



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

RAGGERS

Section 1 : Award List

1. Blue Rag
2. Silver Rag
3. Brown Rag
4. Gold Rag
5. Red Rag
6. Purple Rag
7. White Rag

Section 2 : General Rules & Safety

1. Never be alone with a child!! Even when you are counseling one-on-one, always make sure someone else know where you are and you are in a very visible area (i.e. Around Klinger, Waterfront, etc...)
2. Make sure to have at least one flashlight available for the walk to and from Ragger's Point when it is dark out and use the Buddy system.

Section 3: Award Requirements

Blue Rag Award

Objective

- Loyalty to God, country, and one's best self

Prerequisites

- At least 12 years of age

Safety Rules

- See general rules

Knowledge Required

- See Blue Rag study card

Skills Required

- None

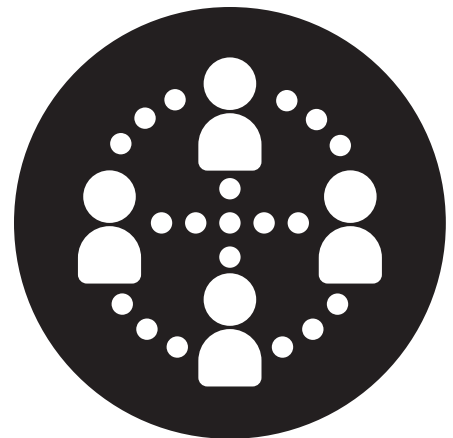
Silver Rag Award

Objective

- Re-dedication to the Christian way of life and values

Prerequisites

- Blue Rag
- At least 13 years of age





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Safety Rules

- See general rules

Knowledge Required

- See Silver Rag study card

Skills Required

- None

Brown Rag Award

Objective

- Service to others

Prerequisites

- Silver Rag
- At least 14 years of age

Safety Rules

- See general rules

Knowledge Required

- See Brown Rag study card

Skills Required

- None

Gold Rag Award

Objective

- Understanding, concern, and acceptance of others

Prerequisites

- Brown Rag
- At least 15 years of age

Safety Rules

- See general rules

Knowledge Required

- See Gold Rag study card

Skills Required

- None

Red Rag Award

Objective

- Sacrifice of time, talent and personal will

Prerequisites

- Gold Rag
- At least 16 years of age

Safety Rules

- See general rules



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Knowledge Required

- See Red Rag study card

Skills Required

- None

Purple Rag Award

Objective

- To lead the best life possible

Prerequisites

- Red Rag
- At least 18 years of age

Safety Rules

- See general rules

Knowledge Required

- See Purple Rag study card

Skills Required

- None

White Rag Award

Objective

- Life of full-time Christian service to youth

Prerequisites

- Purple Rag
- At least 21 years of age

Safety Rules

- See general rules

Knowledge Required

- See White Rag study card

Skills Required

- None

Section 4: Theory Sheets

A clean master copy of each study card and guidelines for each ceremony is included in this binder. Also included is an example of a sign up sheet.

Section 5: Day-by-day schedule

On **Sunday** night after campfire, the Ragers Head will stay behind to explain the Ragers program to those campers aged 12 and up. This talk explains the following: The program is an optional one which is focused on setting a goal. It is a great time for campers to get to talk with a counselor one-on-one and think about some more serious topics. The program is based on the Christian faith



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yet it can also be viewed in a more secular way if a child chooses. After a child decides to get a rag, he/she asks a counselor who already has gotten that color rag to “counsel him/her.” Each week a separate ceremony is held at Ragger’s Point where rags are presented to participants as symbols of their goals.

Monday morning at benches or breakfast all counselors counseling for rags will wear their rags and stand up to show the children who they can ask to counsel them.

*Approximately two times a summer it will be necessary to have Red Rag ceremonies and they work best on Monday evenings.

Tuesday night it is best to have a Brown ceremony at 9:30pm (or 10pm depending on Evening Program) and a Gold ceremony at 10:30 (or 11pm).

*All participating in the program meet at the designated time at the big tree by Klinger.

Wednesday night it is best to have a Blue ceremony at 9:30pm and a Silver at 10:30pm and again meet at the big tree

Section 6: Teaching Tips

Allow children to lead the discussion during a counseling session. Let each one decide where the conversation will go.

Counsel during meals!

Section 7: Bad weather alternatives

In the case of bad weather, ceremonies should be canceled and rescheduled. Possible options are Thursday or Friday nights or a Rest Hour any day.

Section 8: Inventory

Based on the numbers we have now, it makes sense to order approximately 150 Blue rags, 100 Silver Rags, 75 Brown rags, 50 Gold rags and 25 Red rags per summer. Obviously, this would also be affected by the number of rags remaining from the previous summer.

Section 9: Things to Remember

Only agree to counsel as many children each week as is reasonable!! Counselors should be limited to approximately five per week as it can take up too much time and be frustrating to the counselor as well as his/her cabin and program. Also it’s not fair to the children to try to squeeze them all in. By setting a limit and also only allowing counselors to counsel for one night per week (just



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Brown/Gold on Tuesday or just Blue/Silver on Wednesday), more counselors are involved and Raggars does not become a burden.

*Make sure to have plenty of extra candles on site.

*Make sure to emphasize the importance of counselors signing up names and camper numbers in the Raggars binder ASAP. Get this list to whoever runs the store by Wednesday so \$3/Rag can be charged to store accounts. Staff members do not have to pay for Rags.

Section 10: Opening and Closing the Program

OPENING

Opening the program involves weeding, making sure all stones are in place and buying loads of candles. Also rags may need to be ordered and study sheets copied for each ceremony.

*To re-order from the YMCA Program Store

Call 1-800-747-0089 or Fax 1-217-351-1549

CLOSING

Closing means making sure all of the supplies are back up in the Conference Room and neatly put away.