



# *Florida RA Zone*

**Newsletter for RA Leaders and Their Boys  
January, 2017-- Winter Issue**

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## ***Just a Thought***

It's who we are and what we are to others that counts. How we treat, talk, and handle others are strong factors in how we present ourselves in public, at school, church, and by the most casual observer.

Each of us have our own personalities; we may be in positions of authority, a leader, or possibly be in the spotlight of the public. We may treat people a certain way and justify it with a casual explanation related to our upbringing, family tree, or the way we see others. Sometimes, this may cause others to avoid us unaware to us.

When we get older we see ourselves no longer effective in the things we used to do for God or be involved in working with people or children. In other words: "We are stuck in our ways." (How many times have we heard that?)

Like a "Walkie Talkie" that works from a perimeter because that was the way it was designed. (It's called "Research and Development".) When it comes to us as people, we were created by God almost the same way. The only catch is: We are created with a purpose and a plan in mind that God has for us that is living and

sharper than a double-edged sword for as long as we are living on earth. But, we have a free will we exercise to choose how we think, act, or even react. That can change everything.

Without knowing we could change what God planned for us in the beginning of our walk with Him. It may be out of convenience or a dislike and gyp ourselves. If this can continue to happen as we get older, the result when we get older will cause us to “Get stuck in our ways” and we can no longer function in the thing we used to do because the choices we made along the way. This isn’t to say; The way things turns out later on in life will change God’s overall plan.

At the end of time, God will have the final word and we may be disappointed because we were stuck in our ways.

To prevent this from happening is to remember to put Christ first. He put others first and treated them like wise--“In season and out of season”.

Rick Hollis  
RA Mission Education Team Leader  
Central Florida Region

## ***Changes in the WMU***

None of us like change but life is full of it. RA's saw a few changes in 2016 like moving to quarterly curriculum from every 2 months. RA's also found itself under new leadership at the National WMU level. We welcome Sandra Wisdom-Martin who replaced Wanda Lee as Executive Director of WMU. The following link will let you get to know the new Exec a little better. We also want to say a gracious thank you to Wanda Lee, the outgoing Exec, for her many years of faithful service.

<http://www.wmu.com/?q=article/national-wmu-news/wisdom-martin-elected-executive-director-wmu-sbc> .

We also saw an addition to the National WMU Staff with Zachary Seanor hired as the new Ministry Consultant for Boys. Go to

<http://www.wmu.com/?q=article/news/royal-ambassadors-challengers/national-wmu-welcomes-new-ministry-consultant-boys> to learn more about Zachary.



To stay up to date on WMU news check out <http://www.wmu.com/?q=news/wmu>.

These changes will optimism and create opportunities to further the Gospel message to young men. But regardless of your viewpoint on change we have the promise that God and His Word never changes.

Paul Elwing  
Florida RA Consultant

***Getting Parents Involved***

One very critical action item is getting parents involved and onboard with the RA Program. There are many activities available for parents to consider for their children.

We as parents, sometimes take for granted how valuable the RA program can be to a young boy. We don't always see this amidst the plethora of other events. As such, it is important to reach out to the parents and let them know YOU want their boy in RAs.

Yes, if you want to have a successful program, it is necessary to recruit these young boys. Just as important, you need to let the parents know what RA's is all about and how it can be a positively impact to their child.

#### How to Recruit

1. Advertise on your Church Web Site
  - a. Set up a link just for RA's
  - b. Explain the purpose of RA's and what value it has to the young boys
  - c. Put upcoming information on the link
  - d. Place pictures of past events
2. Speak to the Sunday School Leader and request to be able to talk to each class room in grades 1-6 for a few minutes about RA's during Sunday School.
  - a. Give them a RA sticker to wear home (less likely they will lose it) and the parents may then ask about the sticker.
  - b. Send home a flyer or post card describing the RA program and when they meet.

3. Request a Sunday morning when the RA's can be greeters. Have them wear RA T Shirts and/or RA Vests.

a. Maybe set up a booth that shows the activities the RA's do during the year.

b. Sponsor a Lottie Moon or Annie Armstrong missions fundraising event.

4. Give incentives to the RA's to bring a guest. Go to the Lifeway web site for ideas. Here is the link for ideas: <http://www.lifeway.com/Keyword/ra?Sz=120> .

#### How to Keep Parents Informed

Let's face it; we are bombarded with information every day. So, it can be difficult for parents to keep up with what's going on at RA's on a particular night. Flyers we send home sometimes end up as paper airplanes and/or in the trash can.

