



Cadeting Today

A newsletter for friends and supporters of the Calvinist Cadet Corps



Pictured here: Phoenix United Reformed Church Campout
Pictured below: Cadets from Three Rivers Cadet Council play human foosball



Summer is for Camping

The Cadet ministry has always been associated with the outdoors. While Cadet clubs typically meet during the school year and take a break during the summer, that does not preclude men and boys getting together to build relationships and together learn what it means to live for Jesus.

Over 30 men and boys from Phoenix United Reformed Church, (Phoenix, Arizona) held their annual campout at Bear Canyon Lake. They were able to enjoy time together in the woods. It was a great time for the boys to use some of the skills they had learned in Cadets.

The Three Rivers Cadet Council (North Iowa) held a three-day campout this summer at Oak Grove State Park near Hawarden, Iowa. A total of 32 Cadets and Counselors from clubs in Sioux Center, Orange City and Hull, as well as Sheldon (from neighboring Golden Plains Council) attended. They enjoyed cooking over wood fires, playing human foosball, enjoying excellent devotions with council chaplain, Merle Wynia, and opening and closing exercises. They were treated to a Cadet themed escape room courtesy of the Sioux County Conservation Board, which chal-

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If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

Cadets and counselors of Three Rivers Cadet Council gather for their service project.



continued

lenged their skills of observation and deduction to figure out where their counselor had gone! This same escape room was opened to the public on the Saturday afternoon after they left, a tremendous opportunity to advertise Cadets in the community!

As often happens at Cadet gatherings, service work was included. The group cleaned up debris in the lower campground which had been severely dam-

aged in the recent record-setting floods. The picture above shows cadets and counselors lined up in front of a light pole bent over by the water, which reached 15 to 20 feet deep at this point. The ground they are standing on used to be nicely mown grass and is now covered with sand and gravel. If you look closely, you can see how high the water was from the debris still in the trees.

Cadet Quest Magazine Recognized as Best in Class

The *Cadet Quest*, formerly known as the *Crusader*, magazine has been published for over 65 years. The staff in the Cadet office continues to work at producing a high-quality product that the boys will find interesting and the counselors will find useful in helping meet the goals of the Cadet ministry.

The Quest is a member of the Evangelical Press Association (EPA), which gives us access to training and resources for the staff. Each year the EPA holds several contests for members to get feedback from experts and see how their work compares with their peers. This summer we took first place for Best in Class D (circulation base of 3,001 – 9,500). We appreciate the staff members who work on designing and editing the magazine, and congratulate them on this recognition.



Servant Leaders Now



Ryan Attema

The highest award a Cadet can earn is the Servant Leader Award. Since its inception in the year 2000 only 13 boys have earned it. This year, with our theme of “Lead the Way,” we are encouraging cadets to consider working towards the award, and we are highlighting some of the young men who have earned it in the past.

Ryan Attema of Hudsonville, MI, received the award in 2014. In the ten years since then he has earned a degree in cyber defense and works for the US Department of Agriculture as an IT Auditor. While he remembers some of the practical things he learned as a cadet, such as woodworking, metalworking, painting and car maintenance, what has really stuck with him are the discussions about responsibility, being a friend, and how the Lord’s hand is in our everyday lives.



Joel Bos

Joel Bos of Sheffield, Ontario, received his award in 2009. He is now the Head Counselor of his church’s club and works on the family hog farm. He remembers how, as a cadet, he learned how to tie his knots and lashings, fire building and flipping pancakes, but most importantly he learned that there are men who take leadership seriously, and set aside the time to teach young men what it means to be a Christian man.

Cadets Refreshing Their Community

We recently received the following report and pictures from Counselor Frank Z:

“Our cadet club #2717 has a drink booth at the Frankfort Fall Fest every Labor Day weekend. This was our ninth year serving people and providing them with drinks. The proceeds from this event go entirely into our separate Cadet International Camporee account. Cadets spend their 3-hour shift reaching into cold water in coolers to get the drinks customers purchase. Our cadets, counselors, jr. counselors, and cadet families work together serving people at the fest. Our cadets are leading the way. God is good!”



A cadet club in New Lenox, IL providing drinks at a fall event.

From the Director's Desk: Leading the Way

The theme for the 2024-2025 Cadet season is "Lead the Way," with a theme verse of 1 Timothy 4:12, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."

In my role I have had opportunity to speak and write about the theme a number of times. Sometimes, in the back of my mind, I still think that I fit into the young category. As time passes by, we often forget to see how it's not just others who get older each year, but we do as well. Recently I was speaking with a cadet and we saw someone coming up to the doors of the church hall with their hands full. I quickly got up and went over to open the door for them. Returning to the cadet, he commented, "that was pretty quick for an old guy." Ouch.

Age notwithstanding, we should all be taking this verse to heart. Whether a cadet, a counselor, or someone who knows anyone of cadet age, we are expected to be living a life of example. Our Cadet motto is "Living for Jesus" and if we are willing to wear the patch on our shirt, we need to be willing to wear the evidence in our lives.

Some of the life components in Paul's advice to Timothy are easier to display than others. I think we can all agree on how to be an example in our speech and our conduct. Being an example of love, faith and purity may take an extended period for people to see in us. Paul doesn't give a timeline though; he just tells Timothy to be an example. It's an always and forever thing.

So, as we go through the end of 2024 and on into 2025, whether we are young, young at heart, or wish we were still young, let's live as an example in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity. Together we can all Lead the Way.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Bootsma', written over a white background.

Steve Bootsma
Executive Director



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