



# Florida RA Zone

Newsletter for RA Leaders and Their Boys

**April 2016 Spring Issue**

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***Just a Thought***

**A man was walking down a beach with Jesus. The beach was quiet and vacant. Occasionally, you could hear the waves breaking on the beach and see the silhouette of this man and Jesus in the distance.**

**Oddly, the man was carrying a Polaroid camera with him. From time-to-time the man would take a picture of him and Jesus while they were walking down the beach. This went on for years.**

**One day Jesus looked at the man and said, “Let’s stop and look at all the pictures you took of us with your Polaroid camera all these years.” So, they stopped on the beach. The man took one last picture of him and Jesus before he got out the other pictures. The man took all the pictures out of his pocket—there were a lot of pictures. He started to look at them before he gave them to Jesus.**

**While the man was looking at these pictures, a puzzling and surprising look gradually emerged on his face. He went through the pictures again and again. Finally, he looked up at Jesus and said with an alarming inflection in his voice, “Something went wrong with this camera. All the pictures show one of us walking on the beach.” Jesus looked at the man and said, “There’s one picture you took that shows both of us together. It’s the last one you took and it’s still in your Polaroid camera.”**

The man waited a few minutes for the last picture to come out of the Polaroid camera. Finally, the last picture came out. The man took that last picture out of the camera and saw both of them together. Then the man gave that last picture to Jesus saying with some enthusiasm to Jesus: “It’s great that both of us are finally in the same picture!” Then the man gave Jesus the picture to see.

Jesus looked at the picture and then to the man saying, “I’ve been waiting all these years walking on the beach by myself. Finally, you stopped and talk to me—it shows up in this picture.”

Rick Hollis  
RA Mission Education Team Member  
Central Florida Region



***RA Leader Information About Changes Starting in the Fall***

**RA News Flash--**

**2016 will see some changes to the frequency of publication of the RA curriculum. Starting in September 2016, RA World, RA Leader and the RA Resource Kit will be published on a quarterly basis. You will begin receiving them on a quarterly basis and they will cover 3 months instead of the current 2 months.**

**Why the change, you might ask? Good question. As you may or may not know, WMU does not do the actual printing or mailing of the RA material. These tasks have been farmed out, currently to a company located in Kentucky. Well, that company got bought out and the new company was not willing to renew the current contract terms at a cost effective price. WMU searched the marketplace and found a new printer/mailer that will take over the printing and mailing at the current cost. On an annual basis there will be no cost increase and content will stay the same. It will just be packaged 3 months at a time instead of the current 2 months. This change will also apply to GA and CA curriculums as well helping WMU standardize on subscriptions and keep costs in check. Beginning in September, almost all WMU curriculum will then be quarterly helping keep costs down. This will also match most churches Sunday School curriculum ordering and delivery which should simplify ordering for church ministry assistants.**

**Another change that I think you will like is that the Annual RA Promo pack is being redesigned. The Awards poster and Attendance Poster are being removed so that the Promo pack will have a 3 – 5 year shelf life thus saving some money by not having to purchase them each year. The Awards Poster and Attendance Chart will be included in this September's issue of the Annual RA Resource Kit at no additional charge. Additional individual copies will also be available for purchase if you need more copies.**

### **RA Blips--**

**Here are some other highlights from the WMU Annual January Board Meeting:**

**The 2016/17 theme for Missions Education will be “By All Means” and is based on 1 Corinthians 9:19-22. You will begin seeing this in the September RA curriculum.**

**The 2017 Children's Ministry Day theme will be “Love Your Neighbor”.**

**The 2016 International Mission Study will be available June 1 and is focused on what is termed “The Nordic Cluster”, Norway, Sweden & Finland.**

**A curriculum focus group of about 30 men and women met with the WMU writing team to brainstorm ideas about RA, GA, CA, Acteens, and Challenger curriculums. In the time they met many great ideas were discussed, more than we have space to talk**

about here. But, I do want to share 2 major themes that were heard by WMU. The group would like more digital content of the current curriculum. That content would not take the place of printed content, it would be in addition to give you more options. The other major idea is more of what I call the backstory of the Missionary featured that month. More stories in the Missionaries own words and more about what they do on a daily basis to build the relationships with the people they are ministering to in order to plant the next church. Many of our Missionaries are serving in secular capacities in their places of service as a means to meet people, build relationships and share the Gospel. We want to hear more about how they do that. While no promises were made, the message was heard loud and clear, so hopefully we will see some shifts towards meeting these requests in the near future.

