

CLARION

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

Congress 2017

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The annual meetings had some old and some new this year. The location, the tables, the chairs, the excellent food, the friendly atmosphere, the conversation between friends, and the focus on the Cadet ministry were all familiar components of Congress. The schedule, the focus on visioning, and the presence of the incoming Executive Director were all new. Steve Bootsma, the new ED, is now living and working in the United States and was able to be present at Congress after not being able to cross the border at the same time last year.

Steve gave a motivational address on the future of Cadeting, which lent itself to further discussion by each of the committees and during Friday evening dinner. Each of the councils was challenged to go out and start at least one new club in the next three years.

Here is what came from Congress 2017.

- Being approved by Congress, certified counselors will now vote on changes to the CCC Constitution, including wording ensuring Cadets are boys and counselors are men, updating verbiage, and aligning the document with current best practices.
- Independent clubs may operate as Christian Cadet Clubs, still under the banner of the Calvinist Cadet Corps.
- Counselors may wear the first aid patch provided they have completed a recognized first aid training program. The Corps no longer limits the programs acceptable.

Congress 2017 also turned down some proposals.

- A mandate that Corps activities not begin or end on a Sunday.
- Following a report on a previously requested further study, a 2014 proposal regarding an R•P•B merit badge on the Seven C's of Salvation.

With John Barneveld and Tyce DeBoer completing their terms, Ben Ritsema (Kalamazoo Council) and Todd Mulder (Rush Creek Council) were elected to terms on the Executive Committee.



While only the congressmen got to vote on the issues, many councils were also represented by their presidents, with all present interacting, learning, making new friends, and experiencing the size of the Cadet ministry. Even if you are not in one of those two roles, visitors are always welcomed at Congress, you may wish to consider coming to Grand Rapids on January 11-13, 2018 to experience Congress for yourself.



RTC Conference Overview



The training coordinators of the various regions of Cadeting met January 12–14 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. If those dates sound familiar, it's because the RTCs met at the same time and place as the Cadet Congress. The two groups shared opening devotions, but each spent most of their time accomplishing their own agenda.

For the trainers, that meant dealing primarily with these issues:

- **RTC Job Description.** The men looked closely at what the job description says they should be doing. They compared that to which duties they are, in fact, actually performing. They had serious discussions about how they could best accomplish the things that ought to be done. The goal was to simplify duties and to do them.
- **DCE Training.** RTCs studied exactly what is being taught in each of the four sessions for the three phases — twelve training sessions in all. They were asked to evaluate the worth of everything that is taught, and to seek more effective ways to get the material across. As DCEs know, they have three separate aspects to their job. They are to be...
 - detectives, figuring out what their counselors need to be trained in,
 - developers, designing workshops that meet the needs of the men, and
 - deliverers, presenting those workshops in an effective manner.
- The RTCs confirmed their belief in the value of this type of program, and reworked the training. There will be less stress on workshop evaluation, though it will still be there. There will be more stress on the effective delivery of workshops, where the counselors will most notice it.
- **DCE Manual.** Changing the training meant adjusting the manual. In another effort to simplify, plans are to lower the number of tabbed sections from 15 to 12, and to organize them in a more sequential — and understandable — fashion.
- **Intra-regional Communication.** On Friday afternoon, the RTCs met with congressmen and presidents from their regions. They used that time to confirm exactly who is and who is not an active DCE in each council. Then they asked for “best practices,” and there was a good amount of feedback. They were focusing on what types of learning experiences take place outside of normal council meeting workshops. Responses included offering a trip to Home Depot for training, a series of Saturday morning (offering multiple time slots and multiple workshops in each one) father and son activities, and more. Finally, RTCs asked the men to keep in touch and to tell them what they can do to help the council boards.

Dick Broene
Training Coordinator

Executive Director's Report

Steve Bootsma
January 12, 2017

Yes, it really is me giving this report. After being introduced as the incoming Executive Director at Congress 2015, and then not being able to attend Congress 2016 at all, I now stand before you to give an update on what has been happening in the Corps office over the past 12 months.

First, I would be remiss if I did not publicly thank Dick Broene for his work over the years. In March 2014 it was announced that he was planning on retiring, and for the next 24 months he stepped up as necessary to keep Cadets moving forward. His patience and flexibility as I waited to be able to start, doing whatever needed to be done, was often behind the scenes, but should not go unnoticed. Thank you, Dick, for all that you have done for Cadets and for making it easier for me to move into the role.

It has been a busy year for me, as each task I approach is being done 'the first time'. I am continually asking "Why?" as I attempt to understand what gets done in the office and how the best way to handle it is. Some things are being changed; some things are being left as is. I've been doing a lot of digging in archives to see what needs to be done in a certain manner and what is done by tradition. If something changes and you don't understand the rationale for the change, or if you don't like the change, please note that it is not a personal attack. I am not changing things just to say that I've changed it, but change is being made in a continuous attempt to make improvement. If you would like to talk about things, I can regularly be found in the office, or spoken with over the phone, or can communicate via email. The door, literal or virtual, is almost always open.

