

YMCA CAMP COSBY

RAG/LEATHER PROGRAM

LEATHER PROGRAM (CAMPERS 9 – 11)

Campers seek the challenge of the following goals:

Triangle - to grow in body, mind and spirit.

Square - to grow in body, mind, spirit and friendship.

Circle - to expand their circle of concern.

RAGGER PROGRAM (CAMPERS 12 AND OLDER)

The Ragger program is available to persons 12+ years old. It is a seven-stage progression of spiritual and personal growth that involves peer counseling and symbolic bandanas. Both campers and staff participate in the program. Other YMCA leaders and adults participate in the program during other times of the year as well. While each person develops his/her own goals for growth, each "rag" challenges the individual to a deeper awareness and personal growth.

CHALLENGES FOR EACH RAG:

- Blue Rag begins with a focus on God, Country and becoming my best self
- Silver Rag begins with a commitment to the Christian way of life
- Brown Rag begins with service to others
- Gold Rag begins with care and understanding of others
- Red Rag begins with sacrificing of time, talent and will
- Purple Rag begins with considering the personal purpose in life
- White Rag begins with a lifelong commitment of Christian service to youth.

PROCESS

On the first night of each new session at camp, a presentation is made about the Rag/Leather program. Sometime during the session, the camper meets with a counselor to discuss spiritual and personal goals he/she would like to pursue. Throughout the session, all campers who feel they are prepared to accept the challenge of pursuing the goals for the rag for which they are striving, meet for the induction into the Ragers society. There is no test or pre-judgment as to whether a camper has the right to receive the rag, but rather it is based on the camper's interest and commitment to become a Ragger.

We refer to our rags as rags because that is exactly what they are --- worthless pieces of cloth. You couldn't sell your rag; it isn't worth much money. **Your rag has only the meaning YOU give it.** The Rag program is open to people of all religious faiths.