

1961 Southern Baptist Convention  
Kiel Auditorium, St. Louis  
W. C. Fields, Press Representative  
Theo Sommerkamp, Assistant

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Report of Brotherhood Commission  
Memphis, Tenn.

Announcement of an enlarged Royal Ambassador program and the subsequent need for a center to train leaders for the program, especially the camping phase, highlighted the Brotherhood Commission's annual report to the Southern Baptist Convention today.

The new program, which will be introduced Oct. 1 to the Convention's 14,161 Royal Ambassador chapters, encourages boys to increase their missionary education through activities--mental, emotional, and physical, thus learning through participation.

Three age groups are provided. They are Crusaders (boys 9-11), Pioneers (boys 12-14), and Ambassadors (boys 15-17).

The new boys' program is the second major program change in two years the Brotherhood Commission has made. A simplified Brotherhood organizational plan was introduced last October. It was favorably accepted by churches and associations, reported George W. Schroeder, Memphis, executive secretary of the Brotherhood Commission.

A stronger camping emphasis in the new boys' program points up the need for a center to train leaders in outdoor living, Schroeder said. Currently neither the commission nor the Convention has facilities to give men such training, the commission claimed.

Schroeder stated more than 30,000 Royal Ambassadors were in established camps last summer and predicted the number of boys wanting camping experience will increase.

A training center can be obtained, maintained, and operated at no cost to the Convention, Schroeder said. He disclosed that the commission was offered free acreage for such a center in Arkansas, but the Executive Committee would not let the Brotherhood Commission accept it. The committee ruled acceptance of the acreage would conflict with the Convention's policy which, the committee said, gives the Sunday School Board sole authority to operate assemblies.

Schroeder said the commission has asked the committee to seek a policy change so leaders of boys can receive training in camping.

The commission is about to complete its present building program, Schroeder said. The fourth unit of a long-range building program costing \$370,000 was finished in February.

Enrolment in Brotherhood and Royal Ambassadors increased 1,842 during 1960, bringing to 619,105 the number of men and boys in the two organizations.

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Executive secretary of the Brotherhood Commission, GEORGE W. SCHROEDER, has office and residence at Memphis, Tenn. He is a native of Pickneyville, Ill., born Oct. 28, 1913. He received bachelor's and master's degrees from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois. Schroeder was Brotherhood secretary for Illinois Southern Baptists and associate secretary of the SBC Brotherhood Commission before being promoted to his present position. He is an active Baptist layman, a deacon, and has served as teacher and superintendent of Baptist Sunday schools.