I have visited a number of councils over the past year and have really enjoyed getting to meet with the counselors in these different locations. Hearing the stories and seeing the work being done in our organization is encouraging.

Staff

Over the year there have been some changes to our Corps staff. As you know, Kathy Door passed away suddenly last April. She had been a member of our staff for over 20 years. We know she is rejoicing with our Father in heaven, but we miss her, and all that she did for Cadets, in the office.

In August we welcomed Sarah Stuitje to the office. She's not the "new Kathy" in that the job description has been revamped. The position title for the desk in the corner has been changed from Executive Secretary to Office Manager / Assistant Designer. Sarah comes with a degree in graphic design and experience in retail management and she has been a wonderful addition to our staff.

Bob, Mary and Kim stepped up to the challenge this spring and summer. Putting in extra hours, taking on additional tasks and responsibilities, working outside of their comfort zones, all while dealing with a new boss, they managed to get everything done that needed doing. Publications were out on time, merchandise was ordered and sold, and the wheels didn't fall off the bus.

Camporees and Conventions

With no Camporee until this coming summer, and no council stepping forward to host a convention, 2016 marked the first year in a long time that there was not an international Corps event. We are working with a few different groups and hope to see conventions planned for 2018 and 2019 again. Camp Elk Run plans are coming together and we look forward to seeing all of you in South Dakota this summer. Camp 2020 doesn't have an official name yet, but we look forward to gathering in Northern Michigan at that time. Camps for 2023 and beyond are not set yet.

Mandates

Congress last year gave a number of mandates to be worked on.

1. Review the purpose of merit badges in the CCC. The Executive Committee will study a report, created by the ED, early in 2017.
2. Counselors must be certified in order to vote on Corps affairs. This was passed by Congress and subsequently received the approval of more than the two-thirds of active counselors required.
3. Seven C's of Salvation merit badge. The 2014 Congress sent this proposal back to the Executive Committee for further study. This will be reported on tomorrow afternoon.
4. Mushrooms and Fungi merit badge. This was completed and is now included in the recently released version of the *R•P•B Guidebook*.

5. Electricity merit badge. The updates were completed and are now included in the recently released version of the *R•P•B Guidebook*.
6. Snowshoeing merit badge. This was completed and is now included in the recently released version of the *R•P•B Guidebook*. This prompted some updates to the Snow Skiing badge as well.
7. Creation merit badge. This was completed and is now available on-line. It will appear in the Spring issue of the *Clarion*.

Training

As part of the changeover in the ED position, a review of the training needs of the Corps is going to be done. The review has not been completed. Currently Dick Broene is acting as the Training Coordinator.

I ask each of you, presidents and congressmen, to encourage the counselors of your council to participate in the training opportunities that they have: attending council meetings, going to regional training conferences, or being trained as a DCE to further work within your council.

As a Corps we recognize the value of having trained counselors. The Counselor Certification Course is now available on-line. A counselor, working on his own, on his computer, over several blocks of time, can complete the course. There is still benefit in having the course led by a DCE, with opportunity for group discussion, but this opens up the ability for independent clubs, and others who can't make local council meetings, to become certified as well.

Program, Publications and Promotions

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

Some of these publications have undergone style and/or content changes. More changes are yet to come.

Bible lesson materials are being updated to use the newest version of the NIV. We are updating the look and feel of some of our older materials.

A new form was created in regards to submitting Badge Proposals. This is used for suggested updates to existing badges as well as suggesting new badges. The forms were emailed in the spring and included in the fall issue of the *Clarion*.

There are some new items for sale, check out the store on your break to see some samples and order some gifts for your Cadets.

DYM

The CCC is one division of an entity named Dynamic Youth Ministries. DYM serves us, [GEMS](#) and [Youth Unlimited](#) with facility, mailing, printing, payroll and administrative services.

Youth Unlimited has undergone some staffing changes of their own this past year, but continue to focus on providing week-long mission experiences for middle and high school age students. They passionately strive to help youth leaders challenge youth to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and transform this world for Him.

GEMS has been without an Executive Director for most of the past year. We pray for our sister organization as they continue on. Their ED Search Committee is nearing a decision, and we look forward to being able to welcome their new leader shortly. [Editor Note: As of February, GEMS has hired a new Executive Director and she started February 15, 2017.]

Effective March 1, 2017 DYM will expand to four divisions. [The Esther School](#), started by GEMS as a ministry in Zambia, has continued to grow, so much so that they were beginning to overwhelm the GEMS administration. TES will be launched as its own entity, a fourth branch of DYM. This will have a minimal positive impact on the Cadet finances. It will increase the size of the DYM board.

