

CADET COUNSELOR QUICKTIPS

A gold mine of basic tips for the Cadet counselor

2026-2027

This is the Cadet Counselor Quicktips pamphlet for the 2026-2027 Cadet season - a quick reference for counselors that contains a lot of tools to help your club be more effective. Use it to find information about Cadets in general and this year's theme in particular. It is the fastest way to find answers to your Cadet-related questions. These quicktips take a closer look at this year's theme and theme verse, along with related Bible verses, merit badges, and service project ideas. You will also find further helpful references, a sample club meeting and an overview of counselor duties and responsibilities.

Theme: Mountains Of Blessings

Verse: Psalm 125:2 - *As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people both now and forevermore.*

Logo:



MOUNTAINS OF BLESSINGS

This year's theme is "Mountains Of Blessings," based on Psalm 125:2. Throughout this year the boys will explore the mountains of God's creation and discover how His Word, His blessings and His presence surround them wherever they go. Through hands-on learning, outdoor adventure, and spiritual growth, they will be encouraged to recognize God's faithfulness, trust in His protection, and grow into young men who reflect His love and share His blessings with others.

Servant Leader Award

Encourage your cadets to work towards earning the servant leader award. A cadet must advance through all R•P•B and Guide Trail ranks and participate in leadership and service projects to be awarded the Servant Leader Award by the Cadet Corps. The Servant Leader patch and certificate are awarded directly from Corps to the boys who earn it. The guidelines include more information. Use the product numbers below to order online.

Guidelines: #3459

Log: #3456

Servant Leader Award Guidelines

Introduction

Jesus made it a point to teach his disciples that being a leader meant being a servant. To ensure that they understood, He washed a true servant's feet for them when, on His last night before being nailed to a cross, He tied a towel around His waist and washed their feet. It was a job usually reserved for the lowest servant of a household.

Cadets, it is about imitating Jesus, and we too look for servant leaders. It's not easy to be both a servant and a leader, especially in the degree that Christ requires. Still, we watch and pray for such people. And when we find one, we rejoice with the Lord that He has made a person faithful.

The Cadet Corps offers a small reward for such service. It's called the Servant Leader Award, and is more than just another patch for a shirt. Listed below are the requirements and the recognition.

Requirements

- A Cadet must advance through the ranks, completing all requirements for Recruit, Pathfinder, Builder, Guide, Right Star Guide, and Advanced Guide.
- He must participate in a leadership role in planning and implementing a council activity, such as a camporee, snow derby, field day, etc.
 - This is to be completed with Cadet council board approval, supervision, critique, and evaluation.
 - The Cadet must write a report (one page minimum) and evaluation of the activity, including what he learned and suggested improvements.
- He must participate in a Christian service project of at least five days. (Approved projects include Youth Conference, SENE, Indian for Humanity, YMAN, and similar projects.)
 - The service project must be approved by the council board.
 - The Cadet must submit a written report (three pages minimum) to the council board explaining what he did, what he learned, how the project had an impact on those served, and how the project had an impact on him spiritually.
 - The Cadet must participate in an interview with the council board explaining his participation.

Recognition

- When a Cadet has earned this award, his head counselor will:
 - write an article about the boy, depicting significant events of his leadership career, including his achievements and the service projects he has worked on;
 - take some good photographs of the Cadet - including posed pictures and shots of the boy in action;
 - send the article and the photos to the Cadet Corps for use in Cadet Scout magazine and in the boy's local newspaper;
 - alert the local Cadet council so that they can present the boy with an award at an appropriate assembly, such as a Cadet O-Rama or meeting during Cadet Week.
- The local Cadet council will issue the boy a certificate of recognition and a Servant Leader Award patch for his uniform. Both of these items are available for purchase from the Cadet Supply Center.
- The Cadet office will send a plaque of recognition to the boy, along with a personal copy of the Cadet Quest with his picture and article in it.

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SERVANT LEADER

Candidate's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Club Number: _____

Parents/Guardians: _____ Phone: _____

Church: _____

Head Counselor: _____

RANK ADVANCEMENTS

	Date Earned:	Counselor's Initials:
☐ Recruit		
☐ Pathfinder		
☐ Builder		
☐ Guide		
☐ Right Star Guide		
☐ Advanced Guide		

COUNCIL ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION

Activity: _____ Date of Council Critique: _____

Date of Activity: _____

Council Comments: _____

Signature of Council Officer: _____ Office: _____

This Cadet's leadership role performance and participation in the above mentioned council activity are of sufficient nature to complete this portion of the Servant Leader requirements.

