



BATTALION

Battalion is a discipleship ministry in which Christian men build personal relationships with teen guys and mentor them to be effective Christian leaders. Guided by adult men these 12-18 year-old young men are not simply shown how to lead but are the ones leading the program and events week to week.

The young men in Battalion share experiences in peer group leadership through weekly meetings, the achievement program, service projects and outings, helping them to become leaders by leading.

Adventure Trails is typically where a young man begins and where we seek to help in the following three foundational areas of his faith:

- **Understanding his faith:** Explorer Rank
- **Growing in his faith:** Trailblazer Rank
- **Sharing his faith:** Guide Rank

The materials that comprise these three ranks are not designed to be completed by the young man in isolation. They are designed to be completed alongside a mentor. There are six separate adventures that a young man and his mentor go on, starting with the *Explorer rank* You and Your Faith. *Trailblazer rank* is next which focuses on the following adventures: You and God's Word, You and Prayer. *Guide* is the third and final rank taking the young man and mentor through the three adventures You Serving Others, You Building Others, and You Telling Others. Within each adventure there are 7 or 8 Action Steps. Most of these have three sections: ReAct, ProAct, and InterAct.

ReAct provides the objectives for the discipleship step. It answers the question "Why do this?"

ProAct provides the specific steps needed to accomplish the objectives. "What do I do?" These may include Bible memory, Bible study and activities that function as object lessons or practical hands-on experience.

InterAct provides intentional interaction between a young man and a young man. Together they ask, "How well did I do?"

Action Step 2: Missing the Mark

ReAct
Why do relationships break down? Usually it's because something offended one person gets upset and is alienated from the other person. Something needs to happen to re-relationship. You need forgiveness and understanding to make things right.
Because God is holy and we're not, the same problem occurs. We've missed the God's perfect standards. Our wrongs offend him. Our sin is a complete barrier to a ship with him. Trying to do better doesn't help. Do you see the problem?
The Bible describes at least three types of sin:
• What you do — things God says are wrong to do.
• What you don't do — things God says are right to do.
• When you don't believe God — not trusting him or his promises.

ProAct
 Do one of the following activities, then answer the questions.
• Attempt to shoot 25 basketball free throws.
• Go bowling and complete at least one game.
• Go target shooting with a qualified adult in archery or riflery. Shoot at least 10 target.
What was your score? _____ What would a perfect score be? _____
Did you fall short of perfection in this activity?
 Memorize Romans 3:23. What two things has everyone done?

Are you able to see your own sin?

InterAct
• Repeat Romans 3:23 from memory to your mentor. Discuss—admit that you're a sinner? Why or why not?
• Talk about examples of each of the three—person has fallen short of God's _____

Questions?

We are here to help! If you have questions about Battalion or the materials please contact us!

What Does A Battalion Achievement Mentor Do?

- ❖ Above all, PRAY for him.
- ❖ Commit to helping that young man grow spiritually and being an example for him. Seek to have a positive impact on his life and be aware he is watching you. Recognize that developing this relationship is as valuable as the achievement material he is working on. This will take time, require sensitivity, and demand attention on your part.
- ❖ Work with the young man until he completes an entire adventure – it may take about six months. It will be necessary to meet with him at least 7 or 8 times for about 10-20 minutes each, in order to oversee his achievement progress. Make every effort to augment these times with additional informal times and phone calls as you are able.
- ❖ Look over the Battalion achievement manual “Adventure Trails”. There are six separate adventures – You and Your Faith, You and God’s Word, You and Prayer, You Serving Others, You Building Others, and You Telling Others. Within each adventure there are 7 or 8 Action Steps. Most of these have three sections: ReAct, ProAct, and InterAct.
- ❖ Discuss the material in each InterAct section with him (one per meeting), after he has completed each Action Step. He may have some questions for you. Do not feel you must be an expert on the subject. Listen and allow him to talk. Help him to feel at ease.
- ❖ Find times when you can meet with him in person. If necessary, time during the Battalion meeting could be set aside for this purpose.
- ❖ Initiate interaction with the young man whenever possible. Because you have been linked to him as his mentor, you have tremendous opportunity to encourage him even when he has not completed an Action Step. Find out what you can do to help.
- ❖ Be a learner yourself. In each unit there are Bible memory verses. Try to quote them to him before he has to say them to you. Allow him to make as many mistakes as you do. By all means, do the Bible studies ahead on your own so you are familiar with them.
- ❖ Allow him to do the work – you alone determine if he has done an acceptable job. Has the assignment been completed to his ability, even though it may not be perfect? When you have seen his work and completed the Action Step, sign his book. Look over the next Action Step and determine when you’ll meet next. Pray together.
- ❖ Figure out if you need to provide some extrinsic incentive (a reward) to help him finish the unit. These young men are busy and will get distracted. Keep a positive attitude, even when he may appear to be losing interest. You can work with him in things on which he gets stuck. This may be of great encouragement to him. If you run out of ideas of what might be helpful to motivate him, contact the Battalion leaders.
- ❖ Report back to the Battalion leadership when the unit has been completed. Make sure you have kept adequate records and turn them in. Another man may be serving as his mentor in his next achievement adventure. Continue to pray for him.