The Ministry Team of DYM consists of the leaders of the four divisions. Effective March 1, I will be taking on the role as Ministry Team Lead for a two-year term. With the changes in leadership for Cadets and GEMS over the last several years, Jeff Kruithof, ED of YU, has been acting as the MT Lead for 5 years. I personally thank him for all that he has done in helping me adapt to my role, and for the work he has done with GEMS during their time without a director.

We continue to look for ways in which all of our divisions can work together. Investigation is being done into potentially sharing a theme for the 2018-19 program year.

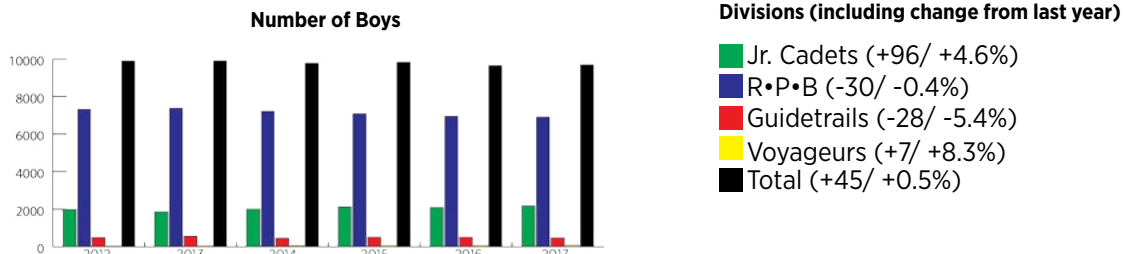
Statistics

Numbers can be used to show almost anything, and our ministry is not all about numbers. Yet we do like to see how things are going. These statistics do not include the clubs located in Kenya.

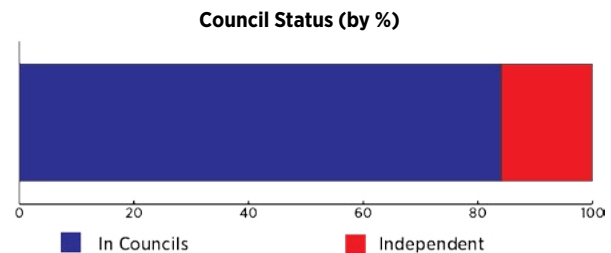
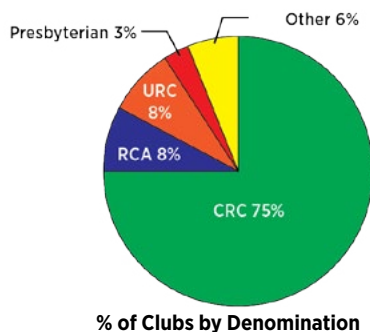
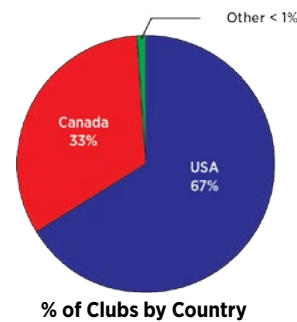
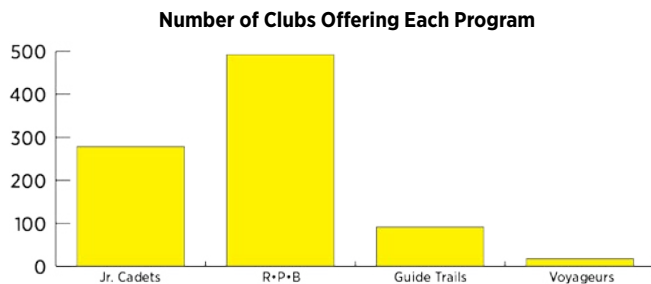
| Year | '12 | '13 | '14 | '15 | '16 | '17 |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of Clubs as of Jan 1 | 549 | 544 | 535 | 532 | 516 | 516 |

There are 6 brand new clubs since last year and 12 clubs that were inactive last year that are active again this year.

On the other side, there are 18 clubs that are not active this year that were still active last year.



1113 of these boys are listed as being unchurched, slightly lower than last year



Future

Our organization will not grow without people taking action. Action happens when people have goals and strive to achieve them. So I challenge each council represented here. Three years from now, when we gather for Congress 2020, each council should have grown by one club (not including bringing an Independent club into your council). That would be an increase of at least 43 clubs. Congressmen, you do not need to do this on your own, but bring the vision to your council. Everyone should be looking for opportunities where a church would be blessed by being part of our ministry.

Independent Clubs Report

Bert Bakhuyzen
January 13, 2017

Greetings from the Independent Cadet clubs in the United States, Canada, Uganda East Africa, and Transcarpathia, Ukraine. God has been good to us, and we thank Him for the blessings given to our Independent Clubs as well as to this organization.

