

A PUBLICATION FOR COMMISSIONERS AND PROFESSIONALS

THE COMMISSIONER



www.scouting.org/commissioners

“The role of the unit commissioner is to help every unit be successful. Unit success is defined by the unit achieving Centennial Quality Unit status and demonstrating an improvement in the retention of its members.”

First-Quarter Reports Set Upbeat Tone for Our 100th Anniversary as Commissioners

By Scott Sorrels, National Commissioner Service Chairman

The 100th Anniversary Celebration is well under way, and our commissioner corps is at the center of many events around the United States. We have much to celebrate.



A total of 23,208 unit commissioners were registered at the end of March 2010, an increase of about 10 percent over March 2009—this number compares very favorably to our historical reports as our commissioner corps numbers build month after month. On the council/district committee front, we have 29,120 volunteers serving youth across

America, up about 5 percent from that same time last year. These numbers, along with the national three units to one unit commissioner ratio of 4.7, sets the tone for a strong anniversary year.



Our regional and area commissioner structure is now entering its second full year of operation. The value of having this support structure available to our councils is evident every month. We hear repeated success stories about the difference that our commissioner leadership at the regional, area, council, and district

levels, working with their professional counterparts, is making in councils across America. The Commissioner Service Task Force will continue to work to provide stronger program support and improved communications methodology, all in an effort to better serve our councils.

We are continually seeking best methods and practices that we can feature in future issues of this newsletter and for possible implementation in the field. We are working on a new unit retention

Sorrels continued on Page 2

National Commissioner Minute



My Fellow Commissioners,

This is truly an exciting time in the history of the Boy Scouts of America and commissioner service. We both are celebrating our 100th anniversary in 2010!

To continue this glorious celebration for our 100th Anniversary of Commissioner Service in the BSA, we are offering the full centennial commissioner patch frame collection for purchase by commissioners. The retail price is approximately \$199, and it can be ordered from the National Distribution Center by your local council Scout shop.

The national jamboree is truly going to be a spectacular showcase of Scouting like never seen before! We hope all commissioners can attend in some capacity to celebrate with us. See you at Fort A.P. Hill!

At the Philmont Training Center (June 13–20, 2010), we will be introducing the first-ever *Council Commissioner Manual*, developed by Bob Coons, who served as the Milwaukee County Council commissioner for five years. We are also offering two new training courses: The Council Commissioner and Conducting a College of Commissioner Science. A special PTC College of Commissioner Science will be offered to all commissioner course attendees on Friday. All of our commissioner courses will be taught by some outstanding commissioners on faculty, who have been hard at work developing new and exciting materials. Early registration is strong. You can register online. We hope you can attend.

We thank you for being understanding as we worked with the Unit Visit Tracking System during Phase 1. Councils across America helped us identify issues and various opportunities for improvement. We have moved into Phase 2—Enhancements, which are being introduced

Perez continued on Page 2

Sorrels continued from Page 1

program that is designed to help the commissioner corps take ownership of new-unit retention, and we are modeling the program on similar successful programs that have been used in local councils. Doctorate theses, such as the excellent *100 Years of Commissioner Service* feature originally prepared by Randy Worcester of the Middle Tennessee Council and featured in our last newsletter, are particularly welcome. We are also interested in stories about how the commissioner corps is playing significant roles in the celebration of our 100th Anniversary.

We hope you are proudly wearing the centennial commissioner patch that is available for your position at your local Scout shop and from the National Distribution Center. Tico Perez, our national commissioner, received special permission from the National Council to produce the first and only centennial commissioner patch. It has been a huge success. **Only registered commissioners may purchase the centennial patch for their position.**

We continue to work on and enhance the Unit Visit Tracking System. A special task force of volunteers and national office professionals is working to be responsive to your feedback. Thank you for your thoughts and support. A special toll-free help line dedicated to UVTS is now available to our commissioners and is listed in this issue. We continue to refine the system to improve its ease of use and effectiveness. Unit visits are what really matters and where we need to keep our emphasis.

Thanks for all you do for Scouting.

Perez continued from Page 1

at the National Annual Meeting in May. You will be pleased with these new enhancements, and we ask that you continue to use UVTS as a tool to add unit visits. Phase 3 will move us toward full implementation of UVTS in every council in America as we pursue our goal to encourage more unit visits and for the commissioner corps to take ownership of the issue of unit retention.