Badges

Need some badge ideas to work on throughout the year? Have a cadet that needs extra badgework for home? Pick from this list of badges that we feel make a connection to our theme of “Mountains of Blessings”.

Mountain Adventure & Outdoors

- Climbing** — The most direct connection to mountains and overcoming challenges.
- Hiking** — Exploring God’s creation and experiencing the beauty of the mountains.
- Camping** — A natural setting for experiencing God’s provision and fellowship.
- Canoeing** — Exploring the wilderness and waterways surrounding mountain regions.
- Fishing** — A classic outdoor skill with strong biblical connections.
- Fire Building** — Survival, warmth, gathering, and fellowship around a campfire.
- Knots and Lashing** — Practical wilderness skills for outdoor adventures.
- Map Reading** — Navigating mountain terrain and finding the right path.
- Geocaching** — A modern treasure hunt that encourages exploration.
- Forestry** — Learning about the forests that surround and cover mountains.
- Ecology** — Understanding how God’s creation works together.

- Wildlife** — Discovering animals that inhabit mountain environments.
- Weather** — Learning how weather shapes and affects mountain landscapes.
- Rock Collecting** — Exploring the geology and unique rocks found in mountains.
- Snow Skiing** — A direct connection to snowy mountain environments.

God’s Creation & Wonder

- Creation** — Seeing mountains as evidence of God’s creative power and majesty.
- Astronomy** — Looking from the mountaintops toward the heavens and God’s vast creation.
- Bird Watching** — Observing the creatures God made in mountain ecosystems.
- Weeds and Wild Flowers** — Discovering the beauty and diversity of mountain plants.
- Photography** — Capturing and appreciating the beauty of God’s creation.

Spiritual Growth & Blessing

- Bible Exploration** — Discovering the many important mountains and mountain events in Scripture.
- Bible Study** — Exploring what Scripture teaches about God’s protection and blessings.
- Prayer** — Mountains throughout Scripture are often places of prayer and meeting with God.
- Devotions** — Connecting everyday life and outdoor experiences with God’s Word.
- Christian Life** — Living under God’s care and trusting that He surrounds His people.
- Witnessing** — Sharing the good news of God’s blessings with others.
- Giving** — Responding to God’s blessings by becoming a blessing to others.

Theme-Related Bible Verses:

Below is a list of theme-related Bible verses to use all year long. These are perfect to assist boys with Bible memorization badges and logs. Remind the boys to read through these verses and to make room for God’s word to speak to them as young leaders.

Mountains & God’s Presence	God’s Protection & Care	Blessings & God’s Goodness	Strength & Faith	Faith That Moves Mountains	God’s Guidance & Our Response
Psalms 125:2	Psalms 18:2	Numbers 6:24-26	Isaiah 40:31	Matthew 17:20	Psalms 32:8
Psalms 121:1-2	Psalms 46:1	Psalms 23:1	Philippians 4:13	Mark 11:23	Proverbs 3:5-6
Psalms 48:1	Psalms 91:1-2	Psalms 34:8	Joshua 1:9	Zechariah 4:7	Micah 6:8
Psalms 24:3-4	Proverbs 18:10	Psalms 84:11	Psalms 18:32		Psalms 121:8
Isaiah 2:3	Deuteronomy 33:27	James 1:17	Psalms 27:1		

Cadet Meeting Suggested Opening Exercises

Items 3-6 are led by the “Cadet in charge;” all others are typically led by the head counselor.

1. **“Cadets, attention!”** (boys snap to attention)
2. **“Cadet in charge, (boy’s name), please come forward and lead us in opening exercises.”**
3. Landmarks (this is the official order of recitation)
 - a. **Motto**
 - b. **Hymn** (option A)
 - c. **Verse**
 - d. **Code**
 - e. **Pledge**
 - f. **Hymn** (option B)
4. Counselors’ Landmark
“Counselors, state your mission.”
Helping boys to grow more Christlike in all areas of life.
5. Annual Theme and Verse
 - a. **2026/27 Theme:** Mountains Of Blessings
 - b. **Theme Verse:** Psalms 125:2: *As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people both now and forevermore.*
6. Pledge to the national flag
7. Opening prayer
8. Inspection (for proper attire and neatness)
9. **“At ease!”**
10. Announcements

