

DCE

Connection

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE DEVELOPER OF COUNSELOR EDUCATION



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TALK, TALK, TALK!

Lately I've been hearing more and more about the frustrations DCEs have in trying to meet the needs of counselors. I hear about how difficult it is to get input from counselors as to what these needs are and what to focus on in their education plans.

At the RTC Conference in January we discussed the difficulties RTCs encountered in discerning how best to support DCEs in their regions. We also considered how we could assist each other in providing support. After some discussion and reflection we arrived at the conclusion that it all came down to... *communication*.

We need to communicate more and be willing to express our needs and concerns. If we could find ways to communicate better among ourselves, if we could find ways to communicate better with our DCE team leaders and the DCEs in our regions; then we could discover how to provide the support needed.

As I prepared to write this article, I spent some time thinking about what I should focus on. I was having difficulty thinking of a topic that would be helpful and inspirational to the DCEs. I am embarrassed to admit that after a time of struggling with this I finally thought, "You know, I should talk to God about this!" So I bowed my head and humbly asked God for direction. After I was done praying I sat back and looked at the blank computer screen and thought again, "Ok what do I write about?" And then it came to me. I should write about praying — praying for God to help us carry out our calling. Then I realized I was again dealing with *communication*.

After searching online for Scripture passages dealing with prayer, I found one of my favorite passages — Philipians 4:6-7.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (NIV)

This passage has always guided me to bring my concerns to God. (Though I guess sometimes it takes a little longer than it should.) Another passage I came across was: 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. (NIV)

This passage reminds me that God not only called us to this part in His ministry, but He also helps us to carry out our tasks as RTCs and DCEs. It also means we need to pray for the RTCs and DCEs as well as the counselors in our councils that He will give us what we need to carry out that calling.

It all comes back to that word — *communication*. It really is a very important aspect of bring an RTC, a DCE, or a counselor.

We need to communicate with God.

We need to communicate with each other.

We need to communicate with those we serve in this ministry.

Important Training Opportunities

Three Phases of DCE Training

- | | |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Phase 1 | March 29–31, 2012
Byron Center, Michigan |
| Phase 2 | To be determined
Byron Center, Michigan |
| Phase 3 | September 27–29, 2012
Flamborough, Ontario |

Conferences and Conventions

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Eastern and East Central Summit | March 10, 2012 |
| International Counselors' Convention | July 12–14, 2012 |
| North Central and South Central Regions | November 3, 2012 |
| East Central and Eastern Regions | November 10, 2012 |

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

DCE Advanced Training

North and South Central Summit

On Saturday, March 3, 18 DCEs from the central area regions joined their two regional training coordinators and Bernard Teeninga for a day of learning. The first workshop dealt with the typical shortfall in attempting to assess the needs of the council. After lunch, the second workshop dealt with attracting men to council meetings.

The day was a blessing to many, but in learning and in fellowship. The summit ended with circles of prayer.



Joe Frederick (Grand Rapids Council, center) discusses needs assessment with (left to right) Tom Slendebroek (GR North), Steve Machiele (Ottagan), Steve Dykema (Heritage), and Joel Meekhoef (Grand Rapids).

From the DCE Toolbox

Basic Training

Imagine coming into DCE training and finding that designing workshops isn't going to be so much work after all. At least not the first year. Imagine discovering that someone has already found needs that are pretty common throughout the entire Cadet organization.

That shouldn't be too hard to imagine. Every council, and almost every club, is getting new counselors on a fairly regular basis. And those new counselors often haven't had any Cadet experience in their background. They're completely new to the subject. What they need is some basic training.

That's the name of one of the best tools in the DCE toolbox. *Basic Training* is described as "A series of workshops on some fundamental aspects of cadeting." It consists of six separate packaged workshops, complete with instructions for the presenter, scripts to follow (you don't even have to make up what you're going to say), handout sheets to copy, and overhead transparencies. Bernard Teeninga, our training coordinator, is currently working on transferring the transparencies into PowerPoint presentations, but in the meantime, you can use an overhead projector.

The six workshops are:

1. The Counselor's Planner
2. Getting the Most from the Cadet Profile
3. How to Lead an Effective Bible Discussion
4. How to Teach a Merit Badge You Don't Know Anything About
5. How to Use the Quest for More than Bible Topics
6. Disciplining Boys: Building the Goals of Cadeting

Your council can benefit from having these workshops. DCEs can benefit by having them available. To get your Basic Training manual, contact Kim Keller at kim@calvinistcadets.org or (616)241-5616 ext 4. If Kim's not here, Mary can help you. The cost of the entire package is \$100.00, US or Canadian.