Thank you all for what you do as volunteers. You truly are the heartbeat and pulse of the BSA.

Happy 100th Anniversary!

God bless you all.



Tico A. Perez



New Manual

The new *Council Commissioner Manual* will be introduced at the Philmont Training Center on June 13–20, 2010, for the new Council Commissioner course. It will be available online on the Commissioner Web site and for hard-copy purchase through the Supply Group from your local council Scout shop this fall.



New Centennial Commissioner Patch Framed Set

To continue the celebration for our 100th Anniversary of Commissioner Service in the BSA, we are offering the full centennial commissioner patch frame collection for purchase by commissioners. The retail price is approximately \$199, and it can be ordered from the National Distribution Center by your local council Scout shop.

Two New Regional Commissioners

Northeast Region



Peter P. Casey

Peter P. Casey **Weston, Massachusetts**

A Distinguished Eagle Scout, Peter Casey has served as a Cubmaster, assistant Scoutmaster, and council, area, regional, and national Scouter. He has also held the positions of Knox Trail Council president, New England Area 1 committee member and president, Northeast Regional Board member, National Advisory Council member of the National Executive Board, and National Eagle Scout Association Executive Board member.

A Scout or Scouter for 45 years, Peter has served the Knox Trail Council in Framingham, Massachusetts, as an advisory board member since its inception. He was also an executive board member, vice president of finance, and president of the Norumbega Council. He is also a member of the Nominating Committee and a number of strategic planning groups.

A Wood Badge course director with service on 12 courses and a Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow, Peter has been honored with the District Award of Merit and the Silver Beaver, Silver Antelope, and Silver Buffalo awards. Since 1997, Peter has been a member of either the executive or advisory board of the National Catholic Committee, and, in 1998, he became a member of the National Boy Scout Program Committee.

Peter is president and CEO of Casey Properties Inc., a privately owned company that does business as Prudential Wilmot Whitney Real Estate and Venture Management Associates. He has served as an officer and/or director of a number of companies, trade associations, and civic and charitable organizations.

Peter holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from St. John's University and a Certificate in Corporate Financial Management from Harvard Business School. He has been listed in *Who's Who in Finance and Industry* and *Who's Who in America*. Peter and his wife, Barbara, have two sons, both of whom were Scouts.

Western Region



Jan T. Perkins

Jan T. Perkins **Fresno, California**

Current National Executive Board member Jan Perkins has been a Scoutmaster, Varsity Coach, and Cubmaster, and has served on various committees through his Scouting career. He has been awarded the OA Vigil Honor as well as the Silver Beaver, Silver Antelope, and Silver Buffalo awards. He's also the father of three Eagle Scouts.

At the national level, Jan was a member of the Advancement Committee from 1989 to 2003, and was chair from 1994 to 2003. He was a member and chair of the Training Committee from 2004 to 2008, and the Boy Scout Committee from 1994 to 2008. Jan served as chair for 2001 and 2005 National Scout Jamboree action centers and was on the 2007 World Scout Jamboree contingency staff.

His district and council positions include unit commissioner, district commissioner, district chair, board member (1976–present), executive committee member (1978–present), and council president (1978–1982). His regional positions include Wood Badge (course director), area vice president (1994–1996), Area 3 president (2004–2009), and regional executive committee (2004–present).

Jan is the president/attorney of the law firm Perkins, Mann & Everett, APC, in Fresno, California. He and his wife, Peggy, have six children (three sons are Eagle Scouts), and 11 grandchildren. He speaks Japanese.

He is active in church and community organizations including Padrinos, Guild in Support of Valley Children's Hospital, Fresno Rotary, and the Mayor's Committee for Downtown Development. His church assignments include stake mission president, stake high council, and bishop.

We thank Hab Butler of the Northeast Region and Michael Rooney of the Western Region for their years of service to the commissioner corps.

The Plan for UVTS—The Steps to Full Implementation

A UVTS Steering Committee, consisting of volunteer, professional, and technical staff, has been formed to analyze, improve, and promote the adoption of the Unit Visit Tracking System. The steering committee is focused on a number of points, all of which are designed to improve the user experience and promote adoption of UVTS as the primary means of tracking unit visits.

