

# RESEARCH REPORT

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## *Survey of Royal Ambassador Leaders and Parents of Royal Ambassadors*

Phillip B. Jones

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Parents of Royal Ambassadors*

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## Table of Contents

|   | Page |
|---|------|
| <b>Acknowledgements</b> .....   | v    |
| <b>Introduction</b> .....   | 1    |
| <b>Response Rate</b> .....  | 1    |
| <b>Results from the RA Leader Survey—Unique Questions</b> .....                                       | 1    |
| <i>Characteristics of RA Programs</i> .....   | 1    |
| Table 1    Distribution of Number of Boys (by Church) Participating in RAs .....                      | 2    |
| <i>Program Resources</i> .....  | 2    |
| Table 2    Do you use regular RAs (Classic RAs) or Easy RAs (EZRAs)? .....                            | 2    |
| Figure 1    Which of the following RA materials do you use? (Please check<br>all that apply.) .....   | 3    |
| <i>Importance of RAs to Mission Education</i> .....   | 3    |
| Table 3    How important is RAs to the mission education program of your church? .....                | 4    |
| <i>Recruitment, Training, and Preparation of RA Leaders</i> .....                                     | 4    |
| Table 4    Who recruited you to work with Royal Ambassadors? .....                                    | 4    |
| Table 5    How did you learn your responsibilities as an RA leader? .....                             | 4    |
| Table 6    How difficult is it for you to recruit leaders to assist with<br>Royal Ambassadors? .....  | 5    |
| <i>Support from Parents</i> .....   | 5    |
| Table 7    How much support do you as leader feel that you get from the parents<br>of your RAs? ..... | 5    |
| <i>Strengths and Weaknesses of RAs</i> .....  | 5    |
| <i>Successes and Failures</i> .....   | 5    |
| <b>Results of the Parents Survey—Unique Questions</b> .....   | 6    |
| <i>Demographics</i> .....   | 6    |
| <i>Why Sons Go to RAs</i> .....   | 6    |
| Figure 2    Why do you send your child to Royal Ambassadors? .....                                    | 6    |

|  | Page |
|--|------|
| Table 8 Overall, does your son enjoy participating in RAs?.....  | 6    |
| <i>Importance of Mission Education</i> .....   | 7    |
| Table 9 As a parent, how important is it for your son to be involved in mission education?.....  | 7    |
| <i>Perception of Organization</i> .....  | 7    |
| Table 10 In general, what is your impression of your church’s RA program? .....  | 7    |
| <i>Relationship of Parents to RA Leader</i> .....  | 7    |
| <b>Common Questions for Parents and Leaders</b> .....  | 7    |
| <i>Character Development</i> .....   | 7    |
| Table 11 From your perspective of what you want for your son, how important is it that “character development” for young boys be included as a part of the Royal Ambassador program? (How important is it that “character development” for young boys be included as a part of the Royal Ambassador program?)..... | 8    |
| Figure 3 Which of the following virtues do you feel are most important to teach young boys? (Please check only five most important.)—Parent Responses .....  | 8    |
| Figure 4 Which of the following virtues do you feel are most important to teach young boys? (Please check only five most important.)—RA Leader Responses .....   | 9    |
| Figure 5 Which of the following themes or topics do you feel would be most interesting to your son if included in educational material? (Please check only five.)—Parent Responses .....   | 10   |
| Figure 6 Which of the following themes or topics do you feel would be most interesting to your son if included in educational material? (Please check only five.)—RA Leaders .....   | 10   |
| <i>RA Activities Liked Most and Least</i> .....  | 11   |
| <i>Suggestions</i> .....   | 11   |
| Appendix A.....  | 12   |
| Appendix B.....  | 17   |
| Appendix C.....  | 20   |
| Appendix D.....  | 22   |
| Appendix E.....  | 24   |

|                  | Page |
|------------------|------|
| Appendix F ..... | 26   |
| Appendix G.....  | 28   |
| Appendix H.....  | 35   |
| Appendix I.....  | 41   |
| Appendix J.....  | 47   |
| Appendix K.....  | 49   |
| Appendix L ..... | 57   |
| Appendix M.....  | 62   |
| Appendix N.....  | 66   |
| Appendix O.....  | 70   |
| Appendix P ..... | 76   |

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## **Introduction**

In late 2002, a survey was designed to solicit information regarding Royal Ambassadors (RAs), the mission education program for young boys in Southern Baptist churches. A survey instrument was designed for RA leaders while a second was designed for the parents of boys who participate in the program. The leader's questionnaire included questions about participation in the program, frequency of meetings, materials used, training for leaders, strengths and weaknesses of the program, and activities that boys like most and least. The questionnaire for parents asked why they send their sons to RAs, if their sons enjoy participating, what they want their sons to get out of the program, and what their sons like most and least about it. Both questionnaires asked about the importance of including "character development" for boys in RAs, the most important virtues to teach them, and the most probable topics of interest for young boys. These latter questions relate to the development of a new direction for the RA program and corresponding resource materials. (See appendix A and appendix B for the questionnaires.)

The week of February 3rd, 2003, a mailing was sent to 1,000 churches addressed "RA Leader." These 1,000 churches were systematically chosen from 5,319 congregations that ordered RA materials during 2002. Churches were sorted by ZIP code prior to sample selection. The mailing included an introductory letter (see appendix C), one leader questionnaire, five parent surveys, and six postpaid business reply envelopes. The letter requested that the RA leader complete the leader questionnaire and distribute the five parent questionnaires to different families of boys participating in their church's RA program. Because it is impossible to precisely track whether leaders distributed the questionnaires and which parents responded, only one mailing was conducted.

## **Response Rate**

One hundred ninety-four questionnaires were completed and returned by RA leaders. After removing from consideration several churches where the original mailing had a bad address, the adjusted response rate for RA leaders is 19.5 percent. The response rate is a little lower than desired; however, it is reasonable and not unexpected from this audience, given only one mailing.

Four hundred and six questionnaires were completed and returned by parents. Based on 5,000 potential questionnaires, the 406 completed questionnaires represent an 8.0 percent response rate, which is very low. However, it is unlikely that all RA leaders distributed questionnaires, so it is impossible to compute an accurate response rate. The true response rate, based on the number of parents who actually received a questionnaire, is probably much higher. Given that responses were received from parents of RAs in 188 different churches and responses were received from 194 RA leaders, it can be assumed that only about 1,000 questionnaires were actually distributed to parents (200 churches multiplied by 5 questionnaires). Thus, the adjusted response rate for parents who received a questionnaire is probably closer to 40 percent.

Non response is always a problem for survey research. The issue is whether people who respond to a survey are different from those who do not. Typically, they are different. In this instance, the RA leaders and parents who responded are probably more interested and involved in the RA program than those who did not respond. This does not invalidate the information received, but the bias needs to be noted.

## **Results from the RA Leader Survey—Unique Questions**

### *Characteristics of RA Programs*

The first question in the Royal Ambassadors Leader Survey asked if the church had an active RA program. (The introductory letter included a bold postscript asking for someone in the church to return the questionnaire even if no RA program was active in the church.) Ninety-one percent of those responding indicated that they did indeed have an active RA program. It is surprising that 9 percent of

the churches that ordered material in 2002 did not have an active RA program in early 2003. It is uncertain whether these churches had an active program in 2002 that is now defunct or whether they ordered materials for some purpose other than conducting RAs. The statistics derived from the RA leader survey in the remainder of this report are based on the 177 completed surveys representing churches that have an active RA program.

The typical (median) number of boys participating in these RA programs is 11. The middle half of the churches, ranging from the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile to the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile, is from 7 to 20 active boys. Table 1 shows the distribution of the number of boys participating in RAs.

*Table 1—Distribution of Number of Boys (by Church) Participating in RAs*

| <b>Percentile</b>         | <b>Participants</b> |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 100 <sup>th</sup> (Max)   | 100                 |
| 90 <sup>th</sup>          | 75                  |
| 75 <sup>th</sup>          | 20                  |
| 50 <sup>th</sup> (Median) | 11                  |
| 25 <sup>th</sup>          | 7                   |
| 10 <sup>th</sup>          | 4                   |
| 0 <sup>th</sup>           | 1                   |

The typical church (median) has 3 adults that regularly help with the RA program. The interquartile range, 25<sup>th</sup> percentile to the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile, is from 2 to 5 adults working with the program.

Leaders were asked how often their RA chapters meet. Ninety-five percent indicated they meet weekly. Most of the remainder indicated they meet every other week. Only 1 leader indicated his RAs met monthly.

#### *Program Resources*

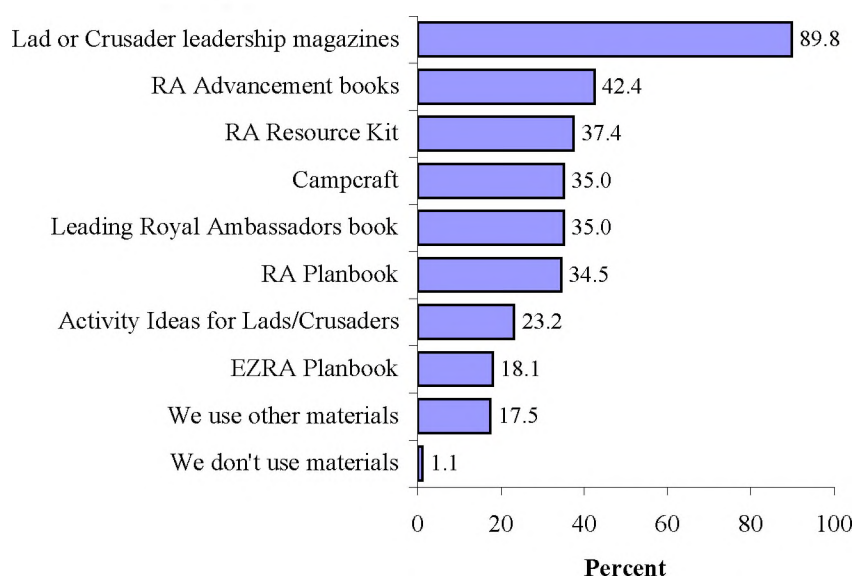
Nearly two-thirds of respondents indicated their churches use Classic RAs. The remainder were evenly split between EZRA and creating their own plan. See table 2.

*Table 2—Do you use regular RAs (Classic RAs) or Easy RAs (EZRA)?*

|                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| Regular            | 65.0% |
| EZRA               | 16.4  |
| Create my own plan | 17.5  |
| No response        | 1.1   |

In a related question, RA leaders were asked about the materials they use. Far and away, the most frequently used publications were the *Lad* or *Crusader* leadership magazines. A ranking of all the potential publications is pictured in figure 1. (The sample frame for the survey is comprised of churches that purchased materials during 2002, so it is not surprising that very few indicate they do not use materials.)

Figure 1—Which of the following RA materials do you use? (Please check all that apply.)



A follow-up question asked whether the materials are easy to use. Nine of 10 respondents responded affirmatively. While this is a general question and a precise ease-of-use rating cannot be established for each individual resource (due to potential interaction effects for those using more than one resource), responses to the follow-up were crosstabulated with each NAMB produced resource. There were no substantial differences noted in the percentages of respondents using a resource and reporting that the materials are easy to use.

Those leaders responding that the materials are not easy to use were asked to comment. Fourteen leaders did so. Several indicated that the materials or plan are hard to understand. Also some stated that the materials need to be updated. A complete listing of verbatim responses is in appendix D.

Another question took a different tack by asking whether the materials were meeting the needs of their group. Overall, the responses to this question were a little lower. Seventy-eight percent indicated the materials were meeting their needs, 16.4 percent indicated they did not, and 5.7 percent did not respond to this question. When each individual resource produced by NAMB was analyzed by whether or not it is meeting their needs, it was revealed that there is no substantial difference among the resources in usefulness. From 82 to 90 percent of respondents who replied they use a specific publication, said it is meeting the needs of their RA group.

Those who indicated the materials are not meeting their needs were asked to further comment, and 25 leaders did so. Comments are disparate and are included in appendix E.

Along with evaluating use of printed resources, leaders were asked if they have visited the RA Website, [www.royalambassadors.org](http://www.royalambassadors.org). Half, 52.5 percent, indicated they have visited the site.

#### *Importance of RAs to Mission Education*

RA leaders were asked to evaluate the importance of RAs to the overall mission education program of their church. Three-fourths responded it is very important or essential. Only a small percentage indicated it is unimportant. Table 3 contains the responses to this question.

*Table 3—How important is RAs to the mission education program of your church?*

|                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| Essential            | 29.4% |
| Very important       | 46.3  |
| Somewhat important   | 17.0  |
| Not very important   | 6.8   |
| Not at all important | 0.6   |
| No response          | 0.0   |

*Recruitment, Training and Preparation of RA Leaders*

A series of personal questions were asked of RA leaders about their recruitment, training, and the amount of preparation time they devote to RAs. First they were asked who recruited them to work with RAs. There appeared to be no predominant way in which RA leaders are selected. See table 4.

*Table 4—Who recruited you to work with Royal Ambassadors?*

|                       |       |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Pastor/Church staff   | 27.7% |
| Church committee      | 19.8  |
| RA Director/Counselor | 29.9  |
| No one                | 22.0  |
| No response           | 0.6   |

Next, they were asked if they know their Association RA Director’s name and contact information. Slightly less than half, 47.5 percent responded affirmatively.

They were asked if they have participated in an associational or state RA event. A little over two-thirds, 68.4 percent responded that they have done so. A follow-up was asked of those having never attended an association or state event. Reasons given for never having attended are schedule conflicts, no information about the events, and only recently became an RA leader. Verbatim responses are included in appendix F.

Fourth, they were asked how they had learned their responsibilities as an RA leader. Reading materials and on the job training were the two most frequently cited responses. Relatively few have been involved in formal training sessions. See table 5.

*Table 5—How did you learn your responsibilities as an RA leader?*

|                                       |       |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Training sessions                     | 17.0% |
| Read materials                        | 38.4  |
| On the job training by other leader   | 30.5  |
| No help/Still trying to figure it out | 14.1  |
| No response                           | 0.0   |

Fifth, RA leaders were asked how much time they spend in preparing for each RA meeting. The typical response (median) was 40 minutes of preparation. The interquartile range was from 30 to 60 minutes.

In a related question, RA leaders were asked about the difficulty of recruiting other leaders to assist them with the RA program. Two-thirds reported difficulty in recruiting leaders. Over a fourth indicated they have great difficulty. See table 6.

*Table 6—How difficult is it for you to recruit leaders to assist with Royal Ambassadors?*

|  |      |
|--|------|
| We have no difficulty recruiting leaders     | 7.9% |
| We have little difficulty recruiting leaders | 22.6 |
| We have some difficulty recruiting leaders   | 41.2 |
| We have great difficulty recruiting leaders  | 27.7 |
| No response                                  | 0.6  |

#### *Support from Parents*

Leaders were asked about the level of support they get from the parents of RAs. They get some support, but for the most part, leaders do not feel they get a lot of support. A fourth of the leaders report they get little or no help from parents. Responses are included in table 7.

*Table 7—How much support do you as leader feel that you get from the parents of your RAs?*

|                                      |       |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| I get a tremendous amount of support | 25.4% |
| I get some support                   | 48.6  |
| I get little support                 | 23.7  |
| I get no support                     | 2.3   |
| No response                          | 0.0   |

#### *Strengths and Weaknesses of RAs*

Leaders were asked open end questions concerning what they felt to be the strengths and weaknesses of RAs. More than 9 of 10 leaders responded to these questions. The most frequently cited strength of RAs is its emphasis on mission education—half of the leaders responded in some fashion regarding the importance of mission education in RAs. Another strength of the program is that it teaches Christian character and virtues. Still another is that it teaches about God/Christ/the Bible. Other repeated themes are that the program provides a positive adult male role model for the boys, it provides quality activities, and it provides an opportunity for learning teamwork/identity with a group/friendship. A few mentioned it provides an opportunity for sharing the plan of salvation with the boys and teaching them to share the plan of salvation with others. A complete list of verbatim responses is included in appendix G.

