Christians who will have the opportunity to share about their personal relationship with God, His Word, and His people. The *Quest* contains 24 Bible studies designed to help Challengers to know the way of salvation, assurance, and growth in their new life in Christ. The *Challengers Quest* is not a prerequisite for the *Challengers Journey*.

The *Challengers Journey* is for Challengers members who are in the process of learning mission skills in order to develop an on mission lifestyle. The Journey consists of four Basic Miles plus two additional advanced Leadership Miles. Challengers on the Challengers Journey complete a series of 72 Bible studies, each of which examines a well-known episode from the Bible. These Bible studies are located in the *On Mission Youth Bible Studies*.

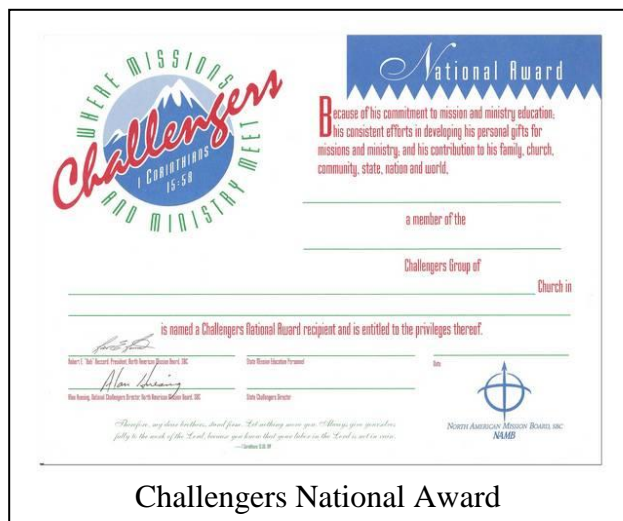
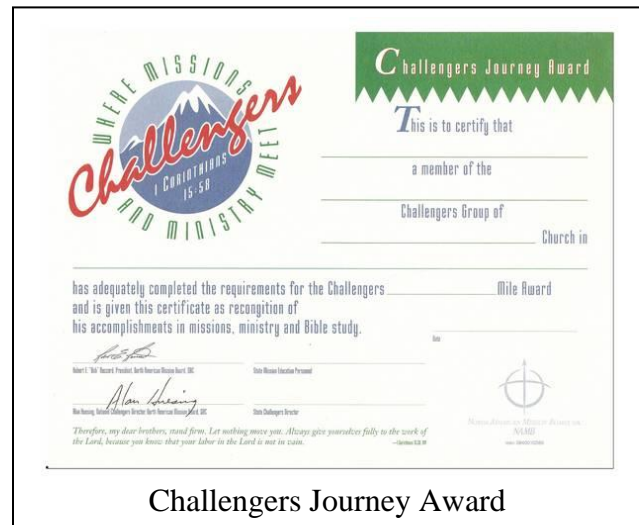
Each mile of the Challengers advancement plans requires completion of 12 specific Bible studies and 12 mission projects called “mission challenges.” Nine of the mission challenges correspond to the nine “mission fields” of mission education: My Life, My Family, My Church, My School, My Neighborhood, My Association, My State, My Nation, and My World. The remaining three mission challenges are electives to be chosen by the Challenger member.



The image shows a certificate template for the Challengers Quest Award. On the left is a circular logo with the text 'WHERE MISSIONS CHALLENGERS MEET' around the perimeter and 'CHALLENGERS' in the center. The main body of the certificate is titled 'Challengers Quest Award' and contains the following text: 'This is to certify that' followed by lines for 'Name', 'a member of the', 'Group Name', 'Challengers Group of', 'Church', and 'Church in'. Below this is a line for 'City State'. The certificate states: 'has adequately completed the requirements for the Challengers _____ First _____ Mile Award' and 'and is given this certificate as recognition of his accomplishments in missions, ministry and Bible study.' There is a date line 'January 30, 2006'. At the bottom left is a signature line for 'Challenger Director' and a line for 'Signature'. At the bottom right is the 'NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD' logo and name. A quote at the bottom reads: 'Therefore, my dear brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abiding in the Lord's work, knowing that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.' The title 'Challengers Quest Award' is printed at the bottom center of the certificate.