Paul Elwing  
State RA Consultant  
(Present during the January Board Meeting)



***Campcraft Ideas-- Astronomy***

**Are you looking for a winter doing a Campcraft activity? Look no further. Winter time is perfect for Astronomy. It gets dark earlier; you have longer evenings with the RA's to have excellent observing opportunities.**

### **So why study Astronomy?**

- **The Bible mentions stars in at least 48 verses.**
- **The Bible mentions the moon in 39 verses.**
- **The Bible mentions the sun in 37 verses.**
- **And at Christmas time we hear about the Star of Bethlehem.**

### **So here are some simple suggestions to introduce Astronomy to RA's.**

- 1. Keep it simple. This is just an introduction.**
- 2. Explain how the Sun, Moon and stars can be used to navigate and tell time.**
- 3. Identify some major constellations such as**
  - a. Orion**
  - b. The Big Dipper**
  - c. Cassiopeia**

4. Search out your local Astronomy Club. Some clubs offer Public Observing Sessions and others will actually come to your RA meeting or campout and bring their very expensive telescopes.
5. For a craft, download a connect-the-dots activity sheet of Constellations.  
[http://www.supercoloring.com/sites/default/files/styles/coloring\\_full/public/cif/2013/01/constellation-map-dot-to-dot.jpg](http://www.supercoloring.com/sites/default/files/styles/coloring_full/public/cif/2013/01/constellation-map-dot-to-dot.jpg)

#### References:

##### Bible verses about Stars.

- <http://www.openbible.info/topics/stars>
- <http://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Stars>

##### Clubs in Florida

- <http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/> (Enter your location and then click on Clubs and Events). If you simply enter Florida, a map of all the Astronomy Clubs in Florida will be displayed.



- [http://nefas.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=24&Itemid=40](http://nefas.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=24&Itemid=40)  
(North East Florida Astronomical Society headquartered in Jacksonville)

## ***Campcraft Ideas-- Council Fire***

There is just something intriguing about a camp fire to a young boy.

So the next time you have a campout or lock in, consider adding a Council Fire to your event.

So here are some recommendations:

First ..... Pray

- Pray for wisdom and knowledge in planning the event
- Pray that no child will be injured during the event
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will stir and direct each boy

Second .....Safety is paramount.

Take the normal precautions when having an outdoor fire, such as

- Spray the area for mosquitos before holding the event.
- Do not place the fire underneath a tree
- Clear the area of any debris that can catch on fire

- Have bucket of water handy along with a shovel to put out the fire
  - **NOTE: Do not pour water on a hot fire. It will create steam and burn you. Instead, sprinkle on the water until the fire is extinguished.**
- Rope off the area at least 5' from the fire to keep the boys from getting too close.
- Do not allow the boys to throw items in the fire.
- Contact the local Fire Dept. or Fire Marshall if in an Urban/Suburban environment where a neighbor might call in a fire.
- Know and share the address of the even location to all your leaders just in case someone has to call 911.

**Third .... Select a fire**

**This is a good time to teach the boys the difference between Tinder, Kindling and Fuel. A Tepee style fire works great when using natural wood.**

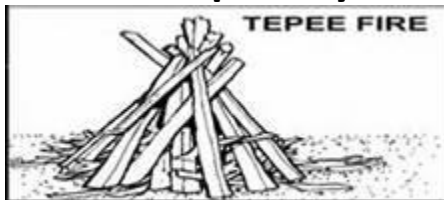


Figure VI-12. Tepee Fire

However, if you want to keep it simple and not worry about keeping the fire from going out, try the Criss-Cross Fire. This method consists of four to six fireplace logs purchased from the local grocery store. It works great. They will last a couple of hours and then burnout.



#### **Fourth... Conduct a Council Fire**

I like to break up the Counsel Fire into 5 Activities each led by a different leader.

- i. **Open Mic.** Boys are encouraged to come to the front and tell a clean joke or perform a skit (<http://www.macscouter.com/skits/bbskits.asp> ). The purpose of this event is to allow the boys to participate and help teach them the skill of standing in front of people and talking to them. Introduce the Boys to various types of cheers for each speaker such as the alligator clap, Mosquito cheer, silent yell, watermelon cheer, Fireworks cheer, i.e.

