



Tyler Hemple
GMA Essay

Psalms 37:24 states, “though he stumble, he will not fall for the LORD upholds his hand.” This verse has solely described my path towards the Gold Medal of Achievement. Because of my family’s never ending encouragement, my church’s diligent involvement, and my Outpost’s commitment I have the privilege of saying that I have earned the highest award one can get in the Royal Ranger program. During the past twelve years I have grown mentally, physically, spiritually, and socially.

One of the major catalysts towards my ranger work ethic was when I attended New Jersey Advancement Academy. During that week in Elmer, New Jersey, I never saw such a plethora of Gold Medals. I never knew that such a large group of people could earn this medal. From that year on, it inspired me. I kept my eye on the goal, and now I can say, I have accomplished that goal. I went in to Advancement Academy with no respect and without Christ. Now, three years later I owe my walk with the Lord and my character development exclusively to Royal Rangers Academy. Also, I can say over the past three years I have learned the qualities of an effective and productive leader.

This past fall and winter season, I was given the opportunity by our Senior Commander John Larrocco to be the senior guide of our outpost. Not only did I lead opening ceremonies every Wednesday, but also I learned the ways of a commander during a Pow wow. I remember at the 2006 District Pow wow one commander by the name of Brother Kevin Fannon tested my leadership skills. When I made mistakes, he corrected them. At the time, I was not very grateful of this. But when I saw the grand scheme of things in weeks to come, I really appreciated what he did for me. I learned that a leader guides the people rather than follows the people.

Another ranger who helped me significantly was a fellow expedition ranger, Andrew Speight. Benjamin Franklin, a forefather of this nation once said, “Energy and persistence conquers all things.” Andrew always pushed me along the GMA trail. I learned that if I did not put forth any effort, I would not receive the Gold Medal of Achievement. Countless times Andrew took his own time to check on my progress. A lot of times, he was not happy with the way I was progressing but if I did not have him patiently pushing me, I do not believe I could have earned this medal. Throughout the past twelve years I have learned the basic principals of turning from a regular boy to an Alert, clean, honest, courageous, loyal, courteous, obedient and spiritual type of adolescent.

Because of Royal Rangers I have benefited significantly. From when I was five years old, when being a straight arrow meant memorizing psalms 23 to now, seventeen years old, being able to lead an outpost is truly an honor. Inscribed in the medal is the motto, “ready”, and ready I will be when I have to begin to make my own life’s decisions.