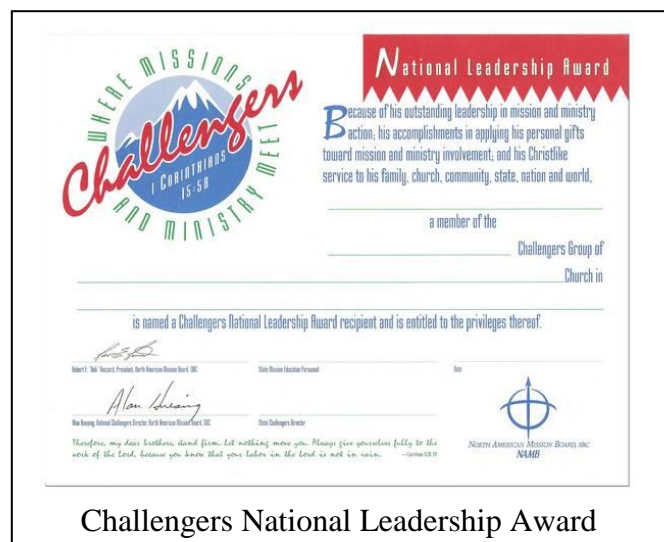
The Challengers Quest Award is presented to Challengers for completion of each mile of the Challengers Quest.

The Challengers Journey Award is presented to each Challenger after completing each of the first three miles of the Journey.



The Challengers National Award is presented to a Challenger who has completed the four Basic Miles of the Journey.

The Challengers National Leadership Award is presented to a Challenger who has received the Challengers National Award and has completed the two Advanced Miles of the Journey for a total of six miles. Challengers may receive the National Award and National Leadership Award only once. Young men that earned these National Challengers Awards are eligible for scholarships from Baptist Universities.



Leadership Materials

New leadership materials were published for Royal Ambassador leaders in 2003.

Sons of Virtue is a guide book for fathers and sons to spend one hour a week together for ten weeks exploring the ten virtues associated with Royal Ambassadors and introduce them to the RA Pledge and program. This book is also intended for any man who feels compelled to help boys grow in godly character.

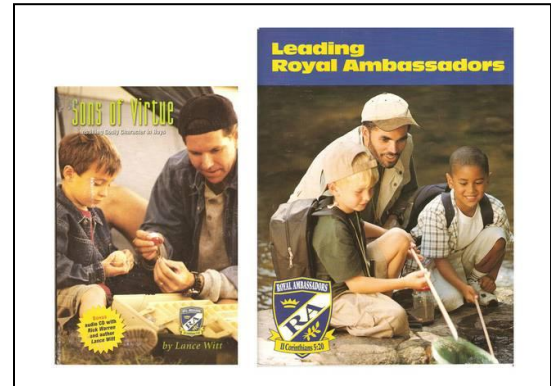
Leading Royal Ambassadors manual outlines the revised Royal Ambassador program and its' purpose:

The Royal Ambassador organization takes its name from the motto, "We are Ambassadors for Christ," based on 2 Corinthians 5:20. Royal Ambassadors is a Southern Baptist mission education organization for boys in grades 1-6. It seeks to build biblical character in boys through mission involvement and virtue commitments. Since it's (sic) beginning in 1908, Royal Ambassador church-based ministries have helped boys to grow spiritually, physically, mentally, and in relationships with others. The basic purpose of Royal Ambassadors is found in the Royal Ambassador Pledge.

Leading Royal Ambassadors encourages the Royal Ambassador Ministry Leader to develop a "3-G" (Gather/Group/Grow) strategy to begin a Royal Ambassador ministry at their church.

