

“Servants Behind the Scenes”-NNED Security Color Guard

By Cdr. Jason Wright, Security Color Guard Coordinator, & Cdr. Jay M. Woodward, Pony Express Editor

When you go to Pow-Wow, you can't help but notice them. They wear black caps, black cargo pants and bright white T-shirts that are imprinted with the word "Security". They look like a young, elite, special forces unit, patrolling the campsites and keeping an eye on things. Who are these sharp-dressed young men? They are the NNED Security Color Guard, a unique program within the Rangers ministry. NNED and SNED are the only two districts (thus far, but not for long) in the whole country to offer this exciting opportunity to serve the Lord.

While the "history" of the SCG in both NNED and SNED predates the ministry of these authors, it is safe to say that this special brotherhood within the priesthood of Royal Rangers is certainly moving forward in the hands of God. SCG Camp attendance has grown to record numbers, and the utility of the group has developed greatly at Local, Sectional, District, and National events. The future leadership and training of this group of willing servants will continue to be facilitated "by the boys, for the boys, and through the boys" within SCG.

One of the little known facts of the "culture" of SCG is that nearly all the specialized training provided at SCG Camp (a required event for "active" status on the SCG team) is taught and re-taught by boys and young men of the SCG Corps of Leaders, most of whom are under the age of 21. Adult leaders only serve as advisors, correcting the few (if any) errors and issues that may arise. Boys also have the opportunity to attend the camp (offered every two years) as many times as they wish, and with each additional visit to the camp, boys are given more challenging positions of leadership and heightened responsibility. This growth and development could typically have a boy serving in his first camp as a recruit, second camp as a patrol guide, third camp as a member of Junior Staff (an instructor), and, should the Lord Bless, a fourth camp as a member of Senior Staff of the SCG Camp! To accomplish four camps in a boy's Royal Ranger career, it is suggested that an interested boy (or a boy that a Commander deems eligible for "encouragement") take the step of faith and start at Discovery Ranger age. Yes, it is possible, and even permissible. Also, any Royal Ranger interested in pursuing his "Saber" Leadership Award should consider SCG Camp; attendance at a minimum of two SCG Camps (the second one being the leadership opportunity for the boy) could very well be considered a valid qualifier for one camp fulfilled toward the highly-acclaimed and rarely-bestowed Saber and it's corresponding White Beret...talk about impressive!

While the public image of SCG is what some Royal Rangers would describe as "cool"; sharply uniformed soldiers for Christ, whether in utility fatigues or in Class B Khakis with black berets, ascots and "white gear", combined with the opportunity to cruise around in a golf cart or other utility vehicle, the reality of SCG is what most do not see: the servant's heart. Many of the boys that serve on SCG choose to do so because they want to serve the ministry of Royal Rangers, and not always be served by it. When Security is "on-duty" during their scheduled shifts, they forfeit the opportunity to play games, go swimming, hang around in their campsites, and enjoy the relaxed things of Pow-Wow or Maine Yukon Days. They have chosen to serve, work, and obey. Simply put, not all of the duties of SCG are glamorous. While the SCG may look "fun and easy" during presentation of colors, that 5 minutes of fame is only a drop in the bucket of a full day (and night) of "working Security".

It is really only fair to say that SCG has one mission: to serve. Whom they serve and how they serve takes on numerous tasks and challenges. At a District Event, the SCG works for and reports to the Camp Commander, taking on the duties of registration and parking to final inspections and dismissal from campsites or cabins, and everything in between, most of which occurs "on the fly". The SCG serves the Camp Attendees by keeping areas safe, minimizing vehicle traffic through the camp, providing extra eyes at campsites for tool safety and fire safety issues, and for providing assistance and direction whenever and wherever possible. At times, SCG may be required to report an incident to the SCG Commander or Camp Commander, or may have to deal with the issue themselves. It is hoped that all Royal Rangers understand that SCG Staff members need as much cooperation as possible from the boys and men attending the events in order for SCG to fulfill its mission of serving and keeping the camp safe. Rest assured that the boys and men of SCG have received highly specialized training and explicit instructions and orders from their superiors with that very mission in mind. Recently, SCG also was used to help with both Security and Color Guard services at Camporama 2006, braving the heat and the dust, and working with actual law enforcement personnel to help patrol the campsites and help things run smoothly. It attracted new attention to Color Guard, as some of our local NNED boys were even recognized at an evening service in front of thousands of boys and men from around the country!

It is our hope that you will all take a



A Proud Moment: Security Color Guard at Camporama 2006.

moment to pray for the Security Color Guard, for all boys and men of that elite corps of servants everywhere: past, present, and future. Pray also to hear if the Lord's leading is for you to become a part of that unsung brotherhood. The next SCG Camp would potentially be in 2008, to help men and boys get "Ready" for the exciting opportunity to be involved in this dynamic program! Also, next time you see our proud Security Color Guard, take a moment to stop and talk to them, and thank them. They truly are "servants behind the scenes", and a vital part of the NNED Royal Rangers mission of "Reaching, Teaching, and Keeping Men and Boys for Christ"!

