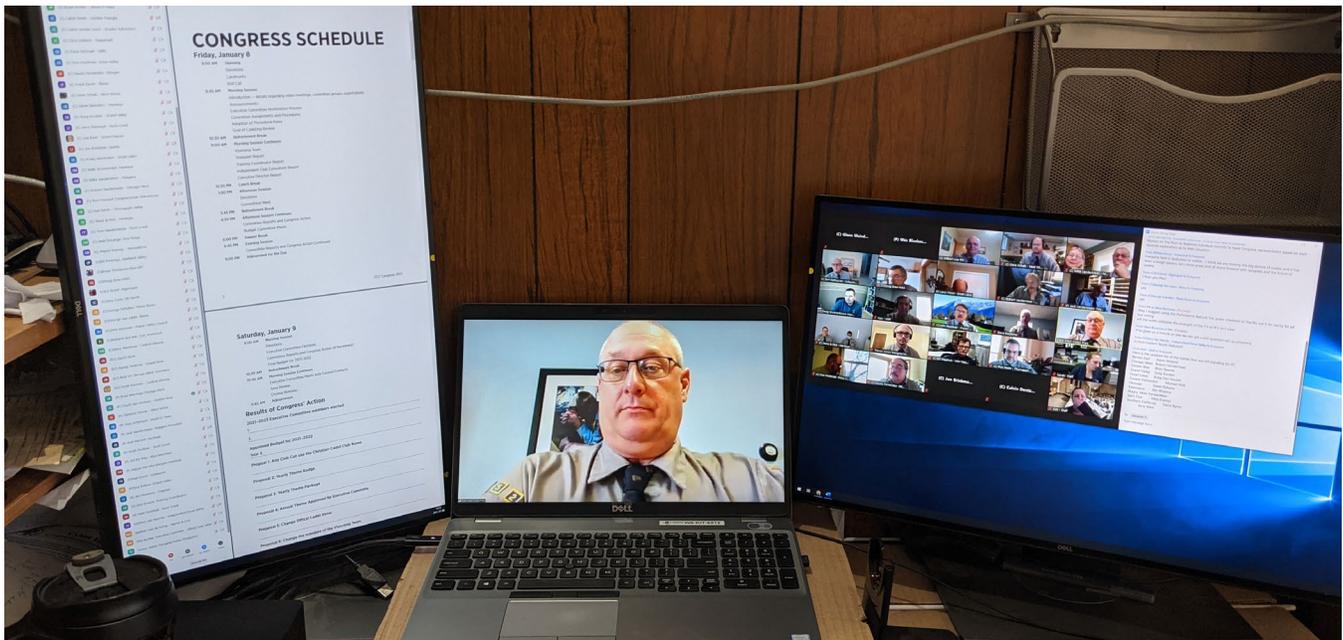


# CLARION

*Helping boys to  
grow more Christlike  
in all areas of life*

## Congress 2021



*Calvinist Cadet Corps President, Dave Mast, leads a virtual 2021 Congress.*

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Every year, in early January, the annual meetings of the Calvinist Cadet Corps are held. We call these meetings Congress, with the representatives from each of the regional councils called Congressmen. Typically, these men would all travel to Grand Rapids, with the meetings held in a local church. This year, however, was anything but typical, with Congress being no exception.

Our meetings were held virtually, based out of the Corps office, with men attending from their own locales. There were no times of singing, except for when President Dave Mast sang the Cadet Hymn for us, and coffee breaks and meal times allowed for men to catch up on their personal emails and voice mails rather than being spent socially. The men from the west coast didn't need to deal with jet lag, although they did need to appear cheerful and ready to work at 6:00 am local time.

Time was spent listening to reports, discussing various aspects of Cadeting, debating the merits of proposals which had been brought



# Congress 2021 *(continued)*

forward, and voting on administrative details. Committees were still able to meet and all of the required work was completed.

Gerrit Sterk and Randy TenBrink completed their three-year terms on the Executive Committee at the conclusion of Congress. Adam Meijaard (Berean East Council, Ontario) and Robert Vandermeer (Chicago West Council, Illinois) were elected to the committee.

Congress 2021 approved the following proposals:

- To have a theme package created for counselors, specifying an existing merit badge that will complement the theme. This will be sent to all counselors.
- To continue working on the Cadet website with emphasis on moving the guidebook and Cadet Quest to electronic format. An estimate from an outside provider regarding the costing and scope of a Cadet app will be received by the Executive Committee prior to Congress 2022.
- The annual theme will be approved by the Executive Committee. It will be announced for informational purposes at Congress, with implementation to begin in July.

The following proposals were defeated at Congress 2021:

- Allowing any club to use the Christian Cadet Club name.
- Production of an annual theme badge.
- Changing the official Cadet verse to Mark 12:30-31.
- Changing the mandate of the Visioning Team.

A big thanks to all of the presidents and congressmen who attended, for being flexible and accommodating when things may not have gone quite as planned. While meeting virtually worked, and saved on food, travel, and accommodation expenses, there was still something missing by not having opportunity for mutual encouragement and the building of a sense of community.

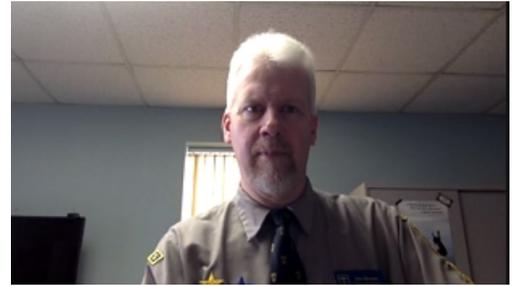
Our current plans include meeting in person from January 13-15, 2022 for the next Congress. If you have never attended Congress, and are interested in experiencing what occurs at these meetings consider coming to Grand Rapids in January. Some funding is available to help first time visitors with expenses. Contact the Corps office for more details.

# Executive Director's Report

Steve Bootsma

January 8, 2021

Here I am, giving another report to Congress as the Executive Director. Our meetings this year are very different than they have been in the past, but that is somewhat fitting, as this past year has been different than anything any of us have lived through previously. Yet here we are. Gathered to discuss the mission of Cadets, and how we will continue serving churches and Christian men around the world as they show boys how to grow more like Christ.



As part of this report, I have opportunity to carry on some tradition. At the first five Congresses I attended, the Executive Director would stand up here and announce how many consecutive times he had attended Congress. So, I will let you know, I'm up to five, and ten of the last eleven. The one I missed has a long story connected to it, but it was all part of God's plan.

I want to thank each and every one of you for all you do to carry on the work of Cadets. The title of Congressman or Council President doesn't necessarily carry a lot of weight on a business card, but I know that you, and those who could not be here, have spent much time, energy, and likely money, on behalf of this ministry to which we have all been called. I know I have done things that you may not have agreed with, and there are times when you have done things I questioned, but we all strive to achieve the same mission. All the work we do in the office would be pointless if not for you, and many others, individually showing boys what it means to live a Christlike life.