- Plan and conduct events to *gather* groups of boys together with their families.
- Organize men and boys into short-term *groups* to "get a taste" of being together as part of a group with an adult leader.
- Guide short-term groups into a *growing*, ongoing commitment. Establish leaders who will mentor boys by meeting regularly to help them develop godly character and join in God's mission.

Lad and *Crusader* magazines provide missions stories that emphasize biblical virtues. Suggested weekly lesson plans for RA leaders are included in the *Lad Leader* and *Crusader Leader* of these monthly magazines. The *RA Planbook* provides leaders with information to help them plan and lead a Royal Ambassadors group/chapter. The *RA Planbook* became a free resource that could be downloaded from the national Royal Ambassadors website in 2006. The *RA Resource Kit* provides items for use in activities suggested in the weekly plans of *Lad Leader* and *Crusader Leader*. Also included are posters that promote the Royal Ambassador organization and specific Southern Baptist offerings.



The chapter meeting allows boys and leaders to build better relationships. Through consistent attendance at chapter meetings men and boys share common experiences. Leaders provide boys with examples of an on-mission lifestyle as they lead and share with the boys. Chapter Meetings provide a time for helping boys be accountable to the commitments they make in their Personal Growth Plans. A successful chapter meeting always starts with successful planning. Leaders need to review lesson plans and ensure that they have the materials necessary for the chapter meeting.

The Five-Part Royal Ambassador meeting consisted of the following sections:

Opening: (5-10 minutes.)

Short arrival activity - a game or other activity that relates to the virtue.

Check roll.

Recite the RA Pledge.

Have an opening prayer.

Virtue Exploration: (10-15 minutes.)

A missionary story and recall activity on the virtue from the magazine. – or

A Baptist Men speaker sharing from his experience on the featured virtue.

Mission Games & Activities: (10 minutes.)

Group games, craft projects, or mission projects that reinforce the virtue.

Personal Growth Time: (10 minutes.)

Personal time in the individual Personal Growth Plan workbooks to make commitments and to be reminded of current virtue commitments.

Closing: (10-15 minutes.)

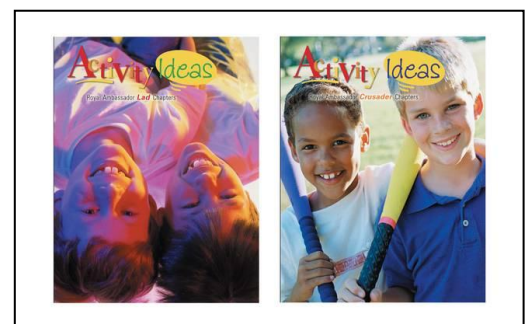
Leader time to sum up the experience.

Closing prayer time.

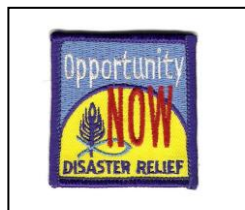
Closing game or activity while boys are waiting to be picked up.

No Standard of Achievement was listed for Royal Ambassadors chapters in the 2003 RA materials.

Activity Ideas for Lad and Crusader chapters provided RA leaders with helpful ideas for use in planning and conducting certain parts of the chapter meeting. Both of these manuals are currently out of print and not available on the website.



