



Stockade Ministry Overview

Boys 8 to 11 (Grades 3 to 6)

One word describes Stockade: excitement. One word describes junior-aged boys: energy. Together, they make a winning weekly program for boys and men!

The Stockade program combines action with Biblical truths. Adult Christian men serve as leaders and role models, demonstrating Christian manhood in action and attitude. Through this unique partnership of men, boys and the Stockade program, the local church builds its Christian men of today and tomorrow. This unique combination draws men and boys into fellowship, stimulates their love for Jesus Christ and encourages their desire to serve Him.

The Weekly Program

The hour and a half weekly Stockade meeting involves a healthy dose of games, activities, group and personal achievement, and a constant emphasis on biblical truth through stories and Scripture-learning. Activities outside the weekly meeting include camporees, father-son team days, service projects and Shape N Race derbies.

Leader's guides:

These themed guides provide fully developed program ideas for 4 weeks of meetings, including large group activities, small group (Post) activities, and stories that help boys connect with the guide's Biblical truth. The weekly meeting provides the environment necessary for discipleship through time spent together and shared experiences. The weekly meeting also provides the opportunity for the boy to complete his Achievements by dialoging with his leader about what he has accomplished, and what it means to him.

The Achievement Program

Achievements are the work a boy does on his own, and sometimes with his Post. The boy's progress is up to him, and how much time and effort he puts into his Achievement program. Achievements include individual projects and small group opportunities that help a boy mature in all areas of his life.

Trail Guides:

These guides form the core of the Achievement program. There are four guides, each designed for one year of Achievements for the boy to accomplish. Each guide contains 4 ranks a boy can earn, making 16 ranks available in total over two age levels: Builder (ages 8-9) and Sentinel (ages 10-11).

The boy will be challenged to grow spiritually, mentally, physically, socially and service.

Outpost Adventures Guides:

Outpost Adventures allow the boy to choose his own adventure. These guides complement the Achievements found in the Trail guides, and are divided into two sections, one for Builders and one for Sentinels. Whether the boy is working on an Outpost Adventure with his Post, or is doing it by himself, he must complete its requirements to receive the Outpost Patch. Outpost Adventures focus on developing each boy's skills and interest areas of life. Several of the activities found in the Outpost Adventures can be completed in the weekly Post meeting.

Recognition:

Patches are available to award a boy when he completes a rank or an individual Outpost Adventure. These are placed on the boy's Stockade uniform shirt, or in some other place of honor and recognition.

Earning the Honor Star:

The boy who goes on to complete all the requirements of both sections of the Outpost Adventure at the same time earns an Honor Star. This work must all be done within a reasonable time. An Outpost that is completed as a Builder and then later as a Sentinel does not qualify for the Honor Star. He receives two Patches instead, one for each rank (which are placed on different sides of his uniform shirt).

Bonus Bars and Awards:

An optional area of Achievement is available in the form of Bonus Awards. These are activities conducted by the Stockade and usually with the other boys of his Post. Bonus Award activities are done outside the Stockade meeting and must be at least two hours in length. Both the Ranger and the boys are entitled to wear the Bonus Awards upon completing the activities. Boys can earn one Bonus Award per Blockhouse or Station. These are small pictographic Patches or solid color Bars worn on the left sleeve of the Stockade uniform shirt.

Leaders:

His leader's encouragement and guidance go a long way in helping a boy complete his Achievements in a timely manner. The completion of Achievements are the most important tool a leader has in his discipleship of the boy, because it creates the opportunity for dialogue with the boy about his spiritual life, his family, and everything else that is a part of who he is.

Parents:

A parent's personal involvement is often the key to a boy's successful experience through Achievement. A parent can help a boy with many steps: reading the Bible stories with him and discussing the questions; helping him learn a memory verse; and encouraging him in choosing his optional Achievement. These are opportunities for actively teaching the disciplines of the Christian life in the home. Helping the boy includes establishing goals through the use of Estimated Dates of Completion (EDC). A parent's signature is seen as a cooperative effort with the Ranger, recognizing the boy's Achievement progress.