This past year has not been easy for any of you, in your roles, I am sure. Trying to encourage clubs to register, finding people willing to fill roles in your council, and even looking for ways in which you can continue ministering to the boys while remaining compliant with your local governments and church boards. The office staff has been there with you, feeling your frustrations, and trying to find new means of making sure Cadets continues.

Sections of this report will be somewhat similar to reports from previous years, others will be different. The pandemic impacts across our ministry make certain things, like numbers, non-representative of where our ministry really is. We cannot dismiss the situation we are in, there are serious implications to our ministry, but we are taking steps to come out of this in a healthy and God-blessing manner.

DYNAMIC  
YOUTH  
MINISTRIES

**CARES Act**  
Coronavirus Aid,  
Relief, and Economic  
Security Act

## DYM

The CCC is one division of an entity named Dynamic Youth Ministries. DYM supports GEMS, ThereforeGo Ministries, The Esther School, and Cadets with facility, mailing, printing, payroll and administrative services.

Throughout the pandemic DYM has looked at how to keep expenses down and still support

all of the ministries. Dynamic Youth Ministries, as a whole, has determined that, as a cost saving measure, no deposits will be made to the employee retirement plans for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. DYM did receive a loan in the spring via the CARES-Act and the Payroll Protection Program. We are waiting for the final approval to have the loan forgiven. (the loan was forgiven in January giving Cadets over \$47,000)

GEMS Girls Clubs continues to look for ways to reach out to girls and help churches in their ministry. This past year GEMS has reduced their focus on club ministry and are working at ministering to girls wherever they are.



*ThereforeGo Ministries logo. Formally Youth Unlimited.*

ThereforeGo Ministries is the new name of the division formerly known as Youth Unlimited. They sold the rights to their name in Canada to Youth For Christ, Canada to end years of confusion with two ministries using the same name (formally and informally). The shutdowns this past summer resulted in Serve mission trips, the bulk of TGM outreach, being cancelled. The reality of fewer participants, even if things open up, is forcing them to look at other areas of ministry to broaden their base.

The Esther School shut down for several months this past summer. Once they were able to restart, it was only with Zambian teachers. This has been a blessing in that it has forced the development of leadership among the staff. The North American teachers are scheduled to be returning this month. The school has developed gardens and chicken barns, providing learning opportunities as well as a source of additional funds for local work.

## Staff

This has been a challenging year for the staff. In March we transitioned to a work from home model, resulting in fewer hours for some of the staff. Later in the summer we started having a staff presence in the office, until November, when we went back to work from home, with one person in the office each day, handling mail, phone calls, etc.

The hours reduced in the spring, have by and large been increased back to where they were. We are grateful we have not had to lay off any staff members during this time.

There have been some glitches with the working from home, evidenced in some printing quality issues, some timelines being missed, and a few inventory lags. Despite these challenges, the staff has done well in rolling with the changes. Updated and improved websites, Cadets@home kits, newly designed Bible lessons, and weekly blog posts are just some of the evidence of their accomplishments.

Through all of this we transitioned to a new database system in the office. Yes, some of your reports look a little different. Yes, we have missed some updates here and there and you have received details different than what you expected. No, we are not trying to make life difficult for you.

Through the year several of the staff have been able to attend virtual training events, learning more about design, publishing, and social media campaigns.

## Camporees

This past year was supposed to be a camporee year. Camp Great Lakes was scheduled for July in the upper peninsula of Michigan. In April, we made the tough decision to postpone camp until the summer of 2021. It was not an easy decision to make, but hindsight shows that it was the correct one. In the past weeks we have had to look at the possibilities for camping this summer. Clubs still aren't meeting, making training for camp difficult, if not impossible, and even if travel and borders are opening up, how many moms will want to send their boys, and how many men will feel comfortable with camporee conditions? Is it possible to get enough people to attend to make a camporee financially responsible? We have made the tough decision that Camp Great Lakes has been cancelled.



**CAMP GREAT LAKES - CANCELED**

I want to personally thank the men that have put so much of themselves into the planning of this event, only to see it not happen. Our next camporee is being planned for 2023 in southern Ontario.

## Training

Dick Broene continues in the role of Training Coordinator. He has already given a detailed report on the activities connected to Corps training.

We are grateful for the men who continue to act as DCE's.

## Program, Publications and Promotions

Prayer emails, *Clarion*, *DCE Connection*, *Independent Update*, the *Counselor's Counselor*, *Cadeting Today*, and *Cadet Quest* all continue to be produced.

We continue to review the materials and products that we have for sale. Merchandise sales were well below our projections and veered from our historical trends.

As the year progressed and we realized many clubs would not be meeting in the traditional fashion we put together the Cadets@Home kits. While the full kits may not be a continuing item we sell, the plan is to continue having the @home books. They have already been used in a situation where a family was looking for a club in their area, there were none, and they weren't able to have their church start a club yet. This gets them interested in our program, and hopefully, in a year or two, they can have the support of others in their church to start a club.

Work is being done on our contact lists. We try to keep our email lists (used for the monthly prayer email as well as other counselor mailings) as updated as possible. You would be surprised (or maybe you wouldn't be) at the number of rejected email addresses we have, and yet they come in the same each year on the counselor lists. The mailing list for the *Cadeting Today* newsletter for friends of Cadeting (which comes with a request for donations) is being worked on as well. Men who are being removed from their club's counselor list are being added to this list. Now and then, someone asks to be removed, and we do so willingly. The long-term health of our ministry relies on us continuing to have a financial base wider than just our sales and offerings.

We started planning a Celebration Dinner to be held in Pella this past year, but we know how most plans for any event this year have panned out. The plan was for an evening of celebrating what we have done as a ministry, promoting Cadets in the community, as well as fundraising. The attendance would be some people who are actively involved with Cadets but also some from the community who we think should know about Cadets, or may be able to support us financially. The office staff would do a portion of the planning work, but we ask for some local 'feet on the ground' to help out. The plan is to host one or two of these a year in the future. If you think your area may want to be involved with an event like this, contact the office.

The annual fishing tournament held here in Michigan in June did not occur. We were able to host our Sporting Clay Shoot day in August. Many people were just waiting to do something and we ended up with our largest turnout ever.

I visited 4 councils and attended the Midwest Regional Counselor Conference earlier this year, before things shut down. This fall I was able to visit two councils in person and one virtually. Any councils that are meeting virtually, or local clubs meeting in person, I would love to be a part of one of your meetings. My set schedule ensuring every council is visited every two and a half years has been terminally disrupted. I will set up a new schedule once travel is possible.