Here are some other ideas as to how to keep the parents informed and INTERESTED in the program.

1. Request a parent's cell phone number and create a text message list of all RA parents.

a. Then on Tuesday send them a text of what will be going on in RA's on Wednesday.

b. Include a question to ask their son about the missions training or special event for that night.

2. Create an email list for flyers and upcoming events. Keep in mind that

a. All emails should be addressed to the Children's Ministry Leader with parents addresses sent as .bcc (blind copy) to protect parents privacy.

b. A parent may give you their personal (non-work email) which they may only check once in a while. It may be beneficial to send them a text to let them know a flyer or more information is in their email.

c. When sending info via email, keep in mind that many parents do not have power point, word and excel. As such, copy and paste the info in the text of the email.

3. Put the flyer up in advance outside the class room where parents waiting to pick up can review the flyer.

4. Advertise on the Church web site.

5. Ensure the parents you will provide contact information so they may call if there are any questions about an event.

6. Personally invite the parents to attend special events.

a. You can do this when they pick up and drop off the RA.

b. Usually the mom picks up the RA. If appropriate, ask for the dad's phone number and give him a call to personally invite him to participate.

**Gary Wilkinson**  
**Ra Mission Education Team Member**  
**Northeastern Region**



## **Need Your Help**

*(Registration Change)*

We need your help in order to be able to let you about coming events. How can you do that, I'm glad you asked. One way is to make sure your RA Chapter every year. That gives us a fresh valid point of contact each year. You can register your chapter at <http://www.wmu.com/?q=article/national-wmu/register-your-missions-group-wmu>.

Another way you can help is send me an email to [macchoochoo@gmail.com](mailto:macchoochoo@gmail.com), with your name, your church's name (including city) and an email address that we can use to communicate with you. We also need your help finding other churches with RA's so send me the names of other churches that you know of that have RAs so we can communicate with them as well.

Why do we need this info? In the past we got contact information from the Annual Church Profile (ACP) that your church fills out and sends in each September. Unfortunately that report no longer asks for specific Missions

Organizations and points of contact which now means we don't know who has RAs or how to contact you. In order to successfully hold events like RA Field Day or Xtreme Missions, we need to know how to communicate this info to you. We were forced to cancel our last RA Field Day in November 2016 because not enough people signed up for the event, we couldn't get the word out to enough RA Leaders. Please let us know how to communicate with you and how we can help you in your RA Ministry.

**Paul Elwing**  
Florida RA Consultant

## *2016 Migrant Children's Camp*

Even though Migrant Children's Camp is part of Migrant Ministries of the Florida Baptist Convention, Paul Elwing and Rick Hollis that makes up part of the Royal Ambassador Missions Education Team were there.



Rick Hollis was a cabin counselor for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade boys and Paul Elwing was a cabin counselor for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade boys. Between the two men, they saw plenty of boys. They were with the boys for some of the fun, worship, meals, and crafts. Their most important role on

Saturday was during “Camper’s Choice”.

During Camper’s Choice Rick was in charge of the Campcraft. He organized 4 50 minute time tracks exclusively for the boys that were in the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade while Paul assisted him.

Rick taught the boys different knots in “Rope Craft” while Paul taught the boys some amazing things in “Nature Study”. There was something different about how they taught these skills to these boys. They did spiritual applications about Jesus.

Talking about Jesus during camp using spiritual also included a lot of fun and learning.

At the end of camp there was a count in attendance close to 200 campers. Out of those 200 campers that were at camp 63 asked Jesus into their heart and got saved. How about that!!!!

There was Celebration where the campers and counselors saw puppet shows, had a picnic on the grounds, did crafts, had fun with the piñata, had Pizza, the most excited thing was Santa came to each of the cabins while the campers were sleeping and the next morning the kids woke up to Christmas presents Santa left them.

All-in-all was a blast seeing this happens. If you would like to be part of this event, contact either Rick Hollis, Paul Elwing, or the Florida Baptist Convention and ask for the Migrant Ministries.

**If you want to insert an idea, an article, write about your RA Chapter, or something about RAs published in the RA Zone e-mail Rick Hollis. His contact information is at the bottom of this newsletter.**

# Other Cool RA Things



[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.](#)

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).

