

What does a Unit Commissioner do for Boys?

- Boys join Scouting because they want a program that's exciting and fun.
- Parents allow boys to join because they know Scouting is a great program that educates a boy as he's having fun. Our public image is excellent.

Consider what will happen if the boy is not given a quality experience because his unit lacks organization or just plain doesn't have enough help. That's where the Unit Commissioner plays a role. They're the ones that pass on the answers, ideas and suggestions that are the lifeblood of Scouting.

Without their help, units could be in real trouble. With their help, unit leaders and committees will know they have a friend who knows what Scouting is all about...a friend who will help them find the answers.

Position Description

- Report to the district commissioner or assistant district commissioner as assigned.
- Help each unit earn the Quality Unit Award.
- Use the annual commissioner service plan, with its scheduled opportunities for commissioner contact with units.
- Know each phase of Scouting and its literature. Be able to describe how each works.
- Visit meetings of assigned packs/troops/teams/posts regularly, usually once a month.
- Visit regularly with the unit leader.
 - Listen to what the unit leader has to say.
 - Offer encouragement and support.
 - Using the literature and profile sheet, help the leader see opportunities for improvement.
 - Maintain good unit leader relationships.
 - Encourage unit participation in district and council events and training.
- Work to ensure effective unit committees.
 - Visit with the unit committee periodically.
 - When invited, observe the committee, offer suggestions for improvement, and work to solve problems.
- Recommend that proper techniques are used to select and recruit unit leaders.
- Facilitate on-time charter renewal of all units.
 - Help the unit conduct a membership inventory of youth and adults.
 - Help the unit committee chairman conduct the charter renewal meeting.
 - See that a completed charter renewal application is returned to the council service center.
- Contact the head of the chartered organization following the charter-renewal meeting to describe the Unit's progress and to make arrangements for the charter-presentation ceremony.
- Attend meetings of the commissioner staff.
- Become trained:
 - Initial orientation and basic training
 - Arrowhead Honor and Scouter's Key
 - Council commissioner's conference
- Set the example.
 - Adopt an attitude of helpfulness.
 - Keep promises.
 - Be concerned about proper uniforming.
 - Be diplomatic.
- Know the resources available to the unit in the neighborhood, district, and council..



What is a Unit Commissioner?



A Unit Commissioner is your friend.

More specifically, units can call on their Unit Commissioner for help, advice and expertise.

- Commissioners have been involved with the Scouting program, probably for some time and have experience.
- You or those in your unit may be new to Scouting. You are full of enthusiasm, but light on knowledge.
- Perhaps you are fumbling along in the dark, you need some training, but don't know what kind or where to go.
- You know there must be resources you don't know about, but what are they?
- You have heard about Program Helps or seen some different pages in your Scouting magazine, but need the guidance to know when to use them.

Your Unit Commissioner can help you find the answers to the questions and dilemmas you face.

They are very willing to help you and be your friend. Call on him or her often.

What is a Unit Commissioner?

A Unit Commissioner is a volunteer like you with some background in Scouting and the ability to empathize with and understand the problems unit leaders face when trying to operate Scouting's programs.

What does a Unit Commissioner do for the Unit?

A unit commissioner is asked to provide service to one or several units. He or she becomes their main contact within the district and council.

Much has been written and said about the job of unit commissioners, and no list can encompass all the tasks they may be called to perform. The following services, however, are top priority:

- Maintain a close liaison with the chartered organization of the units they serve. This requires a working relationship with the chartered organization representative to strengthen Scouting's chartered organization concept.

- Work to assure effective and active unit committees.
- Make efforts to involve unit personnel in roundtables, even to the point of bringing the unit leader to the roundtable.
- Establish good lines of communication between unit personnel and other district and council leaders.
- Help select and recruit unit leaders. Though the actual appointment is approved by the chartered organization, and the unit committee, the unit commissioner plays a key role in the process, making certain that proper techniques are used to locate and enlist the best possible leaders.
- Cultivate and maintain the best possible ongoing relationship with the unit leader.

A unit commissioner would attend one of your meetings each month. They are not there to do anything other than watch what's happening, assist to the extent the unit leader may request, and make the unit leaders feel good. A good unit commissioner makes a unit realize that they are part of a national organization that cares about them.



What does a Unit Commissioner do for the District?

By visiting units regularly, they help relay the unit's needs to the district. No matter how capable your District Commissioner, District Executive and District Chairman (the district key three) may be, they cannot possibly visit all of the units in the district on a regular basis. The unit commissioner becomes the "expert" on their units.

They may be asked by the District Commissioner to get the opinion of unit Scouters on a new program or activity the district is proposing. Or, conversely, your unit may come up with the idea that makes a Cub Field Day or Boy Scout Camporee a resounding success!