The National Ligonier Conference in Orlando, FL, the Write to Publish Christian Writer's Conference in Wheaton, IL, and the Evangelical Association of Reformed and Covenant Christian Churches Convocation were all cancelled this past year. Plans are currently underway for these events to be held again this year, with Cadets participating at some or all. The Christian Reformed Church Inspire Conference is currently being planned for the Chicago area this summer. If you are aware of gatherings that may be beneficial for us to attend, please forward the details to the office.



### International Cadets

The pandemic has been felt in Cadeting around the world. The Kenyan government has had restrictions in place regarding gatherings of people, and schools have been closed for a while. The second wave is being realized there as well. This has not stopped the work of Cadets from being done. In several places the Cadet clubs have been able to set up hand washing stations to help their communities.

We have outgrown the office space Daniel was using in Eldoret, Kenya, and he will be moving to a new office space, with room for a copier and printer so he can produce materials at less expense. The goal is for the Kenyan clubs to start paying a small amount for materials.

The men from South Sudan who were trained in the fall of 2019 have started several clubs in their country, and the ministry is growing.

The club in the Ukraine was so effective it was noticed by the headmaster of a local school, who has asked Zoltan and Ferenc to start a second club based in his school building.

### Mandates

Congress last year gave the Corps office and Executive a number of mandates to be worked on and suggestions to be looked into.

1. Online club profile would allow easier data input – we have made many changes to the website, but we aren't here quite yet.
2. Better support for independent clubs – we include three clubs each month in the prayer email. We are assigning each independent club to a council; not for communication and administrative purposes, which are handled by Bert, but for mutual support purposes. These are being assigned to councils and not to individuals so they are not left hanging if their “support person” leaves.
3. Complete update of the website – we have completed the front facing section, the US and Canadian stores (which are now separate, not an easy task), and the Counselor section. The Cadet section is still being worked on.
4. Gold sheets should not be replaced by a theme package – the sheets have been updated to include support aids for counselors as well as provide theme guidance.
5. Have small sets of Bible lessons sold as packages – 11 theme lessons were available as a package this year. Providentially this worked very well as we developed the @home kits.



6. More visual aids in the Counselor Manuals – no work was done on redesigning this yet as we are between printings of this, but is still being considered.
7. Junior Counselor certification course to be an interactive electronic course by 2022-2023 season – still in the works.
8. Junior Cadet t-shirts to be updated – we have redesigned the Discoverer Bible lessons, which includes a newly designed kangaroo mascot. Adventurer and Explorer levels will be done next (one a year). The Junior Guidebook is between print runs and will be updated with the newer look for the next printing. The shirts will be updated on the same timelines.
9. Corps Chaplain term limits and selection method – the proposal set the next Chaplain term to start in January 2022. The Executive Committee will be working on this through the upcoming year. Nominations will be requested.



*Updated Junior Cadets kangaroo mascot (2020).*

## Statistics

Numbers can be used to show almost anything, and our ministry is not all about numbers. Traditionally at this point of the report we look at the number of clubs, breakdown by nation and denomination, and how many boys are involved in Cadets.

This past year has been an exceptional year. Any numbers I would present at this time would not be representative of where we are as a ministry.

A few numbers that I will share.

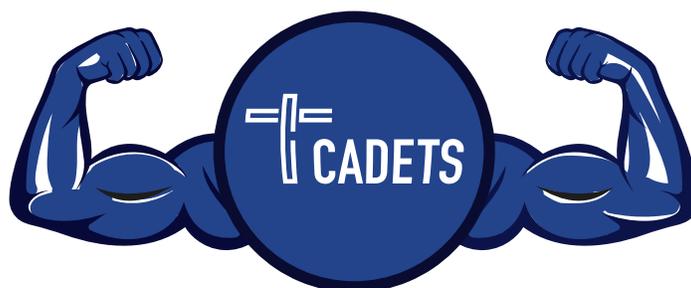
75% of clubs (373 of 495) that we had last year have submitted at least one part of their registration – a form with signatures, a signed counselor list, or \$50 payment.

This breaks down to 83% (235 of 282) of US council clubs, 70% (101 of 144) of Canadian council clubs, and 51% (35 of 69) of Independent clubs.

The office has been doing its best working with the information we get from you. Any emails or phone calls you get hounding you for more registration details are based on council lists you send us. We understand that things don't move smoothly at the council level, but we do ask for you to keep us informed of any changes or details that you do have.

## Future

In the past, I challenged each of the councils to start at least one new club in a specified time period. This year the challenge is different. I ask each of you, and your councils, to do what it takes to come out of this pandemic as strong as you were before. Make sure your mutual support system is there for those clubs that may have a difficult time getting started again. Try not to let a physical virus be the death of a spiritual Cadet ministry.



# Independent Clubs Report

**Bert Bakhuyzen**

**January 11, 2021**

Greetings from the Independent Cadet Clubs. We have clubs in the US and Canada, as well as Transcarpathia, which is in the Ukraine. This has been an interesting year, but we have so much to be thankful for, and we thank the almighty God for keeping us safe and that He is watching over this cadet ministry.

This is the first time we are giving this report virtually, it is kind of cool. Just think if we were in a setting like before, we would all have to wear a mask. Then with Michigan rules, no coffee, cookies, or even no lunch. Being virtual, we can have it all!

During my last Congress report in January, there were 74 Independent Cadet clubs. At that time, we had some clubs that were not registered yet, which is normal for us. In February, these clubs that did not register or owed offerings, were taken off my list leaving us with 64 Independent clubs. In the second week of March we were confronted with this virus and the remainder of the cadet season ended abruptly. Right now, we have 64 clubs but with all that is going on right now we have 30 registered. This leaves 34 clubs not registered yet, and we do not know when they will be starting.

After last year's Congress, Steve our director, sent each Council Congressmen an email with 2 or 3 Independent clubs' contact information, asking them if they would be a mentor to them throughout this cadet season. This is something new, and an awesome idea. We got some response or feedback from you congressmen, and we thank you for this. However, then this pandemic set in, so hopefully we can resume this awesome idea whenever we all get back to normal meetings again.

Corps offices sends out information packets to those interested in our cadet program. On March 2, 2020, they sent out 2 packets, one to Pennsylvania, and one to Nevada. These two would be Independent Clubs if they were to join. We followed up with an email letter explaining my role in this ministry. Since the virus was in play, I encourage them to stay safe. This is all the Info packets that were sent out that I know of.

We communicate thru emails to each other to stay in touch. This past Spring and into Summer was a bit of a challenge. You see we had at that time 38 clubs owing offerings. In the first part of July, we sent out an email letter to all the clubs owing an offering. This letter was meant to encourage them to do what ever they could to fulfill their obligations and send what they could. We knew that no one had church services during this time.