1 COMPLETE ENHANCEMENTS

The BSA National Information Systems staff is in the process of implementing two much requested major and four minor enhancements to the UVTS that will be unveiled at the National Annual Meeting in Dallas. These changes will help with the ease of use, the speed of the system, and opening the system up for more use by administrative commissioners as well as improving the ability to export data and write reports. The plan of the UVTS Steering Committee is to declare a one-year moratorium on additional changes to the system to allow us to focus on training and implementation of the enhanced system.

2 LEADERSHIP

We ask for the support of our council Key 3's so each council will voluntarily adopt and implement UVTS. Your national commissioner and support staff, as well as the regional commissioners and area commissioners, are asked to urge each council in their coverage area to fully utilize UVTS.

3 TRAINING

The online training video currently posted on UVTS should be more fully utilized by commissioners. The steering group is discussing further support materials, such as DVDs and written materials, to help commissioners understand the intricacies of UVTS more fully. Each council or district could assist by providing training. Particularly helpful has been the use of live "hands on" computer demonstrations to help commissioners actually get

a demonstration of the system. Council Scout executives are also asked to make sure their council registrars understand UVTS and their role in providing appropriate input before the commissioners may access the system.

A new national UVTS hot line has been established at the national office to support commissioners. This confidential, dedicated help line will be available for use solely by commissioners to help them with their UVTS concerns, questions, and other UVTS technical support needs. This line will not be published for other volunteers. The number is 972-672-4389. Service Desk team members will be monitoring the phone Monday through Friday from 8 A.M. to 10 P.M. and Saturday from 10 A.M. to 10 P.M.

4 MARKETING

The UVTS Steering Committee is in the process of discussing the development of UVTS marketing materials about its use and benefits to commissioners and councils. The plan is to widely distribute these materials in many different types of Scouting literature.

5 MOVE TOWARD 100 PERCENT COUNCIL USE OF UVTS

With the coming implementation of various enhancements and improvements, we believe it is important to move toward the required use of UVTS, preferably by the National Annual Meeting in 2011.

Conclusion

Successful execution of the UVTS implementation plan will ensure that Scouting has a functional national management information system for commissioners that will help them in serving and assisting units, and that we are able to accurately track that which matters most—visits by our commissioner corps.

| Unit Visit Tracking Systems Statistics | 3/23/2009 | 5/15/2009 | 7/21/2009 | 9/10/2009 | 10/10/2009 | 12/14/2009 | 4/12/2010 |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <i>Councils with unit visit reports entered</i> | 122 | 148 | 164 | 177 | 188 | 224 | 237 |
| <i>Total visit reports entered by unit commissioners</i> | 2,596 | 5,757 | 7,981 | 9,669 | 11,710 | 16,273 | 24,436 |
| <i>Distinct number of units with unit visit reports</i> | 1,264 | 2,389 | 2,901 | 3,332 | 3,806 | 4,760 | 6,049 |
| <i>Distinct number of commissioners with reports</i> | Not available | Not available | 1,404 | 1,614 | 1,834 | 2,198 | 2,677 |

Promoting *Boys' Life* at the Roundtable

Boys' Life

The 60 seconds that you devote at each roundtable to promote the good reading and good Scouting of *Boys' Life* may mean another full year's membership for that one Scout who may need it the most.

Boys' Life Promotion Features

Recognize all units that have recently achieved 100 percent *Boys' Life* Unit status.

Advise leaders and parents that they can sign up any non-subscribing Scout. A quick call to the council's registrar with the boys' names and a credit card number make the process quick and easy.

Now, everyone knows it's the best. *Boys' Life* magazine was awarded the 2007–2008 Association of Educational Publishers "Periodical of the Year" award for grades six through eight.

Every issue of *Boys' Life* references monthly Cub Scout program themes and a selected Boy Scout program feature. To better appreciate the strong relationship of articles in *Boys' Life* to Scouting themes, call everyone's attention to the *Boys' Life* preview page in each issue of *Scouting* magazine.

Use Think & Grin to bring humor to the roundtable program.

Inspire participants with stories of boy heroes from Scouts in Action. Encourage leaders to be aware of boys they serve who may qualify for a BSA lifesaving or meritorious action award.

