

Approvals and Processes for Advancement Medals

Gold Falcon and Gold Hawk Medals

Commanders confirm that the boy has met the requirements for the Gold Falcon and Gold Hawk Medals. No review board or application is required. The medals and ribbons can be ordered directly by the local church.

Gold Eagle Medal

Commanders confirm that the boy has met the requirements for the Gold Eagle Medal. Before ordering and awarding the Gold Eagle Medal and ribbon, send a letter to the national office as a matter of courtesy. We want to track how many boys are receiving this medal on a yearly basis. The medal and ribbon can be ordered directly by the local church. When a young man is within three months of earning the award, the process of ordering and planning the special event to honor him should be initiated. It is vital to coordinate, plan, and hold a special Council of Achievement to honor him for this achievement. Since some boys, for various reasons, may not be able to go into Adventure Rangers, this honor, the highest award for Discovery Rangers, should receive an appropriate ceremony.

Bronze and Silver Medals of Achievement

Commanders confirm that the boy has met the requirements for the Bronze and Silver Medals of Achievement. A board of review is not necessary for awarding the Bronze and Silver Medals and ribbons. However, before ordering the medals and ribbons, you must fill out the appropriate application form, have the senior commander sign the form, and send it to the national office for processing. The national office will process and approve the medal. The senior commander will receive a written notification and a certificate of congratulations. The medals, ribbons and patches must be ordered through the national office and will be charged to the church.

Gold Medal of Achievement and Gold Buffalo Award

Submitting the Application

Fill out the current GMA application form from the national Royal Rangers office. The information should be typed or printed legibly. It is very important that you are using the current GMA form. The most current application is on the national Royal Rangers web site. Some boys may have earned additional merits and are eligible to receive the Gold Buffalo Award as well. (A Gold Buffalo Award is awarded for every six additional merits.)

Following is some helpful information about filling out the GMA application:

Ceremony Date: The ceremony should not be scheduled until the national office has authorized the medal. Rather, set a tentative date, so the national office knows when the authorization is needed.

Applicant's Name and Address: Provide the boy's full name and complete address. A letter of congratulations will be written from the national office and addressed to the boy, but will be sent to the senior commander. The boy's name and address is also used to create a permanent record of his achievement in a computer database.

Applicant's Date of Birth: This helps the national office to confirm that the Ranger's age eligibility for the award.

Church's Name and Address: The national office will only process the GMA applications from chartered churches. Any information that is not supplied will delay the sending of the award until the national office can obtain the needed information.

Gold Medal of Achievement Personal Check-Off List: Make sure each required merit earned, leadership requirement, and service project, is checked as completed. Fill in merits of choice. After filling out the list of merits achieved, double-check the list to make sure all requirements were met and that all were listed. Missing or duplicate merits can cause unnecessary delays in processing. If the date completed for each merit is not known, simply leave it blank. The date completed columns are there for your record keeping.

Five Hundred-Word Theme: Send a copy of the boy's 500-word essay with the GMA application form. The 500-word essays are read and are used by the GMA review board.

Commander's Approval: The commander who is recommending the boy for GMA, generally the senior commander, must sign the application. This should be the same commander who will be receiving the boy's letter of congratulations from the national Royal Rangers office.

Commander's Name and Address: The commander's name, address, and phone number should be filled out completely. The GMA certificate and letter of congratulations will be sent to the church address. Buffalo Awards, if earned and awarded separately from the GMA.

Senior Commander's Approval: The senior commander must also sign the application, if he is not the commander submitting the application.

Once you have completed the application, submit it to your national office. A review board will be convened to interview the boy, not as a testing, but rather to review what the boy has done.

The Review

The review board meeting is not a test but a review. It should consist of an interview between the GMA candidate and the board. Because the senior commander at the boy's outpost is the approving authority for the boy's awards, the board does not question or test whether the boy earned them properly. It does, however, ensure that the boy did earn the required awards. The board also checks to see if the boy has used what he has learned to help others, in his relationship with his family, church, and outpost. For example, the review board can ask the boy such questions as what particular outdoor skills he has taught to younger Royal Rangers, what positions of leadership he has occupied in his church, what extracurricular activities he is involved in that Royal Rangers has helped him with.

Delaying Approval

If it appears to the board that he boy is obviously not qualified in his knowledge and skills at that particular interview, if his uniform is incomplete or incorrect, or if something else appears inadequate or improper, it is suggested that the following steps to be taken:

The boy's application should NOT be disapproved. But the boy's application can be delayed for a set time (thirty days, sixty days, etc.). The review board should instruct the boy on HOW to improve or correct the areas that appeared to be deficient. The review board members would, if they delayed an application, be responsible to

- Personally coach the boy during the delay period.
- Notify the national commander of the delay with explicit reasons for the delay (assuming that the national commander is not on the board).
- Notify the group commander of the delay in writing with explicit reasons and the corrective actions that are necessary.
- Set the date of the reconvening of the board. Before the boy is dismissed from the initial review board, he should be given the date for the next review. If possible, the membership of the board should include the same people.

Note: Another delay for more corrective action might be necessary at the next review. But only delay again if absolutely necessary. Don't discourage or frustrate a boy unnecessarily.

Receiving approval and the Medal

After the review board approves the GMA, the approved application is sent to the national office with the 500-word essay. The senior commander needs to be aware that the Gold Medal of Achievement cannot be ordered directly. The national Royal Rangers office orders the medal after approval to award the medal. The local church is charged for the medal.

Be aware that the national office cannot guarantee approval for and the delivery of medals by a given date. The national office will do all that is possible to assist you in receiving your medal in a timely manner. Keep in mind that the process normally requires at least four weeks from the time the national office receives the application to the time the medal is ordered. Once approval has been granted, establish or confirm the date for a special GMA ceremony.

Applying for a Separate Gold Buffalo Award

If the Gold Buffalo award is earned (for the boys who have earned the GMA and then earned an additional six merits) and the boy has already received the GMA, submit a Gold Buffalo application. Make sure you note at the top of the form that the GMA has already been received, and fill in all the merits earned for the GMA (a copy of your GMA application listing these merits will do). You will need to fill in all merits earned. There is no limit to the number of Gold Buffalo Awards a boy can earn. However, the most that can be worn on the Class A drape is one. Two stars representing the Gold Buffalo may be placed on the Class B ribbon. All Gold Buffalos earned may be worn on an awards vest or displayed in a trophy case. The national office will process and approve the medal. The senior commander will receive a written notification and a certificate of congratulations. Gold Buffalo Awards and Gold Buffalo Stars must be obtained from the national office.

Expedition Rangers Medals

Commanders confirm the boy has met the requirements for each medal, the Achievement Medal, Activities Medal, Leadership Medal, and Service Medal. No district review board or application is required. The medals and ribbons can be ordered directly by the local church.