Currently we have 84 Independent clubs, 57 in the United States, 24 Canadian clubs, one in Uganda, East Africa, and one in Transcarpathia, Ukraine.

We have gained 6 Independent clubs this year! Two new clubs were added — West Town Community in Georgia, and Bethany Reformed in Minnesota. Four clubs were re-activated, 2 in Michigan, one in Kansas, and one in Nova Scotia. Last year, we lost one club in Michigan, Fellowship Reformed Church, who went with Christian Service Brigade. We also lost Northland Home School club with Stone Junod, and we prayed for him as he decided between Cadets and Boy Scouts. However this past summer we gained a new club in its place — Northland Christian Church in Kansas, with Stone Junod as head counselor.

Again this year I communicated with the Independent clubs in various ways, with the Internet being the fastest and most efficient way. I wrote and Corps published three editions of the *Independent Update* — fall, winter, and spring — to keep counselors informed. I also sent out reminders to clubs which haven't sent in club registrations or offerings to the Corps office.

LaVonne and I sent out a Thanksgiving message to all our Canadian Independent Clubs on October 9th, and we sent another Thanksgiving message to our U.S. clubs on November 23th. We also sent a Christmas message "FROM OUR HOUSE TO YOURS" with a picture of LaVonne and I with our 4 grandchildren, taken just before Christmas Eve. It was great to receive messages from various parts of the world in return.

In 2016, the Corps office sent out 11 information packets to those who would be Independent clubs. I followed up with them by sending a letter or email.

I would like to thank the office staff, Steve, Mary, Kim, Bob, and Sarah for all they do to make my job easier, and make the *Independent Update* look so good.

Personally I thank God for His support, and for my health and strength. And to all of you, for your support and prayers given to all our Independent clubs. Thank you for the gift of a new computer I received last spring — I have to say it is faster. We ask that you continue to pray, and where possible, reach out to the Independent clubs near your area. Thank you to those who have included them in your functions.

I leave you with a thought called "Personal Mission." When working with your boys, find out what their dreams are. God placed them here for a reason. How can you be an encouragement to them and their dreams? Don't be boring! Create something new with them, to make their world a better place, for they are the future of our world.

I Peter 4:10-11 —Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in various forms. If any one speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and power for ever and ever. Amen

News

Important Dates

2017

| | |
|---------------|---|
| March 9-11 | Cadet exhibit at Ligonier Ministries Conference • Orlando, FL |
| April 9-11 | Evangelical Press Association Convention • Chicago, IL |
| May 20 | Grand Rapids Councils Golf Tournament • Wyoming, MI |
| June 3 | Michigan Fishing Tournament • Gun Lake, MI |
| July 12-19 | Camp Elk Run, International Camporee • South Dakota |
| August 3-5 | DYM Display at CRC Inspire Conference • Detroit, MI |
| August 19 | Ontario Golf Tournament • New Dundee, ON |
| August 26 | Sporting Clay Shoot • Zeeland, MI |
| October 16 | Calvinist Cadet Corps Turns 65 |
| October 19-21 | DCE Phase 3 • Grand Rapids, MI |
| October 26-28 | DCE Phase 1 • Grand Rapids, MI |
| November 4 | Michigan Regional Conference • Michigan |
| November 18 | Ontario Regional Conference • Ontario |



Director's Council Visits in 2017

Spring 2017

- Illiana
- Chicago West
- Heritage
- Musk-O-Tawa

Fall 2017

- Golden Plains
- Hawkeye
- Sioux Valley
- Three Rivers
- Algonquin
- Berean East
- Berean West
- Blue Mountain



Due Dates

| | |
|----------|--------------------------|
| April 1 | Camporee Registrations |
| April 1 | Presidential Nominations |
| April 15 | Gold Star Nominations |
| May 15 | Constitutional Vote |

REMINDER! Congress approved a number of changes to the CCC Constitution. These must now be approved by a vote among all active, certified counselors. See your congressman for more information (Independent clubs contact the office).

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Are We Engaged?


Sometimes it is tough getting the Cadets engaged in what we are doing. If only they could focus longer, the job would be much easier. But, remember, if they are interested they will be engaged. The engagement starts with each of us. How engaged are we in what we are teaching

them? Are we showing interest and enthusiasm? Are we showing how this is important for a boy their age? Sometimes we fall short of the goal. Sometimes, though, we know that we have the boys right where we want them. We can see it in their eyes and we hope that it is getting all the way to their hearts. Those times of engagement are the best times.

