



Newsletter for RA Leaders and Their Boys **July 2016–Summer Issue**

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Just a Thought

Sooner or later we'll need glasses. Have you ever wondered if it would be better without them? It depends on the person you talk to.

A blind person will tell you he sees obstacles he goes around and they're not a problem because he's been there before and know where they are. A traveling salesman will tell you he's got a long trip to make on the road and knows what short cuts and the best places to eat. A forest ranger will tell you he's seen his share of forest fires and the new flush of grow in the burned out areas as a result of those forest fires. And a surveyor will see hilly and rough land that will turn into a quaint and peaceful neighborhood one day.

When we go to church we see church members we know every week and spend time sharing great fellowship with. But, do we really get to know where they're coming from and how all of us fit together into God's plan knowing there's a catch to all of this? The catch is that God made each of us different?

We often have a personality conflicts, not seeing eye-to-eye on different things, or end up not having anything to do with those difficult or outspoken people. God made us with different personalities and abilities that fit in a place of service we often find ourselves in.

The church accountant is the one that works better by them self and blunt because they can't be disturbed while they're keeping the books of the church in balance. The building superintendent never has time for anyone. He's got to a long list of things to do to keep the church up and well maintained. The person that works in the nursery seems immature because they've got to be on the same level of the toddlers and creepers. That's the secret that keeps the babies entertained while they're in the nursery. And the list goes on.

So, the next time we look around the church, we need to remind ourselves it takes all kinds of people with different backgrounds and personalities to do the work of the church. It's like the different shapes and sizes of gravel in asphalt road that's laid for us to have a smooth and safe drive. Just think: That asphalt road gets too hot in the summer for us to walk on barefooted.

Rick Hollis
RA Mission Education Team Leader
Central Florida Region



RA Field Day at Elizabeth Baptist Church

There were RA chapters from different churches in the panhandle that came together April 9th at Elizabeth Baptist Church in Monticello. There was a combined count of over one-hundred of men and boys that showed up for this event. They came as far west from the Panama City area to as far east as the Jacksonville area. The leaders and the boys were in different groups going to different stations to learn and see what was going on.



There were missionaries from different countries that talked about the mission work they did to help the people groups in the in the country they were in. The Missionaries showed pictures of what the country looked like. They showed items that could be found in that country such as tribal dress and artifacts. There were plenty of questions from boys and their leaders that were asked that add to their learning experience about foreign missions.

At another station the boys and leaders learned about home missions. They heard first-hand from an Army Chaplin that was there sharing about his experience helping our military with their daily and spiritual needs here. The display he had set up said the rest.

Then there was the archery. The boys and their leaders either learned a few things about archery or had a refresher course on archery. Demonstrations on safety made archery a meaningful experience. Of course all that participated did have a chance to do some target practicing, learning some archery skills, or honing their skills.



While they were outside, they had a chance to learn about rifle safety and some facts about rifles. After the learning and the demonstrations were finished, they had a chance to do some target practicing. This experience showed them to respect firearms, first hand understanding of the responsibility of owning a firearm, and knowing firearms can be something to use to enjoy as a recreation.



Before you know it, lunch was ready. This time, Spaghetti was on the menu. What a pleasant surprise! Oh, there was garlic bread and salad, included.

During lunch the RA Races started up and went without interruption.

The boys built their cars at home and/or church with some help from time-to-time. Then the time came for the boys to race their RA Racers. There was plenty of excitement and serious competition going on. Like any race, there were plenty of wrecks while the RA Racers came down the track. Boys and their leaders were on either side of the tracks watching to see which RA Racer was going to win each paired race.



Finally, the awards were given out. The categories were divided into Lads (Grades 1-3) and Crusaders (Grades 4-6). Each category had their 1st place, 2nd place, and 3rd place ribbons. The ones that placed in the RA Races were awarded their ribbons. Most important: there were no losers! Everyone got a ribbon for participating in the RA Field Day and God was the "GRAND" participant.

The next RA Field Day will be held at First Baptist Church of New Port Richey on Saturday, November



12. See below for more information.



Reminder of the Changes to the RA Material

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 curriculums 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.

More RA Blips—

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.

**Paul Elwing
State RA Consultant**



Campcraft Ideas—Summer Preparation

OK, so you have the summer off before RA's start up again August so you have time to rest. Right? Wrong!

What Now?

OK, so the RA World magazines are not out yet and you have some time before you need to start planning your August/September meetings. So what's left to do? Probably the most important part of your RA program. What's that you ask? It is **SAFETY**.

