

# DID YOU KNOW?


AN INFORMATION SHEET FOR ST. JOHN AMBULANCE MEMBERS



## CADET PROFICIENCY PROGRAM

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 **DID YOU KNOW** that in 1946, Norah Smith of the Victoria Cadet Nursing Division No 61 became the first Cadet in Canada to earn the Grand Prior's Badge? At that time, Canadian Cadets used the Proficiency Program developed by Grand Priory. In 1969, a new Proficiency Program was developed in Canada to meet the needs of our own young people. This program was most recently revamped in 1997.

The Cadet Proficiency Program is an integral part of the total St. John Ambulance youth program. It is designed to encourage Cadets and Crusaders to deepen and broaden their interest, talents and skills in many different areas, and to develop individual competence and confidence. Certificates, badges and the *Grand Prior's Badge* give recognition to St. John youth who have committed time and effort to meet the required standards.

What is the *Grand Prior's Badge*? It is the highest of all the Cadet awards, and is awarded by the Order in the name of the Grand Prior. Since it requires a substantial commitment and lots of hard work, it is held in high esteem and is often presented to Cadets by their Lieutenant-Governor.



Proficiency Subjects are grouped into 7 categories. Twelve separate proficiencies, with at least one from each category must be successfully completed to earn the Grand Prior's Badge. This helps encourage young people to try new things, outside of their personal areas of expertise. Cadets are restricted to completing only four subjects per year, to allow a thorough job for each one. Categories include knowledge of the Order, hobbies, outdoor activities, sports and physical fitness, health and safety, community service, and communications.

When a Cadet completes their first proficiency subject, they are awarded the Proficiency Badge and a certificate. With each additional subject earned, the Cadet receives a certificate and a small numeral, indicating the number of subjects completed, to affix to their Proficiency Badge.

Different approaches can be taken to undertaking proficiency subjects:

1. group sessions can be organized by the Cadet Division, using skills of people from their community (eg. fire safety, road and home safety, knowledge and care of animals, radio communications, casualty simulation);
2. individual study by the candidate can be supervised by the Divisional Superintendent, and instructed and assessed by an expert from the community (eg. astronomy, crafts, music appreciation, voluntary service);
3. membership in an on-going club, team, school program, group or organization (eg. collector, music performance, camping, individual or teams sports).

The Proficiency Program is an ideal way to enlist support from resource people in your community. They can act as instructors and evaluators in specific subject areas. You may be surprised by the interest of community experts in assisting with this program. In fact you may find in these people new recruits for youth leader positions.