Then this fall Corps office sent out the registration packets with instructions. We emailed the Independent clubs to remind them to send this in, even if they were not starting yet, and with a counselors list by October 15th. Some clubs had contacted me, stating that they were not going to meet yet. Waiting a month or 2, or not till January. Still, we encouraged them to register anyway.



*Independent Club Consultant, Bert Bakhuyzen, "Zooms" into the 2021 Congress.*

One club I must mention is Transcarpathia Evangelical Reformed Church in Ukraine. Zoltan requested help, and we sent some materials and supplies. You see he started another Cadet group in the school. A lot of his meetings are held outdoors and in the summer as well. We were able to fulfil his request and sent it his way. When we sent a Christmas email message, he responded that they received this packet and really appreciated of this. He even sent pictures of this.

Another way we communicate and send information is through our *Independent Update* which is published three times during the cadet season. It begins with the Fall edition written in the first week of September, then the Winter edition written mid-November. The Spring edition is written the beginning of February.



I personally must thank Sarah for the awesome job she does presenting such a quality looking *Independent Update*, thank you! Since we are on this subject, I would like to thank all the staff of this Cadet organization for doing an awesome job for us. Especially Steve, Kim, and Becky, with all the updates of registrations and offerings and keeping me on the right track. Thank You.

During the Holidays, Thanksgiving and Christmas and New Year's, LaVonne and I sent out a message of encouragement during these trying times when most are feeling low and maybe discouraged.

In closing I would like to share a thought. This fall LaVonne and I took a trip down to Pigeon Forge. On the way, we stopped at the Noah's Ark, and spent a day there. Wow! It is something to see if you get a chance. You see, God Instructed Noah to build this Ark, and out of gopher wood. It took Noah some time to build. Then once completed, God instructed him as it states in Gen. 7:16 "The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God commanded Noah. Then the LORD shut him in.". You see there was an exceptionally large and high door, which was like a ramp as well for all these animals. Then when Noah completed what God instructed, God SHUT THEM IN. Or in other words sealed them in from harm and the waters.

As we continue this cadet season, may the almighty God seal us inside His Ark of protection and compassion thru this virus. Let us keep each other in our prayers.

# Training Coordinator's Report

Dick Broene

January 8, 2021

It is my duty and pleasure to bring you up to date on what happened in the world of counselor training in the Calvinist Cadet Corps over the past year.

I would like to report that all three phases of DCE training were presented, regional conferences took place as usual in all eight regions, and DCE summits all over North America drew leaders to hone their presenting skills, which they then used at their councils to great advantage.

That's what I would like to report. Unfortunately, none of those things happened, and I suspect you know why. It was not for lack of effort on our part. Rather, it was due to the reaction of governments and individuals to the COVID situation, which has indeed affected us all.

Here's what actually did happen:

## DCE Training

In year's report, I said that for the first time in three years, we actually conducted all three phases of training. This year, I can tell you that no DCE Phase 1, 2, or 3 training took place in 2020.

We had planned a Phase 1 weekend in Michigan, and had enough men registered. That was in the last half of March, when COVID became a serious concern to so many, and we reluctantly rescheduled to November. In November, on the week of the training, there was another flare up, and two days before the training, we were forced to reschedule again. We'll try in the spring, and hopefully have dates set soon.

You may recall that we had a group of a dozen men start training in Ontario in March 2019. Ten of them came back for Phase 2 in September 2019, and were planning to return for Phase 3 in September 2020. When we were unable to do that, we moved the training to February 2021. We still have an issue with crossing the international border between the US and Canada, but we have a solution. Of the ten men coming for training, two are from the US and eight Canada. The current plan is that I will train the two Americans and Regional Training Coordinator Gary vanZanwijk will train the eight Canadians, once I send him my leader's notes and other pertinent information. By the way, thank you very much for not electing Gary as Corps president. I do not want to lose him as a Regional Training Coordinator.

Earlier this week, I was notified that Phase 1 training scheduled for Ontario in March has now been canceled. And the Phase 3 that I just told you about is also at risk. We'll see what God allows.

## Regional Conferences

In February, the Midwest Region assembled in Carroll, Iowa. In March, the Rocky Mountain Region gathered in Edmonton, Alberta. Northwest did not plan a conference for 2020. And the other five regions — Southwest, North Central, South Central, East Central, and Eastern — were all planning conferences but ended up canceling them or postponing them until 2021.



Two of those regions — Southwest and Midwest, have scheduled conferences this year in February and March. Since those are both west of where I live and the events are only about a month apart, I look forward to a great road trip to visit and lead workshops at both.

And if Rocky Mountain Region holds their conference in March as they once told me, I have a week to drive to Central Alberta from Iowa. I am doing quite well on my goal to explore the old highways and stay off the interstates.

## Mentoring and Coaching

Chaplain Jim Hoekstra and I have been presenting a two-hour mentoring and coaching workshop at regional conferences, designed to teach men the difference between mentoring and coaching, and how and when to do each. If workshop participants decide this job is for them, they commit to do it for their council's clubs. We call those men MenCos, though it's not official yet. It's simple and we thought it sounded better than Mooch or Contor.

Jim and I are currently putting the finishing touches on a second and somewhat related workshop, which we call No-Gap Club Leadership. The goal of this workshop is to get men to see the importance of having a plan in place so that when a head counselor quits, moves, or for any reason is unable continue in his post, someone else is ready, willing, and able to take over. We want to eliminate the problem that occurs when a head counselor leaves and the club dissolves because there's no one to take over.

## Publications

We continue to send the DCE Connection to Developers of Counselor Education three times a year. It includes helpful training tips as well as conference news and information.

We also send a newsletter, called The Counselor's Counselor, to MenCos to help keep them up to speed and give them resources and tips on mentoring and coaching.

Finally, thank you for your support of Cadet Corps leadership training. Thanks to Kim for her work as my primary contact with the office. And I thank God and Steve Bootsma for allowing me to serve another year in this position.



Dick Broene  
Training Coordinator

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### These are Interesting Times

In the last issue of DCE Connection, I mentioned that we had some event cancellations due to lack of registrations. Since then, there have been a few more cancellations in the Cadet ministry ... or at least postponements. The one that probably everyone involved in cadeting has noticed, of course, is the postponement of the international camporee. And that event will likely change again before the time comes.

Lesser known postponements, but also due to the coronavirus scare, have hit Cadet Corps training. Nearly all DCE training has been shifted to later times.

The Phase 1 training scheduled for last spring in Michigan is now scheduled for November 19-21 this year.

The Phase 3 training scheduled for September 2020 is now scheduled for February 4-6, 2021.

One plan that has not yet changed is a plan for Phase 1 training in Peterborough, Ontario in March 2021.

But who knows when the Canada/USA border will reopen and we can cross freely?

In the meantime, there is some training going on. If you are a regular reader of this publication, you are aware of the emphasis that the Cadet Corps is giving to mentoring and coaching. And tied in with that is a specific emphasis on preparing men to assume the role of head counselor when a club faces a vacancy in that position.

