

Recognition Services

Recognition Services provide opportunities to recognize the accomplishments of each Royal Ambassador member. They also provide the opportunity for people to become acquainted with the Royal Ambassadors program.

Listed below are several key factors to remember when planning recognition services:

- *Keep the service simple.* Consider the age level (expected capability) of the participants.
- *Maintain dignity.* Let the boys know that dignity is honorable and expected behavior as Ambassadors for Christ.
- *Conduct the service in reasonable time frame.* Give consideration to the attention span of the Royal Ambassadors and audience.
- *Plan and rehearse the service.* Determine the purpose, when and where it will be conducted, and who is responsible for each aspect of the service. Allow time for participants to practice before conducting the ceremony so that boys and leaders know what is expected from them.
- *Promote the service.* An important aspect in conducting a recognition service is to always invite significant persons of a boy's life to witness him being recognized. (Parents, Pastor, others)

Recognition services can be conducted on a quarterly basis. Recognize boys for the following:

First Quarter (September-November): Welcoming ceremony for new RAs and for Lads promoting to Crusaders; RA awards earned; State Missions Study; World Hunger Patch.

Second Quarter (December-February): Welcoming ceremony for new RAs; RA awards earned; activity patches; International Mission Study patch.

Third Quarter (March-May): Welcoming ceremony for new RAs; RA awards earned; North American Mission Study patch; yearly pins/patches earned.

Fourth Quarter (June-August): Welcoming ceremony for new RAs; RA awards earned; athletic patches; campcraft patches; Bible memory medals.

Sample Recognition Service

People Involved:

Royal Ambassadors	Pastor	Parents
RA Director & Leaders	Children's Minister	Soloist

Room Arrangement: Church auditorium or large room with stage area.

Service:

Prelude (mission hymns)		
Welcome	RA Director	
Prayer Calendar	Crusaders	
Special Music by Soloist	(Mission Song)	
Royal Ambassador Recognition	Pastor and RA Leaders	

RA Awards	Other Awards	Special Awards
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Royal Ambassador Song	RA Leader	
Benediction	Children's Minister	

Recognition Services: (These services can be conducted separately or combined.)

Welcoming Ceremony: A welcoming ceremony can be as simple as recognizing the individual to the other Royal Ambassador members and welcoming them to the group by shaking hands, or the ceremony can be very impressive and detailed. Boys desire to be a part of the group and need to know that they are welcome. Have the RA members voice their approval of the new member and each member shakes his hand at the close of the ceremony. Impress upon the RAs that they are responsible for helping the new member to become an Ambassador for Christ.

RA Commissioning Service: The commissioning service is a very impressive ceremony built upon the RA Pledge. Many RA groups conduct this service before the entire church during RA Week (first week of November). Information concerning this recognition service is located in the Appendix Section.

Signature Service: The signature service is a simple impressive ceremony built upon the RA Pledge with the boys signing their name and date to the bottom of the RA Pledge to serve as an Ambassador for Christ. Discuss the importance of each person's name and a covenant. The RA Pledge can be framed and placed on the chapter wall. Make a copy to be placed in the boy's notebook. Some churches issue metal "dog tags" to each boy with his name imprinted in the tags at the conclusion of the service as a reminder of his commitment to live out the words of the RA Pledge.

Award Ceremony: The award ceremony provides a formal way to acknowledge the accomplishments of the boys and their leaders. Traditionally, awards are presented to the individual during the award ceremony. Another option is to present the awards to the boys during a chapter meeting soon after they have earned them. At the award ceremony have the boy step forward (wearing his vest with pins and patches) when you call his name and acknowledge the awards that he has earned since the last award ceremony. Never give a boy an award that he has not earned if you want him to respect his accomplishments.

Knighting Ceremony: The Knighting ceremony is an impressive way to acknowledge that a boy has completed the requirements for the highest rank in Royal Ambassadors. A wooden sword is constructed from plywood. During the ceremony, the boy steps forward when his name is called and kneels before the RA Leader. The leader tells the audience that the boy has completed the requirements for the following ranks (Page-Squire-Knight) and is being Knighted (the leader lightly taps the boy on each shoulder with the flat part of the blade). When the boy arises as a Knight, he is presented with the sword that is to remind him that as an Ambassador for Christ, he is to perform Knightly Deeds as stated in the Crusader Motto: "Helping Others in Christ's Name". Information on the Knighting Ceremony is located in the Appendix Section.

The Father's Blessing: The father's blessing is an opportunity for boys to be affirmed by their dads and other godly men. It can serve as a rite of passage in the boy's life to mark the transition points from being an infant to a child, then becoming an older child, then becoming a youth. Boys need to hear the prayers of their fathers. Keep the prayers simple. (Example Genesis 27:28-29) More information about conducting a father's blessing ceremony is located in the Appendix Section.