Boys' Life helps boys develop better reading skills through its three demographic (age-specific) editions. Edition 1 goes to Tiger Cubs and to all Cub Scouts through age 8. Edition 2 goes to 9- and 10-year-old Scout subscribers and adults in the Cub Scout program who subscribe. Edition 3 goes to all Boy Scout-age subscribers.

When at least one *Boys' Life* subscription goes into the home of every youth member, all family members of the unit have the opportunity to benefit from the good reading and good Scouting of *Boys' Life*. Note, too, that *Boys' Life* makes a great gift for boys who are not Scouts. Your gift of *Boys' Life* may encourage a non-Scout to make the decision to join Scouting.

Boys' Life helps expand a boy's horizons and helps him better understand that he is a member of the "family of Scouting" throughout the BSA and the world.

The Roundtable Annual Plan

The *Boy Scout Roundtable Planning Guide* is designed to support the monthly themes offered in *Scouting* and *Boys' Life* magazines. It is important that these themes be merged with district and council programs and calendars. Involve the district commissioner and professional staff member in developing the annual planning conference.

The annual planning conference gives you a chance to

- Review roundtables from last year.
- Use feedback from troop leaders for ideas and suggestions related to roundtable programs.
- Ask unit commissioners for general needs identified by their commissioners' work sheet.
- Review national Quality Unit objectives for program emphasis ideas.
- Review the *Boy Scout Roundtable Planning Guide*.
- Study the council/district calendar of activities and special events such as summer camp, camporees, Scouting shows, and other activities that help strengthen and support troop programs.
- Establish a meeting location for every roundtable during the year.

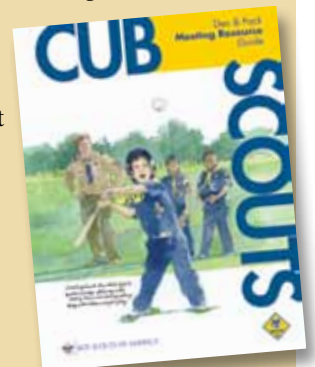
New! Cub Scouts Delivery Method

The most recent information on the changes to the Cub Scout delivery method (Cub Scouts 2010) can be found at www.scouting.org/cubscouts2010.aspx.

Additionally, the changes primarily affect four leader publications and three trainings. They are:

- *Den & Pack Meeting Resource Guide* (new meeting-by-meeting plans focused on handbook activities that lead to advancement)
- *Cub Scout Leader Book* (major rewrite to eliminate duplication and reflect the new delivery method)
- *Webelos Leader Guide* (minor rewrite to reflect the new delivery method)
- *2010–2011 Roundtable Planning Guide* (rewritten to focus on Cub Scouts' Core Values as monthly themes)
- *Fast Start Training for Den Leaders and Cubmasters* (minor rewrite to reflect new delivery method and major reorganization to eliminate duplication by rank for den leaders)
- *Leader Position-Specific Training* (in-person presentation method) (minor rewrite to reflect new delivery method and major reorganization to eliminate duplication by rank for den leaders)

All of these leader materials are expected to be available in Scout shops.



Newly Requested UVTS Enhancements Introduced at National Meeting!



Unit Visit Tracking System

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA.
Unit Visit Tracking

Home Visits Focus Help

Unit Visit Tracking Enhancements:

- Commissioners will be able to add new unit visit reports to any unit within the council or district organizational structure of registration.
- Administrative Commissioners will be able to add administrative comments to visit reports entered by commissioners within their organizational structure.
- Commissioners will be able to view all comments entered for any visit report within their organizational structure.

Boy Scouts of America - Unit Visit Tracking System



Unit Visit Tracking System

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA.
Unit Visit Tracking

Home Visits Focus Help

Unit Visit Tracking Enhancements:

- Visits will display additional unit data including expiration date, charter date, renewal status, and unit tenure.
- Visits will have new filter search by commissioner name and new sort order by expiration date, charter date, renewal status, and unit tenure.
- The Export File report will be expanded with additional data fields including the administrative comments and the PDF report will be revised.

Boy Scouts of America - Unit Visit Tracking System

Need Assistance With Commissioner Issues?