Take Action Now

1. Does your church have an emergency action plan in case of a fire, tornado, child missing, gun shot, etc.?
 - a. If so do you have a copy and do you understand it? Maybe it requires some revision?
 - b. If your church does not already have one for your meeting location, consider developing one for the RA Program.
 - c. Does it include a primary and secondary evacuation route?
2. Do you know where your first aid kit is located? Has it been restocked?
3. Do you know where the fire extinguishers and fire alarms are located?
4. Are you Leaders trained in First Aid and CPR?
 - a. If not, request the church schedule training for all its Children Ministry Leaders.
5. Does your church require background checks for Children's Ministry workers? If so, ensure your RA Leaders fill out the required forms promptly.

If you wait until August or September to start thinking about these preparations when you are trying to recruit and prepare your lesson material, you know what will happen.

Take a lesson from the Boy Scouts. **BE Prepared!**

Gary Wilkinson
RA Mission Education Team Member
Northeast Florida Region



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.



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. Contact dgarland@flbaptist.org for an order form.



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 dgrarlanld@flbaptist.org.



TODAY RAs . . .
TOMORROW
THE WORLD.



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

Wmufoundation.com



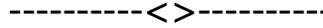
TRAINING

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

Royal Ambassador Leader Training

August 27, 2016 – First Baptist Church Coral Park

8755 S.W. 16th Street
Miami, Fl. 33165
(305) 559-0241

This training event for RA Leaders begins at 10:00 am. If you would like to begin RAs in your church, beef up your existing leadership skills or just find out what RAs is all about, then this training is for you. Topics will include RA Advancement, Ideas to Plan a RA Chapter Meeting, RA Trek, Campcraft, ideas for outdoor activities, and other topics to help jump-start RAs in your church. There will be time for questions and comments in each training session.

Notice: This training will have translators present for Spanish speakers.

Contact the church office at (305) 559-0241 or Paul Elwing at (863)-899-4810 or e-mail him at macchoochoo@gmail.com for more information.



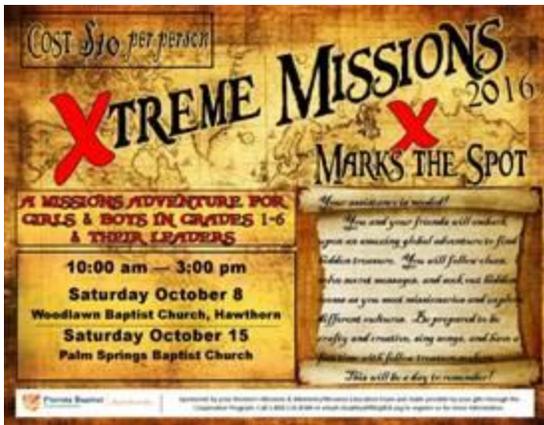
Xtreme Missions: X Marks the Spot! Missions Event for Children Grades 1-6 and Their Leaders

October 8th, 2016 --- Woodlawn Baptist Church

818 County Rd 20A
Hawthorne, FL 32640
(352) 481-3652

October 15th, 2016 -- Palm Springs Baptist Church

3300 North 10th Avenue
Lake Worth, Florida 33461
(561-965-8970)



This missions adventure coed event is for boys and girls in grades 1-6 and their leaders. Each event will begin at **10:00 am** on Saturday morning and will conclude by **3:00 pm**. At this event children will embark upon an amazing global adventure to find hidden treasure. They will follow clues, solve secret messages, and seek out hidden rooms as they meet missionaries and explore different cultures. They will need to be prepared to be crafty and creative, sing songs, and have a fun time with fellow treasure seekers. 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! **Cost is \$10 per person and includes lunch.**

For more information about the Xtreme Missions event contact Delicia at 1-800-226-8584, ext. 3140 or e-mail her at dgarland@flbaptist.org or go to <http://flbaptist.org/events/> to download a flyer and registration form.



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

November 12th, 2016 -- First Baptist Church of New Port Richey

6800 Trouble Creek Rd
 New Port Richey, FL 34653
 (727) 849-4210



This missions event for RAs will include meeting 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; games, fun activities and food. Event begins at 10:00 am and will conclude by 3:00 pm.

In addition, there will be training sessions for RA Leaders on topics such as RA Advancement, Ideas on How to Plan a RA Chapter Meeting, RA Trek, Camp Craft and other topics about RA's.

Cost is \$10 per person and includes lunch.

For more information about the RA Field Day event contact Delicia at 1-800-226-8584, ext. 3140 or e-mail her at dgarland@flbaptist.org or Paul Elwing at (863)-899-4810 or e-mail him at macchoochoo@gmail.com or go to <http://flbaptist.org/events/> to download a flyer and registration form.



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!

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