

What Makes an Effective Cadet Counselor?

Getting to the 'heart' of the matter.



Where are the men with a moral vision for their families, a zeal for the house of the Lord, a magnificent commitment to the advancement of the kingdom, an articulate dream for the mission of the church and a tenderhearted tenacity to make it real?“

(John Piper, Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, p. 53-54)

What Pulls you Away from Cadetting?

Let's list the various "things" that scream for your attention.

An effective Cadet counselor must have a vision for, and commitment to, the advancement of the Kingdom of Christ — *beyond his job and his family* —

- Jesus said, “*Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness*” (Matt. 6:33)
- “There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry: 'Mine!'“
- We need men today that are willing to commit themselves to the ministries of the local church — including a ministry like that of Cadets. To see it as a valuable Kingdom activity — an arm of the local church in fulfilling the “Great Commission” to “make disciples” of men — in this case, of “future men.” To give themselves to it (sacrificially) with diligence and prayer

What Makes you, You?

How do I (and my Cadets) learn?

What should I (and my Cadets) be learning?

An effective Cadet counselor must understand the nature of Christian character-formation, and the discipline and patience that are necessary to bring it about —

- Integral to the bulding of “future men” who love and serve the Savior is the formation of Christian character — the nurture and development of virtue — those “habits of heart and behavior” that, in turn, motivate and direct a lifetime of faithfulness and service to the King.
- The process by which we move from “new birth” to “maturity” is one of instruction and discipline. “Wisdom.”
- A Cadet counselor needs to make himself familiar of this process of spiritual formation, so that he can become an active participant in it in the lives of the cadets. Like an athletic coach he helps, disciplines (corrects), and encourages his boys along the road to maturity in Christ.

What is in that reflection?

We learn our native language by imitating the speech of others.
Scripture makes full use of this method of discipling others.

An effective Cadet counselor must have a robust spiritual life, and the confidence and love to “cast boys in his own image” —

- God has ordained that much of what we learn about “being human” is best learned by example. Our early learning is almost exclusively by following the example of others (parents, older siblings).
- You can’t give it away if you don’t have it. What is your life like? Confident in calling the cadets to follow your example? Are you willing to let them into your inner life in order to learn what you learned as a follower of Jesus through the ups & downs of your experience?

Don't tell me you quit

We must cry out with Paul, “Who is sufficient for these things?” (2 Cor. 2:16)

- 2 Cor. 3:4 Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. 5 Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, 6 who has made us competent...
- 2 Cor. 12:9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

How can you minister effectively to the Cadets which the LORD has brought to you?

- Be committed to the advancement of the Kingdom of God beyond what is expected
- Understand the nature of Christian-character formation and the discipline and patience required
- Have a robust spiritual life and the confidence to say, “follow me”!