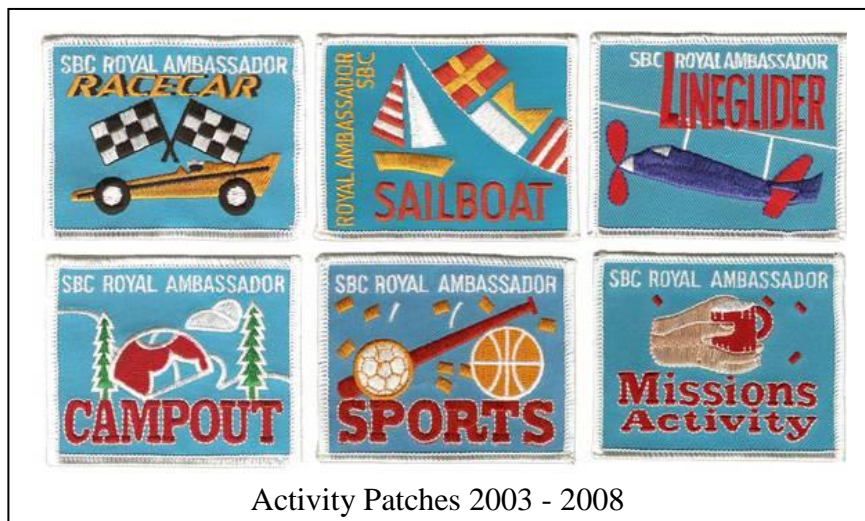
Groups that participate in the North American Missions Study, week of prayer for missions and offering earn the North American Study Patch. Groups that participate in the International Missions Study, week of prayer and offering earn the International Mission Study patch. Groups that participate in a walk-a-thon for a North American or International Mission project earn the World Walk patch. RAs that participate in a world hunger study and missions projects to raise money for a world hunger offering and send it to their state convention, North American Mission Board or International Mission Board earn the Royal Ambassador World Hunger Relief patch. Royal Ambassadors can earn these patches once. In subsequent years, RAs receive a dated chevron for participation in these missions projects.



Opportunity Now became an ongoing Royal Ambassador project that helps to provide funds for Southern Baptist disaster relief ministry. RAs are encouraged to collect their own weight in aluminum cans, turn them in for recycling, and send the funds to the North American Mission Board, designating the check for Disaster Relief. Each member who contributes \$10 or more to the Opportunity Now project may receive a patch. Subsequent years, RAs can earn a dated chevron for participation in

Opportunity Now.

New activity patches were introduced in 2003. RAs can receive these patches by participating in these activities with their group. Each RA member can receive these patches one time. They earn a dated chevron for participation in subsequent years,



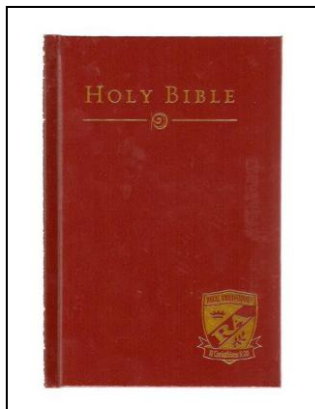
A new style of RA vest was introduced in 2003. RA groups could choose to wear either a khaki vest with pockets or the traditional blue denim vest with gold trim.



A Royal Ambassador pocket knife for boys and a smaller RA pocket knife for leaders that were imprinted with the new RA logo both became available in 2003. These knives are currently available for RAs and their leaders or dads.



Royal Ambassadors Vest



In 2006, a new RA Bible (Holman Christian Standard Bible) was published by Holman. This award Bible is presented to RAs and their leaders for special recognition.

Royal Ambassadors celebrated 100 years as Ambassadors for Christ in 2008. A commemorative patch, plaque and engraved knife with rosewood display case were produced to mark this occasion.