The four most frequently cited weaknesses of RAs are 1) the materials are stale and outdated or weak in content; 2) it is hard to recruit, train and motivate leaders; 3) there is a lack of support of the RA program by the church/association/state convention/NAMB; and 4) there needs to be more and simpler activities for the boys to do. Less frequently repeated themes are that advancement is hard to manage and understand; there needs to be better communication and training for leaders; there is too much competition for boys' time; more time is needed for the RA meetings; materials are expensive; there are problems ordering the materials; and it is difficult to schedule a suitable time for RAs to meet. Verbatim responses are in appendix H.

#### *Successes and Failures*

Leaders were provided the opportunity to comment on the successes or failures they have experienced with Royal Ambassadors. More than 100 leaders responded to this part of the questionnaire. Some of the comments were personal accounts of their RA program while others were suggestions for changes or general observations about RAs. The diversity of information provided makes it difficult to categorize and quantify. Some of the leaders provided testimonials of how they implemented the program to make it successful in their congregation. Others expressed frustrations with the materials and suggested changes. Still others talked about the need of getting churchwide commitment to the program; recruiting, motivating and training leaders; and getting parents involved. Several

commented that the program is good and can be successful if you work it. A slight variation is that the program is only as good as its leaders. Verbatim responses are in appendix I.

## Results of the Parents Survey—Unique Questions

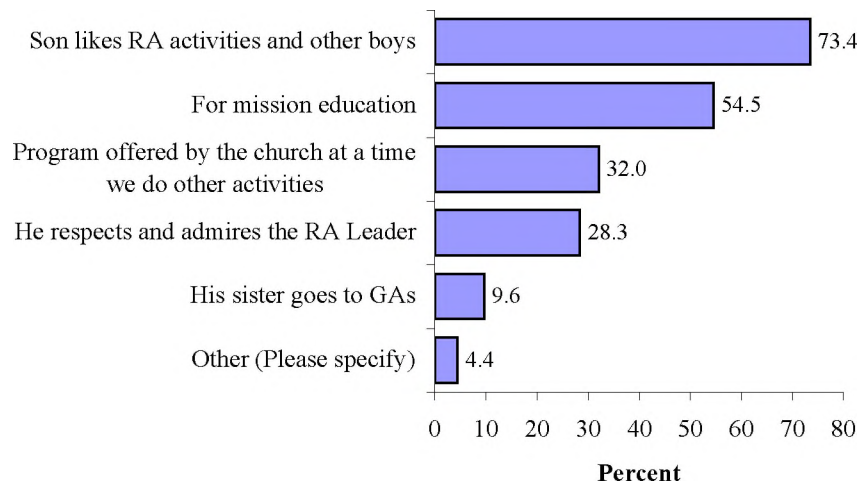
### *Demographics*

Two questions sought to determine the sex of the respondent and household type. (Demographic questions were not asked of RA leaders.) Slightly more women than men completed the questionnaire—57 percent were women and 42 percent were men. Also, the overwhelming majority (89%) of respondents live in households where both parents are present. Nine percent of respondents are single mothers. Based on the responses to other questions, parents appear to be church people who want their sons involved in mission education.

### *Why Sons Go to RAs*

Parents were asked why they send their sons to RAs. The primary reason, indicated by three-fourths of all parents, is that their son likes going to RAs. The second most important reason is for mission education. The chart below shows all the responses provided to this question. The “other” responses are included in appendix J.

*Figure 2—Why do you send your child to Royal Ambassadors?*



Another question in the survey specifically asked about the extent that their sons enjoy RAs. The overwhelming majority indicated their sons enjoy it—two-thirds responded that their sons were excited by it. It appears that only a small percentage of the boys who attend do not want to do so. See table 8.

*Table 8—Overall, does your son enjoy participating in RAs?*

|                                    |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Yes, he's excited by it            | 65.8% |
| Yes, he enjoys it somewhat         | 28.6  |
| He's fairly neutral about it       | 3.2   |
| No, he tends not to want to attend | 2.0   |
| No, he really doesn't like it      | 0.3   |
| No response                        | 0.3   |

### *Importance of Mission Education*

Parents were asked about the importance of having their sons involved in mission education. Nearly all indicated mission education is important; they differ only in degree of importance. Over a third of parents responded that mission education is essential. Over half responded it is very important. The table below displays the specific responses.

*Table 9—As a parent, how important is it for your son to be involved in mission education?*

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Essential   | 36.0% |
| Very important                                    | 53.5  |
| Somewhat important                                | 10.3  |
| Not very important                                | 0.3   |
| Not at all important                              | 0.0   |
| I'm not sure what mission education is/Don't know | 0.0   |
| No response                                       | 0.0   |

### *Perception of Organization*

Parents were asked to give an overall rating of the RA program that their sons attend. A little less than half indicated the program was well organized. A little more than a third indicated it was adequate. Thirteen percent indicated that it is weak and needs improvement. Overall, these do not seem like strong endorsements of the organizational development of RAs in churches.

*Table 10—In general, what is your impression of your church's RA program?*

|                            |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Well organized             | 46.8% |
| Functions adequately       | 37.0  |
| Weak and needs improvement | 13.3  |
| Don't know much about it   | 2.7   |
| No response                | 0.3   |

### *Relationship of Parents to RA Leader*

Parents were asked how long they have known the RA leader. Nearly 9 of 10 parents (88.7%) have known the leader for more than a year. They were also asked how often they communicate with the RA leader. Half indicated once a week, 40 percent indicated occasionally as needed, 1 in 20 indicated they have regular parent meetings with the RA leader, and 1 in 20 indicated they have no need to communicate.

## **Common Questions for Parents and Leaders**

### *Character Development*

Given the new directions being taken in the development of RAs at NAMB, several questions asked of both RA leaders and parents related to character development, virtues, and topics of interest. When asked if it is important that character development of young boys be a part of the RA program, parents and RA leaders overwhelmingly thought it very important or essential—6 of 10 felt it essential. This appears to be an endorsement of the direction that RAs is heading. Responses are included in table 11.

*Table 11—From your perspective of what you want for your son, how important is it that “character development” for young boys be included as a part of the Royal Ambassador program? (How important is it that “character development” for young boys be included as a part of the Royal Ambassador program?)*

|                      | <b>Parents</b> | <b>Leaders</b> |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Essential            | 64.3%          | 59.9%          |
| Very important       | 31.5           | 29.4           |
| Somewhat important   | 3.7            | 6.2            |
| Somewhat unimportant | 0.3            | 0.6            |
| Very unimportant     | 0.0            | 1.7            |
| Don’t know           | 0.0            | 2.3            |
| No response          | 0.3            | 0.0            |

Both groups were given a list of 20 virtues and were asked to pick the five they felt were most important to teach young boys. The ranking for parents is included in figure 3 and for RA leaders in figure 4. Overall, there is remarkable similarity between the responses of leaders and parents. The top two chosen by both groups were honesty and faith, although the ordering was different. Both groups chose responsibility as their third virtue. There were some differences beginning with the 4<sup>th</sup> virtue. Leaders ranked teamwork as 4<sup>th</sup> while parents chose obedience. Teamwork was further down the list for parents. Generally, both parents and leaders ranked initiative, perseverance, courage, tolerance, and sincerity lowest in importance.

*Figure 3—Which of the following virtues do you feel are most important to teach young boys? (Please check only five most important.)—Parent Responses*

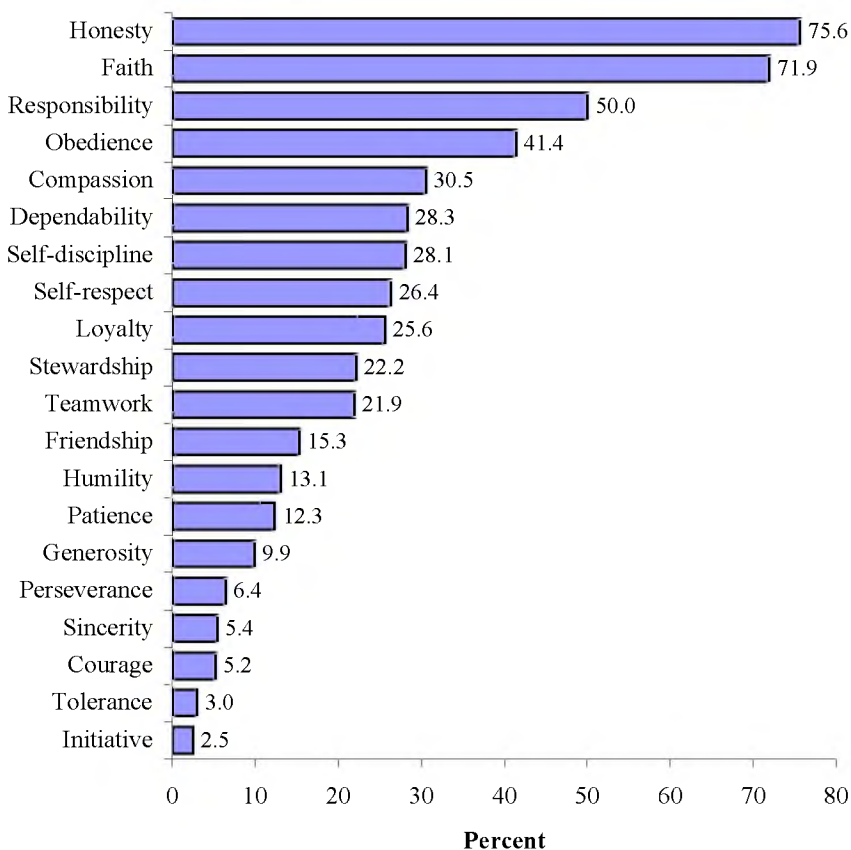
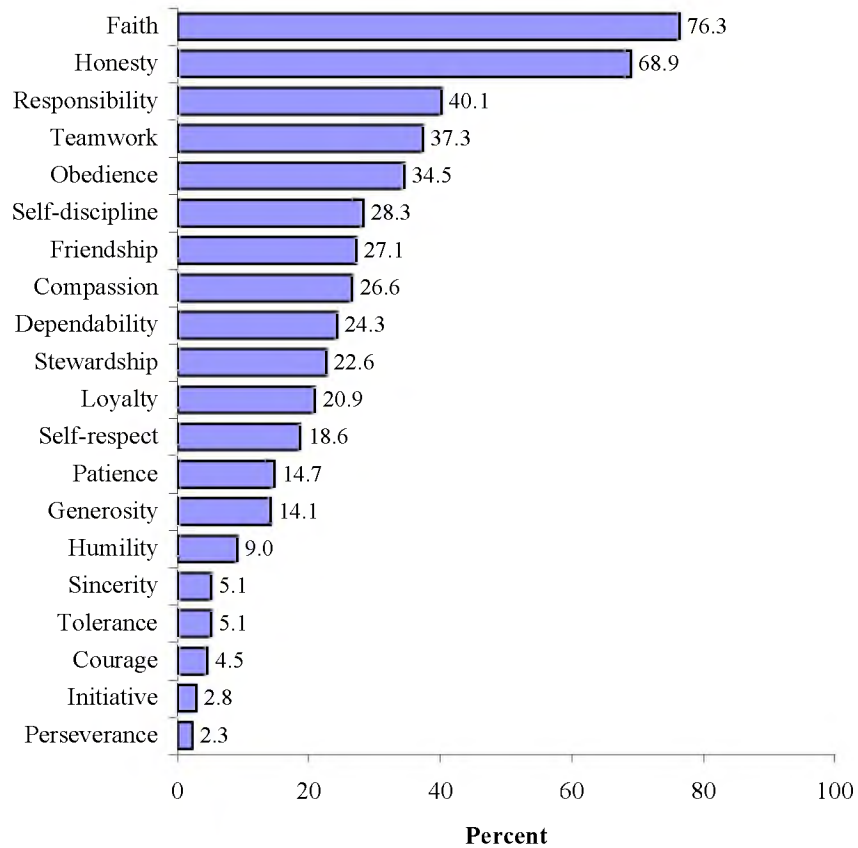


Figure 4—Which of the following virtues do you feel are most important to teach young boys?  
(Please check only five most important.)—RA Leader Responses



In a similar vein, both survey groups were asked about the themes and topics they thought would be most interesting to their sons if included in educational material. Again, there was remarkable similarity between the responses of RA leaders and the parents of RAs. The top four choices were identical for both groups—camping, mystery/discovery, team sports (soccer), and space. Both groups were also in agreement that topics like circus (clowning), neighborhood club, rodeo/western, archeology (Egyptology) are least attractive. Leaders were more likely than parents to think NASCAR a topic of interest. Rankings of the complete list of 18 topic options are included in figures 5 and 6.

Figure 5—Which of the following themes or topics do you feel would be most interesting to your son if included in educational material? (Please check only five.)—Parent Responses

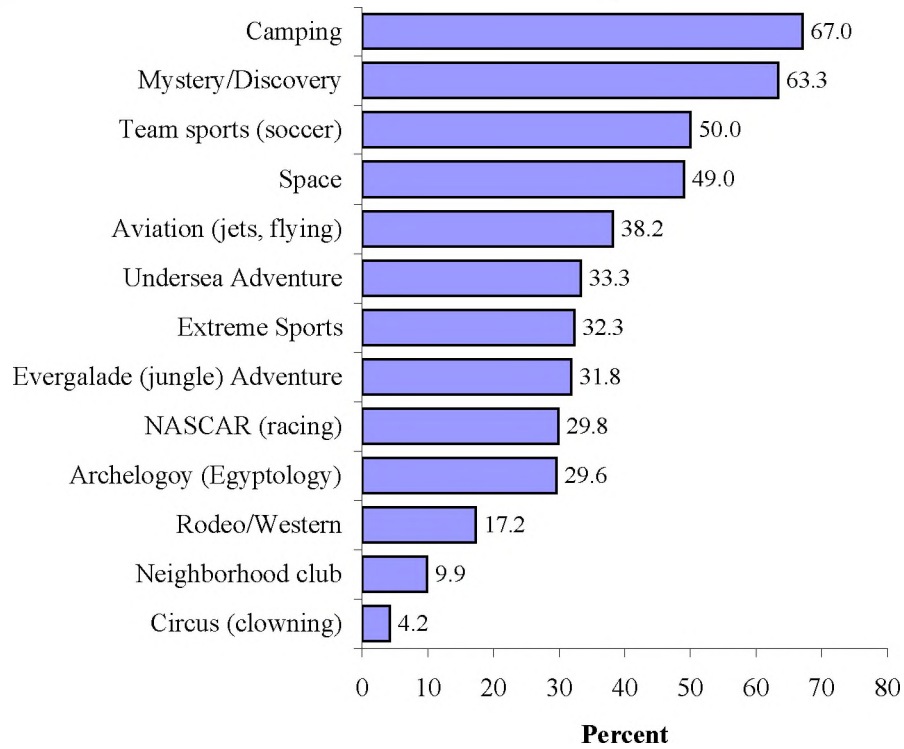
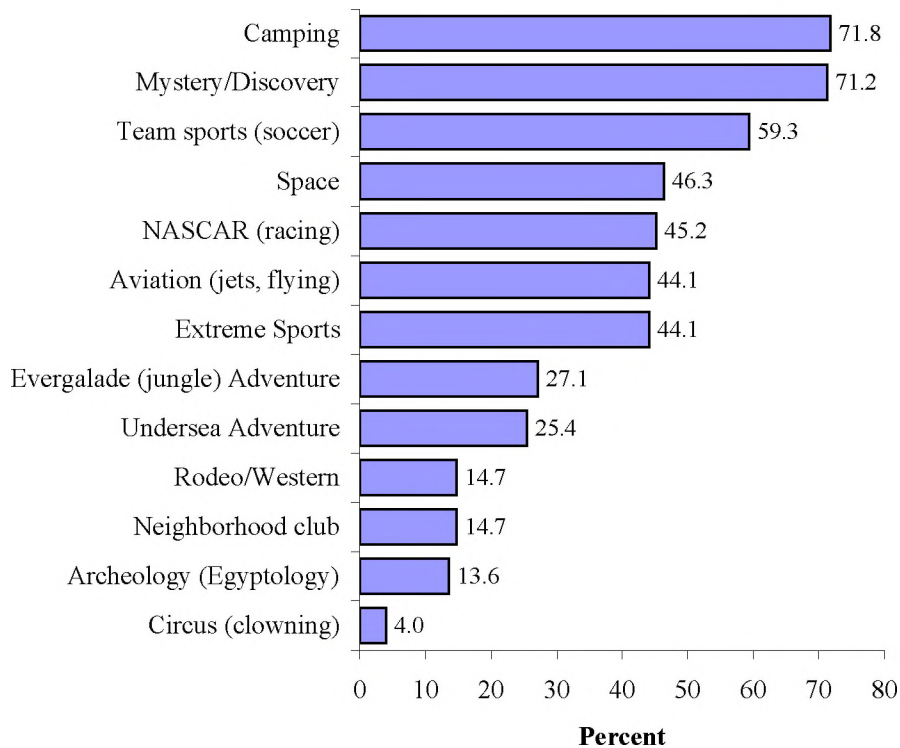


Figure 6—Which of the following themes or topics do you feel would be most interesting to your RAs to read about if included in educational material? (Please check only five.)—RA Leader Responses



### *RA Activities Liked Most and Least*

Parents and RA Leaders were also asked what RA-related activities their sons and RAs enjoy most and what they like least. Parents reported that the two activities their sons like most are building and racing the small wooden cars (RA racers) and camping. Over a third of respondents reported these as favorites. Some of the other more frequently mentioned activities were sports, any activities where other boys are involved, and crafts. Based on the responses of parents, it appears that boys primarily want to be active. Responses to this open end question are included in appendix [K](#).