The book of Proverbs is known for its advice about wisdom. Proverbs 24:13-14 says, "Eat honey, my son, for it is good; honey from the comb is sweet to your taste. Know also that wisdom is sweet to your soul; if you find it, there is a future hope

for you, and your hope will not be cut off." The writer of Proverbs finds interest and engagement with the sweetness of honey. It would be easy to share the interest in honey with the Cadets. What is your "honey"? What do you wish to share with the Cadets? What is the wisdom (which is sweet for each person's soul) with which you wish to engage the boys? Show them your excitement, show them your interest, and show them the One who has blessed us with such a wonderful world to be a part of!

*By Jim Hoekstra,
Corps Chaplain*

Get  The Game this season!
Be a godly example for the boys...
showing them what it means to live for Jesus!

GOLF in the US

The Pines Golf Course in Wyoming, MI

Saturday, May 20 with 8:30 AM shotgun start

**All profits from this golf tournament go to help fund
the 2020 International Camporee.**

The cost is \$75(us) per person.

Includes a cart, breakfast, and lunch.

This is a four person scramble.

Register as a team or as an individual.

**Go to www.calvinistcadets.org/events for more
information about the tournament, sponsorship,
and registration.**

GOLF in Canada

Dundee Country Club in New Dundee, ON

Saturday, August 19 with 9:00 AM shotgun start

**All profits from this golf tournament go to help fund
Cadet counselor training.**

The cost is \$110(can) per person.

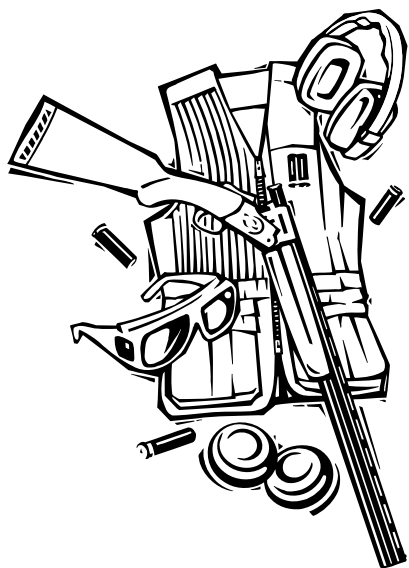
Includes a cart, dinner, and prizes

This is a four person scramble.

Register as a team or as an individual.

**Go to www.calvinistcadets.org/events for more
information about the tournament, sponsorship,
and registration.**





2017 Sporting Clay Shoot

Saturday, August 26 at 9:00 AM

Blendon Pines Gun Club in Zeeland, MI

All profits from this golf tournament go to help fund the 2020 International Camporee.

The cost is \$50(us) per person.

Includes lunch.

Sign up a team of four or five,
or register as an individual and be placed on a team.

Go to www.calvinistcadets.org/events for more
information about the tournament, sponsorship,
and registration.

2017 Fishing tournament

Saturday, June 3 at 8:00 AM

Yankee Springs State Park at Gun Lake, MI

All profits from this golf tournament go to help
the Calvinist Cadet Corps.

The cost is \$45(us) per person.

Includes lunch and prizes.

Go to www.calvinistcadets.org/events for more
information about the tournament, sponsorship,
and registration.



Image Transfer to Wood

Materials

Wood Board — since you will be using a copier print image, a piece of board that is about 8½ x 11 or larger works well.

Liquitex Gel Medium (craft store)

Mod Podge (craft store)

Laser print on paper

Cloth rag

Sponge brushes

Sand paper

Stain

Picture hanging hardware

You have to plan to do this project over a couple evenings, but without too much effort the results are something the boys can be really proud of.

In the week or two before you plan to do this project, have the boys bring a photo or digital file that they want to transfer to wood. Upper body portraits of individuals or a small group work best. You lose a little detail in the photos when you transfer them to the wood, so photos with a lot of small details — where people or things are just a small part of the photo don't create a strong image on the wood. You may want to take your own camera and take portrait shots of each boy in the cadre to use for the project, or, as part of the photography merit badge, have the boys take photos of each other or another subject that they are interested in.

Your next step is to take the photos and have laser copies made of them. This takes a little thought because, first, you want to have a copy that will fit on the block of wood that you plan to use, and second, when you transfer to wood you will be creating a mirror image of your laser copy, so you may want to use your computer to scan (if you don't have a digital file), resize, and mirror the photos. Most office supply stores can make laser copies of photos for a reasonable price.

You can use an ink-jet copy but ink-jet images do not transfer as well and the images will appear faded. It is recommended that you use laser copies — either B&W or color — for the strongest image. Also, make the copies on standard white copy paper (nothing heavy or fancy) because you will later be removing the paper with a wet rag as part of the process.