Security should always say "Please" and never ask for a "Thank You", but let's take a moment to recognize and thank the active roster of the NNED Security Color Guard:

Dickey, Deven OP25
 Fajardo, Edison OP3
 Fajardo, Victor OP3
 Geiser, Nathan OP21
 Krys, Ryan OP5
 Lacombe, Nick OP25
 McAdam, Rylan OP25
 Montoya, Job OP40
 Paquette, Ryley OP11
 Philbrick, Peter-John OP
 Philbrick, Zechariah OP3
 Sperrey, Kaleb OP25
 Webb, Nate OP11
 Beaulieu, Ethan OP25
 Belanger, Peter OP21
 Blake, Jake OP40
 Brassard, Jeremy OP11
 Damon, Isaiah OP21
 Damon, Jonathan OP21
 Day, Aaron OP25

Note: Hopefully nobody was missed, and I'd also like to thank ALL the Commanders and families of these boys who also serve to transport these fine young men to SCG Camp and everywhere they need to go to do the Lord's work. THANK YOU AND MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU! ~Cdr. Jason A. Wright, NNED SCG Coordinator.

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District Commander

Jerry Love

Deputy District Commander

Kendall Sperrey

FCF President

Tim "Red Oak" Hatch

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The Pony Express is a quarterly publication of the Northern New England District Royal Rangers— Jerry Love, District Commander. Subscription to the Pony Express is given to every chartered outpost in the District as part of the annual chartering dues. The Pony Express is an excellent way to promote what is happening in your, outpost, section, and district. We welcome you to submit articles, photos, etc. Please e-mail your articles to Cdr. Jay Woodward at :
jaymwoodward@gmail.com.

Questions or comments?

Call the NNED Royal Ranger Office at:
(603) 323-7120

DC's Corner

I was reading an email from my son Aubrey the other day, and I came across a quote that he included from Robert J. Sternberg, Professor of Education and Psychology at Yale University. It said, and I quote: "A good book is one whose advice you believe. A great book is one whose advice you follow". I pondered that quote for awhile, and it suddenly dawned on me...as a Christian, I've been known to call the Bible, "The Good Book" all of my

life. Well, it is, isn't it? It's good, it's the "good news". It's God's Word, and I certainly "believe" it. But I read the quote from Professor Sternberg again...and again, and it began to have a real impact on my view of this compilation of writings that I've always taken for granted as "God's Infallible Word". I've never doubted, in my 60 years of life's journey, that what was written was true, was real, was unquestionable, was believable...but is believing really enough? This quote began to take hold of me, and I was swept away with the thought of the thousands upon thousands of Gideon Bibles and others, sitting quietly on thousands upon thousands of nightstands across this country, in motels and hotels and who knows where else, all sitting there being comfortably "believed in". I thought of the dozen or so Bibles in my own home, that find their way with me to church, or to a Ranger event, or to my devotional time or ... yup, to my own nightstand. It's comforting, really, having a book such as the Bible to believe in. In a world where the printed word can be so thwarted, misused and misunderstood, we have a word, a Word, we can understand, we can take comfort in, we can "believe" in. Yes, that makes the Bible a "Good Book". So what's the problem? The quote was gnawing away at me, and for good reason. Do I, in my own personal walk with God, make the Bible a "Great Book"? I believe in the advice the Bible gives me, but do I follow that advice? OK, that's easy enough...sure I'm following God's advice, or at least I think I am, you know, that advice He made so clear to me in His Word. I'm not perfect, far from it, but I know good advice when I hear it, and the Bible is full... of...good...advice? Then it hit me like a ton of bricks. What am I thinking? The Bible is not a great book because we follow its advice, because that's not what God is handing out here...good advice. God, in His perfect plan for us, is not giving us "advice", but rather giving us commands by which to live. They weren't the Ten suggestions or the Ten advises, they are simply the Ten Commandments. Jesus didn't say, "My advice to you is to go into all the world..." no siree, He *commanded* us to go to the ends of the earth, to spread the Word, to reach the lost, to...teach, to keep...wait a minute...this command sounds very familiar. God has given me a command...to "reach, teach and keep men and boys for Christ". Now that's something to believe in...and to follow. So, let me change this quote by the illustrious professor to be more salient to you and I as Royal Ranger leaders. And here it is! "A good book is one whose advice you believe, a great book is one whose advice you follow, THE book is one whose commands you live"!

District Commander Jerry Love
April 2007

NNED Royal Rangers Junior Academy

Anson, ME

July 12-15, 2007

Camp Fee: \$100



DTC

For Discovery Rangers



ATC

For Adventure Rangers



JTC

Completed 7th grade

Important Information:

- Must be a member of a current chartered outpost.
- Camp Fee covers meals, lodging, activity patch, insurance, and hat.
- Camp informational flyers to be mailed to trainee upon receipt of application
- All applications must be postmarked by June 12, 2007 or an additional \$10 will be required.
- Application must be mailed with \$25 deposit and medical form.
- Commanders may attend and pay half price, if they bring 4 boys they may attend for free.
- Commanders **MUST** have an **ACTIVITY SUPERVISORY CERTIFICATION FORM** filled out and brought with them along with the medical form. No Refunds will be made after June 12, 2007.
- Make all checks payable to the Northern New England District Royal Rangers.
- **The Application, as well as the Medical Form and Activity Supervisory Certification Form, is available for download at the District website: WWW.RANGERS-NNED.NET**

Mail completed application to:
Cmdr. Donn Blomerth
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North Anson, ME 04958
E-mail: elecun@tds.net
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THE PONY EXPRESS

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