RA leaders also reported that the two activities that boys like most are building and racing the small wooden cars (RA racers) and camping. About 4 of 10 respondents reported these as favorites. Some of the other more frequently mentioned activities were games, crafts, and sports. One in 7 leaders also indicated that mission projects were a favorite activity. Like parents, leaders indicate that boys want to be active. Verbatim responses are in appendix [L](#).

In contrast, it appears that boys do not like anything that requires them to sit still. Roughly a third of the parents provided examples of what the boys like least in RA activities. Half of those responding indicated that their sons do not like bookwork. They do not like memorization and they do not like anything that reminds them of school. Responses are in appendix [M](#).

Again, RA leaders were in agreement with parents. Two-thirds of the RA leaders provided specifics on what boys do not seem to like about RAs. Over half of those responding indicated that the boys do not like bookwork or studying—this includes working on advancement. They also do not enjoy memorization and listening to missionary stories. As noted in the parents survey, boys do not like to sit still. Verbatim responses are in appendix [N](#).

### *Suggestions*

Parents were given an opportunity to provide suggestions to NAMB regarding RAs. A fourth of the parents responded to this open end question. The responses are not easily summarized. There were repetitive themes but none of them extensively repeated. Some of the suggestions were even contradictory. For example, some parents said that RAs should resist making any changes while others called for RAs to change with the times. Some repetitive suggestions are that there should be better training for RA leaders, RA leaders should provide better communication to parents, the materials need to be improved, boys need to be more involved in missions activities, and there need to be more physical activities. A complete listing of suggestions provided by parents is included in appendix [O](#).

About half of the RA leaders responded to an open end questions about suggestions for Royal Ambassadors. As with parents, the information provided is disparate and not easily categorized. There are repetitive themes but no consensus. Again, there are even opposing viewpoints where some leaders call for change while others request that it be left as it is. Some of the repetitive themes are 1) update the magazines and improve the quality and content; 2) develop a better way to order materials; 3) make the materials less expensive; 4) do not give up on RAs and let it fall to the wayside; 5) do not change for the sake of change; 6) provide more ideas for mission projects and mission activities in our local community; 7) visit local RA chapters to find out what is and is not working; 8) provide/improve training for RA leaders; 9) better communication with RA leaders; 10) help us find ways of promoting the value of RAs to our church; and 11) keep up the good work. All responses of RA leaders to this question are included in appendix [P](#).

## **APPENDIX A**

## Royal Ambassador Leader Survey

Does your church have an active Royal Ambassador program? [1]

- 1  Yes  
2  No (If no, please skip to the last question on the survey.)

How many boys regularly participate in Royal Ambassadors in your church? \_\_\_\_\_ [2-4]

How many adults (including yourself) regularly help with RAs in your church? \_\_\_\_\_ [5-7]

Who recruited you to work with Royal Ambassadors? [8]

- 1  Pastor/Church staff  
2  Church committee  
3  RA Director/Counselor  
4  No one

Do you know your Associational RA Director's name and contact information? [9]

- 1  Yes  
2  No

Have you ever participated in an associational or state RA event? [10]

- 1  Yes  
2  No

Why not?

How did you learn your responsibilities as an RA leader? [11]

- 1  Training sessions  
2  Read materials  
3  On the job training by other leader  
4  No help/Still trying to figure it out.

How often does your RA chapter meet? [12]

- 1  Weekly  
2  Every other week  
3  Monthly  
4  Every other month  
5  Less often

Do you use regular RAs (Classic RAs) or Easy RAs (EZRA)? [13]

- 1  Regular  
2  EZRA  
3  Create my own plan

Which of the following RA materials do you use? (Please check all that apply.)

- Leading Royal Ambassador book [14]
- Lad or Crusader leadership magazines [15]
- RA Planbook [16]
- EZRA Planbook [17]
- Campcraft [18]
- Activity Ideas for Lads/Crusaders [19]
- RA Resource Kit [20]
- RA Advancement books [21]
- We use other materials [22]
- We don't use materials [23]

Are the materials easy to use? [24]

- 1  Yes
- 2  No

If no, please comment.

Are the materials meeting the needs of your group? [25]

- 1  Yes
- 2  No

If no, please comment.

Have you visited the official RA Website, [www.royalambassadors.org](http://www.royalambassadors.org)? [26]

- 1  Yes
- 2  No

How important is it that "character development" for young boys be included as a part of the Royal Ambassadors program? [27]

- 1  Essential
- 2  Very important
- 3  Somewhat important
- 4  Somewhat unimportant
- 5  Very unimportant
- 5  Don't know

Please estimate the typical amount of time you personally spend in preparing for each RA meeting?  
\_\_\_\_\_ minutes. [28-30]

Which of the following virtues do you feel are most important to teach young boys? (Please chose only the **five** most important.)

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Loyalty [31]    | <input type="checkbox"/> Dependability [36] | <input type="checkbox"/> Friendship [41]      | <input type="checkbox"/> Generosity [46]  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Courage [32]    | <input type="checkbox"/> Humility [37]      | <input type="checkbox"/> Responsibility [42]  | <input type="checkbox"/> Obedience [47]   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honesty [33]    | <input type="checkbox"/> Patience [38]      | <input type="checkbox"/> Faith [43]           | <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative [48]  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compassion [34] | <input type="checkbox"/> Self-respect [39]  | <input type="checkbox"/> Perseverance [44]    | <input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship [49] |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teamwork [35]   | <input type="checkbox"/> Tolerance [40]     | <input type="checkbox"/> Self-discipline [45] | <input type="checkbox"/> Sincerity [50]   |

Which of the following themes or topics do you feel would be most interesting to your RAs to read about if included in educational material? (Please choose only **five**.)

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mystery/Discovery [51]            | <input type="checkbox"/> Archeology (Egyptology) [56] | <input type="checkbox"/> Aviation (jets, flying) [61] |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Team sports (soccer) [52]         | <input type="checkbox"/> Space [57]                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Undersea adventure [62]      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Everglade (jungle) adventure [53] | <input type="checkbox"/> Camping [58]                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Circus (clowning) [63]       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood club [54]            | <input type="checkbox"/> NASCAR (racing) [59]         |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rodeo/Western [55]                | <input type="checkbox"/> Extreme sports [60]          |   |

What RA-related activities do your boys enjoy most?

What RA-related activities do your boys enjoy least?

How much support do you as leader feel that you get from the parents of your RAs? [64]

- 1  I get a tremendous amount of support
- 2  I get some support
- 3  I get little support
- 4  I get no support

How difficult is it for you to recruit leaders to assist with Royal Ambassadors? [65]

- 1  We have no difficulty recruiting leaders.
- 2  We have little difficulty recruiting leaders.
- 3  We have some difficulty recruiting leaders.
- 4  We have great difficulty recruiting leaders.

How important is RAs to the mission education program of your church? [66]

- 1  Essential
- 2  Very important
- 3  Somewhat important
- 4  Not very important
- 5  Not at all important

What do you feel are the greatest strengths of Royal Ambassadors?

What do you feel are the greatest weaknesses of Royal Ambassadors?

Do you have any additional comments about the success or failure that you have experienced with Royal Ambassadors?

Do you have any suggestions for the North American Mission Board in regard to Royal Ambassadors?

**Thank you for completing this questionnaire!**

[67-70]

Please return to: Research Services Team  
4200 North Point Parkway  
Alpharetta, GA 30022

## **APPENDIX B**

Dear Parent:

The North American Mission Board is responsible for developing the Royal Ambassador program for Southern Baptist Churches. We have asked the Royal Ambassador Leader in your church to distribute a short questionnaire to some of the parents of the young boys participating in Royal Ambassadors. Your participation in this survey will help us better meet the needs of you and your son through RAs.

Please take a few minutes to complete the simple questions that follow. Once completed, enclose the questionnaire in the postpaid business-reply envelope provided with this questionnaire.

God bless you and your son.

Tim Seanor  
Director, Mission Education Team  
North American Mission Board

Why do you send your child to Royal Ambassadors?

- Program offered by the church at a time we do other activities [1]
- Son likes RA activities and other boys [2]
- For mission education [3]
- He respects and admires the RA Leader [4]
- His sister goes to GAs [5]
- Other (Please specify.) \_\_\_\_\_ [6]

How long have you known your son's RA leader? [7]

- 1  Just met
- 2  One year or less
- 3  More than a year

How often do you communicate with your son's RA leader? [8]

- 1  No need
- 2  Once a week
- 3  Regular parent meetings
- 4  Occasionally/As needed

In general, what is your impression of your church's RA program? [9]

- 1  Well organized
- 2  Functions adequately
- 3  Weak and needs improvement
- 4  Don't know much about it

As a parent, how important is it for your son to be involved in mission education? [10]

- 1  Essential
- 2  Very important
- 3  Somewhat important
- 4  Not very important
- 5  Not at all important
- 6  I'm not sure what mission education is/Don't know

*(Please complete back of questionnaire.)*

Overall, does your son enjoy participating in RAs? [11]

- 1  Yes, he's excited by it
- 2  Yes, he enjoys it somewhat
- 3  He's fairly neutral about it
- 4  No, he tends not to want to attend
- 5  No, he really doesn't like it.

From your perspective of what you want for your son, how important is it that "character development" for young boys be included as a part of the Royal Ambassadors program? [12]

- 1  Essential
- 2  Very important
- 3  Somewhat important
- 4  Somewhat unimportant
- 5  Very unimportant
- 6  Don't know

Which of the following virtues do you feel are most important to teach young boys? (Please check only the **five** most important.)

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loyalty [13]    | <input type="checkbox"/> Dependability [14] | <input type="checkbox"/> Friendship [15]      | <input type="checkbox"/> Generosity [16]  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Courage [17]    | <input type="checkbox"/> Humility [18]      | <input type="checkbox"/> Responsibility [19]  | <input type="checkbox"/> Obedience [20]   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Honesty [21]    | <input type="checkbox"/> Patience [22]      | <input type="checkbox"/> Faith [23]           | <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative [24]  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Compassion [25] | <input type="checkbox"/> Self-respect [26]  | <input type="checkbox"/> Perseverance [27]    | <input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship [28] |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teamwork [29]   | <input type="checkbox"/> Tolerance [30]     | <input type="checkbox"/> Self-discipline [31] | <input type="checkbox"/> Sincerity [32]   |

Which of the following themes or topics do you feel would be most interesting to your son if included in educational material? (Please check only **five**.)

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mystery/Discovery [33]            | <input type="checkbox"/> Archeology (Egyptology) [34] | <input type="checkbox"/> Aviation (jets, flying) [35] |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Team sports (soccer) [36]         | <input type="checkbox"/> Space [37]                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Undersea Adventure [38]      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Everglade (jungle) Adventure [39] | <input type="checkbox"/> Camping [40]                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Circus (clowning) [41]       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood club [42]            | <input type="checkbox"/> NASCAR (racing) [43]         |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rodeo/Western [44]                | <input type="checkbox"/> Extreme Sports [45]          |   |

What RA-related activities does your son enjoy most?

What RA-related activities does your son enjoy least?

Do you have any suggestions for the North American Mission Board in regard to Royal Ambassadors?

Are you...? [46]

- 1  Male
- 2  Female

Please indicate the type of household you have. [47]

- 1  Husband and wife with one or more children
- 2  Single parent family—mother present
- 3  Single parent family—father present
- 4  Other

**Thank you for completing this questionnaire!**[48-51]

Please return to: Research Services  
North American Mission Board  
4200 North Point Parkway  
Alpharetta, GA 30022

## **APPENDIX C**

February 3, 2003

Dear Royal Ambassador Leader:

The North American Mission Board is currently in the process of redesigning its Royal Ambassador program and materials and we need your help.

Enclosed in this package are six questionnaires—one blue leader questionnaire and five yellow parent questionnaires. Six postpaid business reply envelopes are also included. We would like for you to do three things for us—all three should be easy.

**First**, complete the blue leader questionnaire. The questionnaire has been designed so that you can complete it quickly. **Second**, return the blue leader questionnaire in one of the postpaid business-reply envelopes. **Third**, give a yellow parent questionnaire, along with a business reply envelope, to five different parents (only one per family) of boys who are in your Royal Ambassador program. Give the questionnaires to parents that you think might complete them and return them to us. It does not matter whether a father or mother completes the questionnaire or how active their son is in the program. That's all there is to it.

Please take the time to help us with this research project. We need the input from people like you who are on the front line of helping boys to grow as Christians and become mission minded.

God bless you in all that you do.

Sincerely,

Tim Seanor  
Director, Mission Education Team

**P.S. If your church does not have an active RA program, please complete the first and last questions on the blue questionnaire and return it to us. All other materials can be discarded--thanks.**

## **APPENDIX D**

**Are the materials easy to use? If no, please comment.**

- Advancement book requirements are sometimes difficult for them to understand
- Content appears to have been written in the 50's or 60's, hard for older boys (5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade) to get "in" to it
- Hard to understand if you haven't had enough training on how to understand
- I've been doing this a number of years and it's still hard to conceive what the "plan" is. Sunday school you get one book and all you need is referenced in the packet. VBS stuff is a piece of cake. RA material is mass confusion.
- It's not convenient or easy for newcomers to follow and we have new teachers all the time.
- Lad and Crusader material is fine. Why was Challenger material removed from choices? Go magazine is a sorry substitute.
- Material repeats itself and ordering is a pain (TeamKid lessons are much easier)
- Need better up to date materials, Challenger book should be used for Lads
- RA stuff is not user-friendly
- The advancement books are not geared to today's generation. Need material for one group (1-6) not individual grades.
- The materials are mediocre and normally we do not see much thought process into each lesson
- The materials would be easy if it was my fulltime job as an RA director. I would like to see materials based on busy lifestyles of today so the boys can be taught correctly. I would like to see the materials closely related and not spread out.
- We have a diverse group in ages; a small church needs to combine kid's materials to separate for ages
- We have tried to use the Lad/Crusader magazines but the counselors did not use them, so we stopped purchasing them. Our group members are constantly changing, partly due to our church changing the night for RA's meeting.

