
Grouping Royal Ambassadors

Royal Ambassadors are divided into two age groups based on the developmental characteristics of boys: Lads (boys in grades 1-3) and Crusaders (boys in grades 4-6). Within each age group, there are vast differences in the developmental characteristics of the boys. Lads require a greater amount of assistance and supervision from leaders. Depending on the number of RAs you have, you may choose to conduct meetings in one of several ways.

All Together: Churches with few boys and leaders may choose to combine all ages for the missions experience. Adult leaders work together with all of the boys.

Two Groups: Boys meet together for opening activities. Leaders work together in conducting these activities, and then divide the boys into separate age groups.

By School Grade: Leaders conduct separate activities with either the Lads or Crusaders in separate meeting areas of the church. Grouping the boys by school grade requires several committed leaders trained to work with the boys.

How to Combine Age Groups

If there were such a thing as an "ideal" RA chapter, it would have eight to 10 boys with two or more adult leaders, and consist of boys in the same age grouping (either Lads or Crusaders). But, not every church's situation is ideal.

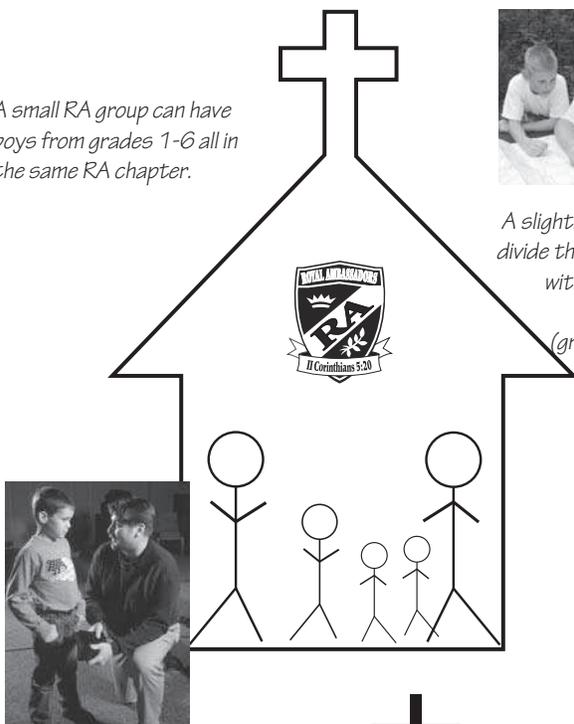
If your church's RA ministry is just beginning, or the number of boys available is small, you may need to combine age groups into one RA chapter. This presents a challenge, since there are differences in the magazine missionary stories and activities.

Here are some suggestions on how you can lead an RA meeting if you need to combine Lads and Crusaders.

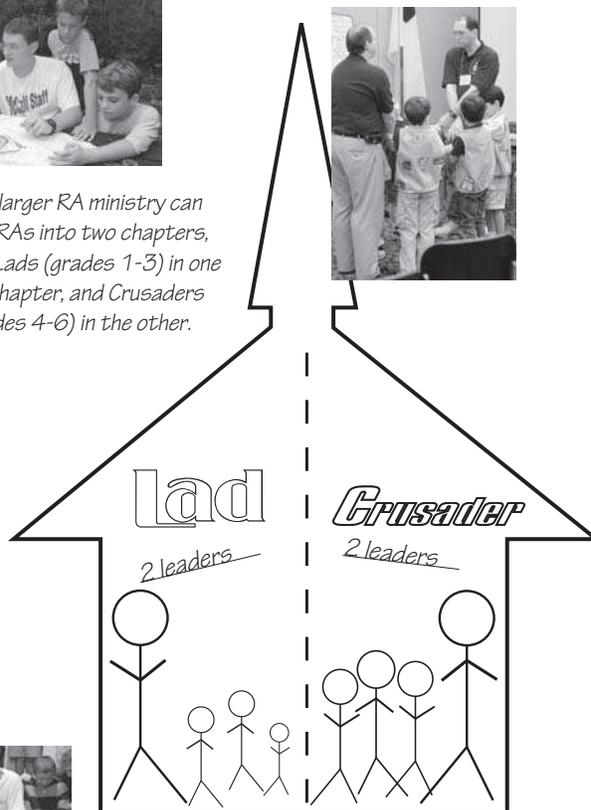
- Obtain copies of both *Lad Leader* and *Crusader Leader* magazine and review the activities and missionary stories. Order copies of *Lad* or *Crusader* for the RAs, depending on their school grade. Even though the missionary stories are different for the two age groups, they always have the same missionary and focus on the same part of the RA Pledge.
- Choose an Opening activity that can be done with the boys in your group. Be aware of the levels of physical development that may give older boys an unfair advantage. If needed, adapt the activity to level the playing field. Let all the boys participate in the Opening activity.
- Divide the boys into small groups with one leader presenting the missionary story and recall activity from *Lad* to the younger RAs (Lads), and the other leader presenting the missionary story and recall activity from *Crusader* to the older RAs (Crusaders). You can present one of the missionary stories, or you might alternate stories from the two magazines week by week.

- Choose one activity from the Mission Games and Activities sections of the magazines in which the whole group can participate.
- Combine the groups of boys for the Closing. If a closing game is needed, choose one in which all of the boys can participate.

A small RA group can have boys from grades 1-6 all in the same RA chapter.



A slightly larger RA ministry can divide the RAs into two chapters, with Lads (grades 1-3) in one chapter, and Crusaders (grades 4-6) in the other.



A large RA ministry can have several RA chapters, or even a combination of RA chapters and other kinds of RA work, like small groups using the resource Sons of Virtue.