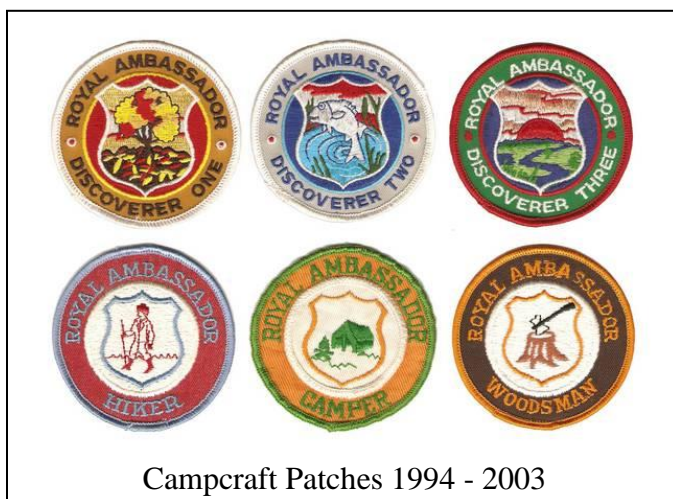


Campcraft

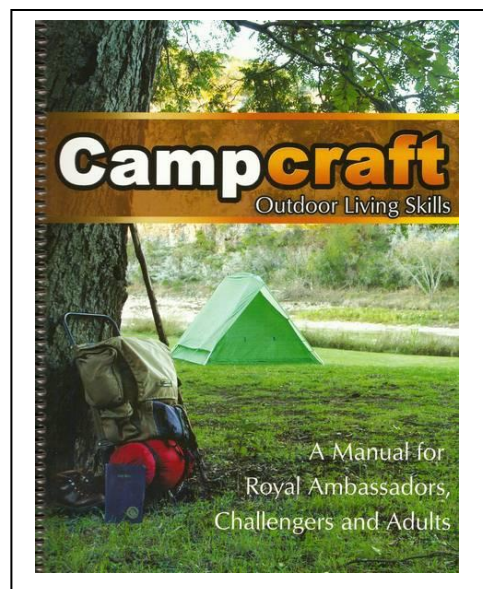
The requirements to earn the RA Campcraft patches were located in the Lad and Crusader Campcraft workbooks. Lads could earn the *Discover One*, *Discover Two*, and *Discover Three* patches according to their grade level. Crusaders could earn the *Hiker*, *Camper*, and *Woodsman* patches in succession.



In 2007, Texas Baptist Men published *Campcraft – Outdoor Living Skills*, a manual for Royal Ambassadors, Challengers and Adults. It contains campcraft skills and spiritual applications related to outdoor living. This manual is a great resource for leaders that work with RAs and Challengers and list the requirements to earn the Royal Ambassador and Challenger campcraft patches. Campcraft training opportunities for adults are offered each spring and fall in Texas in addition to Leadership Training Camp.



In 2004, Texas Baptist Men introduced a new set of campcraft patches for Challengers. Challengers can earn these patches individually or as a group. The *Pathfinder* level introduces Challengers to the basic campcraft skills. After completing the *Pathfinder* level, a young man can begin working on the *Adventurer* level that introduces him to intermediate campcraft skills. After completing the *Adventurer* level, Challengers can choose which patch they would like to earn next. *Backpacker*, *Trip Camper* and *Primitive Camper* introduces the young man to advanced campcraft skills.



In 2008, North American Mission Board (NAMB) conducted a national survey of RA Leaders concerning the materials that were currently being produced for Royal Ambassadors. The survey revealed that most RA Leaders felt that the advancement materials was too complicated and needed to be simplified. NAMB established an RA Task Force with several State RA Leaders that began meeting in October 2008 to explore creating a simpler approach for the advancement requirements for RAs to earn their advancement ranking. Members of the RA Task Force consisted of Jim Burton (NAMB), Joe Conway (NAMB), Rob Carr (NAMB), David Nelms (NAMB), Tobin Perry (NAMB), Beverly Cooper (NAMB), Frank Green (TN), Steve Stephens (AL), Cliff Satterwhite (SC), Mickey Hyman (SC), Mike Flowers (GA), and Keith Mack (TX).

The RA Task Force agreed that the following actions needed to be accomplished:

- Change the term Personal Growth Plan back to Advancement to describe the ranking system for Royal Ambassadors.
- Develop a new simplified/flexible advancement plan that tracked actions completed by each boy rather than set point values for fixed actions in order for a boy to earn their advancement pin/patch. (The Alabama advancement system was adopted: – 10 Mission Stories or Testimonies, 10 Mission Projects or Activities, and 12 Bible Verses.)
- Discontinue using the Personal Growth Plan workbooks and incorporate the new advancement system into the RA Magazines and free resources that would be offered on the national RA Website.
- Develop a Quick Start Guide for RA Leaders that could be used by new RA Leaders and at state training events. (NAMB began to develop a Quick Start Guide from the Quick Start Guide that was being used in Texas.)
- Develop a Resource Notebook for RA Leaders that contained many Mission education activities and additional resources that could be used by RA Leaders and referenced by the monthly curriculum. (NAMB began to develop a Resource Book from the Resource Notebook (1.5” – 406 pages) that was being used in Texas.)