## **APPENDIX E**

**Are the materials meeting the needs of your group? If no, please comment.**

- Hard to order
- I feel more Scripture-based learning is needed.
- I started late. I'll get it together soon.
- I want to do it right but I am not sure what I need or how to use it.
- It works okay for 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade, but around 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> they lose interest
- It's not really the materials totally, but the time constraints on busy lifestyles of today. I do not believe the leaders and I are preparing like we should.
- Kids on mission is helpful if they would make it more of a learning video with important facts repeated.
- Lack of content (there is only enough material for 10-15 minutes)
- Lad and Crusader are good. Go and Challenger are awful. RAs is a mission's organization. There is too much peripheral, non-mission stuff in Challenger and Go magazines.
- Monthly magazines lack depth to monthly theme.
- Need 12 month master plan sync with church activities that get the boys involved in more Christian activities. The RA's don't need to have weekly classes; maybe once a month/quarter have another activity (baseball game, college basketball, bicycle riding)
- Need more craft/game type material
- Need more hands-on activities/games that are easy to do.
- RAs need outlets to get involved doing mission and lessons that busy leaders can prepare easily
- Some of the projects are not interesting to the children. Takes more time that we have
- Stories do not seem to grab their interest and attention
- The campcraft books need to be updated
- The magazines are great, but the advancement book leaves a lot to be desired.
- The materials are mediocre and normally we do not see much thought process into each lesson.
- Using just the magazines alone, the boys in my group are not getting a firm understanding of just exactly what it means to be a Royal Ambassador for Christ. I feel that all of the workbooks and training material will help.
- We have a very active Awanas group on Wednesday night and the RA meeting now takes place on Sunday night. Typically attendance is lower on Sunday night. Since the materials we have been using are geared toward regular attendees, kids that show up infrequently quickly are bored because they are too far behind.
- We meet as 1 group (1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>) with 3-4 leaders in 1 room. We tried advancement books one year and attendance dropped.
- We need to have materials more geared towards the co-ed style.
- We use materials, but add other information
- We use other enhancements to help connect our kids to missions.

## **APPENDIX F**

**Have you ever participated in an associational or state RA event? Why not?**

- At the time of the meetings I was on vacation or tied up with something (I'm retired)
- Did not know of any state RA events
- Did not know when they were
- Difficulties in coordination of schedules for events with student's personal schedules and school projects
- Due to money problems of the church and youth activities
- First time
- Have never been invited to anything
- I got into this kind of late and didn't have much time to plan and prepare
- I have participated in the associational RA races, but no workshops.
- I work on Saturdays and it is hard to find help
- It is too far and we could not get there in time for the start, and we used EZRA which includes girls. We are also a small church.
- Just getting started with RAs
- Just started in RA and have to work full-time so Saturday's are limited
- Just started RA program one year ago
- Just started RAs and boys are too young
- Just started working as RA leader
- Lack of communication
- No advanced notice
- No experience yet and we are still trying to teach these children basic meeting expectations
- No information
- No information
- No time
- Not aware of event and distance to travel
- Not enough interest shown
- Not familiar with any that has been offered
- Only event I have heard of is a basketball tournament
- Our RA chapter is more tuned to camping and hiking than sports
- Schedule
- Schedule conflicts
- They don't work well with our church calendar
- Time
- Time issues, travel
- Too new at leading RA's, still a lot to learn
- Unaware of events
- Work conflicts, not enough information
- Work schedule and manpower

## **APPENDIX G**

## What do you feel are the greatest strengths of Royal Ambassadors?

- A positive influence for the boys and maybe the only exposure to Christianity and the values it represents.
- Activities
- Activities and projects
- All male environment brings good mentoring opportunities
- As a program I feel the inclusion of mission's education is a great strength often ignored in churches nowadays, as opposed to the more popular "club" type programs.
- Being a part of a mission-minded group
- Bible study, budget, interest shown by boys
- Boy's sense of identity with group
- Boys learning the importance of missions and about real life missionaries
- Brings boys together to learn about mission work and participate in it
- Building Christian character, mission projects that involve action and that they can relate to
- Building faith, virtue, knowledge, kindness, love
- Building friendships in a Christian environment, studying the Word of God through missionaries, building good "character" in order to make wise choices or decisions
- Building mission-minded youth, good Christian friendships, Lad and Crusader magazines
- Campouts and lock-ins
- Character development, expose boys to mission importance
- Christ-based group for young boys to participate in other than Boy Scouts, which usually meets on Wednesday night
- Christian fellowship, interaction with adults
- Christian leadership training
- Christian world view
- Coming together as a group
- Commitment to teaching missions, men working with boys
- Consistent Bible-related teachings, develops self confidence and team work, teaches responsibility in missions (makes fishermen of all men)
- Conversation, studies about missions and inter-action with adults, which they may not have at home
- Curriculum is great, it gives us the change to know and support missionaries, and it gives us the change to make a longer impact on boys
- Curriculum, camp, events, being gender specific (men need to teach boys about being young men)
- Dedicated laymen workers, materials
- Emphasis on missionary's lifestyles—we focus on character qualities needed to be a missionary
- Emphasis on missions
- Enjoying time spent with the young people of the church, building relationships, trust, and responsibility, getting away from the church activities, and focusing more on spending time building relationships
- Equipping boys for a productive life for Jesus and learning more about God-directed people
- Equipping young boys to be young men in Christ
- Fellowship
- Focus on missions with materials to back it up, focus on boys alone, mentoring possibilities created

- For the boys to get together as a group and relate stories and fellowship at their age group, to learn to get along doing projects
- From what I have observed, the Royal Ambassador program is excellent—excellent material, excellent planning.
- Gender-based activities, they do learn about SBC missions and participate in mission activities, male role models
- Getting boys involved in a program that progresses from week to week, month to month, year to year. If the boys are there so are their families.
- Gives male spiritual role models for the boys, provides missions education and involvement, camping helps them learn self-sufficiency, it is spiritually (Bible) oriented
- Gives young boys a head start in learning and practicing the characteristics and principles according to the Bible, keeps them out of most trouble and serves the local community
- Giving the boys and girls a place to come and a club to love them, and receiving the awards is good too
- God-centered, achievements (patches) type club, camping, hiking
- Good leaders, things to do
- Having a well organized plan to teach, willing to put a lot of time into it
- Having the Lord behind them for support, having a church to reinforce the values that a young man should have
- Helping boys learn and engage in missions, meeting with caring men who can mentor the boys
- Helping kids learn about Christ and missions
- Helping others
- I believe RA's helps to illustrate the importance of witnessing to the believers and non-believers.
- I feel it is a well-rounded program teaching about God, the Bible and missions.
- I feel that the mission's aspect of the RA's is the most beneficial part of the program.
- I think it is designed to help boys meet spiritual, social, mental and physical needs. It also helps them face life as an adult, and help others that do not know the Lord personally.
- I try to teach them teamwork
- Importance of mission work, helps boys realize the importance of helping others, teamwork, meeting other Christian boys from other churches, character building, teaches boys importance of witnessing
- In many ways it is similar to Boy Scouts with emphasis on mission study and Christian principles.
- Instilling a foundation of sharing the gospel
- Involving and training boys in mission's activities; helping others gives them a great sense of pride.
- It brings boys together in a church setting, which is good to teach them at a young age to come to church regularly
- It is a support group for young boys. By being a club-like experience they are more likely to join.
- It provides a foundation of mission education that will carry over into adulthood, summer camp program
- It starts the boys young in thinking about missions and how missionaries are used around the world.
- It teaches boys missions at a young age
- Kids get along well

- Knowledge of the Bible, understanding salvation, working with other boys, character building
- Learn about or get training in mission work, brings ages together to teach and learn from each other
- Learn ways we can minister even as 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders
- Learning about missions
- Learning about missions
- Learning about missions
- Learning about missions, how we can be on-mission even at 9, 10 or 11 years old, teach Christ and truths from the Bible
- Learning and doing missions, building character, helping them to follow Christ
- Learning how to act as Christians, learning how to minister to others, learning how other kids are ministering to others, showing support and care for the church and area folks in need, great state summer camp
- Learning of missions and having young boys to become leaders
- Learning Scripture and learning how to apply to daily life, learning to serve others in Jesus' name
- Learning the Bible
- Learning the pledge will always stay with them. Learning about Jesus and how we all should be missionaries by telling friends about Jesus, RA's sometimes keeps boys, as well as their parents, involved with church and related activities
- Learning to pray for others, learning about our missionaries and learning to do something for others; letting young boys see that they can help others, not many are Christians yet in our group of 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades. We tell them about the missionaries telling others about Jesus. They get a lesson in what it means to be a Christian because of these stories. We try to be personal by telling them how we pray to Christ and everyone during the meeting prays for a missionary child. They all open up with these prayers as we are praying together.
- Local missions activities and working with the brotherhood of the local church, bringing men and boys together, learning about Christ
- Make role models
- Men need to teach, boys can come together as a group, second to Sunday school and first to some learning about Christ, to show that men are involved in church and have responsibility
- Men teaching boys by example, spending time with boys and building relationships
- Men teaching boys There is no other opportunity in the church for them to have men as their sole spiritual leader (Sunday school, choir, etc. have women leaders). Teaching the boys to share their faith with others; we are growing our future church leaders.
- Men teaching boys, mission projects
- Men working with boys
- Men working with boys, boys inviting friends to RAs rather than Sunday school, exposes boys to "Godly" men for 1 hour a week, teaches boys to be Christ-like in ways they understand, our men grow in knowledge and grace as a result of working with boys
- Mission education
- Mission focus and rewards system
- Mission focus, awards with patches
- Mission focus, friendship development
- Mission studies
- Mission training for the boys
- Mission training, Bible study and fun
- Mission work

- Mission's education with the "RA Pledge" aspects
- Mission's emphasis—RAs is basically the only area children get missions information and that's a necessity in growing missionaries
- Missionaries, who have given themselves and their God-given talents to reach the lost, educate the saved and present themselves as examples to our young boys. Excellent writers, editors and artists who keep missions and related activities alive and informative State workers like Bob Fielding, who keep encouraging and training any interested potential RA leader.
- Missionary stories, fun activities
- Missions
- Missions education (not provided elsewhere), know, believe and support
- Motto, mission concentration
- My boys love racers
- Opportunity for young boys to learn together, having all boys affords them to do some activities that might otherwise be difficult in mixed class setting
- Pinewood derby, teaching the kids about doing for others
- Preparing boys to become mission-minded, not just around the world, but in their own community
- Preparing them for the future of the church
- Programs that hold the interest of the boys, dedicated counselors
- Provides a time with a positive learning atmosphere along with fun and recreation
- Quality time with boys, counseling and coaching
- RA summer camps, teach kids about missions and missionaries, showing kids outdoors, EZRA material is good and meets our needs, opportunity for adults and boys to know each other through projects and advancement
- RA's greatest strength is that it is Christ-focused.
- Role modeling that boys receive from men, emphasis on helping others as part of our Christian commitment
- Role models to boys, boys learn about God's call for us as missionaries
- Royal Ambassadors teaches boys how to be good Christian men. It lays the foundation that will help guide them through all future endeavors.
- Short pre-time Lessons are laid out for you very well
- Some of the missionary stories are very beneficial, also the descriptions of some of the countries
- Stewardship
- Strong state RA
- Teaches the boys about missions, missionaries and how the message of Christ is carried around the world. They learn how they fit into God's plan in reaching the world for Him.
- Teaching about God's work through missionaries and missions
- Teaching boys about mission work
- Teaching boys about mission work in other countries
- Teaching boys about missions
- Teaching boys to minister to others, etc. Basically the goals in the RA pledge.
- Teaching God's Great Commission
- Teaching kids at a young age about missionaries and about Jesus
- Teaching missions to the boys
- Teaching missions, being a witness for Jesus
- Teaching the boy's to rely on each other as Christians, building the basis for lifelong friendships, fellowship in Christ between men and boys

- Teaching young men the true meaning of mission work in their community and the world
- Telling boys they are ambassadors for Christ, help them to love one another, share love of Jesus, to be mission-minded and to share what they have with others
- That we have help above and beyond our local church—we have people who commit to print material, lessons, and plan camps etc.
- The boys are able to learn through interacting studies. They are becoming aware of missions through their lessons and studies.
- The boys feel more a part of the mission work.
- The boys I teach are very mindful of how important prayer is at the end of each class. I feel that their greatest strength is the knowledge they have of how important prayer is.
- The classic is focused on boys. Patches, uniforms, flay, motto (meaning of), service and mission focus
- The hearts of the boy's in class and their ability to learn about Christ
- The materials to help the leaders, being able to teach young boys morals and being in a position to affect their lives
- The materials we teach from are wonderful. I am very thankful for them.
- The monthly magazines are good and timely.
- The personal lessons from missionaries
- The Pinewood derby, hiking, camping
- The plan is great for building character traits as we spend time with them in their activities. They are hungry for "time" which equals love.
- The program includes activities in every meeting. Don't make boys sit down, shut up and listen for long periods. They have enough of that in school, Sunday school and church. Include fun things and the boys will come (but in a Christian way).
- The program isn't too rigid. Leaders have the freedom to tailor individual programs to meet their needs and circumstances. EZRA materials help the leaders tremendously, because we don't always have the time to plan our own activities or search multiple sources for suggestions/ideas.
- The simple way it is organized and laid out
- The strengths are that the boys learn about missions and missionaries. This is about the only place they hear about them in church.
- The things taught to the boys about missions and encouraging them to pray for missionaries
- The weekly getting together to study about missions and learn more about the Word
- The written program, EZRA and the magazine, our local associational and state training, Tom Beam (our State office RA leader), the encouragement and liberty to go out and perform missions activities.
- There is a great mission-focused presence
- To learn about missions and how they can be ambassadors for Christ
- To teach boys about missions
- To teach missions and personal involvement using activities to gain the interest of the boys and creating excitement for the project
- To teach the Bible
- Traditions
- Unity, being focused on the Lord, kindness and sharing with others, showing in RA's that they are important and can do the Lord's work
- Unity, excitement about missions
- Very ambitious, good teamwork
- We have great support from our church. The materials are readily available and meet the needs of the boys.

- We reach out to kids that have no other church home and only come to RAs. We tell them about Jesus in a non-threatening way.
- We work together
- Well defined purpose, good resources for leaders, attractive and interesting magazine, variety of activities
- What it stands for, gives leaders a base model to begin with. In Cub Scouts you cannot teach the plan of salvation, in RA's you can.
- When we do missions
- Working together for Christ
- Working with others

## **APPENDIX H**

## What do you feel are the greatest weaknesses of Royal Ambassadors?

- A lack of understanding/support of RA program by pastors and staff; we have a new generation of pastors and staff in many churches that don't come from a SBC background and don't understand Royal Ambassador Program objectives and benefits.
- Achievement levels clearly stated (emphasized and updated), maybe mission work that is related to current events
- Activities should be simpler
- Advancement is hard to manage and awkward with unchurched and boys joining through-out the year.
- Advancement—even the people at the state convention cannot explain it. Also, that there is no unity with GA themes or projects.
- Aged material, stale, variety missing, kids in program for many years see boring patterns
- Class time activity for boys, some lessons very weak
- Committed leaders
- Communication
- Community involvement activities
- Competing with other outside activities (sports), so difficult for kids to attend regularly, plus parents are too busy/tired to help teach, because other churches have gone to Awanas we don't have associational support
- Competition from others activities
- Don't have enough regional, weekend, organized events
- Dry and needs to be dynamic to meet the needs of very active boys, most have one leader for grades 1-3 and another for 4-6 and activities that meet their needs/desires
- Educating leaders
- Education material and structure
- Enough time to cover all material
- Finding a good time to meet (church schedule)
- Finding men for leaders with the time and initiative to do the planning and work
- Following the established program tends to foster boredom and cause attendance to drop
- Getting committed men to get involved and support activities
- Good reliable help in leading
- Handbooks seem dated
- Hard to “get into” without experience leadership; many men unwilling to devote any time to preparation Might benefit from more prepackaging. Also, the expense is hard on the budget.
- Has been poor response from LifeWay for timelines of shipping supplies Lack of a concerted drive by state or SBC to get SBC churches to begin and sustain RA chapters
- Having a co-ed program but the materials are not geared for co-eds
- Having enough stuff to keep young boys attention for 1 hour
- Having good training opportunities, having more meetings/campouts/father-son outings
- I do not mean this ugly and it is probably just my lack of the RA material. There needs to be more projects that require them to use hands and maybe simple tools. These boys do not have anyone to teach them how to use their hands and that helping to build a church can be just as important as preaching in it.
- I feel like it is too hard to keep up with all the record keeping and teach the lessons too. I guess that's a people weakness, not an RA weakness because the boys love to be rewarded. I wish it were a bit simpler.

