



# *Pen Florida District*

## GMA Guidelines



Pen. Florida District GMA Guidelines is a publication to assist the Outpost Senior Commander concerning District policies regarding the GMA process. Any and all designs are at the discretion of the District Commander or his appointed District GMA Coordinator.

## GMA Coordinator

The District GMA Coordinator is established by selection from the District Commander. Questions, concerns and applications should be sent to the GMA Coordinator for consideration. The information will be given a response, and sent to the appropriate individuals involved if needed for clarification.

The Pen. Florida District GMA Coordinator can be contacted via the website under the GMA section :

<http://floridarangers.com/gma/gma-application.html>

The Review Board consists of various members of the District Staff to be determined before convening.

## Applications

You should download the GMA Application from the National Royal Ranger website to ensure the latest and up-to-date application at the time you want to complete the application. If you can't download one, please contact the District GMA Coordinator. The following checklist is provided to ensure correct applications are sent to the District GMA Coordinator.

- Complete all individual information on the first page of the GMA Application. You must make sure the commander or senior commander can be reached, please provide a phone number and/or email address.
- Attach Christian Service Project workbook as described on the application
- Attach a copy of the Essay
- Completed all Merit requirements and included Date Completed on the application. Choice merits may only be Gold, Green or Silver in color.

GMA Candidates must meet the following requirements :

- Be at least 12 years (and at least in the 6th grade), but less than 18 years old.
- Have been a Silver Medalist for at least 3 months
- Have completed 24 merits, 16 of those chosen from a required list and 8 personal choice.
- Have served in a leadership (junior) position for at least 6 months
- Have written a 500 word essay on "The Value of Royal Rangers to Me"
- Have completed a Christian Service Project as described in the Adventure Rangers Handbook

## District Review Boards 2007

The District will schedule THREE District Review Boards each year. The dates for these review boards will be posted on the webpage and included in the District Calendar. Written notification will be sent to the District Staff and Sectional Staff in the same month that a review board is scheduled. These review boards are subject to change and/or cancellation based on circumstances or lack of applications and candidates. If a cancellation is needed, a notice will be sent to all sectional commanders and district staff plus a notice placed on the floridarangers.com website after the application deadline or upon notice from the District Commander.

In the case of cancellations in scheduled District Review Boards, the GMA Coordinator will reschedule as needed. If a candidate cannot attend the scheduled District Review Board, the candidate will normally be required to wait until the next scheduled Review. If a candidate cannot attend the scheduled District Review Board due to a real hardship, the GMA Coordinator MAY elect to schedule a special Review Board under the following conditions:

- 1 In the opinion of the GMA Coordinator, a true hardship existed that prevented attendance at the scheduled District Review Board.
- 2 The application was submitted and received by the originally scheduled District Review Board deadline.
- 3 The GMA Coordinator, the Review Board members, and candidates agree on a date and place for the review.

There will be an effort to provide a minimal recognition ceremony to the GMA candidates only at the close of scheduled District Review Boards. The local outpost is responsible to provide adequate recognition for the GMA.

*All Applications must be received by the deadline date for each Review Board scheduled. Otherwise, the GMA Candidate will be reviewed at the "Next" Scheduled Review Board date.*

## District Review Board Expectations and Guidelines

Prior to sending any candidates to the District GMA Review Board, it is the Senior Commander's responsibility to make sure the candidate is knowledgeable on the items it took to reach this pinnacle in Royal Rangers. The Review Board will be looking for items similar to those listed below :

- **Salvation** – The candidate should be familiar with both his salvation experience and leading others to Christ. He should have a thorough knowledge of how to lead someone to Christ using scripture verses such as Rom. 3:23, Rom. 6:23, etc... Any instances where the young man has led others to Christ will be talked about. Since readiness to lead a boy to Christ is the most significant event that a GMA can perform, the candidate should have a clear ability to explain, lead with scriptures, and pray through salvation. The expectation will be a clear conversational dialogue with the ability to answer relevant questions as another boy might ask his friend.
- **Uniform** – The young man will be inspected on his uniform. The uniform should be clean and pressed. It may be Class A or B. All patches should be in the correct place, including any event patch, junior training patch, guide bars, advancement medals and merit ribbons. Black dress shoes (shined to a gloss), black socks, sharp looking belt with polished brass buckle. The shirt and pants will be expected to be the same dye lot color. The GMA is the focal point representative for Royal Rangers, his church, and his outpost. The expectation is high.
- **Merits** – The candidate should be familiar with the required merits that he earned for the GMA, such as the First Aid/CPR merit. A GMA should carry into adult life the ability to not only help someone to be saved spiritually but also physically. Therefore the candidate should be able to discuss how merits such as First Aid/CPR could be used in real life situations. The standard is high. He should also be able to explain some difficult merits and why they were hard to earn.
- **Christian Service** -The candidate should be able to discuss activities within the church and outside the church that he is involved in. Particularly, situations where he has served other people.

