



Royal Ambassadors: No Arm Twisting Needed

By Brent Archer (photo below, right)
Senior Student, University of North Texas in Denton

No one had to twist my arm to be involved with RA's as a kid. RA's created an opportunity for me and my friends to do some fun and exciting things while learning valuable lessons along the way. RA's successfully taught me that good sportsmanship should come before the actual competition. My two favorite memories of RA's are the Pinewood Derby and the Challenger's Basketball League. These were two forms (although quite different from one another) of the "healthy" competition that was exhibited in RA's.

I remember the amount of time that I put into making my Pinewood Derby car the coolest looking for competition. I remember how awesome it felt when I won, even though losing seemed to happen more frequently. The entire event was just fun. Challenger's Basketball was an amazing experience as well. I made the decision to not try out for basketball during my high school years, but still participated in the Challenger's league through our church. It provided me with an opportunity to continue playing basketball as recreation and fun.

The best part of the season was the state tournament that took place in Belton. It was a big deal to all of us. We would drive there for the weekend and stay in a hotel, stay up all night, and then head to the gym hoping to win the tournament on nothing but an 8oz. energy drink. By the end of the day, we were beat (both in the tournament and physically, I might add). The outcome of the competition (due to the atmosphere created by RA's) in both the Pinewood Derby and the basketball tournament mattered little compared to the time that we all had participating. RA's provided opportunities for me and a lot of my closest friends to compete in activities without the stress that was associated with losing in the world of competitive sports. These values are something that only a program like RA's could do for kids.



And a Few Words from Max

By Max Archer (photo, left)
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RA's was a critical experience in my life. The Pinewood Derby, the camping trips, the basketball games, and the weekly meetings introduced me to some of the best friends I've had in life. The people at DPFBC, specifically my RA Leaders Mr. Mark Rains and Mr. Larry Davis, combined with the Challenger's Basketball program, helped to shape the person that I am today.

If you have great memories of being an RA or LAD in your church, send your story to Dian Kidd (Associate Director of UBA) at 713.957.2000 or e-mail diankidd@ubahouston.org.