([http://www.meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Scout Cheers](http://www.meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Scout_Cheers) and [http://www.macscouter.com/campfire/CPB pdf/Cheers.pdf](http://www.macscouter.com/campfire/CPB_pdf/Cheers.pdf) )

- ii. Singing. Select Christian songs such as Sunday School and Bible School songs that are familiar to the boys. Having a leader that can play a guitar is a big help.
- iii. Funny Story told by a leader. <http://www.macscouter.com/Stories/>
- iv. Story with a Message. Now is the time to have the boys remain silent while a leader tells a message. MY absolute favorite Council Fire Message is about a mountain man and a snake. Put some effort in to trying to memorize the gist of the story and tell it like you were there witnessing it (please do NOT read the story). <http://www.floridarangers.com/resources/devotions/81-the-snake.html>
- v. Alter call. I am not going to tell you how to give an alter call. But, I have observed that the most successful alter calls make the boys feel special and that they will not be ridiculed by their friends. So here are some ideas to consider:
  - Explain to them what an alter call is about
  - Explain Luke 15:10
  - Tell them not to look around at their friend, but look right at you

- **Tell them you are going to count to 3 and on 3, anyone who has not already accepted Christ and feels like they are ready to accept Jesus into their heart right now to jump up from where you are sitting run to (a designated safe spot where you have leaders awaiting). And when you do this, all you boys out there who have already accepted Christ, I want you to join the Angels in Heaven and applaud these boys.**
- **Make sure you have the Leaders take the names of the boys that do accept Christ to give to their respective Children's Ministry Leader and parents.**
- **But don't stop there,**
- **Now consider talking to the boys who have already accepted Christ, but need to recommit their lives to Christ and give them the opportunity to come forward as well.**

#### **Fifth ..... Clean Up**

**Remember the old Boy Scout adage to leave a place in better condition when you leave than when you found it.**

- Make sure you designate two people to put out the fire and clean up the event site after the boys leave.

Carefully put out the fire. Remember: **DO NOT** pour water directly on a fire as you can easily get burned by the steam.

Gary Wilkinson  
RA Mission Education Team Member  
Northeast Florida Region

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*If you have an idea that works in your chapter meetings, or want to show and tell about what your RAs did, e-mail your article and/or pictures to Rick Hollis. Contact information is at the bottom of this newsletter.*

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**NEW!!**

**Order your State RA Shirts**



Florida Royal Ambassador T-shirts are available now for \$10 each. You choose which color you want-charcoal or gold. Find the order form, by clicking [here](#).



### ***Additional Information***

We have a Royal Ambassador Endowment fund. This has grants that may help with registration fees for RA events and other related missions events for RAs here in Florida. For more information on how to apply for a RA Endowment grant, contact the WMM/Missions Education Team of the Florida Baptist Convention (contact information below).



TODAY RAs . . .  
TOMORROW  
THE WORLD.



Support RAs in Florida today and into the  
future by giving to the RA Endowment.

[Wmufoundation.com](http://Wmufoundation.com)



***TRAINING***



If you know a church that would like to begin Royal Ambassadors, please let us know. Each team member can answer questions, and someone can travel to the church to train new leaders. We also can provide updated training for churches that already have Royal Ambassadors. We are here to help!



Click [here](#) to like us on Facebook.

**THANK YOU**



## ***UPCOMING EVENTS***

### **2016 RA Events**

**RA Field Day: Event for Boys Grades 1-6 and Their Leaders**  
April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Elizabeth Baptist Church, Monticello, Fla.

### **Middle Florida Baptist Association**

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

There will be missionaries that will talk about the experiences on the mission field, the culture of the area they were in and tell about how they made a difference. There will be games and activities planned, also.

*There will also be training sessions for RA Leaders on topics such as RA Advancement, Ideas to Plan a RA Chapter Meeting, RA Trek, Camp Craft and other topics about RA's during the RA Field Day.*

### **Missional Connection: Conferences, celebration, and training for church leaders**

April 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>--Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center

North of Eustis off of State Road 19

There will be worship services, conferences and workshops. There'll be 4 workshops for RAs, GAs, Acteens, Challengers, and Missions Friends. Other mission ministries found in the local church will have workshops, also. While these activities are going on you'll meet other leaders from other churches.

### **Xtreme Missions: Event for Children Grades 1-6 and Their Leaders**

October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 --Santa Fe River Baptist Association

October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 --Gulf Stream Baptist Association

Your group will go through "airport security" upon arrival and make their own special passport for this awesome adventure! Your flight attendant will give out all of the safety instructions before you depart for destinations all over the world. Travel plans include meeting

missionaries, learning about different cultures, making crafts and singing songs. The Missions Store will be open for shopping for fun items and support material. You don't want to miss out on this fun event!

## **RA Field Day: Event for Boys Grades 1-6 and Their Leaders**

November 2016 --Hosted by First Church of New Port Richey

More information will be coming later.

There will be missionaries that will talk about the experiences on the mission field, the culture of the area they were in and tell about how they made a difference. There will be games and activities planned, also.

*There will also be training sessions for RA Leaders on topics such as RA Advancement, Ideas to Plan a RA Chapter Meeting, RA Trek, Camp Craft and other topics about RA's during the RA Field Day.*



We are committed to help all mission leaders and the church family through training and resources. Please contact us if you have questions and/or needs in your church or association.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you.

**Paul Elwing--State RA Consultant**

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