If you have questions or need help with commissioner or program issues, do you know where to go for help? With the reorganization at the National Council, it is difficult to know where to go for help with program or commissioner inquiries. So while this is not a complete list, it is a start for some of the most frequently asked questions.

For assistance with the new Cub Scout program, including roundtables, contact Don Shepard, Youth Development Team leader, at donald.shepard@scouting.org or call 972-580-2547.

Need to know what's next after the **Centennial Quality Award program** completes this year? For assistance with the new Quality Unit program for 2011, contact Stan Willey, Mission Impact Department, at stan.willey@scouting.org or call 972-580-2381.

For assistance with the **Unit Visit Tracking System**, contact the UVTS Hotline phone number at **972-672-4389**. BSA National Service Desk Team members will be monitoring the phone. The hours of service are Monday through Friday from 8 A.M. to 10 P.M. and Saturday from 10 A.M. to 10 P.M.

To submit ideas or suggestions or best practices in **recruiting or retention**, contact Ellie Morrison at esmorrison@sbcglobal.net. This is for recruiting and retention of commissioner staff as well as unit recruiting and retention.

For questions on **commissioner training, the Philmont Training Center, and Web-based Commissioner Fast Start**, contact Bob Coons at bcoons@curative.org.

To report errors or to make recommendations on **commissioner manuals or the Commissioner Web site**, contact Tim Acree at tim.acree@comcast.net. And Tim also has resources to help with your Commissioner College presentations.

WHAT MAKES A TRAINED LEADER?

Adult leaders are considered trained and eligible to wear the official *Trained* emblem recognition once they have completed the basic training requirements outlined below



BASIC TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR ADULTS

CUB SCOUT

- Fast Start (OLC)
- Youth Protection* (OLC)
- Leader Specific (by position)
- This Is Scouting (OLC)

BOY SCOUT/VARSITY SCOUT

- Fast Start (OLC)
- Youth Protection* (OLC)
- Leader Specific (by position)
- This Is Scouting (OLC)
- Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills

VENTURING/SEA SCOUT

- Fast Start (OLC)
- Youth Protection* (OLC)
- Leader Specific (by position)
- This Is Scouting (OLC)
- Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills**

SUPPLEMENTAL AND ADVANCED TRAINING FOR ADULTS

CUB SCOUT

- B.A.L.O.O.*
- Cub Casts (OLC)
- Hazardous Weather* (OLC)
- Health and Safety Training*
- Outdoor Leader Skills for Webelos Leaders
- Philmont Leadership Challenge
- Philmont Training Center (various courses)
- Powder Horn
- Pow Wows/University of Scouting
- Roundtables
- Safe Swim Defense*
- Safety Afloat*
- ScoutParents Unit Coordinator (OLC)
- Supplemental Training Modules
- The Trainer's EDGE
- Wood Badge

BOY SCOUT/VARSITY SCOUT

- Hazardous Weather* (OLC)
- Health and Safety Training*
- Philmont Leadership Challenge
- Philmont Training Center (various courses)
- Powder Horn
- Roundtables
- Safe Swim Defense*
- Safety Afloat*
- ScoutParents Unit Coordinator (OLC)
- Supplemental Training Modules
- The Trainer's EDGE
- Troop Committee Challenge (OLC)
- Wood Badge

VENTURING/SEA SCOUT

- Hazardous Weather* (OLC)
- Health and Safety Training*
- Philmont Leadership Challenge
- Philmont Training Center (various courses)
- Powder Horn
- Program Forums
- Roundtables
- Safe Swim Defense*
- Safety Afloat*
- ScoutParents Unit Coordinator (OLC)
- Seabadge
- Seabadge Underway
- Supplemental Training Modules
- The Trainer's EDGE
- Wood Badge

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

CUB SCOUT

- It Happened to Me

BOY SCOUT/VARSITY SCOUT

- Troop Leadership Training
- National Youth Leadership Training—NYLT
- Kodiak
- National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience—NAYLE
- Powder Horn
- The Trainer's EDGE
- Mentoring Tomorrow's Leaders
- Den Chief Training (OLC)
- A Time to Tell

VENTURING/SEA SCOUT

- Crew Leadership Training
- Crew Officer Orientation (OLC)
- National Youth Leadership Training—NYLT
- Kodiak
- National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience—NAYLE
- Wood Badge (18 + years of age)
- Powder Horn
- The Trainer's EDGE
- Mentoring Tomorrow's Leaders
- Youth Protection (OLC)
- SEAL (For Sea Scouts only)

Need Help?

