



Want to learn more about the history of RA?

Begun in 1908, RA has a rich heritage of providing missions education for boys. As then national WMU President Fannie E. S. Heck declared: "Save the boys for their own sakes and for the future of the gospel." RAs and their leaders have been about that task for over 100 years.

In RA, boys learn

- a biblical worldview
- ways to demonstrate Christ's love to other
- show God is working around the world
- their part of God's plan

RA helps boys grow spiritually, recognizing the varying developmental stages of boys in each grade. RA materials are designed to help younger and older boys have missions experiences that lay a foundation for coming to faith in Christ as Savior and make missions an important part of their daily lives.

The RA Motto: "We are Ambassadors for Christ," not only gives the organization its name, but also gives the boys and leaders a lifestyle goal. This Motto is taken from Scripture, specifically 2 Corinthians 5:20.

RA Virtues: Ten specific biblical virtues that strengthen the motto and the pledge: Loyalty, Friendship, Courage, Responsibility, Honesty, Faith, Compassion, Perseverance, Teamwork, and Self-Discipline. One virtue is highlighted each month.

The RA Pledge: The RA Pledge makes the motto come alive in the daily lives of boys and leaders.

*As a Royal Ambassador I will do my best:
to become a well-informed, responsible follower of Christ;
to have a Christlike concern for all people;
to learn how to carry the message of Christ around the world;
to work with others in sharing Christ; and
to keep myself clean and healthy in mind and body.*

The RA Scripture passage describes the purpose of Royal Ambassadors:

"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; old things have passed away, and look, new things have come. Now everything is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed the message of reconciliation to us. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ; certain that God is appealing through us, we plead on Christ's behalf, 'Be reconciled to God.'" - 2 Corinthians 5:17-20, HCSB

What are the parts of the RA emblem and their purposes?

Organization name and Scripture: An ambassador is a representative in a court or nation other than his own. Royal Ambassadors are representatives of Christ the King bringing good news of salvation to people everywhere. The RA Motto reads, "We are Ambassadors for Christ" (2 Cor. 5:20, HCSB).

The shield stands for faith in Christ (see Eph. 6:16). This symbol represents the journey of faith and a commitment to having faith in Christ.

The crown stands for Christ the King and what He represents (see Jas. 1:12). As a follower and ambassador of Christ, we are to stay focused on Jesus and His message to the world.

The branch is for achievement and victory in the work of being an Ambassador for Christ (see Matt. 25:21). Combining skills and actions help accomplish the goal of carrying the gospel to people needing to hear it.

Blue represents the boy's loyalty to Christ, His church, and each other.

Gold represents the worth of the boy to God's mission.

White represents purity of living, which makes him an effective ambassador.

Royal Ambassadors Groupings:

- Royal Ambassadors (Grades 1-6)
- Lads (Grades 1-3)
- Crusaders (Grades 4-6)

Individual Grade:

- Lad 1 RAs
- Lad 2 RAs
- LAD 3 RAs
- Page 4 RAs
- Squire 5 RAs
- Knight 6 RAs

**Multiple grade combinations possible.*





Characteristics of a Missional Lifestyle

Royal Ambassadors learn to become disciples of Jesus Christ who live on mission in a variety of ways. Here are the four missional characteristics that lead to a missional lifestyle:

- **Learn about Missions**—Boys hear the stories of missionaries living near and far and find out the many ways these people share the love of Christ with the people around them. This exposes RAs to the redemptive gospel of Jesus Christ and couples that with a concern for the people of the world. Believing in Jesus goes hand in hand with sharing Him with others.
- **Pray for Missions**—As Royal Ambassadors learn about missions and people engaging in mission action all over the world, they are encouraged to be a part of this effort through prayer. Voicing prayers of supplication for missionaries gets RAs outside of themselves and opens up new doors of the missional lifestyle.
- **Support Missions**—Boys have the opportunity to support missions in a variety of ways. Supporting missions in this way creates a feeling of ownership within the hearts of boys. The missions efforts they learn about and pray for are now directly impacted by the faithful giving of RAs.
- **Do Missions and Tell about Jesus**—As each characteristic builds upon the other, boys are challenged more and more to take mission action into their own hands. RAs who have already made a profession of faith in Christ themselves can engage in witnessing and sharing their testimonies. But RAs who have yet to become Christians themselves can also find ways to be involved. Sometimes it's just as simple as saying, "God loves me and He loves you too!"



How to Set Up Your RA Chapter

Royal Ambassadors helps elementary-age boys to grow in their spiritual development as they learn the biblical basis of missions and discover their part in God's plan.

RA® chapters can be structured in a variety of ways:

- all elementary-age boys in the same chapter
- lower elementary (grades 1–3, known as Lads) and upper elementary (grades 4–6, known as Crusaders) form two separate chapters
- each grade level has its own RA chapter

Each church may determine the optimal number of boys in each chapter, but should provide at least two leaders per chapter. More may be needed depending on the number of boys expected.

Setting Up a Meeting Space for Your RA Chapter

Keep these things in mind as you prepare your meeting space:

1. **Curriculum**—Where will you store your *RA Leader* poster kit, *RA World* magazines, and *RA Leader* magazine?
2. **Displays**—Is there a place to display the RA Pledge, Motto, Scripture Verses, and Flag? Where can you place a world map or a globe?
3. **Craft supplies**—How and where can you store basic supplies in your meeting space?
4. **Children**—Where will boys be during each part of your meeting?
5. **Child safety policies**—What are your church's policies concerning child safety? How will you support and abide by these policies?



Royal Ambassadors Leader Responsibilities

RA[®] leaders are responsible for planning, carrying out, and evaluating missions discipleship for boys. Each chapter needs at least two adults per meeting space for safety and security reasons. Additional leaders are advised when a specific situation would benefit from a smaller leader/boy ratio. A church may have safety/security guidelines with a lower ratio of children per adult and should follow those guidelines.

Leaders are specifically responsible for

- setting goals and making overall plans for the year;
- planning the sessions in RA;
- leading missions learning experiences in sessions;
- reflecting on experiences of the chapter and adjusting as needed;
- following the church's safety/security practices for receiving boys at the beginning of sessions and releasing boys at the close of sessions, as well as suggesting additional safety/security practices if none exist or are laid-back,
- communicating with parents or caregivers about their boys' missions learning experiences and making suggestions of activities to reinforce missions discipleship in the home;
- maintaining contact with parents or caregivers of participants, prospects, and absentees;
- providing resources and gathering supplies for sessions;
- working within the church budget designated for children's missions discipleship;
- maintaining records (such as attendance) and reporting accomplishments,
- involving members in preparing for and carrying out missions experiences as appropriate to their levels of development;
- incorporating the plan of salvation into earning experiences as appropriate.

Leaders for each chapter of Royal Ambassadors determine how they will share leadership responsibilities. A church may have an experienced leader who serves as the lead teacher while another leader assists. In other churches, the leaders may divide responsibilities for planning and leading activities.

A church with more than one chapter of Royal Ambassadors may select a coordinator. This leader has responsibility to

- bring leaders together for coordinated planning;
- coordinate activities or events for chapters to do together, such as enlistment events;
- coordinate training efforts for leaders, such as attendance at a state training event;
- enlist leaders;
- order resources and supplies or report needs to the person who orders for church;
- maintain records and report accomplishments to the church;
- promote children's missions discipleship within the church;
- evaluate missions discipleship for children.