



Published by the Calvinist Cadet Corps
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Writing for Youth Magazines
Write His Answer Conference, June 2026
Steve Bootsma, Editor, Cadet Quest magazine

1. Who am I?
2. Who are you?
3. A) Who are they?
- B) How do you know them?
4. What to include in your writing?
5. What to not include in your writing?
6. Submitting to periodicals.
 - A) Points to remember
 - B) Improve your odds



FIRST PLACE
2024

Cadet Quest

A blue ink signature of Lamar Keener.

Lamar Keener
Executive Director

A blue ink signature of Sandra Glahn.

Sandra Glahn
President



QUEST

CADET

Cadet Quest's purpose is to show how God is working in the lives of boys and in the world around them.

About Cadet Quest

Cadet Quest is a Christian-oriented magazine for boys ages 9–14. It is published by the Calvinist Cadet Corps — a ministry of over 500 boys' clubs throughout churches in the United States and Canada. The goal of the Cadet Corps is “helping boys to grow more Christlike in all areas of life.” *Cadet Quest* is one way we reach boys.

What We Are Looking For

Fiction (1000–1300 words)

Fast-moving, entertaining stories that appeal to a boy's sense of adventure or to his sense of humor are welcomed. Stories must present Christian life realistically and help boys relate Christian values to their own lives. Stories must have action without long dialogues. Favorite topics for boys include sports and athletes, humor, adventure, mystery, friends, etc. They should fit the theme of that issue of *Cadet Quest*. Stories with preachiness and/or clichés are not of interest to us.

Nonfiction Articles (up to 1500 words)

Articles about Christian athletes, coaching tips, and developing Christian character through sports are appreciated. Photos of these sports or athletes are also welcomed. Be original in presenting these topics to boys.

Articles about camping, nature, and survival should be practical — the “how-to” approach is best. God in nature articles, if done without being preachy, are appreciated.

Nonfiction articles do not have to fit the issue's theme (though it helps, of course), but do need to fit within the *Cadet Quest* goals.

Project/Hobby Articles

Articles with clear and accurate instructions for projects boys can do with easily accessible materials are especially appreciated. Our artists can illustrate these articles, but photos are also appreciated.

Cartoons and Puzzles

Wholesome and boy-oriented, of course. Unique and/or theme puzzles or games appreciated — simple logic, cross-words, and hidden pictures are favorites.

Illustrations

Illustrations are done on a contracted basis to fit stories and articles. Send sample work for consideration. Photos should be at least 5x7, but snapshots are acceptable if sharp and clear. Action shots are preferred.

About Cadet Quest Readers

Generally speaking, *Cadet Quest* boys are active, inquisitive, and imaginative. They imitate their heroes and they love adventure. They are sociable and form groups easily.

Many of them make decisions for Jesus Christ that will affect them the rest of their lives. Because our goal is to help boys see how God is working in and around them, every article and story for every issue is chosen for a specific purpose or reason. It must be wholesome, Christian, and age-appropriate.

Although *Cadet Quest* is the official publication of the Cadet Corps, it is designed to appeal to every pre-adolescent boy.



Submissions

Please do not send queries before submitting a manuscript.

Mail: Send complete manuscript, typed, double-spaced, one-sided copy on white paper. Include your name, desired byline, and address on the first page. Also indicate what publishing rights are offered and approximate number of words. On succeeding pages, include page number and your name.

Submit cartoons as camera-ready art.

Puzzle submissions must include answers.

Include an SASE with correct postage if you would like your materials returned. Any material without a SASE will be recycled.

Online: Submit stories or articles (text) online at submissions@calvinistcadets.org. Submissions must be included in the body of the e-mail, not as an attachment. We will not open any material sent as attachments.

Method of Selection

Themes for the new editorial season (September—May) are released in December. Request a copy and include a SASE or download from our website. Recently published authors will receive email notification.

Manuscripts submitted to *Cadet Quest* are held until the issue is developed and selected no later than four months before publication date.

