



# Women in the Royal Ranger Ministry

by Alice Laliberty  
Ranger Kids Commander

**O**n a late weekday evening I'm hurrying down the aisles of the supermarket selecting a few odds and ends for the evening meal. Suddenly, I hear a small child's voice loud enough for heads to turn, "Commander Alice! Commander Alice!" I look down the long aisle and see one of my Straight Arrow boys waving, hoping I will acknowledge his presence.

"Hi, Sammy. How are you? Good to see you! Are you coming to Straight Arrows on Wednesday?" The smile and a nod were all I needed to realize the importance of the ministry I am involved in with Royal Rangers.

## The Call

The call to ministry and working with children began many years ago as a Sunday School teacher. Then I began working with Rainbows (part of the Missionettes program) when our youngest son was three. When Matthew went into Straight Arrows, I decided to become a part of the Royal Rangers ministry. Little boys like Sammy have kept me involved with Straight Arrows for over 18 years.

## The Ministry

My husband Mike had already been involved in Royal Rangers

with our oldest son, and I was encouraged to participate in what Mike was doing. To become a part of the same ministry Mike was involved in had unforeseen blessings. First, I was able to experience the excitement of my husband and two boys. Sometimes they would talk about their campouts and we



would share the great outdoor adventures. Secondly, our marriage was strong and our commitment to the work of God became more intense the longer we were involved in Royal Rangers. Third, we experienced a developing faith and hope that the personal investment being made into the lives of boys would have a positive impact on each of them for the kingdom of God.

## The Harvest

Sometimes the feedback is not immediate. Let me share an example of a young boy I worked with in Straight Arrows. His name was Billy. He lived in a single-parent home with his mother. Though he was quiet and lacked a lot of self-confidence, he loved attending the Straight Arrow meetings every week. He continued with Royal Rangers in the Buckaroo and Pioneer programs. Then I lost touch with Billy when his mother moved away. Several years later Mike and I were attending Twin Peaks Assembly in Longmont, Colorado. I was serving meals in the kitchen for a Royal Rangers fund-raiser. Another church congregation shared the church space with Twin Peaks Assembly. As I was helping in the kitchen, wearing my Straight Arrow vest, a tall young man walked in and said, "Commander Alice, is that you? Do you remember me?" I did not recognize the fine young man standing in front of me. "I'm Billy, from your Straight Arrow group." I hugged him and asked how he was doing. He shared that things were going well. He had a wonderful smile and it was evident that the Lord was blessing his life.

Women in the Royal Rangers ministry can have tremendous

opportunities to use their God-given skills, not only to support their mates but also to be a blessing to Straight Arrow and

Buckaroo boys who will one day become leaders in our churches. The following quote has always inspired me: "Children are the

living messages we send to a time we may not see." What a powerful message to all of us who work with children!

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### Questions for Further Study—

1. What benefits are there to having women in the Royal Ranger program, both personally and spiritually?
2. What conflicts may arise as a result of women in the Royal Ranger program, and how can they be resolved?
3. What does the quote, "Children are the living messages we send to a time we may not see," mean to you?

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