



*Your youth group may
benefit from*

The Pardee Youth Fund

What is the Pardee Youth Fund?

The Pardee Youth Fund is a trust fund administered by the First Congregational Church of Madison, but kept separate from all of other Church funds. The proceeds of this Fund are used to support programs and organizations dedicated to the benefit of the youth of Madison.

How is the money used?

In general, gifts from the Fund are directed for the purchase of equipment and supplies to be used by the youth groups and organizations in Madison. Gifts are not normally made to support ongoing program costs, although seed money is sometimes provided to help youth programs get started or expand. It is also stipulated that, where gifts are used to purchase equipment, this equipment be made available to other Madison Youth entities who wish its use.

How did the Fund start?

In 1926, Wilbur W. Pardee conveyed two parcels of land to the

Church (one in Madison and one in Killingworth) The original letter conveying this land to the Church states, in part, “the inducement which impels me to make this gift is the specific one of increasing the happiness and usefulness, and improving the physical character of the boys and girls of the Town of Madison,” and further goes on to say, “I have great faith in the efficacy of out-of-door sports and recreation to build sturdy and healthy bodies and clean and sound moral characters to inhabit them.” In this letter, Mr. Pardee suggested that these parcels be used by the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America and that was how the land was used for the next forty years.

In 1966, the Madison Parcel became involved in a boundary dispute and it appeared likely that the Church would be involved in a costly legal dispute and could possibly lose over half of the property. This dispute dragged on for several years before a third party offered to buy both disputed properties. This proposal was eventually accepted and the Church sold the property in 1974 for the price of \$82,300.

In his wisdom, Wilbur Pardee had anticipated this possibility. His letter included the following instructions: “In the course of time it may seem wise to sell these tracts, or to use the income from the funds to contribute to the support of the other Boy and Girl movements. I request however, that the funds be kept separate from other Church funds.”

Since a study indicated that the needs for camping areas were being well met other facilities, the Congregation approved, that the funds from the sale be used to establish the Pardee Youth Fund.

Who decides how the Fund income is spent?

The Congregation stipulated that the income from the Fund be managed by the Pardee Youth Fund Committee. This committee is currently comprised of three members of the Church elected to three year terms as well as a youth representative, the Senior and Associate Pastors and the Chair of the Children and Youth Commission.

Who has benefitted from the Fund?

Recent recipients of gifts from the Pardee Youth Fund include the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America, Madison Youth Services, Madison Youth Basketball, “Nite-In-Hand”, Odyssey of the Mind and the Madison Arts Barn.

How do you make a request of the Fund?

Applications can be requested from the Pardee Youth Fund Committee, c/o The First Congregational Church, 26 Meetinghouse Lane, Madison, CT 06443 or online at www.fccmadison.org. Requests can be made at any time but are normally reviewed by the committee at the beginning of January, March, May, and September. Recommendations of the Committee must be reviewed and approved by Church Council prior to the funds being released by the Trust Fund and Investments Committee.



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C/o The First Congregational Church
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Madison, Ct 06443
203-245-2739

Email: mainoffice@fccmadison.org

