

New Unit Commissioner (NUC)

New-unit commissioners may derive even greater satisfaction from their new role than other unit commissioners simply because they can take pride in the creation process and watch the unit grow and be sustained over many years.

The new-unit commissioner will need to serve longer than most other volunteer district leaders (with at least two years' tenure). The reason is the new unit will need careful watching, support, guidance, mentoring, and assistance through several rechartering cycles to ensure unit sustainability.

While it is typical and acceptable for most unit commissioners to be assigned several units and have a longer tenure, the length and intensity of service given by the new-unit commissioner adds to the importance of this position. They are also asked to be assigned to only one unit.

So, who would make a good new-unit commissioner?

A new-unit commissioner can be an experienced commissioner who specializes in new-unit service and has had some specialized training. Ideally, this commissioner will have a reduced unit workload and is committed to serving this one unit for the full three years the unit will be considered "new." The role the new-unit commissioner plays is much like that of troop guide—not a member of the unit but a mentor who helps the unit leadership become a high-performing team. Once the unit becomes independent, the new-unit commissioner should be replaced with a traditional unit commissioner, freeing the new-unit commissioner to begin again with another unit. The new-unit commissioner will need to give this unit extra service in addition to the annual service plan.

The new-unit commissioner can also be a 21-year-old or older volunteer such as an Arrowman, former camp staff member, or Eagle Scout who serves under the mentoring and guidance of an experienced commissioner such as an assistant district commissioner or district commissioner. Such an individual can be an excellent candidate to start with one new unit. Any Scouter who fits this description and is willing to make this commitment would make a good new-unit commissioner.

What motivates a volunteer to become a new-unit commissioner and serve only one unit for two or three full years?

A NUC truly believes that when a new unit is organized, the BSA made a promise to those families that their sons (or daughters in Venturing) would have a real Scouting experience. It is a promise that really needs to be kept. Experienced unit commissioners often say it would be much more exciting to "raise a unit in the way it should go" than to monitor an existing unit.