Contact the National Council – Boy Scouts of America
Program Impact – Volunteer Development Team

| | | |
|----------------|--|--------------|
| Joe Glasscock | joe.glasscock@scouting.org | 972-580-2211 |
| Ron Timmons | ronald.timmons@scouting.org | 972-580-2459 |
| Sara Lacobee | sara.lacobee@scouting.org | 972-580-2588 |
| Chris Smith | christopher.smith@scouting.org | 972-580-2417 |
| Judy Maldonado | judy.maldonado@scouting.org | 972-580-2449 |

(OLC) Online Learning Center at www.scouting.org/Training

* Required for a Tour Permit

** Crews with Outdoor Programs only





Basic Training Certificate, No. 34774



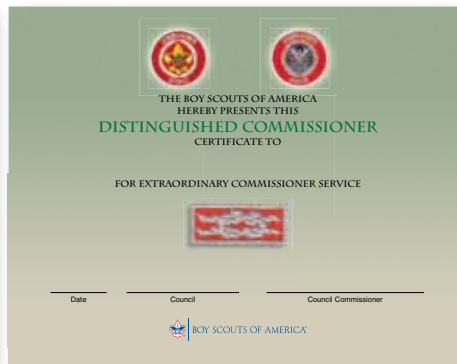
Commissioning Certificate, No. 34773



Arrowhead Honor, No. 34772



Commissioner Key, No. 34771



Distinguished Commissioner, No. 34769



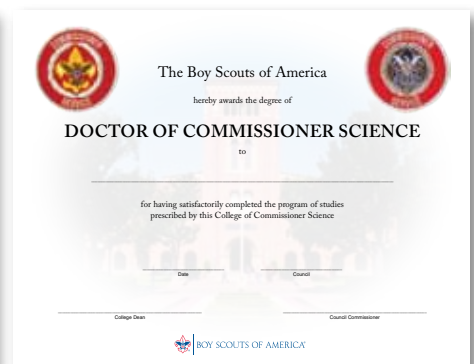
Doctorate in Commissioner Science, No. 34770



Bachelor's Degree, No. 34780



Master's Degree, No. 34779



Doctorate Degree, No. 34778

New Commissioner Recognition Certificates!

The new commissioner certificates are available now and can be ordered through your local council Scout shop or directly from the National Distribution Center. They include:

- Basic Training Certificate, No. 34774
- Commissioning Certificate, No. 34773
- Arrowhead Honor, No. 34772
- Commissioner Key, No. 34771
- Distinguished Commissioner, No. 34769
- Doctorate in Commissioner Science, No. 34770

In addition, three new college certificates will be released this fall for:

- Bachelor's Degree, No. 34780
- Master's Degree, No. 34779
- Doctorate Degree, No. 34778

ONLINE COMMISSIONER TRAINING

Wow—check this out! Type in the link below to watch Fast Start Training for Cub Scout Roundtable Commissioner and Staff.
www.scouting.org/scoutsource/boyscouts/trainingmodules/roundtable.aspx

Summer 2010 Philmont Training Center Courses Offered in Support of Quality Commissioner Service

Register at www.myscouting.org under Event Registration in the Events tab.
For more information, to www.philmonttrainingcenter.org,
e-mail us at trainingcenter@philmontscoutranch.org, or call us at 575-376-2281.

NEW! How to Conduct a College of Commissioner Science

This is a special course for future council “deans” of Colleges of Commissioner Science. The first three days of the course will be spent with new material on how to develop, market, and present the training needed for your council commissioners at a College of Commissioner Science. On the final class day, course participants will actually run a College of Commissioner Science at the Philmont Training Center for participants from other commissioner courses. They will be able to work on their bachelor’s, master’s, or doctorate degrees in Commissioner Science. **June 13–19**

NEW! Council Commissioners

This course covers the roles and responsibilities of council commissioners and assistant council commissioners. It will be taught by capable instructors and the National Commissioner Service support team, which has been developing materials and publications over the past years for council commissioners. Be among the first to be formally trained as council commissioners or assistant council commissioners. Current council commissioners will be given priority registration. **June 13–19**