Jim Hoekstra, Corps Chaplain, and I have

We are scheduled to lead this one in early November in Michigan. Our hope has been to regularly attend regional conferences and present both workshops — the two-hour workshop on mentoring and coaching, followed by the one-hour workshop on no-gap leadership.

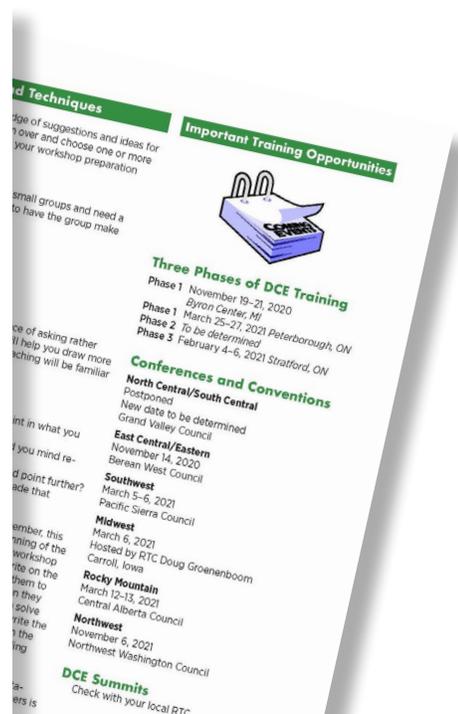
Here's what we're doing with the head counselor issue:

1. Presenting the workshop, which introduces two concepts — co-head counselors or a head counselor with assistant.
2. Making a packaged workshop on the topic that DCEs will be able to present in their councils.
3. Working with the Corps staff to develop a video — similar to those in the Counselor Education Video Series — that explains the need for no-gap leadership, and gives suggestions. The video could be incorporated into the CEVS or could simply be linked to the CCC website with appropriate promotion.

As I mentioned in the title to this article, these are interesting times. Isn't it great to know that whatever happens, God is in control. Nothing takes Him by surprise, and there's nothing He can't handle.

Let's pray that through all that happens, God gains glory, His name is praised, and His will is done.

—Dick Broene



# News

## Important Dates

April 15-17	DCE Phase 1, Grand Rapids, MI
April 22-24	DCE Phase 3, Stratford ON
May 15	West Michigan Councils Golf Tournament, Wyoming, MI
June 5	Michigan Fishing Tournament, Gun Lake, MI
August 21	Sporting Clay Shoot, Zeeland, MI
October 16	Calvinist Cadet Corps turns 69
November 6	North/South Central Regional Conference, Wyoming, MI
November 13	East and East Central Regional Conference, ON



## Due Dates

April 15	Gold Star nominations due
June 1	Council officer lists
August 1	Nominations for Corps Chaplain
October 1	Congress proposals
October 15	Club registrations with counselor lists
November 1	Congress registrations due



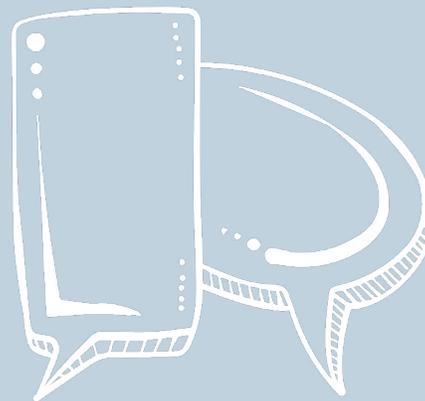
## Director's Council Visits in 2021

It comes as no surprise that travel and council visits have not been on Executive Director Steve's calendar this past year. We pray that work continues to get the virus under control and that travel becomes possible, including crossing the Canada/USA border without need to quarantine.

As travel becomes possible again, Steve will be making a new schedule for visiting the councils. Look for announcements of when he will be in your area.

## 2021/2022 Theme Release!

Next year's theme, verse, and logo will be released on **May 1st**. Check out the [website](#) and [Facebook](#) for a kickoff post for our upcoming Cadet year!



# News

## International Camporee Canceled

The International Camporee originally planned for the summer of 2020 and postponed until 2021 has officially been canceled. It was a difficult, yet safe decision considering all of the uncertainties surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

We look forward to planning our next International Camporee for the summer of 2023.



## 2021 Executive Committee

Introducing the 2021 Executive Committee.

### Top Row

Dave Mast  
*President*

Ron Mohr  
*DYM Rep*

Scott Klooster  
*Vice President/  
Vision Team Rep*

Richard Van Veen  
*DYM Alternate*

### Bottom Row

Sam Bysma  
*Secretary*

Steve Bootsma  
*Executive Director*

Robert Vandermeer  
*Treasurer*

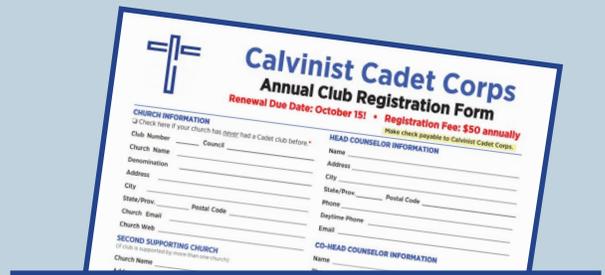
Jim Hoekstra  
*Chaplain*

Adam Meijaard  
*Director at Large*



## Club Registration Reminder

As a reminder: club registration forms, fees and counselor list are due October 15. A club is considered inactive if we have not received all three. Inactive clubs will not be allowed to order and counselors will not have access to the counselor site.



## Counselor site

A reminder to counselors that we have a new counselor webpage with easier access to useful resources. If you haven't signed up, be sure to click the link below and then click "Register to request a login".

Link to new site:

<https://counselors.calvinistcadets.org/>

# FISHING TOURNAMENT

**SATURDAY, JUNE 5**  
**Yankee Springs, Middleville, MI**



**Join us this summer for  
two fun events to help  
support our ministry!**

**For more details, visit:**

**[calvinistcadets.org/events](http://calvinistcadets.org/events)**

**SPORTING  
CLAY SHOOT**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 21**  
**Blendon Pines, Zeeland, MI**





# A View from Over Here

By Steve Bootsma, Executive Director

This has been an interesting year. We all realize this; you didn't need to read this to find out. For different people, different places, and different organizations, it has been interesting in different ways. Over the past twelve months we've learned a lot about ourselves and about each other.

For Cadets, whether you were allowed to meet at all, or if you had restrictions on what you could and could not do while meeting, we all had to examine our routines and look for what was really important. We had to make decisions as to whether or not it was feasible or worthwhile to hold a Cadet meeting in our current circumstances. We had to determine what our best options were, considering our restrictions.