During the Mission Education Roundtable in January of 2009, the State Missions Education Leaders adopted the following recommendations from the RA Task Force:

- Completely rework the current PGP (Personal Growth Plan) system into a new, simplified Advancement using the same awards in a different system.
- Phase out and eliminate the PGP/Advancement workbooks.
- To be implemented in the Fall 2010 curriculum.

During the Mission Education Roundtable meeting in January of 2010, the State Missions Education Leaders adopted the following recommendation from the RA Task Force:

- Simplified advancement system where a boy had to complete 12 Missions Stories or Testimonies, 12 Missions Project or Activities, and 12 Bible verses to earn his pin/patch. A boy had to complete 12 additional task from any advancement area to earn an advancement Bar or Star.

The following pages illustrate the simplified advancement system that was adopted at the January, 2010 Mission Education Roundtable meeting.

Advancement Record Sheet

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Year: _____

Each member keeps a notebook that shows the mission stories or testimonies and mission activities or projects completed. Complete two mission stories or testimonies, two mission activities or projects and memorize two Bible verses, you earn a colored bead. Complete 12 mission stories or testimonies, 12 mission activities or projects and memorize 12 Bible verses, you earn your advancement pin or patch.

12 Mission Stories/Testimonies, 12 Mission Activities/Projects and 12 Bible Verses = Pin/Patch

Advancement Record Chart

Colored Bead	Mission Events	List each activity completed.	RA Leader or Parent Initials	List the date completed
Yellow	Story/Testimony			
	Story/Testimony			
	Activity/Project			
	Activity/Project			
	Bible Verse			
	Bible Verse			
Green	Story/Testimony			
	Story/Testimony			
	Activity/Project			
	Activity/Project			
	Bible Verse			
	Bible Verse			
Blue	Story/Testimony			
	Story/Testimony			
	Activity/Project			
	Activity/Project			
	Bible Verse			
	Bible Verse			
White	Story/Testimony			
	Story/Testimony			
	Activity/Project			
	Activity/Project			
	Bible Verse			
	Bible Verse			
Red	Story/Testimony			
	Story/Testimony			
	Activity/Project			
	Activity/Project			
	Bible Verse			
	Bible Verse			
Black	Story/Testimony			
	Story/Testimony			
	Activity/Project			
	Activity/Project			
	Bible Verse			
	Bible Verse			

Colored beads can be placed on a leather strap attached to the boy's RA vest. Mission stories/testimonies and mission activities/projects can be completed individually or as a group project. Bible verses are completed individually. Additional stories/testimonies and activities/projects count towards earning Bars/Stars. Additional memory verses count towards earning Bible Memory Medals.

Advancement Bars and Stars

You can earn Advancement Bars and Stars by completing 12 additional tasks from any advancement area (Mission stories or testimonies, mission activities or projects, and Bible memory verses). Each set of 12 additional tasks from any of the above three areas earns a bar first then stars. (A bar will hold up to three stars.)

Bars and Stars Record Chart

Activity	Date	Initials
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		

Activity	Date	Initials
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		

Activity	Date	Initials
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		

Activity	Date	Initials
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		

Advancement Notebooks

Each boy should create their own advancement notebook (11" - three ring clear view binder) to be used to record their reflections and participation in mission stories/testimonies and mission activities/projects. This notebook will serve as a scrapbook of missions memories. Additional items such as photos of the boys participating in mission projects and interest activities can be included in the notebook. Each boy can personalize the cover page insert of their notebook.