Effective Leadership of Commissioner Service

A conference for experienced commissioners seeking more insights to help units deliver a quality program to youth. Learn more about the College of Commissioner Science program, advanced strategies for quality unit service, implementation of a strong commissioner’s program in your district or council, strategic planning objectives, and other topics. **June 13–19**

The Unit Commissioner—Supporting Unit Needs

For unit commissioners prepared to set a positive example in quality service to chartered organizations and Scouting units. Features effective monthly unit visits, unit self-assessment and action planning, coaching skills, charter renewal, annual service plan, commissioner priorities, unit problem-solving, leader development, the National Centennial Quality Unit Award program, and commissioner lifesaving techniques. **June 13–19**

Cub Scout and Boy Scout Roundtables and Venturing Forums

When you think you know all you need to know to conduct high-quality Cub Scout and Boy Scout roundtables and Venturing forums, it is time to attend this conference. The program is built around a forum of experienced roundtable commissioners who address roundtable ideas and lead discussions about problem-solving techniques. **July 18–24**

Council Key 3

A great team-building experience for council presidents, council commissioners, and Scout executives! Topics include board management, building effective districts, quality program, membership growth, volunteer/professional relationships, strategic planning, council and district operations, commissioner service, endowment, council fund-raising, and asset management. The week includes plenty of time for breakout sessions by position. Participants are encouraged to attend as a council Key 3 team. **June 13–19**

District Key 3—Key Leadership for the Future

A great team-building opportunity for district chair, district commissioner, and district executive teams. This course covers the role of the district Key 3 and how they work together to build and operate a successful district. It includes plenty of idea-sharing and problem-solving time, and explores successful district operation techniques, recruiting district volunteers, and other topics of interest. Each Key 3 will develop an action plan. A scholarship is available for district executives attending this conference with both their district chair and district commissioner. Participants are encouraged to attend as a district Key 3 team. **June 13–19, August 1–7**



Distinguished Commissioner Service Award



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

USE THE DISTINGUISHED COMMISSIONER SERVICE AWARD TO

- ★ Upgrade commissioner service throughout your council.
- ★ Recognize commissioners who provide quality service.
- ★ Help units succeed.

SET UP THE AWARD TO HELP YOUR COUNCIL

- ★ The award is easy to use; no red tape, no-special national application. Tailor it to your council.
- ★ The council commissioner and Scout executive or designee set up a simple plan so the award will strengthen your council.
- ★ Decide how you want to certify the eligibility of recipients and the records you'll keep.
- ★ Decide where and when you'll make the presentation—perhaps as the closing to your annual commissioner conference.

REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements are for currently active council-commissioners, assistant council commissioners, district commissioners, assistant district commissioners, and unit commissioners:

1. Complete training as outlined by the local council, including earning the Commissioner's Key.
2. Serve as an active commissioner for five consecutive years and be currently registered with the Boy Scouts of America.

3. Recharter at least 90 percent of the units in your area of service for a minimum of the past two consecutive years.
4. Assist units so that more than 60 percent of the units in your area of service achieve the national Centennial Quality Unit Award for a minimum of the past two consecutive years.

The following requirements are for roundtable/huddle commissioners:

1. Complete training as outlined by the local council, including earning the Commissioner's Key.
2. Serve as an active commissioner for five consecutive years and be currently registered with the Boy Scouts of America.
3. Conduct at least nine roundtables/huddles per year for the past two consecutive years.

RECOGNITIONS

Councils may order these from the Supply Division:

- ★ Distinguished Service Award plaque (approximately 6 × 8 inches)
- ★ Distinguished Service Award bolo ties
- ★ Uniform square knots

For council commissioner and assistant council commissioner—silver plaque, No. 17610; bolo tie, No. 747

For district commissioner, assistant district commissioner, and roundtable commissioner—gold plaque, No. 17609; bolo tie, No. 748

For unit commissioner—bronze plaque, No. 17608; bolo tie, No. 749

Embroidered square knot, No. 5019 (silver knot on red background)

