

DCE

Connection

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE DEVELOPER OF COUNSELOR EDUCATION



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READ ALL ABOUT IT!

THE OTHER DAY SOMEONE ASKED ME about the *Junior Counselor Certification Course*. I said I didn't think there was one, but when I checked, I discovered there is. I realized that I needed to pick up a copy to make sure I knew what was in it. Then I wondered how many DCEs missed the junior counselor item like I had. How many have missed other materials that are now out? New badges for instance!

Did you check the "quartermaster update" e-mail Mary sent out recently? In it are two new R•P•B badges as well as four Guide Trails updates. It also lists a number of changes to other items. I thought about how the two new badges — Cadet History & Organization and Church Leadership (both R•P•B) would make good new workshops if they could fill a need in your council.

With that in mind I would like to recommend that you get out your Cadet Supply Catalog (the latest is 2011) and check out what is in it. Or go to the Cadet website:

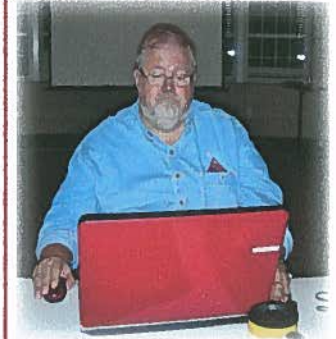
<http://www.calvinistcadets.org/supplycatindex1.php> as well as

<http://www.calvinistcadets.org/programupdates.php>

Make a list of the items you know nothing about or need to know more about. Then go to your DCE supply cupboard (if you don't have such a cupboard, then go to your council quartermaster), pick out a few items, and start a systematic study.

Recently, while preparing for DCE training, I came upon a PowerPoint slide that states that one of a DCE's responsibilities is to "Continue to learn more about the ministry of cadeting through a systematic study of Cadet program and materials." We need to be aware of and study all the material as we aim to meet the needs of counselors in our council with effective workshops. This is an ongoing task as Corps continues to provide new and revised material. Some of these are good items for new workshops.

It is important that DCEs know what's available. Then you will know where to look and what to use when you discover needs that have to be dealt with in your council education plan.



Photos from Phase 2 training in Byron Center, Michigan, October 2012

Top: Bernard at work between workshops

Center: Brandon Hulst (Thornapple Valley Council) and Scott Machiela (Grand Rapids Council) share a table and team lead a workshop.

Bottom: Jim VanderWeide and Dan Dennis (both Rush Creek Council) have their workshop critiqued.

Three Phases of DCE Training

- Phase 1 April 4–6, 2013
Flamborough, Ontario
- Phase 2 To be determined
Flamborough, Ontario
- Phase 3 October 3–5, 2013
Byron Center, Michigan

Conferences and Conventions

- North Central and South Central Regions
November 3, 2012
- East Central and Eastern Regions
November 10, 2012
- Southwest Region
March 1–2, 2013
- International Counselors' Convention
August 1–3, 2013

For more information and venues, please refer to the DCE Website at <http://www.teeninga.com/DCE/confinfo.html>

If you find something there that you know isn't correct or up to date, please contact Bernard Teeninga (contact info on front page).

Using a Flipchart Effectively

When to Use a Flipchart

Don't underestimate the value of using the right tools in the right way. Sometimes PowerPoint is the best way to present materials. Sometimes a DVD is the best. But there are still times when a simple old-fashioned flipchart is the best tool at your disposal.

Since DCEs know that one of the best ways to get participants to learn is to have them interact with information (remember Phase 1?), we often have them work with the information in small groups. To pull out the information groups come up with, it's best to publish it where everyone can see. And that's best done by writing it on a flipchart as the responses come in. With the size of the groups we work with in councils, the flipchart can usually be seen by all, so there are no drawbacks to using one.

Flipcharts are the best tool for round robin questioning too. In that method, you ask participants for their input, record it, and then keep going around the room, giving everyone a chance to contribute, or to pass if they have nothing to add.

Tips on Using a Flipchart

1. Use paper with lines or squares so that you can keep your writing going straight across the page, not downhill or uphill.
2. Use black markers for text and save the colors for accent, like underlines and bullets (see points 5 and 6 below). Choose the colors you use wisely, because each color suggests something to the reader.
3. Not a good speller? Freely admit it and ask for help with words if you need it.
4. Not a neat writer? Do people have a hard time reading what you write? Feel free to ask someone else to do the writing for you.
5. Put a title at the top of your page and underline it in color.
6. Use "bullets" for each point or contribution from a participant. It doesn't matter if the bullet is a round dot, an asterisk, a triangle, check mark, arrow, or something else. Don't use numbers, though. You just want to keep the comments clearly separate, not artificially prioritize them.
7. Try to stand off to the side while writing so that participants can see the flipchart as you write on it. And get out of the way after you've finished writing.
8. When you've finished a page, don't flip it over on the easel. Publish it by taping it to a wall or other surface where it can be clearly viewed by the participants.
9. Print in upper and lower case letters, not all capitals. It's easier to read from a distance.

For a deeper explanation of these and more tips on using flipcharts, check out your *DCE Manual*, section 11, pages 6–9. It's a great tool, and I think you will often find your participants rapidly writing down all the comments that others have contributed to the mix.



Left: DCE Steve Machiele (Ottagan Council) shows another use for flipcharts. Rather than recording input from participants, he is using one to record and slowly reveal points that his team of leaders had devised. In this case, it's used to describe the characteristics needed for a successful relationship between a man and a boy.