In some situations, the decisions were made easily, although not necessarily cheerfully, as government leaders cancelled any form of getting together. There are churches who registered for this season, knowing they wouldn't hold a single club meeting. They desired to remain part of the Cadet family. They look forward, expectantly, to when they can resume gathering as Christian men and boys, learning together to live for Jesus.

In other places the decisions were tough. A version of meeting together may have been possible, yet it wasn't going to be the way things were 'normally' done. Social distancing doesn't work with boys, mask rules are too onerous, the church board

requires too many concessions, are all reasons I've heard for not holding Cadet nights. The head counselor decided not to bother registering this year as they weren't going to do anything anyway. We hope these clubs return once the pandemic is under control and that not holding Cadet meetings doesn't become their new 'normal'.

There are many other variations of these examples. You may read these and think: "but my situation is different". It probably is. My examples over simplify and paint with a broad brush. That's fine, you get the point.

Where does the difference between these mindsets come from? What makes one church stay and another one not? What makes one head counselor do whatever it takes to reach the boys and another take the easy way out and wait for later? What made you stay, or what made you step out?

I was recently talking with my daughter about changes in youth ministry. She enjoyed her time in youth ministry in our church. She was never a Cadet, but she was part of GEMS, and the viewpoint is the same. She noted, "I loved GEMS, but it wasn't the adults involved that kept me there and excited me about the church. The people that made a difference were the high schoolers that were involved. When you're in fourth grade and see the high school girls being active in GEMS and in your life, that makes it cool and exciting to be there. Then, when I got

to high school, those opportunities still needed to be there."

I thought about this for a while, and this article was forming about the need for our Junior Counselor program to be reinvigorated, but that's not where I ended up. Instead, there are other learnings we can take from my daughter.

There needs to be something that keeps us here. Many counselors were Cadets when they were younger, I know I was. There was something about the program that grabbed us and never really let go. Other counselors were never aware of Cadets until they were older, yet as they learned about the ministry, something grabbed them, and the passion became evident.

As we look back at the past year, and then look forward to the future, what keeps us here? What is it that we see in the Cadet program that we want to return to as soon as possible? Has COVID-19 made you change your answer? There's no wrong answer for you as an individual.

We need to do this as an organization as well. What keeps us here? What about the Cadet ministry makes us want to stay and do this again and again, year after year? What are we doing now, that the next generation of leaders needs to see as their opportunity when their time comes?

And that, as they say, is a view from over here.

# 3-D CARDBOARD PORTRAITS



**Age:** 6+

**Time:** 1-2 Meetings

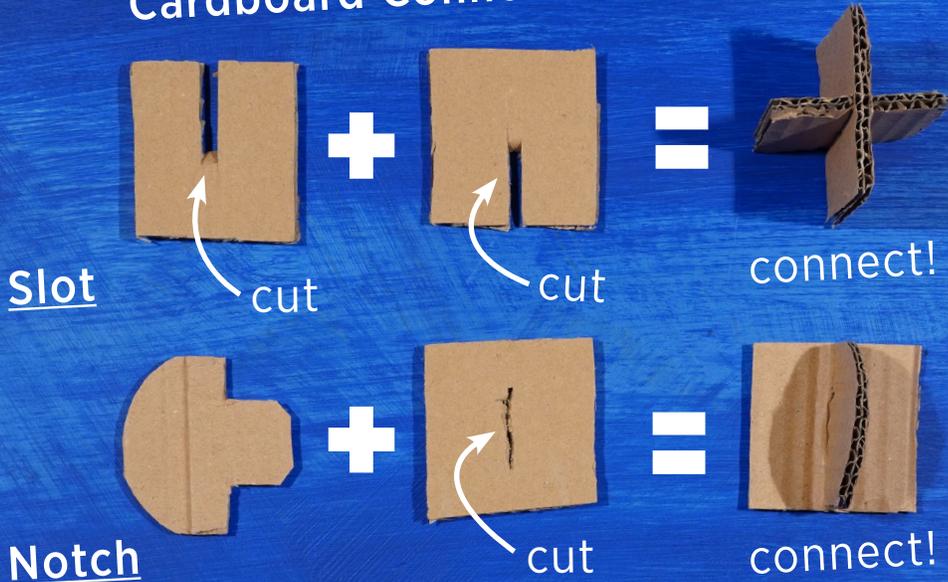
**Supplies:**

- Cardboard
- Scissors
- Pointed tool to push cardboard through slots.

# Cadet Challenge

Have cadets build 3-dimensional cardboard portraits of themselves. They will use scissors to cut a couple of large shapes first and then cut smaller shapes for their facial features. Below you will see some methods of connecting cardboard together. Demonstrate these for your cadets and let them build!

## Cardboard Connection Methods



## Instructions:

1. Boys will cut two identical head and neck shapes out of cardboard.
2. They will make slot connections to connect the two shapes and allow the sculpture to stand.
3. Now they can cut ear, hair, nose, eye, and mouth shapes and connect them to the head using the connection methods shown.

## Engineering Art!

God has made us all unique. He is quite the artist. With some engineering and creativity of their own, your cadets will create some art in this project.

Another famous artist, Pablo Picasso, explored Cubism, a study in geometry. Other Cubists, like Picasso, deconstructed common shapes like faces and food into simple forms.

## Simple Connections!

Your cadets will use methods of connecting shapes together without the use of tape or glue. The slot and notch methods have been used since ancient times to build furniture and machines.



# Labyrinth Game

**Age:** 8+

**Time:** 1-3 Meetings

**Supplies:**

- Cardboard Box with Lid
- Wide Craft Sticks
- Hot Glue Gun
- X-Acto Knife
- Sandpaper
- Marbles



# Cadet Challenge

Have cadets construct a marble labyrinth game from a cardboard box. They will be challenged to think about where to place walls and holes along the run. The game should allow the player to accomplish the run. It is up to the builder how challenging the run will be.



## Instructions:

1. Glue two craft sticks inside on the bottom floor of box. This will allow the lid to be flipped and propped inside so that the game collects the marble when it drops through a hole.
2. Flip the lid and have cadets plan their labyrinth with a pencil by tracing craft sticks for the walls. Holes can be planned by tracing a nickel.
3. Next cut the holes carefully using an X-Acto knife. Cadets may need assistance with this step. You may choose to use a hole boring tool to speed up this step.
4. Using an X-Acto knife can cause rough edges around the holes. Roll sandpaper and push through the holes to smooth edges.
5. Now glue down craft sticks for the walls, cutting them to length as you go.

## Switch it up!

Have cadets play each other's games. They can start the marble from the other end of the run for a new experience. They can also turn the game, holding it from different sides for new challenges. Which run was toughest to complete?



# NEW and UPDATED items!



## Items 3441/3501 • Discoverer Bible Lessons

The Discoverer lessons got a huge overhaul last year. This set is perfect for first grade boys and includes a fun bright colored design, puzzles, and our beloved Kangaroo with a fresh new look.