Unit Commissioner Box Score

As of March 2010

| Region | Traditional Units* | | Unit Commissioners Needed | | Unit Commissioners Registered | | Need to Recruit | | Percent of Need Filled | | Commissioner Ratio | |
|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------|
| | Last Year | This Year | Last Year | This Year | Last Year | This Year | Last Year | This Year | Last Year | This Year | Last Year | This Year |
| Northeast | 17,530 | 17,110 | 5,847 | 5,700 | 3,529 | 3,748 | 2,318 | 1,952 | 60.4% | 65.8% | 5.0 | 4.6 |
| Southern | 27,815 | 27,408 | 9,272 | 9,137 | 5,181 | 5,470 | 4,091 | 3,667 | 55.9% | 59.9% | 5.4 | 5.0 |
| Central | 25,100 | 24,428 | 8,366 | 8,142 | 5,011 | 5,545 | 3,355 | 2,597 | 59.9% | 68.1% | 5.0 | 4.4 |
| Western | 41,348 | 40,729 | 13,782 | 13,575 | 7,504 | 8,445 | 6,278 | 5,130 | 54.4% | 62.2% | 5.5 | 4.8 |
| National | 111,793 | 109,675 | 37,267 | 36,554 | 21,225 | 23,208 | 16,042 | 13,346 | 57.0% | 63.5% | 5.3 | 4.7 |

* Does not include Explorer posts or Learning for Life groups

National Commissioner Service Team

| | | |
|---|----------------|----------------------------------|
| National Commissioner Service Chairman | Scott Sorrels | <i>sorrelss@bellsouth.net</i> |
| National Commissioner Service Resources Chair | Tim Acree | <i>tim.acree@comcast.net</i> |
| National Commissioner Service Training Chair | Bob Coons | <i>bcoons@curative.org</i> |
| National Commissioner Service Recruitment and Retention Chair | Ellie Morrison | <i>es Morrison@sbcglobal.net</i> |
| National Commissioner Service Staff Advisor | Mark R. Wappel | <i>mark.wappel@scouting.org</i> |

The Importance of Unit Retention

Unit retention is something all commissioners puzzle over. Why do some units recharter easily every year? Why do other units struggle to recharter? Is there anything commissioners can do to make unit retention easy for all units? Of course, the key to unit retention is youth retention, one youth at a time. That comes as no surprise to anyone. But what does come as a surprise is the amount of control unit leadership has over youth retention.

A few years ago the National Council conducted two research projects. The first was focused on why Cub Scouts leave the program, and the second was focused on Boy Scout retention. The results were remarkably similar, and the full reports are available on www.scouting.org. Listed in the chart below are those factors that unit commissioners can address. The percentages listed reflect the percentage of boys who left Scouting who said the factor was a major reason for leaving.

| Factors in the Hands of Pack Leadership | |
|--|-----|
| Boring meetings | 44% |
| Poor/disorganized leadership | 43% |
| Not enough outdoors | 22% |
| Not enough challenge | 19% |

When working with a unit with dwindling membership, the unit commissioner should analyze the situation. Why are the youth leaving? Boring meetings? Not enough outdoor program? Cost? This may not be easy to determine at first glance, and certainly different boys will have different reasons. But consulting with the committee chair and unit leader combined with observations should reveal an area or two that can be improved upon within the unit. Then it is a simple matter of working with unit leadership to decide upon strategies to improve those areas.

Please contact Ellie Morrison at es Morrison@sbcglobal.net with best practices you have found effective with units that have dwindling membership. Every unit can be a healthy unit.

| Factors in the Hands of Troop Leadership | |
|---|-----|
| Boring meetings | 56% |
| Disorganized troop | 24% |
| Didn't like other guys | 18% |
| Not challenging enough | 15% |
| Leaders too strict | 14% |
| Bullying in troop | 13% |
| Costs too much | 11% |
| Not interested in camping | 10% |

For comments or more information:

EDITOR: Mark Wappel, Community Alliances Team, Membership Impact Department, Council Solutions Group
National Council, Boy Scouts of America, SUM 211
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane • P.O. Box 152079
Irving, TX 75015-2079 • Telephone: 972-580-2388 •
Fax: 972-580-2340 • E-mail: mark.wappel@scouting.org

2010 Dates of Interest

June 13–20, 2010

Philmont Commissioner Training: Week 2 (See the flier inside this issue of the Commissioner.)

July 26–August 4, 2010

2010 National Scout Jamboree