After selecting material, we notify authors whose material will be published. If your manuscript does not fit our needs, it is returned in a SASE within one week of our decision or recycled. Email submissions will be notified via email.

Rights

We purchase all rights, first rights, and second rights. We have no qualms about purchasing rights to articles/stories that have been printed elsewhere, providing the audiences do not overlap.

Themes/Guidelines/Sample

Both the editorial theme list and author guidelines are available on our website, or send a #10 envelope with sufficient postage. For a free sample *Cadet Quest*, simply write and ask, including a 9x12 SASE (\$1.47 US postage, \$1.80 Cdn postage). Requests sent without the required SASE will be recycled.

Editing

The *Cadet Quest* staff reserves the right to edit any accepted manuscript or cartoon. Editing is done with a conscious effort to retain the author's style and intent.

Basis for Rejection of Material

1. Inappropriate. Does not show boys how God is working in their lives or world.
2. Not age/gender appropriate for 9-14 year old boys.
3. Simplistic, unrealistic, too predictable or preachy, or theological perspective too different from our own.
4. Does not fit themes.
5. Too similar to material already published/submitted.
6. Editorial needs already filled.
7. Very limited need for poetry.
8. Poor writing. Poor opening, transitions, grammar. Lacks excitement or adventure that appeals to readers.

Payment

Payment is made upon final acceptance of the material, varying according to the rights purchased and amount of editing needed. Current rates:

Manuscripts 8¢ per word and up (first rights with no major editing)

Illustrations Rates vary

Puzzles Rates vary

Photos \$5 for each photo used with an article

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Steve Bootsma, editor

Sarah Stuitje, art director

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Cadet Quest Theme List • 2026–2027

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September/October 2026 • **Mountains of Blessing**

This issue introduces the season's annual theme for the Cadet Corps. It is based on Psalm 125:2, "As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people both now and forevermore."

The theme will have been used for our International Campout during the summer, and now is the basis for the new Cadet season. The boys never need to look far to see how they have been blessed. From the world around them, to the physical items they use every day, from looking forward to careers and to looking back to God's faithfulness over generations, blessings are all around.

November 2026 • **Careers**

While often viewed as a necessary evil, work is a gift from God. At creation, man was given the task of taking care of the world. As boys look forward to a job or career, how can this be viewed as a blessing? What are some of the aspects of work the cadets should consider when thinking of a future career?

December 2026 • **Finances**

Money is a blessing. That does not mean the richer you are the more God loves you. Each of the cadets needs to be good stewards of the money they have, and the money they will earn. Investing, spending, donating – how does a boy decide what to do?

January 2027 • **Bodies**

The bodies we have been created with are incredible. Each one of us is fearfully and wonderfully made. While not always working the way they were intended, the fact we can do so many things is a blessing. If our body is a gift from God, how are we to take care of this present? This month we will look at some of the intricacies of our body, and how we are to treat our bodies as God's temples.

February 2027 • **Creation**

God's amazing creation is filled with blessings for us. From the smallest of the small, to the largest of the large, God has blessed us with a world to amaze us, to entertain us, and to intrigue us. Plants that keep us healthy and animals that would love to eat us, are all part of a world we have been tasked with overseeing and tending to.

March 2027 • **Easter**

There isn't a larger blessing we have been given than the Son of God coming to die in our place. While the Easter story is over 2,000 years old it is as relevant now as it ever has been. How can the boys see, through the chocolate and bunnies, what a true blessing Easter is?

April/May 2027 • **Families**

Natural, adoptive, or foster, each Cadet has a family in which they grow and develop. The fact that God created this structure to nurture and support us is a true blessing. We will take this month to help remind the boys that, even though they may think their parents are so mean to not give them their latest desire and that their sister has the cooties, they should give thanks for their family.

Themes for each new season (Sept – May) are chosen around the end of the calendar year. Details are made available (online or by sending in an SASE) at that time. Manuscripts will be selected starting in May 2026. Fiction and non-fiction selections will be made at least three months prior to publication date.

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