- I feel that the greatest weakness lies in the leader/director of the RA group, especially when the leader does not have the compassion for the job.
- I never know what is going on outside of my church. I don't feel updated.
- I wish you had the missionary kid's birthday list in the Lad and Crusader magazine. We only have a few. I've gotten the whole list on my own. I feel it's important for my boys to pray for them all. Our meetings are not on the days you have the missionary birthdays highlighted.
- I would like to see some weekly craft projects follow each week's lesson in the Crusader magazine.
- Interactive teaching
- It is hard sometimes to get the financial support to do all you want to do. Record keeping can be a real chore.
- It is hard to get boys to come on Wednesday.
- It is often very hard to get kids to focus on the task at hand, i.e. learning about missions. They do not see mission education with the same emphasis as their school work.
- It's not visitor friendly, it focuses too much on advancement
- It's overall a great program
- Kids have no interest in studying about missionaries
- Lack of associational guidance, not a priority of the association, new and updated patches for advancement
- Lack of church support, lack of dedicated leadership, lack of parent's support
- Lack of commitment and involvement of church staff Preachers and youth leader staff that I have met have no involvement in the program. Many even will design competing activities that take youth away from participating in RAs. Design some involvement for pastors and youth ministers so they will learn about and support RAs.
- Lack of communication
- Lack of devotion by leadership Church's do not usually have funds for full-time staff, as a result volunteers who have or usually have jobs may not be able to devote the time to developing the program.
- Lack of help for RA at our church
- Lack of importance and sponsorship in church planning with adults
- Lack of interest of those in church community who are unconcerned
- Lack of leadership at the state level, trouble getting materials for Challengers and HSBYM
- Lack of regular area activities
- Lack of support from church (Awana's gets the support in our church), RA's is the step-child
- Lack of uniformity from church to church
- Lack of willing workers and training
- Leaders
- Leaders not being ready, myself included
- Lesson activities are often not practical and require much preparation and use of impractical supplies by leaders. Most leaders don't put that much advance time in going out to buy materials. Also, boys seem to get bored with routine of lessons.
- Lesson is too hard for kids to understand
- Lesson plans are weak, training is weak, and the resource kit seemed to be sloppily put together
- Limited resources
- Literature for Challengers is terrible, literature ordering is confusing and should not be this difficult for small churches
- Lost in the 70's!

- Material is very dated, needs to be updated (whole program), literature, advancement program (major overhaul needed), even vest and awards need to be updated. Program appears to be stuck in the 1950's or 1960's.
- Materials are not user-friendly for men
- Materials are outrageously expensive!
- Materials could be more mission education
- Materials support
- Maybe the differences in age I have (1-5 grade)
- Men, fathers
- More activities that would go along or relate more to the stories that we read, a wider range of projects to choose from
- Motivation, lack of interest, totally understanding God's purpose
- My devotion to be a good leader I just cannot seem to put the time into doing things with the boys.
- My RA's often get bored or tired of some of the activities suggested in the lessons. Top to bottom though, overall, it is a great program.
- Never enough time
- No clear path for growing into church leadership positions (mentor w/men)
- Not enough churches willing to use the RA program due to a bad experience or trying to start the program. "Today's parents are too busy", they do not choose and limit the activities they are involved in.
- Not enough committed men/fathers, very few older men consider RA's an option for them
- Not enough emphasis on praying for missionaries
- Not enough hands-on activities
- Not enough leaders
- Not enough leaders and emphasis in church
- Not enough local collaboration for events in smaller areas.
- Not enough patience for achievement, short attention span
- Not enough state recognition
- Not enough time (only 45 minutes)
- Not enough time together
- Not enough time, not being able to send things home to work because everyone is simply too busy
- Not focusing on outdoor activities boys need to learn. For example, we like to do a wood-working project once or twice a year, but they are fairly expensive from LifeWay. We cut out our own patterns and let the boys build items such as birdhouses, toolboxes etc.
- Not having enough men to handle the amount of boys that show up some nights
- Not having enough people that care
- Not having enough time to work with them on Wednesday night when we meet
- Not having support is the most important part of RAs, which is support from others.
- Not much support
- Not praying about the success of it, not keeping the attention of the kids
- Other churches have lost interest and parent involvement is not as good.
- Our association is very weak in this area (Salem); the RA material doesn't lend itself very well for very small groups
- Overall participation
- Parents do not see the importance of being faithful to the meetings.
- People always want to change things

- Planning and preparation
- RA theme is pretty weak at camp. Boys are not taught II Corinthians 5:20 and they don't sing "The Kings Business."
- RAs have not changed with the times. The same way the program/materials are run today is the same way I did 30 years ago when I went through RAs.
- Remembering to wear vest and bring books
- Seems old, outdated and too similar to Boy Scouts
- Some of the literature is weak
- Some of the teaching material is dated.
- Sometimes us men aren't very good organizers/planners. We tend to get stagnant and do the same things over and over each year.
- Sorry material for grades 7 and up. We always have to put two leaders with that group to keep them amused for the class time. We get very little out of the periodical. We did one of the studies that was pretty good, but those aren't released very often. We can't do the same one over and over.
- Squire, page, knights books are difficult to understand. We usually sit down with the boys and go through the book and highlight things that they can understand and will actually do. Some of the activities are too involved and time-consuming for the boys and parents.
- Staff training
- Support from NAMB
- That in today's kids, their focus is on so much more than RA's, and they find it hard to put forth as much time as they need to be an RA.
- That there is not enough time in the week to put the effort into having an exceptional RA program; our church does not have the funds to do as much as I would like to.
- That we have failed to use all the resources we have around us in teaching missions and Christ love and salvation. While the world uses all these things to distract the boys: sports, computer, video games, TV, school work.
- That we still cannot always compete with school, after-school activities, TV, computers and other fun alternatives
- The appeal to the outside world
- The assumption that the kids coming have a Christ-centered life
- The biggest weakness I think would be is sometimes they are not interested in the lessons that are taught.
- The difficulty in getting committed leadership in today's fast-paced lifestyles, but that's a problem with any on-going program.
- The material and way you order material and the cost for what you get. Awana is doing something right. A lot of churches are dropping mission groups. We need help.
- The materials are dated and repetitive
- The missionary stories in the magazines are a little short some times.
- The need for support and ideas from State board
- The overall structure
- The program is terribly difficult if you do not have someone that has grown up with the program. It is hard for the average person to come in and take over a class.
- The program, in our community, seems to be in direct competition with the Boy Scouts. A lot of my boys have too much on their plates already. I need to find a way to make the Royal Ambassadors Program as important to the parents and church, as it is to me.
- The time to do everything
- Themes for the month

- There is minimal focus on African American composition and picture/visual/identification in literature. There is also an over emphasis in “receiving role”, with little to none in leadership “giving” role models.
- There is not a weekly curriculum like Sunday school. I need an across the board one, not individual by grades.
- Time, and program is not as strong in church as Awana is
- Time, backseat to secular activities, recognition of church
- Too few churches involved, not enough time allotted for workbooks and devotions
- Unprepared leaders I hear all the time that the literature is not adequate. The lessons are very simple if you follow the script provided.
- Updating material when needed (i.e. Lad advancement books)
- We have had difficulty getting our boys interested in the activities at the RA congress. Include more hands-on activities.
- We need more dedicated, capable men to learn (better training of leaders) how to organize and lead boys. Basic program is very good, just need better application! Need more parental involvement.
- When we have it late Wednesday night the boys are too tired, hard to recruit men to lead
- With all of the activities in the boys’ lives, projects that take many weeks like some advancement and campcraft activities are difficult to complete.
- Working on memory verses

## **APPENDIX I**

**Do you have any additional comments about the success or failure that you have experienced with Royal Ambassadors?**

- As long as one boy shows up and is taught to share Christ's love through living a Christ-focused life, it is a success.
- At this time God is really moving on our RA program in a positive way.
- Because of my shift schedule, I was not at many of our weekly meetings. I have since retired and have the opportunity to be at meetings each week. I feel this is necessary to develop relationships with the boys.
- Boys are looking for leadership in their lives, and Royal Ambassadors is a great avenue for this.
- Can drives have worked very well for me; bicycle races work very well too
- Church-wide commitment to children's mission studies must be there for a program to be really successful. Our church only allows 45 minutes, which isn't a great deal of time each week. We make the most of it, but it still falls short.
- Competition with Awanas
- Continue to be strong in faith and not give up, try to come up with interesting thing the RA's can do to be a part of God's plan
- Don't try to make RA like the Boy Scouts. Stay focused on missions and how to be a part of missions.
- Even with the challenges and distractions of misbehavior, the boys do learn about Baptist missions and God.
- Everything is great at our church and parent involvement is good.
- Florida provides training which has helped, however, additional communication would be great.
- Getting men to train
- Having the Congress in a big state like Louisiana, Alexander and New Orleans, having camps for co-eds
- I am a new children's minister at 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist. If we cannot "change" or revive RA's, it will no longer be a part of our education program.
- I am having trouble with my church and ethnic boundaries
- I am now getting support from our church. However, I'm trying to get more organized.
- I enjoy RA's very much. It is a very big part of my life. I was an RA when I was young. Now, as a dad and leader for my own son, it is very rewarding.
- I feel like I just maintain our program. We have the same number of boys and we do the same things year after year. Sometimes the activities after the stories in Lad and Crusader magazines are too easy or hard for our age group of boys. We don't use any of the activities in the advancement books, just the story recall and Bible verse sections.
- I firmly believe RA's should be a "lay-person" led program. I am a staff minister and while I clearly see the importance of this program, my other ministerial duties keep me from adequately preparing and educating what little leadership I can convince to help.
- I get excited to see them excited about mission work.
- I grew up in RAs and we still do today pretty much what I did. This is good in many ways. It keeps these kids involved and lets them know learning and serving can be fun.
- I guess over the last 2-3 years, I have had more success than failure. Our RA's have done well in track meets, and had fun campouts. Also, the past year saw all of my boys complete their activity books, so we got to have an RA Recognition Service. I'm proud of my boys and leaders.

- I have seen some RA groups in my life. I know it can be run like the Boy Scouts except with different goals. These kids can learn through achievement. I would like for us to get badges and awards. I just need to know how I get there from here.
- I just wished that our church would support the RA program as much as they do the youth program.
- I need to plan better activities and thereby control the boys more
- I really like that nowadays so many of the mission projects are coming from missionaries we are studying about. I have worked in RA's 12 years and the curriculum keeps getting better.
- I used to use the workbook along with the magazine. We would get so bogged down with the workbook we wouldn't get around to the missionary stories, so I cut out the workbook. I still hold them responsible for doing so much work. I have 5 parts for the yearly badge. For each part they have to read and do 2 stories and activities from Lad or Crusader, one Bible verse memorized and three activities from our books.
- I wish the parents would get involved and take more interest in what we as an organization are doing.
- I would like yearly training sessions for leaders. Our boys are truly doing in Jesus name and I've seen awesome results! Our RA program has been action based, not bookwork. We have done hands-on mission work and have provided many times for them to meet "real" missionaries. Learning from real experiences seems to be working.
- I've always seemed to have successful years with good students, but no help in the group leadership.
- I've been involved in the Royal Ambassador Program over 41 years. This year the church, due to lack of help, went to coed. I am not pleased with this program, because there is no mission study. I would have liked to have more support from the pastor. My experience over the years with other RA leaders is that the biggest complaint is lack of support from pastors. In the association which I am the director, and the state, they support mission in giving and activities. Being in the state of Virginia there is conflict between conservative and moderates, even though it is a SBC program, and because they are asked to register with the state they do not participate in RA's. I think the RA mission study is as important to boys 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade as any other church program.
- If the men will dedicate themselves to the meeting each week and come regularly so will the boys.
- In our endeavor to bring RA's from the 70's to 2004, let us not forget the traditions of good sportsmanship, loyalty, and all the spirit of a real man's man.
- It has been difficult to network with other churches
- It is hard to get parents to put the importance on RA's as they do on other church activities. It is hard to find men who will give sufficient time for preparation and activity participation.
- It is sometimes hard to keep their attention span after they have been in school for seven hours.
- It's an excellent idea, however it's a little complicated for new leaders.
- It's the most rewarding experience of my life to work with these young men with God as the real leader
- Keeping parents and kids informed seems to really help. I began using a calling tree once or twice a week to let parents know that we are not just simply trying to "baby sit" their son each week.
- Kids in our area really respond to the RA basketball league we have. Every year we get kids to come to RA's just to be in the league. It is a major success for our program.
- Kids like advancement and recognition, like to study about missionaries and what other kids at their age level are doing

- Materials are hard to get and with little support
- Meeting plans seem mostly written by women. It seems that a lot of the activities are not boy-oriented.
- More activities in the Crusader books
- Most of all the success of RAs must build on support of church and others to get help from others when you need them.
- My boys enjoy receiving the patches and pins for their vests. I do an award ceremony every 3-6 months.
- My church doesn't seem to have a heart for missions and it's been an uphill battle getting members interested in helping with missions.
- My heart hurts for the boys of broken homes of all kinds. I wish I could help them more. Personal time I know is needed. I feel so overwhelmed with this.
- Need men to work with RAs
- Need more Bible activities
- Needs to be made easier to start and cheaper
- No long-time commitment of some RA leaders. Too many community programs that do not honor our meeting times
- One thing we have done is getting an older RA to assist 1<sup>st</sup> graders learning to read. This teaches the youth about giving ministry while teaching the younger child to receive it.
- Our church's RA program had not been very active, but with the help of the materials and myself and another leader, we have regular attendees each week.
- Our failure has been not having a director who has had the training courses. We teachers have learned how to teach RAs through reading materials on our own.
- Our struggle is that the family priorities have shifted. Parents are too busy to help, and children are too busy to attend. It is a great program, but "Wednesday night" has been taken over by other secular activities.
- Our success is because we work together well, we as leaders have planning meetings. We go out and "do" missions. Our boys are exposed to EZRA and encouraged to participate, they are phoned weekly. We perform two dozen missions' activities per year.
- Overall, the kids view it as "Boy Scouts", character building, fun, small Bible study skills developed, team work, fellowship
- Pastor needs to support the program, get the parents involved, and make the program exciting, train leaders
- People sense the commitment of the leaders and follow that lead. Class time with no activities after school is hard, boys lose interest.
- Program is good if we work the program
- Quality and cost of RA medals, ribbons, and patches make it prohibitive for smaller churches to afford the program.
- RA's is a fantastic organization, yet only as good as it's leaders and parents. Time constraints with our busy lives/families sometimes influences not doing events because of distances
- RA's is top-notch. Our success is unorthodox because we have a unique group of boys and their situation.
- RAs is a good mission organization that we need to nurture or someday Southern Baptist missionaries will be less
- RAs is not given proper support from church and staff at our church
- Sometimes hard to maintain their interest
- Sometimes materials are way under my kids' learning level
- Sometimes we have needed to split boys by grades as 1&2, 3&4, 5. In this case, the literature doesn't fit well for the middle group. Also, uniform failure at getting materials back and forth