- Christian Service Project – The candidate should be able to discuss his Christian Service Project. The project will be expected to comply, within reason, to level of activity (scope and leadership) of those listed in the Adventure Rangers Handbook. This project is one of the highlights of the Ranger career and is intended to be a lifelong memory of a leadership challenge that the boy actually achieved. As such, the standard is high.
- Royal Ranger experiences -The candidate should be able to discuss the activities that changed his life the most in Royal Rangers. Be familiar with trips, leaders and friends that had an impact on his experience.

Remember, the GMA should be the goal of every Royal Ranger. Only the elite make it to this point. Your candidate should be one of those boys. He will be an example for others to follow.

## Review Board Process

The following contains the process outlined for the District Review Board :

- The Review Board will not be a “test”, but a review. It will consist primarily of a private interview between the GMA candidate and the board. Because the outpost commander 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, insure that the boy did earn the required awards, is the proper age, did complete all phases of the “Ranger” requirements. The board also reviews if the boy has utilized what he has learned to help others--in his relationship to his family, church, and outpost. By review, it can probably be determined if the boy has adequately prepared himself for the award. The Review Board will ask questions during the interview of the boy--such as what particular outdoor skills he has taught to younger Rangers, positions of leadership he has occupied in his church, extra curricular activities he is involved in where Rangers has helped him, etc.

If it appears to the Review Board that the boy is not 1) sufficiently qualified in his knowledge and skills at that particular interview, or 2) if the paperwork is not completed properly, or 3) if the uniform is not complete, or 4) if something else appears inadequate or improper, the following will occur:

The boy’s application NOT BE DISAPPROVED, but will be DELAYED until the discrepant issues are resolved.

The delay would be for a set time period (30 days, 60 days. etc.) and the candidate will be instructed in HOW to improve or correct the area that APPEARED to be deficient.

The GMA Coordinator will notify the Senior Commander / Outpost commander of the delay in writing with explicit reasons and the corrective actions that are necessary to correct and a date for the re-review if needed. The District Commander will be apprised of the situation.

The GMA Coordinator will set the date of the re-convening of the Review Board. If possible, the membership of the board will remain the same and the boy will be given a date for the re-review before the boy is dismissed.

## A Final Word for the Review Board

It is recognized that this set of instructions cannot cover every possible situation. Common sense should prevail. The District GMA Coordinator is charged with the responsibility of establishing the Review Boards and upon him rests the changes, alterations, or adaptations that are necessary in specific situations.

This set of instructions is intended to give each outpost commander an idea of what is expected at the GMA Review Board of each candidate. It is the responsibility of the commander and senior commander to make sure all paper work is prepared and completed correctly and that the GMA candidate is “Ready” for his review.

The GMA is the representative of Rangers and a role model for those younger. The standard must remain high. The boy will remember and value a challenge that he has overcome. While there is a natural tendency to accept less than a boy can provide during the boy’s Ranger career, the Commander must set the expectation high and then help the boy through it. There are, unfortunately, examples of boys who were given the awards and they did not value the experience or retain the important aspects of Rangers that the District staff and the Master Ranger expect the boy to take with him into adulthood.

## GMA Medal Approval and Ceremony

After the review board approves the GMA, the application is sent to the national office with the 500-word essay and Christian Service Project paperwork. The senior commander needs to be aware that the Gold Medal of Achievement cannot be ordered directly from Gospel Publishing House. GPH accepts orders for the GMA only from the National Royal Rangers office. All other orders will be canceled. The national Royal Rangers office orders the medal and sends it to the district office after national 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 the process normally requires at least four weeks from the time the national office receives the application to the time the medal is received by the district commander. Once approval has been granted, establish or confirm the date for a special GMA ceremony. Contact the district commander because he can offer numerous suggestions for an appropriate ceremony. In addition, he can assist you with getting a number of letters from important government officials congratulating the boy.

Ceremony Date : The ceremony should not be scheduled until national office has authorized the medal. Rather, set a tentative date, so the district and national offices know when to mail the medal.

## Gold Buffalo

If the Gold Buffalo award is earned (for 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. This form is available from the National Royal Rangers web site or from your district commander or GMA Coordinator. 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 the 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 Buffalos 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 Royal Rangers office is not responsible for approving Gold Buffalo awards. Send the form to the District Commander / GMA Coordinator and he will process the Gold Buffalo Awards. The Gold Buffalo awards will be sent to the group commander by the district commander / GMA coordinator. In order to avoid delays in receiving the award, check with the District GMA Coordinator for proper procedures. Gold Buffalo Awards and Gold Buffalo Stars must be obtained from your district.