Brush on the gel medium



Lay gelled board on the laser print



Smooth out any air bubbles

Clear pine board, or a thin plywood with a clear, light, veneer works well for the wood base. At your first meeting have each boy cut and sand the edges of his wood board so it will look sharp when hanging on a wall. Once the wood is all prepped — sanded and clean — spread the gel medium over your surface where you want the image transferred. Be generous with the gel. The gel will tend to be absorbed into the wood in places, especially if using a softer, more porous wood. So look over the surface once the gel is applied to see if there are any dry spots. The gel does not dry very quick, so run your brush across it several times to make sure the wood is coated with an even, smooth coat. It's probably good to have the boys just sit and watch you do it first, so they get an idea of how to apply this gel. A good coat of gel is the most important part of making this project a success.

Once you are happy with the gel coating on your wood, lay your laser copy face up on a clean flat surface and place the wood block with the gel surface down on your print. Then flip your block over and smooth out any air bubbles or lumps of gel. Now it needs to dry for 24 hours — so set the project aside until next meeting.

The next step is to take a wet rag and rub gently over the paper surface. The paper will slowly begin to peel off leaving your image transferred on the board. There is no need to press down hard to get the paper to peel off. If you press too hard you may damage the image. The wet paper will tend to “pill” up and you can just brush it off your transfer.

Let your transfer dry for about 10 or 15 minutes and then apply a coat of Mod Podge for a clear protective coating.

For some finishing touches you may want to stain the sides and back of the wood block and place some hanging hardware on the back so it can be hung on the wall.



Rub off paper with a wet rag



Coat with Mod Podge



Finished project — Sarah, our new Office Manager and Designer

Cadet Savings Bank

There is always a need for financial resources to make some events and programs happen for the boys in your Cadet ministry. Inform the boys about the monetary needs of your club. Learning fiscal responsibility is part of growing up as well as social, physical, and spiritual maturing. Encourage the boys to play a part in making these events happen — and I don't mean by just asking their parents for money. A great way to remind them that they need to step up to the plate is to have a visual reminder.

Here is a simple Cadet bank that they can set on their dresser or shelf in their bedroom where they can put their loose change or a spare dollar or two.

Start with a glass jar and lid. You can use a mason/canning jar or you can find generic jars of several different styles at craft stores. Buy some bright colored spray paint, some adhesive labels (at most office supply stores), and download a sample Cadet logo from the Cadet web site (<http://counselors.calvinistcadets.org/submission-shelp/cadet-clip-art/>).

This jar was spray painted and let to dry overnight. A sticker was designed using the Cadet logo clip art and the boy's name was added. Using a drill and small tin snips a slot was cut in the lid. Put it all together and you have a great Cadet savings bank.



Painted jar and trimming label



Slot in lid



Completed bank

A View from the Top

By Steve Bootsma, Executive Director



The title of Executive Director can sound important, and it does look nice behind my name when I communicate on business networks, etc., but I really hope it doesn't define me, I really hope that my actions show that the title really translates into "servant for everyone in the Cadet ministry."

The title of this article can sound important too. It's misleading in the fact that, even according to our organizational structure, I'm not at the top; the Executive Committee and the president are considered my boss. But from my office I do get a view of all that goes on in the world of Cadets, and recently I've been able to look in at several examples that really define what Cadeting is all about.

1. Harry Jeninga (Huron & Erie Council) was able to celebrate 50 years as a counselor. Harry is thankful to God for the opportunities that he has been given to share the good news with many boys over the years. At least one of his Cadets has been a counselor for 30 years.

Pictured is Harry along with Ed Groot and Ray Minnema, two of his Cadets from years gone by, who are now counselors.



2. Immanuel CRC in Wyoming, MI (Grand Rapids Council) was one of the early Cadet clubs. The church is closing and this marks the first year that they did not have any boys for a Cadet club, yet that did not stop them from recently celebrating Cadet Sunday. Five men were recognized for the work that they have done over the years, not just with their local club, but also for their council and the Corps.

Counselors Doug Hulst (25 years), Ken Wenger (34), Paul Reidsma (43), Hank Mellema (46), and Lee Dobbs (40) combine for 188 years of faithfully serving in the Cadet ministry.



3. A recent Facebook post included a photo of a boy proudly wearing his Cadet shirt. The shirt gives Evan room to grow, and it still needs some patches and badges, but his smile says more than words could ever convey. The excitement of a boy about Cadets is what makes being a counselor worth all the time that we put in.

Evan's mother posted the following along with the photo. "Evan came home from Cadets tonight and could not be happier. He got his official Cadet shirt!! Now he wants to wear it to church. I'm thinking I can use this for some serious motivation. Hey Cadet leaders: do they have a bed-making and pick up your room badge"? (used with permission)





CREATION



The world that we live in is a very complex and diverse place. There are many different colors of plants, more types of bugs than we could ever count, and animals of all shapes and sizes. Snowflakes of all different shapes and stars so far away that we can hardly even see them, all intrigue us. It makes us wonder, where does all of this come from? Why is it here? How did it get here? The created world around us is one of the ways in which we know God. It reflects His beauty and majesty.