- from home, and for getting parents to do badge/activity projects at home; there are too many competing things in the family schedule
- Support from church leadership, parents as well as the promotion of events and activities is not just necessary, it's mandatory!
  - The amount of success you get from the program is related to the amount of time you put into it. The information and material is there, but the leaders have to be committed and dedicated. Some leaders are not as creative as others and need additional resources and ideas for activities and mission work.
  - The boys and girls need to be together more often. Our kids want to be together. It's just not a program that meets the needs of boys today.
  - The current politics in SBC make me sick! And I think the "top-down" rule that seems to be imposed will hurt the program as well as discourage many missionaries who have been called by God into the mission field.
  - The greatest limitation to our program is having adequate time to incorporate all elements of the program
  - The leaders/directors do not need to just talk about doing things for and with their RAs. They need to also do them; otherwise, the boys will lose interest.
  - The main thing is to keep it fun and interesting. We started doing some woodworking and it has helped. We also use a trip to a major theme park as a reward for 80% attendance through the school year.
  - The program is only as good as the leaders (counselors) in each church. The program should involve boys in Christian activities or things they like to do in a Christian environment.
  - The RA program has brought in kids from the surrounding neighborhood that otherwise would not be exposed to church and Biblical teachings.
  - The RA web site should allow the printing of materials relating to each lesson
  - There doesn't seem to be great leadership at the top. If there is, it is not getting down to the local level.
  - There is not much parental participation and we have difficulty recruiting leaders. We have seen many boys led to Christ and grow in Him.
  - There is too much distraction and time spent in classroom management. The magazine format needs to change to leaflet handouts. Children are doers/action oriented. We have brief time together and this should not be like Sunday school.
  - They enjoy it
  - This has been the best, most successful, consistent year I have been involved. We only meet 45 minutes. I have three segments: video, bookwork, recreation.
  - This is my tenth year as a leader, 2<sup>nd</sup> year as director. I've seen a great decline in the way the boys act in the last 5 or so years. It's so hard to make anything fun enough for them to hold their attention for 30 minutes. I didn't have this problem my first years.
  - Until the local church pastor and staff recognize the importance of a mission program (RA's, GA's), any leader will struggle for assistance from fathers (sometimes mothers) and an adequate budget
  - Vary the program: 2 weeks a month out of book, one week field trip, one week local speaker. We do mission projects some weeks and go Christian caroling to shut-ins. The kids love Pinewood derby.
  - Very little association (DOM) support – "no money" and no training. I have been the associational RA director for 3 years and have had no RA training.
  - We are a small church, so our RA's are ages ranging from 7 to 12 years old. We don't have enough Lads to have a good program, so we have to teach everyone using the same literature. We use both the Lad and Crusader magazines.

- We do 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. By 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys are interested in other activities.
- We dropped your material last year and went to TeamKid stuff—much better at teaching the young people. We add mission projects.
- We have been the strongest when there is strong support from the pulpit.
- We have done several things on our own, such as giving “stamps” for attendance, then allowing them to spend their stamps at an RA store at the end of the year.
- We have struggled in our church as we have lost our younger members over the years. This has slowly reduced the number of youth available to participate in the RA program.
- We held a hunger walk and walked the 4 mile Sebring Parkway. It brought public awareness of RA’s. The boys loved our annual winter campout (Florida).
- We hope to have our RAs active again. This is the first year we haven’t had an RA program.
- We need more resources from our state convention, better materials geared for today’s RAs.
- We need to educate the leaders. But, I am not sure how. I have held several training sessions that are not well attended.
- We try very hard to use the patches/pins ad incentives. The kids enjoy coming. However, trying to keep all of it straight is difficult. To simplify, we now use the Bible drill verses as our weekly verses that earn the medal. It has helped out Bible drills and our boys. We do this with the GA’s too and the parents have been more supportive. We also really like the Extreme Missions video. We use it once a month.
- We’ve tried “Kids on Mission” and it doesn’t seem to work as well as RA’s. Royal Ambassadors is an awesome program and well established and organized. Parents and churches need to be educated on its benefits.
- When I began, there were no boys going to camp, now we have 10 per year and they love it; the boys, surprisingly to me love to make small items such as crosses, etc. and deliver them to area shut-ins and widows.
- You have to keep it fun to keep the kids interest but they also learn a lot more
- You need help from other church members and the boys’ families to do a great job, but any effort is better than apathy. These boys are the next generation leaders.

## **APPENDIX J**

### **Why do you send your child to Royal Ambassadors?**

- An alternative to Boy Scouts
- Father was RA and knows the value of program
- For male role model leadership
- For mission education and fellowship with his peers
- Great Christian education
- He does not have a father in his life and RA's give him time with Christian men as examples.
- He needs the male role model offered by the leader
- He really enjoys it and is learning at the same time
- His mother is the GA leader
- I am an RA leader
- I'm the RA teacher
- Important for his spiritual growth
- Learn more about Jesus and Bible
- One of the best experiences of my life
- To get him involved in church
- To get involved with church activities
- To learn more about God!
- Want him to continue to grow in the Lord

## **APPENDIX K**



- Camping
- Camping
- Camping
- Camping
- Camping
- Camping
- Camping
- Camping
- Camping
- Camping
- Camping activities, playing with other boys, can food drive, anything active
- Camping and boxcar racing
- Camping and fishing
- Camping and helping others
- Camping and learning memory verses
- Camping and playing games
- Camping trips
- Camping trips, Pinewood derby
- Camping, annual RA Pinewood derby race
- Camping, being with the other guys
- Camping, building items
- Camping, car racing (Pine derby)
- Camping, crafts
- Camping, derby cars
- Camping, derby cars
- Camping, derby race
- Camping, field trips
- Camping, fishing
- Camping, fishing and games
- Camping, making things for shut-ins and parents, games
- Camping, mission activities, hikes and class activities/projects
- Camping, mission activities, projects, games, learning about our world
- Camping, NASCAR racing, visiting nursing homes
- Camping, outdoors events, films on missions/outreach
- Camping, Pinewood derby
- Camping, Pinewood derby
- Camping, Pinewood derby, crafts, sleepover, campcraft
- Camping, Pinewood race derby
- Camping, RA racers
- Camping, RA racers, game time
- Camping, RA racers, RA glider, earning patches
- Camping, racers
- Camping, sports
- Camping, Wake Forest game
- Camping/sports competition
- Camporee
- Campout, hunger walk
- Campout, RA racers
- Campout, string gliders, learning about Jesus

- Campout, track, Pinewood derby
- Campouts
- Campouts
- Campouts, Camp McCall
- Campouts, fishing, derby race
- Campouts, puzzles
- Campouts, RA race night
- Camp-outs, trips to ball games
- Camp-over
- Can food drive, soap box racing
- Car race
- Car race, shooting, camping, archery
- Car Racing
- Car racing for RA
- Car racing, hiking, fishing, missions
- Car/boat races
- Carrying wood to people that need it
- Chapter meetings
- Chasing the bone
- Church service, RA basketball team, Pinewood derby
- Congress
- Congress
- Craft
- Craft activities
- Crafts
- Crafts
- Crafts
- Crafts
- Crafts
- Crafts
- Crafts and outdoor activities
- Crafts, hands-on activities, community service
- Crafts, reading aloud, camping
- Crusader Chuckles
- Derby car
- Derby car race
- Derby car races
- Derby car races
- Derby cars
- Derby race
- Derby race
- Derby races
- Derby races, camping trip
- Derby racing
- Derby, camping
- Dodge ball after the class time
- Father/son campouts
- Father-son campout

- Father-son overnight camping trip, games
- Fellowship with boys
- Fellowship with Christian teachers
- Fellowship with other boys and derby racing
- Fellowship with other boys and outings
- Fellowship with other Christian boys and his teachers
- Field trips
- Finishing projects and advancement into different levels
- Fishing
- Football
- Friendship/fellowship
- Game night
- Game playing
- Game time
- Games
- Games
- Games
- Games
- Games
- Games
- Games
- Games
- Games and building his race car, fellowship with his Christian friends
- Games and crafts
- Games, camping, race course
- Games, crafts, friends
- Games, learning
- Games, mission projects (food pantry drive, trash cleanup), camping
- Games, weekend activities (especially spending time with his leader)
- Going different places within the community
- Group activities, Bible studies, camps
- Group activities, mission projects (wood splitting and delivery for needy families)
- Gym night
- Gym, learning about God, team work
- Hands on projects
- Hands-on activities
- Hands-on activities
- Hands-on activities in any form
- Hands-on and corresponding with missionaries in Vietnam, Pine derby, campout
- Hands-on craft activities
- Hands-on stuff like build miniature car and race them
- He enjoys the opportunity to wrap present boxes as a mission exercise each Christmas
- He likes working with tools and doing car races
- He loves hearing real life stories of missionaries, and he loves the craft time
- He really enjoys working in his book and really likes it when missionaries come to visit
- Helping plan activities
- Interacting with other RAs
- Interacting with the other boys and the leaders

- Interaction with other boys, activities
- Kick Ball, word scramble, book activities (jokes)
- Kickball, derby racing, Hike for Hunger
- Lad activities, wearing the vest, praying for missionaries at home and completing the projects
- Learning about missionaries and crafts
- Learning about missions, outside activities
- Learning Bible stories, activities
- Learning games and Scripture memorization
- Materials
- Mission activity in community and with Chuckles in the magazine, RA Congress, fund raising for mission offerings, fellowship
- Mission Olympics, athletic competition
- Mission projects/crafts
- Mission studies
- Monthly mission projects
- Outdoor activities
- Outdoor activities
- Outdoor activities, camping, group outings
- Outdoor activities, making a car
- Outdoor activities, Pinewood derby
- Outdoor activities, sports, games
- Outings like camping
- Outside activities
- Outside activities
- Overnight lock-in
- Overnight lock-in, camping
- Overnights
- Pine car racing and canoe trip
- Pine derby race
- Pine derby racing and going to Tall Timbers
- Pinewood car races and can food drive
- Pinewood derby
- Pinewood derby
- Pinewood derby
- Pinewood derby
- Pinewood derby
- Pinewood derby
- Pinewood derby
- Pinewood derby
- Pinewood derby
- Pinewood derby
- Pinewood Derby & State RA Camp
- Pinewood derby and camping
- Pinewood derby race
- Pinewood derby race, RA camp-out
- Pinewood derby, games, building projects
- Pinewood derby, sports
- Playing ball, campout, outdoors activities

- Playing basketball
- Playing basketball/exercise
- Playing games
- Playing games outside
- Playing the games from the RA book
- Playing with his peers
- Playing with other boys
- RA basketball
- RA camp in the spring
- RA camp, track meet, RA racers
- RA car race
- RA Congress and game time
- RA Congress, football game, campout
- RA Congress, RA camp, mission activity
- RA day (track meet), camp
- RA derby racing and reward trip
- RA events and camping
- RA fun day
- RA racer derby, overnight trip to the battleship and Naval Air Museum
- RA racer, campcraft
- RA racer, campout, sleepover
- RA racer, father-son campout and activity time
- RA racers
- RA racers
- RA racers
- RA racers
- RA racers
- RA racers, camping
- RA racers, camping
- RA Racers, Camping
- RA racers, games
- RA racers, line gliders
- RA racers, the “Max” videos
- RA races
- RA races
- RA Races
- RA racing
- RA racing, camping, field day
- RA’s racing derby
- RA—Car Races
- Race cars
- Racecars, RA Congress
- Racer derby
- Racer derby, Lottie Moon hike, camping
- Racer rally, lesson
- Racers
- Racers
- Racers, game night
- Racing cars

- Racing cars
- Racing cars & camping
- Racing in the car derby, camping, fishing trips
- Rifle (pellet) shooting
- Show and make cars
- Sleepover
- Sleepovers, Olympics and racing derby cars
- Snacks, games, geography
- Special events (punt pass & kick, Pine car derbies, etc.)
- Special projects, cars, Lad magazine
- Sporting activities
- Sporting events
- Sports
- Sports
- Sports
- Sports and camping
- Sports, games
- State track meet
- Stories of missionaries
- Talking about Jesus
- Talking, sports
- Team on-hands activities such as building race cars
- Team sports
- Team time
- Team/game playing
- The boxcar racing activity
- The games
- The RA race
- The weekly meetings
- Travel to conferences
- Week to week meetings/activities, occasional outings
- Weekly meetings
- Weekly meetings and basketball team
- Weekly meetings, camping, all RA activities
- Whenever they get together to play a game of football or basketball (really any sport)
- Winter coat drive, helping around the church, cookouts
- Wood working, arts and crafts
- Working in his Lad magazine
- Working in Lad magazine
- Working on advancement from the books, RA racers
- Working on race cars
- World Hunger Bowl

## **APPENDIX L**

### What RA-related activities do your boys enjoy most? (RA Leader Responses)

- Active games
- Activities in the EZRA, nature walks and talking about how important nature skills are
- Annual campout, using their hands, puzzles
- Any active hands-on activity
- Any sports-related activity, summer camp, hikes and outings, RA racer cars, lock-in at church, written activities that follow mission stories
- Basketball
- Basketball and fishing
- Basketball, baseball, camping
- Basketball, fishing, camping, baseball
- Basketball, race cars, fishing
- Basketball, sports program, hiking, camping
- Bible drill, group discussion about current missions, Bible football
- Bible memory time, games
- Bible trivia game, camping, four square
- Bible trivia, RA racers
- Building projects and RA racers
- Building small projects, boats, crafts
- Camcraft
- Camcraft
- Camping
- Camping
- Camping
- Camping
- Camping
- Camping
- Camping
- Camping
- Camping
- Camping
- Camping and derby cars
- Camping and fishing
- Camping and racer
- Camping at members land site
- Camping, derby races
- Camping, fishing
- Camping, lock-ins
- Camping, mission projects, crafts
- Camping, mission projects, RA racers
- Camping, nature hikes, fishing
- Camping, Pinewood cars
- Camping, Pinewood derby, visiting healthcare facilities
- Camping, RA camp, RA track meet
- Camping, RA Pinewood derby
- Camping, RA racer, opportunity now
- Camping, RA racers

- Camping, sports, mission work activities with hands-on experience
- Camporee, food drive
- Campouts, lock-ins
- Campouts, RA racers, magazines
- Camps
- Car races
- Congress, camp
- Crafts
- Crafts
- Crafts (we do our own)
- Crafts with wood
- Crafts, games that are played in different countries, RA derby
- Crafts, outside activity
- Crafts, RA racers, games, snacks
- Doing mission work, going to nursing homes, show boxes
- Doing projects, within the material provided and sometimes ones that I plan myself
- Drawing
- Eating or crafts
- Game night
- Game time, summer camp, RA day, Lottie Moon fund raisers
- Games
- Games
- Games
- Games and crafts
- Games and crafts
- Games and outings
- Games and puzzles
- Games, crafts
- Games, video, puzzles, jokes
- Games, videos
- Hands-on activities, team sports
- Helping others
- Hiking, camping, fishing, testing as teams on RA literature
- In the Crusader magazine each month they enjoy the project or different foods from foreign countries
- Interest activities, games
- Jokes and games
- Learning about missionaries and praying for them
- Learning activities, games and crafts
- Magazine
- Mission outreach-type events like making care boxes for needy boys in West Virginia to accompany a mission team there
- Mission projects
- Mission projects
- Mission projects
- Mission's hands-on activities
- Movie night with Extreme videos, mission's projects, crafts
- Our campout we have in the spring, also the associational and state RA track meets

