

DCE

Connection

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE DEVELOPER OF COUNSELOR EDUCATION



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THE CEVS: A GREAT TOOL

When I train DCEs, I often explain how they should use the supply catalog. It can show them what's available to get workshop participants into material. The learners will find out for themselves what they need to learn. I'm not sure how many DCEs do exactly that. I know that many who do often miss a very versatile item which can be used in various ways to help a workshop be effective. That item has 17 parts, each packed with information regarding different facets of the Cadet ministry. Not only that; it comes with notes and ideas on how to effectively use it in different training situations. Have you figured out what it is yet? Have you looked into a supply catalog to find it? Maybe you remember it now. If not ... it's the Counselor Education Video Series.

This series of videos is an excellent tool to use in a workshop or to build a workshop around. As stated earlier it comes with extras. Extras like a complete script to help figure out what areas should be focused on. It also comes with workshop ideas and even a list of questions which could be used to help workshop participants get a better understanding of what the video is trying to get across.

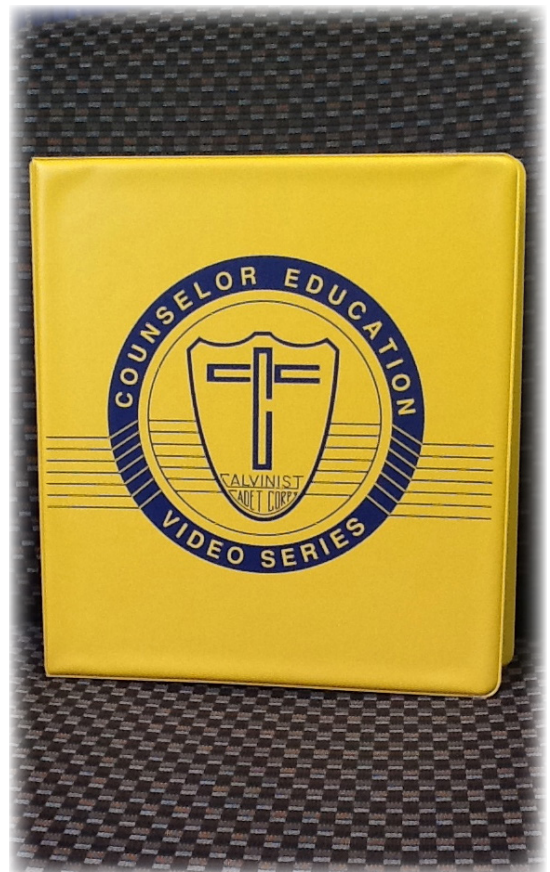
You may remember that during your DCE training I told you that you should never just *show* a video. You should *use* it. That's why the extras are so important. They will help you to use these videos as an important segment of a successful workshop.

I suggest that if you haven't seen this tool, haven't looked at what is in the attached binder, or haven't used it yet, you should seriously look it over and become familiar with its contents. If your council doesn't own a copy it should get one. When you are trying to put together another workshop, you can always think of its contents and ways you can use it.

Please note that the introduction page of the videos series reminds us that if we just show a video clip, your target audience ...

- ... will not remember what they saw.
- ... will not understand what they saw.
- ... will not act upon what they saw.

This tool helps you to guide workshop participants through the type of learning experiences which enable them to remember, to understand, and to develop an action plan. So don't forget to use it!



Important Training Opportunities

- Three^{Four!} 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
- Phase 4 March 21–23, 2013***
Byron Center, Michigan

Conferences and Conventions

Southwest Region March 1–2, 2013

International Counselors' Convention in
Grand Rapids, Michigan August 1–3, 2013

* **Phase 4? What's that?** It's something that Congress determined last January. We have been mandated to incorporate a mentoring / coaching track into the DCE program. The regional training coordinators will find out what it's like in January, when they get trained to coach during their annual conference. Then we will bring it to you as a Phase 4 option, starting in March. Watch for news and special e-mailings. And if you're interested, save the dates on your calendar and plan to attend.

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

From the DCE Toolbox

How To Know What to Teach A New Idea for Needs Assessment

As a DCE, there are three primary things you are supposed to do. First, you need to figure out what it is that your audience needs to learn. Second, you need to competently develop learning experiences to meet those needs. And third, you must proficiently deliver those learning experiences.

I guess it's no secret that men who graduate DCE training don't all become experts in all three areas. During DCE training, most of your work involves the second and third areas — developing and delivering workshops. We talk about assessing the learning needs of counselors, but we seem to fall short in that area.

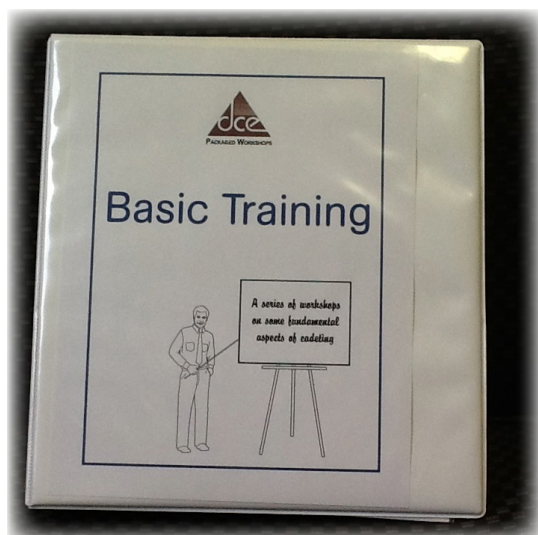
Well, this issue of *DCE Connection* wants to help make that task a little easier.

If you pull out your *DCE Manual*, dust it off, and open it at tab 6, you will be at the "Needs Assessment" section. There it lists five types of assessment: workshop evaluations, focus group interviews, observation, individual interviews, and records & reports. As you read this, I would like to draw your attention to the records and reports section and suggest a variation — a different way of doing it. Sort of a shortcut.

In checking records and reports, a DCE would usually have to visit a club and look at their paperwork — the Cadets' guidebooks, the Cadet Profiles, etc — to see if and how they're being used. The shortcut I'm suggesting is not as thorough as doing that, but it's simpler. And if it gets this type of assessment done, then it's worth it. Think about this: What if you as an individual DCE or DCE team were to spend an evening with your council quartermaster to find out what he knows about each club. He probably knows more about each club than he thinks he does. Think of the things you could learn, like ...

- Which clubs are using which programs? How many use Junior Cadets? Guide Trails?
- Which clubs are doing merit badge work and how much? Which badges are being used? Which clubs don't earn any badges at all?
- Which clubs wear uniforms (at least kerchiefs and slides) and which don't?
- Are clubs aware of the Counselor Aid Booklet series?
- Do they know about all the alternatives for Bible lessons?
- Do they use Cadet project books?

With this kind of information, you could begin to plan. For example, if you learn that clubs aren't using Guide Trails, your next step might be to learn why not. Do they not have any boys that age? That might suggest one type of workshop. If clubs do have the older boys, maybe they don't know about Guide Trails. Or maybe they just keep doing the R•P•B thing because that's what they're familiar with. Knowing the reason will help you design workshops. This will work for any materials and programs that you discover are not being used. Find out why not, and then attack the problem. Sometimes you can use a packaged workshop from *Basic Training* (e.g., How to Teach a Merit Badge You Don't Know Anything About), and sometimes you will have to design one yourself. But hey, isn't that what you've been trained for? Go to it!



Don't miss out on this resource, referenced in the DCE Toolbox article.