## CADETS @ HOME Bag Kit

Recently added to the store, this kit is packaged for Cadeting at a distance. With this kit, Cadets can continue to work on badgework at home. Each bag is themed to “Dive Into the Word” and includes theme Bible lessons, project worksheets, an @Home badgebook with 3-5 badges, a theme poster, a theme bookmark, and a Cadets pencil. Available for Junior Cadet, Recruit, Pathfinder, and Builder.

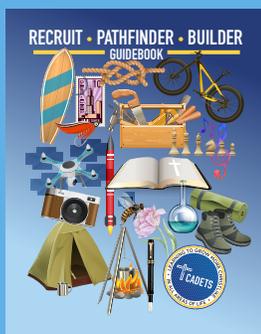


Item 3823 • Junior Cadets @ home

Item 3820 • Recruit @ home

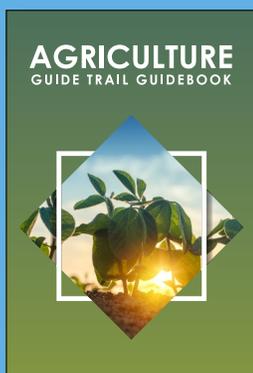
Item 3821 • Pathfinder @ home

Item 3822 • Builder @ home



## Item 3600 • RPB Guidebook

Have you seen the new RPB guidebook yet? Check it out! This was a huge makeover. All badges are now full color with more writing space. It includes the 50 top badges (not to worry, the rest are available online or through the office).

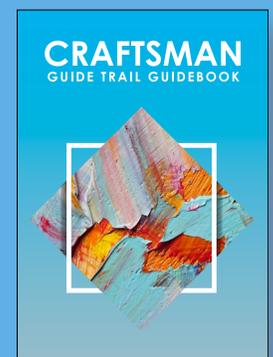


## Item 3008 • Craftsman Guide Trail

The Craftsman Guide Trail Guidebook has been updated.

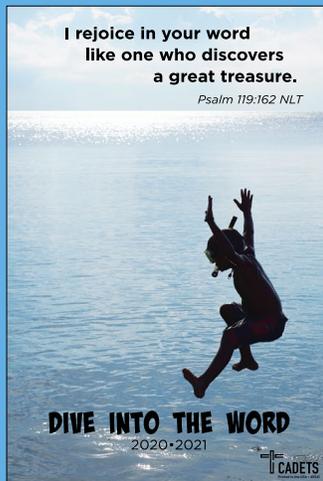
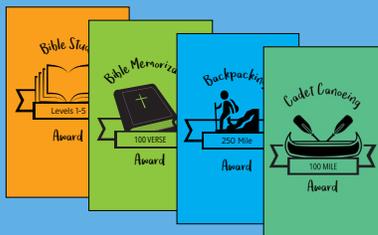
## Item 3003 • Agriculture Guide Trail

Formally Ag-tech, this guide trail received a much needed make over, with a fresh new look and updated content.



## Award Logs

Many of the award logs have been given fresh new looks. This year would be a great year to use these with your boys as they have more time at home and fewer activities to do. Award logs will give them some goals to complete outside of Cadets.



## Item 3341 • Small Theme Poster

New this year, the small theme poster is available for purchase. Every club received one in their start up packet, but extras can be purchased to send home with boys or hang in different areas of the church.

## Item 3524 • Pocketknife



## Item 3653 • Stylus Pen



## Item 3654 • Hot & Cold Tumbler



## Items 3496/3497/3498 • Matthew Adventure Books

Check out this series about Matthew, a cadet. These are great to add to church libraries or for boys who love to read!

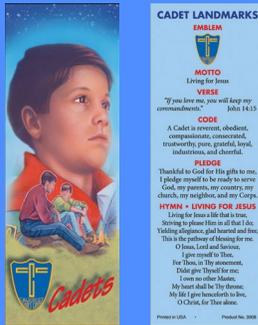


# SALE items!

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

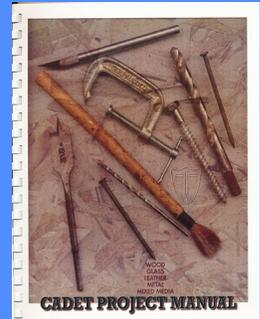
## Cadet Bookmark Item 3908

A bright, colorful bookmark that includes the Cadet landmarks.



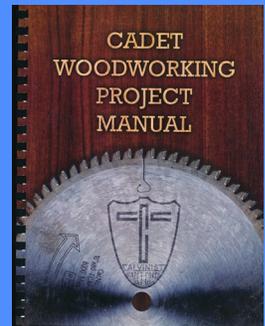
## Cadet Project Manual Item 3346

Provides plans and instructions for 45 popular Cadet projects, using a variety of materials.



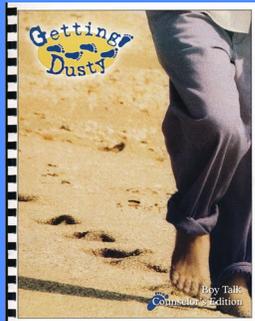
## Cadet Woodworking Project Manual Item 3040

Provides plans and instructions for more than 40 popular Cadet woodworking projects.



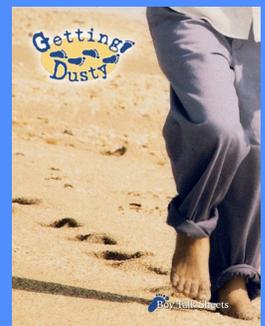
## Getting Dusty Bible Lessons: Counselor's Edition Item 3556

This booklet contains the counselor helps with grabbers and activities to help make the point of each lesson.



## Getting Dusty Bible Lessons Sheets Item 3555

Each of the 24 hand-out sheets helps your boys discuss topics that are important to them.