Cadet Counselor Duties and Responsibilities

1. Understand the primary emphasis of Cadeting, which is to build a relationship between a Christian man and a boy. Always remember the goal of Cadeting is to help boys grow spiritually in all areas of life — devotional, mental, physical and social.
2. Be a committed Christian. Pray for the boys in your group.
3. Try to involve parents of non-churched boys in Cadet and church activities.
4. Attend all meetings. If you cannot make a meeting, give your head counselor plenty of time to plan for your absence.
5. Plan ahead — spend at least one hour preparing for each meeting, making sure the Bible lessons, craft activities and games are well planned and that all four aspects of the Cadet goal will be covered regularly in your meetings.
6. Study Cadet materials before the season begins, as well as attend counselor training sessions when they are held in your area.
7. Attend council meetings and regional workshops as often as they are held.
8. Plan two or three outside activities for your cadre during the season, such as:
 - attending a sports event
 - camping
 - hiking
 - a service project
 - a party at your home
9. Help organize club events — campouts, snow derbies, model-car derbies, etc.
10. Participate in club fund-raising projects if asked to do so.
11. Be responsible for the behavior of your cadre during the entire club meeting, as well as when you are together on special outings.
12. Attend the Counselors Corner after your meetings if your club has one, so that you stay connected with the needs of the other counselors and boys in your club.
13. Don't leave your boys unattended during meeting hours.
14. Don't be a spiritual stumbling block for your boys. Be a positive Christian influence.
15. Don't downgrade your club. If something in your club bothers you, work to make it better.
16. Be enthusiastic, it's contagious.
17. Remember ... you are the only example of a committed Christian man that some of your boys will ever see. Don't disappoint them ... or God.



Do you know about CadetZone?

It's a fun place online for boys to access badges and find extra *Cadet Quest* content like videos, extended articles, puzzles, puzzle solutions and jokes! Talk to your head counselor and make sure your boys have access to this great resource!

Emails:

Having your email on file with the Corps is important because we send out communication to all counselors including a link to our digital counselor newsletter. Be sure your email is up to date on your club's counselor list on file with Corps office.



*Register for the Counselor Website

1. Head to **counselors.calvinistcadets.org**
2. Click "Register to request a login"
3. Complete the form, then click "Register"
4. The office staff will review your registration and create a login for you

Where to find help

Brief description of all programs

- *Counselor Manual*, page A-5
- *Head Counselor Handbook*, page 4
- *Supply Catalog*, page 2
- Cadet website, "About Cadets" tab, "Programs"

Organizing your Club

- *Counselor Manual*, pages B-3 to B-4
- *R•P•B Guidebook*, pages 5–6

How to plan a regular Cadet meeting

- *Counselor Manual*, page B-6 to B-7
- *R•P•B Guidebook*, page 5

How to make a master plan for the entire season

- *Counselor Manual*, pages B-4 through B-6
- *Cadet Profile*
- *Head Counselor Handbook*, pages 14–16

Brief summary of the Cadet rank advancement program

- *Cadet Profile*
- Cadet guidebook for each program level

Ideas for a one-night or long-term cadre project

- *Cadet Quest* magazine
- *Metalworking* Counselor Aid Booklet
- various Guide Trail project booklets
- *Junior Cadet Counselor Manual*, section F
- Cadet Blog
- Cadet Counselor's website*

Ideas for games

- www.pinterest.com/calcadet/
- *Junior Cadet Counselor Manual*, section F

Patch placement on uniform shirts

- pamphlet *Your Cadet Uniform*
- Cadet guidebook for each program level
- Cadet Counselor's website*, "Resources" tab, "Uniform"

Information about specific badges

- *Counselor Manual*, Section F
- Cadet guidebook for each program level
- Cadet Counselor's website*

General information

- *Supply Catalog* — study and learn what's available; you'll be surprised what a great aid this is
- Cadet website
- Cadet Counselor's website*

Theme Materials

- *Supply Catalog*
- Cadet website — Find theme materials, resources, and even downloadable logos under "Events" then "Cadet Sunday"
- On the Cadet store under "Theme"

Still Need Help?

Call your council president, congressman,
independent club coordinator or quartermaster.

— or contact the Corps office —

Phone: 616-241-5616

E-mail: info@CalvinistCadets.org

Web: CalvinistCadets.org