

Cadets is a ministry for 2nd-5th grade boys that has been at Madison for over 20 years. While Cadets is the name given to an elementary boys program provided by the Christian Reformed Church, Madison Cadets' program doesn't follow this curriculum. (Although we do still follow the tradition of making and racing pinewood derby cars each year.) Madison's Cadets program is set up with an opening time of sports and hanging out that we like to call "chaos time". After that the boys are divided by grade into groups to do 3 different rotations- sports, woodshop, and Bible study.

While the boys love playing dodgeball and making amazing crafts in the woodshop like candle holders and stilts, the focus of the program is discipleship. The sports and shop time allow the boys and leaders to bond and build relationships through these activities. There are also many teachable moments that come up to talk about how Christ calls us to live. Then in the Bible study rotation, the boys and leaders study God's word together, share highs and lows from their week, and memorize scripture.

Cadets also has some great special events each year that allow for even deeper discipleship. Mom's night each February, where the Cadets invite their moms and serve them dessert, is always a great way for leaders to model showing respect and gratitude to the woman in their life. The Cadets fall and Spring overnight Campouts are another great activity for the boys to form deep relationships and for the Cadet leaders to also disciple one another as they cook, look after the boys, and sit around the campfire together!

This year, because of Covid, Cadets hasn't been able to meet as we normally would but Pastor Kristi is providing Bible study over zoom on Wednesday nights and the Cadet leaders are offering once a month outdoor gatherings!

The next Outdoor gathering is Oct. 17.

If your elementary aged son is interested or if you are a man looking for more opportunities to be discipled and to make disciples, contact Pastor Kristi to find out more.

Finally, we'd like to give a huge shout out to all of our current and past Cadet leaders! We have had amazing leaders, some of whom served for many, many years! Our Cadet leaders have built amazing relationships with young men from our church and neighborhood and are an amazing example of living out our calling to make disciples!