## Cadet Quest Back Issues

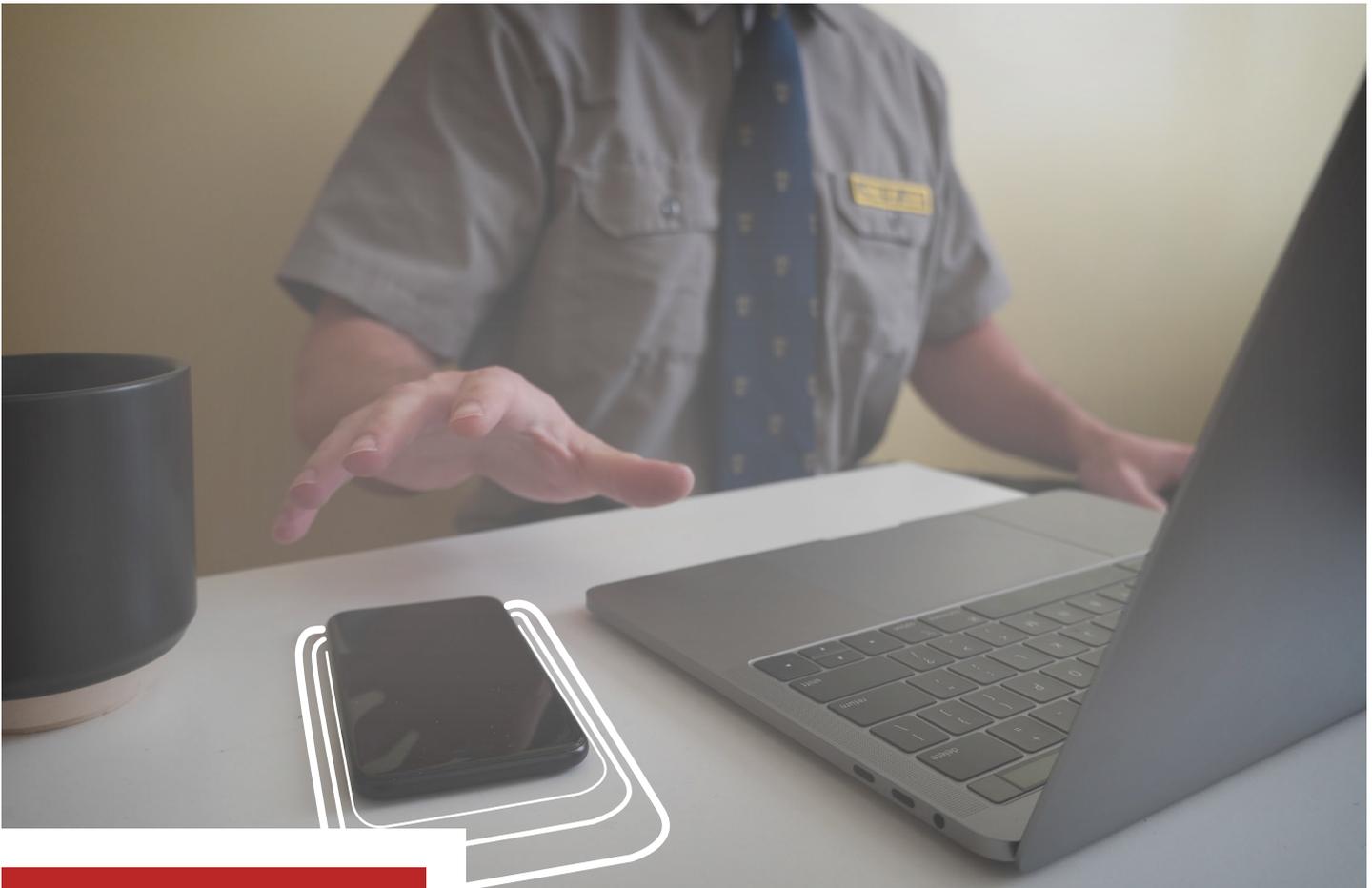
Buy select back issues of Cadet Quest magazine for a special price!



## Event Place Ribbons

To designate place awards at Cadet events such as Cadet-O-Rama, Cadet-O-Ree, and Snow Derby.





## Communication is Key

I have always preferred to meet with people in person. I really do not like to use drive-up windows at banks and at restaurants. But of course, COVID has changed things by taking away many of the in-person options.

Our Cadet ministry has had to deal with COVID limitations as well. Cadet trainings and events

such as conferences and the International Camporee have had to be cancelled. Committee meetings and Congress have had to meet via Zoom®. Often our own groups have had difficulty getting together. I miss the face-to-face contact.

So, in the midst of these constant adjustments, we need to be extra diligent in our communication with each other. Communication is key for us staying strong as an organization. In order to keep our club support going strong we need to communicate how things are going. A priority this year needs to be maintaining the clubs we already have in place. Your Congressmen and/or Independent Club representatives need to know how your club is doing.

Nowadays it is a pretty simple activity to send an email or make a 2-minute call with a person from your Cadet Council or with the Corps office. Not only will you be letting others know about your club, but your contact will give encouragement to those that receive it. These communications are vital for us to continue God's ministry and then move it forward.

Would you be willing to make that contact today or tomorrow? Whether you are a counselor or a head counselor, please make that contact.

In Christ,  
Chaplain Jim Hoekstra.

# Russ Writes



## Awards, Rewards, and Gifts

The Cadet season will be over sooner than you think, but there are still opportunities to promote Cadets. There are several ways you can do this within your club through awards and rewards. Small gifts or tokens of achievement can also go a long way to keeping up the enthusiasm for Cadets after the season is over.

Hopefully, you've already been able to award some merit badges to your cadets over the course of the year. While the badges themselves aren't necessarily the driving force behind completing them, they are visible indicators of work accomplished, and rightfully acknowledge the effort that a cadet has put into working toward the badge. It's hard to deny that a certain sense of satisfaction comes along with earning a merit badge. Remember that many badges and all the counselor help pages are now online (you must be registered and logged in to view/download): <https://counselors.calvinistcadets.org/resources/merit-badges/>

Some cadets and counselors go beyond what is expected of them, and it's important to recognize them and their efforts as well. Remember that there are "Star Awards" for Jr. Cadets, Cadets, Jr. Counselors, and Counselors. These awards are not intended to be goals or something to be worked toward, but rather as incentives to recipients that motivate them to fuller and more enthusiastic participation in Cadets while encouraging them to be an example to others. The guidelines for these awards can be downloaded from the online stores in the "Club Materials - Awards" sections. Be sure to keep an eye out for suitable candidates in your club. Should you award a star to a cadet, junior counselor, or counselor, please be sure to let the Corps Office know.

**U.S.:** <https://shopcadets.org/product-category/club-materials/awards/>

**Canada:** <https://shopcadets.ca/product-category/club-materials/awards/>



You may find other ways to reward cadets and counselors in your club and promote Cadets at the same time. There are plenty of products available from the Corps that make great gifts or prizes while proudly displaying a Cadets affiliation. Smaller items might be useful as gifts for everyone in your cadre or club to commemorate the end of the season and keep Cadets in mind over the summer.

**U.S.:** <https://shopcadets.org/product-category/gifts/>

**Canada:** <https://shopcadets.ca/product-category/gifts/>

You can also download Cadet clip art from the counselors website to customize an item you bought or made: <https://counselors.calvinistcadets.org/promote-cadets/clip-art/>

Take advantage of every opportunity to encourage a cadet or counselor. It doesn't need to be an official award or store-bought gift. Something as small as a handwritten note or a phone call can make a difference. The important thing is to maintain the connections.

We want to help you grow and strengthen your club. Do you have ideas or suggestions? Please let us know what else we can do to assist you!