[We're on FaceBook!!! Click here and "Like Us". Sit back and visit for a while. You'll see what we do here in Florida.](#)



## RA Calendar of Events:

### ***Royal Ambassador Field Day***

March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017--Southside Baptist Church

1453 Atlantic Blvd.

Jacksonville, Florida 32207

(904) 396-6633

Duval County Baptist Association

10:00 am. To 3:00pm., Saturday

This state-wide event for boys and their leaders in Royal Ambassadors. This field day will include sports, fun activities, missions, missionaries, and other areas of interest for men and boys.

Leader must accompany students. One adult leader or mentor per six (6) students is required. Pants, jeans, knee length shorts may be worn.

Registration fee: \$10.00 per person

Field Day registration forms and flyers will come soon.

### Leaders--

There will be training and updates on topics related to the Royal Ambassador program while the planned activities for the boy are in progress. Each adult leader interested will have an opportunity to participate in a training session during RA Field Day.

## ***Missional Celebration***

**April 21<sup>st</sup> and April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center**

**39034 Country Road 452**

**North of Eustis of State Road 19**

**This event has breakout sessions on the different mission organizations in the Florida Baptist Convention, worship time, and a time of fellowship. There will be breakout sessions for RA Leaders on topics and how to's about the chapter meeting.**

**For more information call the Florida Baptist Convention at 800-229-8584 ext. 3141 and ask for Delicia.**



## ***Camp WorldLight for Boys***

**Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center--North Camp**

**39034 County Rd 452**

**Leesburg, FL 34788**

**June 12<sup>th</sup>-June 16th**

**Monday 2:00pm to Friday 2:00pm**

**[Click here for Registration form camp](#) and [Promotion Flyer](#)**

## ***Camp WorldLight for Boys***

**Blue Springs Baptist Conference Center**

**265 Lakeshore Drive**

**Marianna, Florida 32446**

**June 26<sup>th</sup>-June 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Monday 2:00pm to Friday 2:00pm**

**[Click here for Registration form camp](#) and [Promotion Flyer](#)**

## ***Xtreme Missions***

**October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Host Church will be announce at a later time**

**10:00am to 3:00pm**

**This statewide mission event includes a day learning about missions and meeting missionaries, enjoying outdoor sports, and other fun activities. This event is for Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Action, and Children in Action (Co-ed).**

**Leader must accompany students. One adult leader or mentor per six (6) students is required. Pants, jeans, knee length shorts may be worn.**

**Registration fee is \$10.00 per person--lunch is included.**

## ***Xtreme Missions***

**October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017**

**Host Church will be announce at a later time**

**10:00am to 3:00pm**

**This statewide mission event includes a day learning about missions and meeting missionaries, enjoying outdoor sports, and other fun activities. This event is for Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Action, and Children in Action (Co-ed).**

**Leader must accompany students. One adult leader or mentor per six (6) students is required. Pants, jeans, knee length shorts may be worn.**

**Registration fee is \$10.00 per person--lunch is included.**

## ***Royal Ambassador Field Day***

**November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017--First Baptist Church Coral Park**

**8755 SW 16th Street**

**Miami, Florida 33165**

**(305) 559-0241**

**Miami-Dade County Baptist Association**

**\*Friday Afternoon to 3:00pm., Saturday**

**This state-wide event for boys and their leaders in Royal Ambassadors. This field day will include sports, fun activities, missions, missionaries, and other areas of interest for men and boys.**

**Leader must accompany students. One adult leader or mentor per six (6) students is required. Pants, jeans, knee length shorts may be worn.**

**\*This RA Field Day is going to include tent camping starting Friday afternoon at the church. More information about the arrangements will come later.**

### **Leaders--**

**There will be training and updates on topics related to the Royal Ambassador program while the planned activities for the boy are in progress. Each adult leader interested will have an opportunity to participate in a training session during RA Field Day.**

***Paul Elwing--State RA Consultant***

***[macchoochoo@gmail.com](mailto:macchoochoo@gmail.com)***

***Rick Hollis--Team Leader***

***Central Florida Region***

***[needsomerahelp@gmail.com](mailto:needsomerahelp@gmail.com)***

***Gary Wilkinson--Team Member***

***Northeast Region***

***[ggwinjax@gmail.com](mailto:ggwinjax@gmail.com)***

***Howard York--Team Member***

***Southwest Region***

***[skunkmonkey@verizon.net](mailto:skunkmonkey@verizon.net)***

**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.**



**Florida Baptist**  
Convention

*Right Beside You.*

**Florida Baptist Convention  
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Jacksonville, Florida 32207  
800-226-8584**

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