- Physical related activities
- Picnics, games
- Pinewood derby
- Pinewood derby
- Pinewood derby
- Pinewood derby, camping
- Pinewood derby, camping, hiking, sports events, games, can food drive
- Pinewood derby, camping, missions
- Pinewood derby, camping, projects, games
- Pinewood derby, campouts, RA Congress, Bike-a-thon, missions
- Pinewood derby, crafts
- Pinewood derby, lock-ins
- Pinewood racer derby
- Pinewood racer event
- Pinewood races
- Pinewoods, RA basketball league
- Play outside games
- Playing a game with Bible questions—kids advance if they get them right
- Playing games
- Playing games, hand-on crafts, camping trips, Pinewood derby
- Pre-class and in-class activities related to lesson, extracurricular activities—race cars, sail boats, educational trips, RA jokes
- RA banquet, camping, hiking, RA rally at Waco, TX, Bike-a-thon
- RA campouts
- RA car race
- RA car, track meet, Congress, campcraft
- RA congress, outings, derby car race, mission projects
- RA Congress, RA racer at church and at association level, dubbing and awards ceremonies, RA week
- RA post office and basketball
- RA race cars, line gliders, camping, Scripture memory
- RA racer derby, camping and sports mission activities
- RA racer rally, camping, sports events
- RA racer, guest speakers, movie nights
- RA racers
- RA racers
- RA racers
- RA racers
- RA racers, camp and woodworking
- RA racers, camping
- RA racers, camping, track meet, go-carting, crafts, local mission projects (food closet, Christmas projects for local children in need)
- RA racers, crafts, playing games
- RA racers, gliders, campcraft
- RA racers, knot tying, track meet
- RA racers, playing together
- RA racers, summer camp, making items for area shut-ins and delivering them

- RA races, camp
- Race cars, camping, crafts, visiting shut-ins, games, lock-ins
- Racecars
- Racecars (making, building, racing)
- Racers, walks, track meet, camping
- Races, boat races
- Recreation, kids on mission videos, racers, campouts
- Saving for and learning about missionaries and the different places they go
- Scripture memory, RA racers, camping, completing learning activities
- Snacks and fun games
- Special events and RA camp
- Sports
- Sports
- Sports activities, puzzles
- Sports, activities, crafts
- Sports, games, crafts
- Team work, camping, sports
- Team, games, projects
- The active games; they still play the jumping, twirling beanbag tied to the end of the rope I found years ago. They enjoyed the volcano. They enjoy any craft such as boat making out of soap. We have made cookies for our soup kitchen. They enjoy getting ready for the RA track meet.
- The boys love working on projects, they look forward to when we do them
- The extreme mission videos
- The sport game activities and crafts, camping trips
- They are more involved in memory work and Bible drill at this time, but look forward to campercraft
- They enjoy hands-on missions within the community and in our church
- Trivia, sports
- We have an annual campout; we also line up guests to speak to boys, such as a policeman and a fireman, having missionaries speak to them
- We read mission stories together and then play “who wants to be a missionary” for question and answer.
- Weekly meetings
- Wood craft items
- World Hunger Bowl, Pinewood derby, Camp Kaleo events, nursing home visits, camping

## **APPENDIX M**

### What RA-related activities does your son enjoy least? (Parents Responses)

- Advancement book activities, crafts
- Advancement books
- Advancement books, RA magazine
- All the merit crafts that have no relation to mission work
- Answering the questions about the story in the “Lad”, etc. workbooks – he says it is like school “class-work.”
- Anything sports related right now. He is small and doesn’t always do well with these activities.
- Archeology, mystery, discovery
- Arts & crafts
- Being confined to staying in a classroom—he likes to be going/doing with RA’s.
- Being in the same room with smaller children
- Bible study
- Bible verse memory
- Book study with no “hands-on” involvement
- Book time
- Book work
- Book work
- Book work
- Book work, dated crafts
- Books
- Bookwork
- Bookwork
- Bookwork
- Bookwork
- Bookwork
- Bookwork
- Bookwork
- Bookwork
- Bookwork, the big book
- Busy work, some of the books
- Camping
- Circus
- Class time
- Class time probably
- Classroom-type work
- Crafts
- Doing student work
- Field day
- Games
- Getting ready for weekly meeting
- Going over the RA magazine
- Group activities
- Hangman game
- Having to go sing at the nursing homes in our local area
- Having to sit for more than 10 minutes

- Having to sit still
- He really enjoys the entire program
- Hiking
- Inside activities
- Just sitting in class doing a lesson
- Just sitting in the classroom and reading
- Lad magazine
- Learning the verses
- Lesson time
- Lesson time
- Listening to long-winded missionaries
- Listening to story read by leader
- Literature and teacher not interesting (sounds “boring”)
- Long activities in campcraft book
- Meeting where all they do is plan
- Meetings are boring and not organized
- Memorization
- Memorizing
- Memorizing Bible verses
- Memorizing/reciting pledge and verses
- Memory verses
- Memory work
- Memory work, anything that feels like school
- My dad being my counselor!
- Opening activity
- Outside sports activities
- Paperwork
- Pinewood derby
- Projects that take too long
- RA Racers
- RA racing
- Reading
- Reading
- Reading book
- Reading in class
- Reading or hearing someone read material
- Reading stories
- Reading the Bible
- Reading the lesson
- Reading, writing
- Scripture memorization
- Singing
- Singing
- Sit down and read for extended periods of time, leaders not trained in group discipline (kids running wild sometimes)
- Sitting and listening to a lesson
- Sitting and reading stories, doing book work
- Sitting in a room and not being able to move around

- Sitting still and listening to someone just read
- Sometimes socializing with other RA classes their age during sports time (peer pressure)
- Sometimes they seem to do the same things over and over again
- Stories
- Stories are boring
- Story
- Story time
- Study
- Study
- Studying
- Studying the Bible verse
- Talent show
- Team sports
- The books
- The games
- The lessons
- The lessons are boring
- The stories do not hold his attention
- The workbooks for the badges
- They both love everything about it.
- Things he has to write
- Video
- Watching videos
- Watching videos
- When kids are being disrespectful and noisy
- Workbook
- Workbooks
- Workbooks
- Working in the books
- Working in the study books
- Working on dittos or booklets
- Working on worksheets (like Lad), singing
- Working out of the workbook
- Writing
- Writing down stuff

**APPENDIX N**

### What RA-related activities do your boys enjoy least? (RA Leader Responses)

- Advancement
- Advancement
- Advancement
- Advancement books
- Advancement books
- Advancement books
- Advancement books
- Advancement books
- Advancement books
- Advancement work
- Anything where they have to sit still (such as mission magazine)
- Being still
- Being still and quiet
- Bible studies, having to stay inside in wintertime
- Bible verses
- Book material
- Book night
- Book studying
- Bookwork
- Bookwork
- Bookwork, but they like the patches when completed
- Class studies
- Class work, monthly book
- Cleaning up
- Collecting money (AAEO, LMCO)
- Controlling the boys during the meeting—they are very full of energy
- Crafts
- Discussion
- Doing all age groups together
- Doing the work in the magazines
- Handbooks
- Having to sit down and listen to me read
- Having to sit still and listen
- I think they enjoy all aspects of RA's to some degree.
- Initial start of working in advancement manuals
- Lessons
- Lessons
- Lessons without activities included
- Listening to mission stories
- Listening to missionary stories
- Listening to the missionary stories; if there were more video stories it would be better for them.
- Long confusing stories
- Long lessons
- Long readings

- Maize puzzles
- Memorization
- Memorization
- Memory verses
- Memory verses
- Memory work
- Memory work and any activity that requires them to sit still for more than 10 minutes!
- Mission studies, anything in class—the boys don't seem interested in the stories
- Mission study
- Mission work, Bible verse memory
- Missionary speakers, reading lessons about missionaries
- None that comes to mind
- Occasional project—too simple
- Paperwork
- Praying and the lesson, these two items are essential to the RA program and the boys
- Pretty much anything that is not competitive in nature
- Projects that take a lot of time
- RA books
- RA Congress
- Reading
- Reading
- Reading
- Reading activities
- Reading activities in the RA advancement books
- Reading and discussing
- Reading GO magazine for youth Lad puzzles are sometimes too hard for 1<sup>st</sup> grade, but about right for rest of that age (1-3).
- Reading lessons
- Reading material
- Reading out of books (hard for them to stay on it)
- Reading stories and answering questions about the stories
- Reading stories and books
- Reading the lesson
- Reading the stories
- Reading time, study, Bible verse memory
- Reading, bookwork
- Reciting pledge and motto
- Self or group study
- Sitting around and reading
- Sitting down and reading the RA magazines—we discontinued their use because attendance was dropping off.
- Sitting still
- Sitting still and having to listen
- Sitting still and listening to the missionary stories
- Sitting still for too long
- Sitting still while actually reading the lesson
- Sitting still, bookwork
- Sitting, listening

- Stories
- Stories in advancement book
- Stories, but may be my fault
- Story time
- Story time
- Story time
- Study
- Study
- Study time
- Study time
- Studying mission history
- Studying, writing
- The advancement books/seatwork of any kind
- The lesson, because they have to sit still
- The lessons
- The lessons
- They do not enjoy getting up in front of our congregation
- They get bored with lessons and stories. Counselors need more exciting ways of presenting them.
- To calm down and prepare for the lesson
- Unfortunately it is probably the weekly lesson time
- Visiting shut-ins
- Workbooks
- Workbooks
- Workbooks
- Workbooks
- Workbooks
- Working in advancement books
- Working in RA advancement books
- Writing

## **APPENDIX O**

**Do you have any suggestions for the North American Mission Board  
in regard to Royal Ambassadors? (Parents Responses)**

- 1) handbook for RAs/parents; 2) written communication as to topics of upcoming meetings; 3) more organized activities for RAs & families; 4) opportunities to purchase merchandise; 5) information on earning patches
- Advertise within associations
- Any suggestions on cultivating a generation of males who see the value of RAs that can be built into Baptist Mens misc. would be most helpful. We need men who care about our sons. They need dedicated Christian male role models.
- Better parent communication; updating your approach
- Better, more involved church director leadership training and program review is greatly needed. Boys need to be involved in mission work not just playing games.
- Books with more suggestions on what to do
- Change materials. They need better books.
- Communication between leaders and parents is poor. Parents usually are not aware of anything until last minute. From my understanding our program consists of reading the boys a mission story and then working on their booklets. Sometimes they may play a game. There should be more hands-on activities for the boys. My son said he would rather go to GA's because they get to make things. Kids can learn through physical and creative activities. They use ditto pages at school all day. We need a more creative teaching environment for RA's.
- Continue supporting the Royal Ambassador program; after all, missions is why we are all here!
- Continue the commitment to the Royal Ambassador program.
- Continue to bring missions to the boys on a personal level through showing them that they can support missions right now.
- Continue to offer father-son outings/seminars/retreats – more opportunities for dads to be more involved!
- Continue to use Biblical based material to develop Godly Christian young men.
- Continued mission projects
- Direct some programs toward son and mother. This day and age a lot of boys come from single parent homes, like our home. We try to include his dad, but my son would prefer I do most things with him. For instance, like the camping trips. I love to camp and would love to take my son. I feel out of place because I feel like females should not be present during RA time.
- Do more community related missions. Reach out to the locals more.
- Do more hands-on activities.
- Do more in the way of missions, and maybe outside activities with RA's, such as seeing a movie or going swimming or camping.
- Do not allow it to degenerate into a coed, watered-down "Mission Friends" for older kids. The Royal Ambassador programs of the 50's and 60's will work if updated and allowed to grow. The SBC large church pastors and religious politicians have been "emasculating" the Brotherhood and "lay-leadership" for too long.
- Don't build RA racer cars at church
- Don't change much. Do not follow the new VBS model!
- Encourage love of our country somewhat – this is one of the few places in the world this could be filled out.
- Exclude more emphasis on camping especially for junior and senior high. Have patch available.

- Find some way to get more men to work in this program with church support or join the RA's and GA's together under a new banner.
- Format change to more physical activities, such as music and Bible study, crafts and recreation. The RA lessons are dull and a challenge to keep the kids interest.
- Give some money to camp McCall in South Carolina for improvements to the facilities.
- Have classes for the teachers of RA's to teach them how and what to teach.
- Help churches know if it is to develop churched kids or is an outreach to unchurched kids.
- How can our small church get together with bigger groups?
- I believe you have the material. I assist with the leadership, so I think we just have to do a better job of using what you have. I was a Boy Scout and think you should model things from scouting (as you already do).
- I don't know how the curriculum is set up, but the actual missions learning should be hands-on or activity oriented for boys. It could be that our leaders did not use that part of the material. Maybe leader training would be beneficial—needs enthusiasm.
- I have been disappointed in the lessons. At this age level, I hate to admit it, but pictures are needed, even if just one, to go along with the mission lesson. I also think the story needs to be more boy-understandable to hit home.
- I have served in WMU & grew up as a Sunbeam, GA & Baptist Women. I have been disappointed in our RA leaders because our boys are not receiving much missions education. I wish our leaders were given more education opportunities but our Associational leadership is also very weak.
- I like the mission's emphasis and outdoor skills (fire building, Boy Scouts-type activities, chopping wood, etc.) of RA. But I miss the Bible memory in the Awana take home book that we had when we went to a different church that had Awana. Also, the Awana group takes pride in their uniform. It is required each week to wear, but the children are sometimes proud of it. Our RA group wears their uniform once or twice a year.
- I like to see something less like Boy Scouts and more learning through service and modeling Christ. They need to know how much God loves them and need to show others God's love.
- I think our RA program for the other grades is very weak. The leaders are poorly prepared and unorganized. It tends to be entirely recreation with very little learning about missions.
- I think there should be more study about doing missions in our own community than all over the world. They'll never go all over the world, but could do a lot of work in our own area with shut-ins and elderly.
- I wish that our church's program was more organized, that our leaders were better trained and that parents were better informed. We do most of the RA material at home and use the missionary content to supplement our home school geography curriculum.
- I would like to have more timely updates concerning activities with complete details.
- I'd like to see the boys get more involved in mission work, a sort of "hands-on" experience.
- Interaction with other RA's from different churches, such as a campout or retreat to meet and fellowship with other boy's to see that it is not just their group that participates in the RA program.
- It has to be a fun place for boys to come and learn. They need a chance to be active (hands-on activities) after sitting at a desk at school all day. It would help to channel all that energy in the right direction. Worksheets, simply reviewing articles in Lad, lecture type classes do not work!
- It seems to me that RA's focuses mainly on fun and games and not about missions. Our leaders aren't properly trained so how can they teach my children about missions when they themselves don't know.

- It would be nice if Congress was either split into East/West or North/South districts; or if Lads met at one location/time and Crusaders and Challengers at another. Lads were pushed around and treated rudely even with parents and counselors around.
- Keep it going! It is so important for children to still learn about missionaries.
- Keep it organized. If the boys enjoy RA's as they get older they will be more likely to keep active in helping others.
- Keep it relevant and exciting. My son enjoys the leaders and other boys.
- Keep trying to take it to a new level!
- Keep up with the times. These boys are into computers, games, sports, and the material in Crusaders is not appealing to them (too young for them).
- Leave it alone
- Longer lessons with more difficult questions/puzzles following lesson plan, more challenging activities for 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades.
- Maintain focus on real-life missionary experiences.
- Make available more audio/visual materials to go with the book/magazine studies on missions, missionaries and other ministry related work.
- Make it more fun, organized and challenging. I have had three boys come up through RA's over the past 10 years. Their friends from other churches are in Awana programs which seem to be more interesting, productive and fun. I want my boys to have the missions education but I think the program needs revamping.
- Make it more organized and more fun for the boys.
- Make the achievement plan easier to understand. More badges available for mission projects/studies/activities.
- Make the advancement book easier for kids. Too many patches. Make advancement awards simpler.
- Model the program after the Boy Scouts program, Awana and TeamKid.
- More activities for RA leader books
- More activities for the boys to be able to help the community, especially with elderly
- More activities geared toward smaller children
- More building activities, hands-on stuff that is more interesting and relative material
- More excitement, more interesting topics
- More focus on community missions
- More literature and parental education about RA's
- More off-site activities (camping, fishing)
- Needs better resource/work materials—too weak, not enough mission's education; better motivational tools and better overall organization.
- Needs to be more geared toward young boy's interests – more outdoor/sports activities with emphasis on Christ and missions and service to others. Like Awana but more focused on camping. Like Boys Brigade.
- Not forgetting the vision and goal—that all boys have opportunity to call on Christ as Savior. Teaching of the Word of God first, fun and play second.
- Only men should teach RA's. There is a great need! Boys have no role models today. We need Godly men training up boys to be Godly men!
- Our church does not do many missions projects. Maybe NAMB could suggest more hands-on mission's projects.
- Our older boys seem to lack motivation and I'm not sure of the reason.
- Per son, don't have workbooks.
- Perhaps some guidelines or helps for church RA camping. Our RA camping trip went fine, but I thought there should have been more spiritual emphasis.