Everything was created, is still created, and will be sustained.

1. We like to know who made everything that we see.
 - a. In Genesis 1:1-2, who does it say created our world?

 - b. John 1:1-3 adds to our description of the creator. Who helped make all things?

2. New plants continue to grow from seeds, baby animals arrive, and children are born every day.
 - a. Read Psalm 139:13-16. When did God know all about you?

 - b. Read Acts 17:24-25 and Job 12:7-10. What allows you to continue to live and grow?

3. Besides what you can see, what else has God created and does He control? Use Colossians 1:15-16 and Daniel 2:21 to help.

DATE COMPLETED:

PASSED BY:

Everything was made with a plan.

1. First there was nothing, now there is everything. How does Hebrews 11:3 describe this happening?

2. Read Matthew 25:31-34. What does verse 34 say about God's planning for creation?

DATE COMPLETED:

PASSED BY:

Everything that was made was complete and good.

1. After God made everything He stepped back and looked at it all. How does Genesis 1:31 say He described the world?

2. God made everything for us. What do Romans 12:2 and 1 Timothy 4:4-5 say about what He provides?

DATE COMPLETED:

PASSED BY:

People have a special place in creation.

1. Some people think that people are just another animal. What does Genesis 1:26-27 say about this?

2. Read Ephesians 2:10. What special role has God given His people?

DATE COMPLETED: _____

PASSED BY: _____



1. Memorize the following Bible passages that have to do with the creation.

- a. Genesis 1:1-2
- b. Psalm 100:3
- c. John 1:1-3
- d. 1 Timothy 4:4
- e. Hebrews 11:3
- f. Revelation 4:11

DATE COMPLETED: _____

PASSED BY: _____

2. Do any two of the following projects.
 - a. God made everything with a plan. Make a poster that shows the days of creation described in Genesis 1 and what was created on each day.
 - b. God created many things that are no longer here on earth. Make a poster that shows three different animals that are now extinct. For each animal include:
 - What they looked like. Are there drawings or fossils that tell us?

- Where they lived
- When and why they became extinct

- c. God created many unique and different things. Just think of how many different colors of birds there are, or how many different types of stones exist.

Design your own flower and your own animal. Try to make them unique from anything you have ever seen. It may be difficult to come up with something different, but just think, God came up with everything from a sea horse to a kangaroo to a duck-billed platypus without ever seeing anything like them before.

- For the flower, describe where this plant would be found, if it needs lots of sun or shade, a little bit of water or plenty of rain.
- For the animal, describe where it would live and what would it eat. What features does it have that makes it suited for its environment?

| PROJECT LOG | | |
|-------------|-------|-----------|
| Project | Date | Passed by |
| #1 _____ | _____ | _____ |
| #2 _____ | _____ | _____ |

BADGE APPROVED BY: _____

BADGE COMPLETED ON: _____



Now that you have completed this badge, you may wish to continue on to the Ecology or the God's Temple badge.

Creation



PURPOSE

Through learning about creation, the boys will realize:

1. God made everything, He continues to make everything, and He will continue to sustain everything.
2. Creation was intentional, done with order, structure, and a plan.
3. Everything God created is good, it is our sin that mars this.
4. Man was specially created in God's image, and we have a special role.

LEARNING

The Belgic Confession (Article 2) states that:
We know God by two means:

First, by the creation, preservation, and government of the universe, since that universe is before our eyes like a beautiful book in which all creatures, great and small, are as letters to make us ponder the invisible things of God: God's eternal power and divinity, as the apostle Paul says in Romans 1:20. All these things are enough to convict humans and to leave them without excuse...

Everything was created, is still created, and will be sustained.

1. We like to know who made everything that we see.
 - a. Genesis 1:1–2 says God created the heavens and the earth. The Spirit is noted to be present at the very beginning.
 - b. John 1:1–3 adds that Jesus was there and helped the Father and the Spirit with the creation. Jesus is described as the Word. The Word was present at the very beginning and is defined as being God and being with God. The intimate relationship between Father and Son is shown, and the fact that Christ was a part of creating all things is emphasized.
2.
 - a. Psalm 139:13–16. God sees us even before we are born. He creates each individual and knows all about him or her while still in the womb. God knows everything that is going to happen, nothing happens that surprises God.
 - b. God continues to give us life, breath and everything else we need. If we did not have the continuing support of God we would be nothing. We are unable to exist without the ongoing will of our Father in heaven. God maintains not just our lives but also the life of every creature.
3. God has created everything, the stuff that is visible and the stuff that is invisible. God is in control of who is in power; He controls the activities of the world around us. God continues to maintain the seasons, the weather, the rivers and the stars.

Everything was made with a plan.

