



12/9/2010

To all SD District Royal Ranger Commanders:

As most of you know, Mark Entzminger has been serving as the interim SD District Director for Royal Rangers since Mike Glanzer retired earlier this year. Mark has recently been hired to serve in Springfield as the new Director of Children's Ministries. We are excited for him, but sad to see him leave. I have been asked to take over as the new RR District Director and have prayerfully accepted the position.

I have been involved in Royal Rangers since I was a Straight Arrow at 5 years old, and participated as a boy through Trailblazers (9<sup>th</sup> grade). After graduating from college, I began serving as a Ranger commander in Bridgeport Nebraska, and became the senior commander in 2002. I have been involved as a commander since then, and am currently the Senior Commander at Outpost 1 at First Assembly of God in Rapid City as well as the District Training Coordinator. God has put a passion in my heart for mentoring and discipling boys, and I hope to continue on with that work in this position!

I would like to share my vision for the future of Rangers in the South Dakota District, and feel it is important for all commanders to know where we are headed. First, it is very difficult to accomplish anything without the ability to communicate efficiently. There have been a lot of changes to the ministry in the last several years, and there are more to come. It is my job to let you know what is happening in the National Royal Ranger office, and around the district, and to help your outpost with the challenges you are facing. I plan on providing regular email newsletters covering various topics that are important to fulfilling God's purpose for the ministry at the outpost level. I also will expect all District Staff to provide updates to their areas of function in a similar manner so that we all stay up-to-date, and no commander or outpost feels that they are a "Royal Ranger island". We also want to know how your outpost is doing! Please share any stories, challenges, or questions with us. It is beneficial for all commanders to hear about success stories and how God is working in your ministry! Further, I would like to know about any outstanding boys (or

commanders), and the names of any who complete the Ranger Kids Gold Trail, the Discovery Rangers Gold Falcon, Gold Hawk, and Gold Eagle advancements, and Adventure Rangers who complete the Bronze, Silver, or Gold Medals of Achievement. If possible, I would like to participate in some way in the awarding of these medals, whether in person or by letter. Due to its efficiency, I would like to use email as our primary source of communication. Currently we have some emails, but are missing many. Senior Commanders, please help me collect addresses of your commanders. I would also like to include your pastors in my email lists so they can also stay informed on Ranger happenings.

Secondly, I believe that commander training is vital to the success of your outposts. A few months ago, someone asked me why it is that Royal Rangers stresses the training of commanders so much, when other ministries do little or nothing. I had to consider that question for a while, but have come to the conclusion that, bottom line, the quality of the ministry will only be as strong as the quality of the men. The average tenure of a Ranger commander that has not had any training is 6 months, according to national statistics. Our society has degraded the role of men to below mediocrity, and it is a constant battle for all of us to stay the course and pursue excellence with so many distractions from God's purposes. Ranger training provides opportunity to learn about Royal Rangers itself, how to mentor and disciple, risk management, evangelism, leadership, teamwork, and other topics that reach at the heart of Godly manhood. After all, we are called to "Study to show yourself approved to God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (1 Timothy 2:15). The new commander training curriculum, which was unveiled March 2010, is exciting and relevant, and involves less classwork and more home study than the previous system. Our job as district staff is to provide your outpost with any and all training that you need. Please let me know if you desire training. We will come to your area and hold training seminars as needed. We are also happy to have youth workers, pastors, nursery workers, and girls' ministries leaders be involved with relevant seminars, such as "Safety and the Church". The commander's conference will be resumed this year as well, and is a great chance to gather and fellowship with other commanders from around the district and participate in continuing education. Stay tuned for details! "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17

Third, we will build on the outstanding events we have held in the past, and will seek your input on how to better them each time. We need to develop a culture

of “Question, Learn, and Change” with everything we do, and constantly strive to do better. We will seek ways to continually improve and expand events such as the summer and winter powwows, the commander’s conference, and the FCF trace, and to develop new events as circumstances permit.

Fourth, we will be seeking to expand the number of Ranger outposts in the district, and to work with youth pastors to grow the number of outposts that have Adventure and Expedition Rangers. Boys in middle school and high school are at a critical time in their lives as they are developing their identities in Christ and the world. I believe strongly that young men at this age will benefit from a mentoring ministry, and that Royal Rangers can serve a supporting role in a youth ministry. The FCF organization within Rangers will serve to further challenge Adventure and Expedition Rangers. Alan and I plan to see an increased involvement with current FCF members, and to begin an annual missions project sponsored by FCF that is specifically for the older boys . Ranger events will seek to keep these boys engaged as well with age appropriate activities for middle school and high school boys.

Lastly, the district staff currently consists of myself, Alan Drews as the FCF President, and Bruce Dye as the Outreach Coordinator. We will be building our team to further meet the vision of the SD district Royal Rangers.

I am excited about the opportunity to serve you as your new District Director! Please keep me and the rest of the staff in your prayers in this time of transition. Please contact me at any time– I am here to help you!

Your servant in Christ,

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