- Please remind RA leaders to communicate special outings and awards ceremony dates and times at least a week in advance to the parents.
- Provide education to church's emphasizing the boys need to have strong male role models who teach mission involvement. Not enough male leaders, women have to fill in.
- Schedule workshops for leaders to attend that can assist them in enhancing their church's program. Advise leaders on how to work with rambunctious boys. Require some outside activities (soup kitchens, chores for members of the church) that the boys can participate in.
- Simplify the advancement and reward requirements so that boys can see progress without having to spend numerous hours working on stuff at home. Leaders need to be given better instructions for directing RA activities because they are over worked and under staffed.
- Some of the boys are out of control on field trips and respect for other people and public property must be emphasized. Children learn from the actions of others.
- Support and emphasis (our church is possibly losing the program)
- Teach more ways that they can help.
- The boys sometimes don't want to go to RA's some nights and other parents have told me the same thing. They feel that all they do is "work".
- The churches need to fund the programs. Our church has no budget for activities.
- The leaders need to be trained to love missions so that the children can grow to love missions. More attention should go to missions and less to games and activities. Please stress that missions is worth a sacrificial commitment of our lives and not merely work a casual giving by gimmicks such as bike-a-thons, etc.
- The material, while focusing on missions, needs much more of Scripture based character development, with stories/material relevant to the decade. We have lost a number of boys to Awana and Cub Scouts/Boy Scouts.
- The materials and presentation should be fun and exciting. The activities should be creative and enjoyable to the boys, with not as much "school-type" work. They get enough of that every day.
- The men in the church do a great job being the male role models, but they seem to lack time to plan and organize weekly lessons. Maybe they should incorporate some of the organizational skills used by GA's. Also, teach young boys how to be responsible young men.
- The program as is, is dying! It is either not offered at a convenient time or leaders are near impossible to find and keep. My only suggestion is if it was co-ed, it might be easier on small groups.
- The program at our church puts children ages 6-11/12 in the same classroom. Because of that, it is not challenging or interesting to the older boys. The program needs to be multi-level.
- The RA program needs to be more active. The current program involves reading and Q&A. Their attention is not good after being in school all day.
- The stories in the magazines could be more interesting for young boys if you told of life-threatening adventures, i.e. natives with poisonous blow-darts trying to get the missionary.
- They need to have more challenging questions in the magazines. Videos of missionaries would be great and more guest missionary speakers.
- Training for leaders
- Update crafts
- We have had some exposure to Awana and incorporating some of this into RA's would be beneficial.
- We need materials that are interactive and exciting and age appropriate for each grade.

- We need to concentrate on daily Bible reading and prayer. I don't understand why we teach about missions, when the children aren't to the point in their walk with the Lord that kingdom growth is a concern.
- Wednesday night RA's is the one time in my son's busy, hard schedule that he can relax, have fun and enjoy learning. Please don't change.
- Would like more crafts to do

**APPENDIX P**

**Do you have any suggestions for the North American Mission Board  
in regard to Royal Ambassadors? (RA Leader Responses)**

- A better way in ordering material
- A summer mission project or camp for the older RA's, if one doesn't already exist.
- Better support. Look at the scout program. Kids need to have ability to do different projects of areas of their interest not just a book that is like a Sunday school lesson. We are doing Bible verse learning/books of the Bible, earning prizes for achievement. Christian games (card or board) would help.
- Burden the hearts of men to be willing to work with RA's. We had an RA group till the last two years. It's a wonderful program and we have boys who participated and enjoyed it.
- Can be a powerful influence on a young man's life, update some material, ready for some changes, do not give up on RAs
- Can we please change the vest to a banner? Like a military guide-on flag. Sew the patches directly to the basic banner and add "streamers" for special events (like RA Congress and the like). When they graduate RA's to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade we will give them the banner for Christ to carry on in their lives. Also makes for an awesome campsite display. We plan to do it anyway.
- Combine Awana and RAs to make one big program
- Come up with more ideas that the boys can work on mission related to their community and state, so they might be impacted by the experience in their life
- Continue and improve materials to make leading boys more effective. The materials are already very useful.
- Create materials for boys club and girls. GA's are not listening to request to change. Include IMB's "Kids on Mission" videos in materials. If we could create a "VBS" type atmosphere kids would want to return. Allow kids to practice doing "disaster relief". Develop from different RA camps (i.e. Camp McCall in SC) RA camp songs and CDs. Would be awesome if you could make RA's a division of World Changers. This would facilitate a natural progression to missions. Get with LifeWay and make Scriptures match Sunday school and choir. Most adults do not memorize five Scriptures a week.
- Don't change the program just for the sake of change. The more you change the program the less participation there will be statewide. Keep it simple! The more changes you implement the longer the learning curve will be to train leaders. Don't make it where you have to be a rocket scientist to be a leader. Boys need to be around counselors that are committed to the program not just someone that is going to baby sit them for one year.
- Don't change the program just to sell more products (badges, shirts etc.). The RA program is a great program. It's great for the kids and leaders. We have to have some solid support from the top. Make advancement books compatible. Small churches that have lads together cannot go back and forth between lads 1-2-3 and keep control of the class.
- Don't ever let the RA program fall to the wayside.
- Don't revise the materials all at once. Phase them in to hold down church's expenses. Simply meeting plans to achieve only one goal per meeting. Have a 4-5 week theme like Sunday school literature.
- Focus more on the smaller size groups and be less regimented to be an RA group.
- For the Crusader and Lad magazines use a non-glare paper. The shiny paper is hard to see and write on. Include more recipes in the lesson.
- Forget about the money! Start thinking about the souls that can be reached Boys raised in RA's are some of the greatest leaders in the church's future.

- From a large city view point: For training and activities, travel time and distance are big factors. Many black churches meet on Saturday and they are doing an exceptional job. For us training needs to be planned around a “Do it Yourself” format. In today’s world, it’s hard to get leaders in a church together for a short training session. I see the boys program losing its place in the total church program. Challengers are being absorbed in the Youth Program that is not implementing an emphasis on missions. Crusader and Lad magazines should have sections that teach about the connection of the church with association/state/NAMB. This at one time was part of the advancement. Include in curriculum magazines campcraft hints for that age level
- Gear the magazine towards irregular attendees.
- Get away from missionaries and onto mission projects.
- Girls in Action has more interesting events/activities in their weekly books.
- Have RA Congress once a year in different places besides always in a college (where the price is so high), and a small church cannot go because they cannot afford it. What happened to the different areas we used to go like Memphis, Nashville, Jackson, or even some small towns? This was a great time for my boys, they looked forward to it.
- How can we participate in getting on-mission projects in one of the monthly magazines?
- I actually have been pleased with many changes you have made over the years. Your Lad and Crusader magazine used to not go together. It helped me a lot when you started doing the same story in each but at different reading levels and activity levels since we all meet together. I also like the leader book to have all the extras in it instead of a separate quarter leadership book. I enjoyed the video for the quarter when you offered it free. I’m a penny pincher and have had a hard time making myself buy it. I did think I’d suggest it to the next year’s leader, since I felt the boys could benefit and it made planning a little easier. They enjoyed it.
- I find it hard to convince leadership to take time/initiative in preparing week-to-week lessons. I have tailored our program so leadership has as little preparation time as possible. Our church’s RA and GA programs work extremely well together on IMB and NAMB studies.
- I like the idea of missionary trading cards. You could have their picture on the front and a biography and prayer request on the back. I also like the ideas for awards for character development.
- I like this program and it is my goal to meet the goals of serving our community and church with our chapter. And most important, to bring Christ to a lost world through our RA’s chapter!
- I met a man through summer RA camp that went on a mission trip to Nigeria. NAMB could be helpful if they let us know of missionaries or lay people who would be in our area that might come and speak to a small RA group. They might be living in or traveling through our area of Texas.
- I think part of the reason the program is stuck in the past is we get a lot of support from Texas Baptist Men. The support is great but I think they keep wanting to do things the same way they have been done for years and years, because it’s tradition. It is not working.
- I think the literature is very informative and my boys enjoy the activities. I feel like the activities are too far and in between. So we do our lessons and activities and advancement and then I will let each boy pick an activity that they would like to do and we spend the rest of the time building relationships.
- I wished I had hundreds of ideas. I see a large number of churches giving to the Awana program. I don’t think they see what our mission boards and mission field will look like in 10 to 13 years. I wished there was an instant fix, but I’m sorry I don’t know of it.
- I would like to get more information on ideas for local community and mission work.

- If you are going to advertise coeds then lets have some material for coeds and camps and meetings for them.
- Improve existing resources, replace what isn't working. Put mission's emphasis back in the center of youth material. Lessons on how to choose a college, CD music reviews, etc., are more suited to peripheral material like "Christian Single." It's distracting from the main purpose of RAs/Baptist Young Men. Instead of trying to appeal to every area of this age group, meet the one need of training them to be ministers to others and do it well.
- Improve magazine, make stories to enhance RA's to read. NAMB needs to recognize the value of teaching young boys in lieu of some of the adult themes.
- Improve the quality of stories and content
- It might help to put suggestions in each lesson for boys to do at home. It might be helpful to have maybe two puzzles or games per lesson to reinforce the lesson.
- It would be nice to have a set curriculum. One that works for a small group as well as a larger group
- Just keep in mind the competition for time with the boys. Interest is a must to keep the boys involved in the program, for parents to make the commitment top bring them. We try very hard to involve dads in the program, so that father and son share time together in activities like campouts, fishing, mission projects and crafts/pinewood derby etc.
- Keep developing and producing good material that will help develop boys to be good and loyal stewards of Christ and the church.
- Keep getting input from RA leaders about what's working and what's not and pass it along to all leaders.
- Keep it a mission's education program
- Keep it and promote it!
- Keep it simple, fun and rewarding
- Keep men working with boys, do not make it co-ed (I cannot teach boys to be men in that environment), use technology wisely but limit it (they already get too much TV, video games and Internet), change the program during the summer by adding variety (outdoors, better continuity when families go on vacation, and relieves workers), boys make great "doers of the Word."
- Keep up the good work! I appreciate everyone's hard work making and writing the RA material.
- Keep up the good work, and I'm looking forward to new ideas.
- Keep up the great support and the innovative ways of making missions study materials engaging. The Extreme videos and RA magazine activities/stories are tremendous aids. Children spend all day in classrooms at school, so they need entertaining and engaging activities in their mission studies on Wednesday nights.
- Leave it alone. You have royally screwed up the Challengers program. Now with this survey I fear you are getting ready to kill the RA program. Quit looking at the big church and provide mission education for the mid-size church down. Large churches can write and do write their own trail. Small churches depend on printed material. They plead for good simple material. The leadership wants to teach mission and focus on boys activities.
- Let's continue to strive to put our good, interesting, real-life material, answer their questions and prepare them for the future.
- Local coordinators need to travel to churches to help those of us who are learning by the "seat of our pants." And don't have seminars come on Wednesday nights or whenever RA meets and watch how things are done.
- Looking forward to any program you can provide to encourage boys and parents to become interested in RA's.

- Make RA supplies more affordable. We've quit buying patches for event recognition through LifeWay because of high cost. We can get them much cheaper through other vendors. This is the same for other RA supplies. Spend more time in materials giving details, facts, etc. about the country or region where the mission work is taking place. Helps boys to learn about other countries Encourage helping boys learn the books of the Bible, such as the old "Bible drills". I'm 40 and still remember doing that as a boy.
- Materials are expensive, especially pins and patches
- Maybe setting up a network of Royal Ambassador leaders and directors that can come up with ideas that other Royal Ambassador leaders and directors can use. Sort of like a national "help line" for RA leaders and directors.
- More communication, updates (monthly) on new materials, ways of conducting certain advancement opportunities
- More detailed information. I looked on the Web page and saw lots of great stuff. I just don't know how it all works.
- More electronic media would be beneficial and educational for the boys.
- More RA leader workshops
- More RA promotional material through Brotherhood Program
- More training for leaders
- Most of the literature needs to be upgraded to include more interesting subjects, and maybe look at literature for small church programs.
- Need to blend into the program what is a Christian man about. Maybe through situational training or life stories but expand the base beyond mission stories. The boys may relate better and learn more. We may be able to shape the Christian man that these boys will grow into.
- None overall The Royal Ambassador program is well organized with material and other needed things to help in the Christian growth of the young men and boys in our church
- Pass missions on to young people. Don't make it a history lesson. Apply it to young people. Equip them with why and knowledge and just do it. Raise the bar of expectation.
- Perhaps monthly themes could center on geographical areas.
- Perhaps NAMB could combine better RA and men's ministries activities in a way that would let men know that RA's needs them. Have you ever considered stories about historical missionaries such as Eric Liddell, Oswald Chambers, Charles H. Spurgeon, John Bunyan, Billy Graham, etc?
- Please keep the RA program going forward, have local associational events
- Please provide a monthly magazine lesson series and training for leadership.
- Possibly more start-up support and training for churches that don't actively implement RAs.
- Provide more material to pastors and church leaders so they are aware of RA missions and development.
- Provide more supplemental support on the web page. For example, things that are discussed in the lesson can be provided as pdf's for download and assist with preparation.
- Revamp material; enhance mission's stories that strike closer to age groups. More U.S. mission stories, not just Africa all the time
- The "NAMB Prayer Map" indicated several missionaries in the Washington, DC area, but did not include the DC area in the prayer listings. What does that communicate to us DCBC member churches?
- The director should check on each church. Most of all the smaller church RA's groups. That way maybe the RA leader would feel better when trying to get help.
- The Easy RA book is great, but could use some more games to it
- The materials are vastly better than I could personally create. I would like to see more game ideas, affordable crafts, more choices for mission activities.

- The only thing I know is the keep on trying to do this the best way we can by prayer and action because the children are so worth it!
- The videos with one lesson a month in the Crusader are great! The kids respond better to these stories after seeing the individual in the story. I wish every story/mission story in the Crusader came with a verse relating back to Scripture—short and sweet for the boys. We find that the simpler the plan given in the Crusader the better, because of time constraints with planning.
- There has to be an easier way to run the program. Giving us game ideas or lots of things to cut/prepare does not work because we don't have time. The RA poster doesn't work because we still have to log records in a book. We end up creating our own log book because we have to change things. We don't use the Scripture strips since we use Bible drill. Please work with Bible drill and GA's to simplify verses, patches, etc. We do not want the group to be co-ed, but the materials could be similar to help us teachers and parents.
- To have someone to come and speak to the boys and get them excited about the program other than one of us leaders.
- To help our young men and women of the future interested in missions and in spreading God's word, to keep fresh ideas so that these kids have new things to do and learn
- Try to get seminaries behind RA's. All I hear from those guys is Awanas.
- Try to have activities and lessons that capture the interest of today's youth.
- Update the material; bring in more actual realistic mission activities that relate to our times. Boys need to learn to be fathers and husbands of virtue. I don't see that and I've been teaching 21 years in the program.
- Update the materials. Develop modern mission opportunities in our community.
- We live in a rural area and it would be good to have more mission ideas for smaller towns.
- We need more videos about the life of the missionaries. Our boys retain information they can see. The videos would put a face with the stories they read.
- Where is a good way to learn how to be a better leader?
- Would appreciate your assistance in educating pastors/staff on the value of the RA program
- You guys do a tremendous job!
- You have already done this; I think – Get sufficient stock of inventory of RA goods and get control away from the uncaring LifeWay stores. Change vendors for bars and stars. Those stars should be 10¢ each, not 65¢. Almost ½ of our Bible verse medals broke within a year. Change manufacturers. Create a plan to partner local thriving RA chapters with non-thriving ones and let leaders of RAs who excel “adopt” other churches who want RAs in their church.