1. Hebrews 11:3 says this was done by God's command. He took nothing and turned it into everything. Creation was not something that occurred bit by bit, with things slowly becoming what they are today. Creation involved God taking nothing and forming it into the complex creatures, plants, rocks and planets that we now see.
2. At the time of creation God already had a plan for an eternal kingdom for us. God is not making things up as He goes. He has created this world and allows it to run according to His plans. He already knows how things end.

Everything that was made was complete and good.

1. God saw all that He had made, and it was very good.
2. As God created everything according to His plan, we can assume that it all matches His character and started off the way He wanted it to. God's will for our lives and for the entire creation is described as good, pleasing and perfect. One Timothy 4:4 confirms that everything God created is good and we are to be thankful for everything that He provides for us.

People have a special place in creation.

1. People did not evolve from some other form of life. God specifically created humans in His image. We were a planned creation, set here on earth to rule over the fish, birds, and other animals. Male and female were created, both in God's image, neither being more in God's likeness than the other.
2. God created us for a purpose. God's intention for us is to do the good works that He has planned for us. This is just further confirmation that we did not evolve into humans. We were created for a specific reason. God knows ahead of time what He has planned for each of us, what situations He will place us in, and how He expects us to relate to Him.

DOING

1. Self explanatory.
2. Do any two of the following projects.
 - a. This is a fairly straightforward option. If doing this as a cadre badge, each boy should make his own poster. Take a group picture and send it to info@calvinistcadets.org.
 - b. If this badge is being done as a cadre, you could take them to a museum to look at fossils of extinct animals. Most museums will relay the message that the earth is billions of years old, which may or may not contradict the message the boys get from home, school and church. If you go to a museum, send pictures and information about your trip to info@calvinistcadets.org. You may wish to have the boys look into animals that have become extinct more recently (e.g. dodo bird, passenger pigeon, golden toad, Pyrenean ibex) to realize that even now we are doing harm to the creation in a way that cannot be reversed.

- c. God created us with minds that can think and envision beauty. We are different than other parts of creation in that we too, in turn, can create. The boys will likely find it difficult to come up with something truly unique, their animal will likely have features of other animals that they have previously come across.

Now that your cadets have completed this badge, you may wish to encourage them to do the Ecology or God's Temple badges. These two badges develop the theme of being good stewards of the creation that God has provided for us. Ecology deals with being mindful of the world around us, while God's Temple focuses on how we must care for ourselves, as we are a special creation of God, made in His image.

Other suggestions

The church as a whole cannot agree on when creation occurred — was it created 10,000 years ago or is the universe 14 billion years old? Christians cannot agree on how to interpret the reading of Genesis 1 and 2 — were there six 24-hour periods in which everything was formed or are the passages poetic in nature advising us of the who and why of creation, but not the when and how?

The purpose of this badge is not to give the boys an answer to the scientific questions of creation. The badge is intended to help Cadets realize that our entire world is given to us as a creation gift from God.

If doing this badge as a cadre you may wish to stay away from Doing option 2 b), or they could work on this project individually at home. The boys can talk with their parents about how old the universe is and how long ago other species were present on the earth.

If the boys question you in regards to how old the earth is, you should mention that there are different answers to the question, depending on whom you ask. You can let them know what you believe is the correct answer, allowing for boys to have other answers based on what they learn at home and school. Make sure the boys realize that being a Christian does not depend on having the answer to such a question.

ADVENTURE! CAMP ELK RUN



Some things you should know

1. Even though we love having counselors from clubs all over North America at camp, we do not require that a counselor from a boy's club accompany him. *So counselors, don't count your boys out, if you cannot attend.*
2. We don't like to see a boy or counselor who really wants to be at camporee stay home because they can't come up with the registration fee. [The Cornel Rylaarsdam fund](#) was set up to prevent that from happening. Check out the camporee information on the Cadet website and it will provide you with the details on tapping into this resource.
3. There is an incredible line-up of programs and activities — geo-caching, archery, riflery, adventure games, scenic hike in the Black Hills, Mount Rushmore visit, glass etching craft, swimming at Sylvan Lake, free time to just hang out, inspirational entertainers, and so much more — all made possible by hundreds of dedicated counselors and their wives and families who have volunteered to make this possible.

Key Info

WHEN AND WHERE: July 12-19, 2017, Black Hills of South Dakota

AGE: If participating as a Cadet you must be 11 years old by December 31 of 2017 — other registration requirements (Counselor and Jr. Counselor) at calvinistcadets.org

REGISTRATION FORMS: Cadet and Junior Counselor forms are in the January and February *Cadet Quest* and online at calvinistcadets.org. Counselor forms are in the Winter *Clarion* and online.

FEE: \$349.00 in U.S. funds for camporee participants.

REGISTRATION DUE: April 1, 2017



2017 International Camporee