

Commissioner Training

Introduction

One dramatic development in American society is the interest in learning as a lifetime activity. Education has become as important an activity for adults as it always has been for children.

Commissioners must also view learning as an important part of their Scouting lives. Plan to participate in the following commissioner training opportunities within the period allotted from the time you agreed to serve:

- Online Fast Start or an orientation video – within 48 hours
- Personal coaching / orientation – within two weeks
- Commissioner Basic Training – within two months, or use of the online modules with coaching sessions in between each module
- Arrowhead Honor – within one year
- Commissioner's Key – after three years
- Continuing education – very month/year
- Distinguished Commissioner Service Award – after five years

Three Approaches to Training Commissioners

Group training.

This is the most common and most effective approach. It provides fun and fellowship and builds Scouting spirit. These ingredients are as essential in Scouting training as is the knowledge imparted. Group training builds a team spirit in a group of commissioners dedicated to quality Scouting.

Personal coaching.

Personal coaching may be used in a one-on-one situation or with an instructor and a small group of trainees. It is normally used to provide immediate training for new commissioners, as they will not be effective without training. This training method is sufficient to get them started, but they must attend a basic training course when it is available.

Self-study.

The least desirable method, self-study should be used only when group training is not available and personal coaching is not possible. Self-study consists of reading assignments, etc., but must include contact with an instructor or coach.

Orientation

Commissioner training starts with an overview for those who are new to Scouting and those who are new to commissioner service. New commissioner training begins with the following e-learning sessions:

- **Youth Protection** — required to register as an adult volunteer
- **This is Scouting** — for a basic understanding of the Scouting movement (if needed)
- **Unit Commissioner Fast Start** — for a basic understanding of the commissioner role
- **UVTS Video** — for an understanding of how to report unit visits

Youth Protection can be taken without logging into MyScouting. A MyScouting logon is required to complete the remaining courses. Links to all courses are in the e-learning section of MyScouting.

Basic Training

Basic training has been changed from one course for all commissioners to position-specific courses for unit commissioners, new-unit commissioners, district and assistant district commissioners, and roundtable commissioners. Council commissioner training is being developed. Each course is about three hours in length and should be conducted by an instructor.

Continuous Training

District commissioners are responsible for seeing that every member of their staff receives adequate training. After completing basic training and being commissioned, commissioners should attend training at the monthly district commissioner cabinet meeting. It is the responsibility of the district commissioner to provide monthly training at the cabinet meeting. Thus, every month commissioners are enhancing their knowledge of the program and how they can best serve units through continuous training.

Annual Training Event

One of the principal responsibilities of the council commissioner is to see that a complete program is in place to train every commissioner in the council. In addition to enhancing their knowledge at the monthly cabinet meetings, a commissioner should plan to attend an annual training event, which can be in the form of a commissioner conference or College of Commissioner Science or both. Nationally developed courses, resource materials, and training recognition provide the structure for good commissioner training. It is the local council's mission to provide fun, sparkle, motivation, and frequent training opportunities so that commissioners will learn good unit service skills.

National Level Training

The national commissioner conferences that take place each summer at the Philmont Training Center near Cimarron, New Mexico, offer commissioners:

- A mountaintop training conference with a top-flight faculty
- The inspiring ambiance of a big sky sunset over a working ranch in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains
- Family programs for all age groups from nursery through adult so the whole family benefits
- Recreation and personal time in an area rich in history and natural beauty
- A week of Scouting fellowship

2013 Volunteer Development Training Conference

- Scout leaders will have the opportunity to attend a Philmont-style training conference at the Florida National High Adventure Sea Base the week of January 13–18, 2013, or January 21–26, 2013. Each conference will be staffed by experienced, informed Scouters. The conference schedule includes ample time to enjoy the mild climate and natural beauty of the Florida Keys.

Training Overview

	Unit Commissioner	Roundtable Commissioner	District Commissioner and Assistant	Council Commissioner and Assistant
E-Learning				
Youth Protection	Required	Required	Required	Required
This is Scouting	If new to Scouting	If new to Scouting	If new to Scouting	If new to Scouting
UC Fast Start	If new to commissioner service	If new to commissioner service	If new to commissioner service	If new to commissioner service
UVTS Video	Yes	Suggested	Yes	Suggested
Basic Training	UC Specific	RT Specific	DC/ADC Specific	CC/ACC Specific (pending)
Monthly Training	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Annual Training	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
National Training	Highly suggested	Highly suggested	Highly suggested	Highly suggested