Items to include in the advancement notebook:

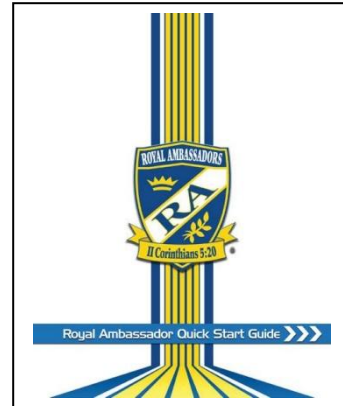
- 11" - three ring clear view economy binder.
- Personalized cover page insert. (Listing the boy's name and grade.)
- Becoming a Member of RAs sheet. (Record the date when the boy joined.)
- Advancement Record Sheet.
- Bible Memory Verses sheets.
- Royal Ambassador Awards sheets. (These sheets list the requirements for each award.)
- Mission story/testimony activity sheets. (One sheet for each story/testimony activity.)
- Mission activity/project sheets. (One sheet for each mission activity/project.)
- Photos of the boys participating in the mission activities/projects and interest activities.
- Any additional items the boy would like to include in his notebook of reflections.



Advancement notebooks provide a personal account of the boy's involvement in missions experiences. They serve as an excellent way to record the names of other RA members, and the names of his RA Leaders.

At the end of the year, present the boy with his advancement notebook and share some of his experiences with his parents or guardians. Most parents will help him to keep up with his treasured notebook for years to come. When he is older, he can reflect back to when he was involved with his Royal Ambassador Chapter and the mission activities that he participated. This notebook serves as a written account to the many various experiences that he enjoyed as a Royal Ambassador.

In 2010, the North American Mission Board continued to make revisions and corrections to the Quick Start Guide for Royal Ambassadors and the Resource Notebook for Royal Ambassadors. Revisions to the Quick Start Guide for RAs were completed in 2010 and this document was posted onto the RA Website. New requirements for each of the athletic patches were introduced in 2010 on the RA Website and were also going to be included as part of the Resource Book which was still in the process being developed and would be released once it was completed.



At the Mission Education Roundtable in March of 2011, NAMB revealed the first copy of the Royal Ambassador Resource Book they had been developing. The Resource Book contained 414 pages and was presented in a 3 Inch – 3 Ring Notebook with all of the pages printed single sided. The Resource Book was made available as a free download on the RA Website.

It was announced during the March 2011 Mission Education Roundtable that the sponsorship for Royal Ambassadors was in the process of being transferred back to the Woman's Missionary Union to begin developing new curriculum for RAs beginning with the fall 2012-2013 curriculum year.

In the fall of 2011, both the Lad and Crusader magazines began focusing on one of RA Virtues each month. Since the RA Virtues were introduced in 2003, Lads had always focused upon the virtues of Loyalty, Friendship, Courage, Responsibility, and Honesty; and the Crusaders had focused upon the virtues of Faith, Compassion, Perseverance, Teamwork, and Self-Discipline. This allowed RA Leaders to focus on preparing one lesson plan each week rather than two lessons for both Lads and Crusaders.

Royal Ambassadors 2012 - Present

The transfer of sponsorship for Royal Ambassadors was officially moved from the North American Mission Board to the Woman's Missionary Union at the SBC Convention in Phoenix, Arizona in October, 2011. The National WMU began the process of developing new resources for Royal Ambassadors and their Leaders that would become available in the fall of 2012.

The following materials for Royal Ambassadors Leaders are currently available for use in beginning and maintaining an active Royal Ambassadors organization.

RA Leader (a bi-monthly) magazine that provides suggested lesson plans for leading weekly chapter meetings.

RA World (a bi-monthly) boys magazine that contains Biblical examples, missionary stories and activities to help RAs discover how they are invited to join God in his mission of sharing Christ's message.



The *RA Leader Kit* provides bi-monthly teaching aids for use during chapter meetings. The Kit includes posters, games, activities, and full-color photographs of missionaries and missions work to share with the RAs during the weekly chapter meetings. A DVD with 12 Missionary Testimonies is included with the first bi-monthly Leader Kit.

The RA website was transferred to the national WMU website on September 1st, 2012. The new RA website provides additional resources for RA Leaders and is continuing to be developed.