#9 Commissioner Service

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Commission Service for Latter-day Saints comes ...Second Nature

What is, exactly Commissioner Service

A Unit Commissioner provides help, encouragement, inspiration and support to the unit leader, so that leader can ensure that his or her unit is functioning effectively and the youth are having the best possible Scouting experience.

A Unit Commissioner wears many hats: He/She is

- a friend
- a representative
- a unit “doctor” or paramedic
- a teacher, and
- a coach.

A Commissioner is, FIRST, --a Friend

- Of all the roles, this one is the most important
- Building a relationship of trust – generally starts with breaking bread together.
- Building a great relationship with the unit leadership is key to success. It springs from the attitude, “I care, I am here to help you, what can I do for you?”
- Caring is the ingredient that makes commissioner service successful.
- Be an advocate of the unit needs.
- A commissioner who makes himself or herself known and accepted with the unit leadership will be called on to help in times of trouble.

A Commissioner is a Representative of the BSA

You represent the BSA, the District and the Council to the Unit

Be a good example. Show that you believe in the ideals, the principles, and the policies of the Scouting movement. Represent it well!

Link the unit with Scouting's many resources

A Commissioner is a Physician/Paramedic

- Prevention is better that a cure
- Performing systematic ”triage” (“regular check-ups”) is critical.
- Recognize “red flag” symptoms and respond quickly.
  - Unit not meeting
  - Unit with no leader
  - Unit with no committee
  - Unit with no new members
  - Unit conflict with the chartered organization
  - New unit leader lacks training
  - Unit with weak leadership

INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING ASSOCIATION
VANGUARD

A Commissioner is a Teacher

Look for the unexpected teaching moment.

Teach by example.

Be available. Be supportive. If the leader knows you care, he/she will be more likely to turn to you in times of need and open up a teaching moment.

Help your leader (especially if a new unit leader) get the appropriate training as soon as possible.

“A teacher has not taught, until the learner has learned – and changed his life.”

A Commissioner is a Coach

Help guide units in solving their own problems.

Understand EDGE Method.

Coaching is the best role when unit leaders don’t recognize a problem and where solutions are not clear-cut.

Often, well-placed questions help a leader figure the problem out.

Scott Sorrels

BSA National Commissioner

2018 NCAC COMMISSIONER COLLEGE
UNIT GROWTH & RETENTION
LINKING UNIT NEEDS TO RESOURCES
TIMELY CHARTER RENEWAL
BE PREPARED
CONTACTING UNITS
DELIVERING EFFECTIVE ROUNDTABLES
CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF COMMISSIONER TRAINING

COMMISSIONER SERVICE OBJECTIVES

1. Supporting unit growth and retention through the **Journey to Excellence**.
2. Contacting units and capturing in commissioner tools their strengths, needs, and a unit service plan that enables continuing improvement.
3. Linking unit needs to District Operating Committee and other resources.
4. Supporting timely unit, district & council charter renewals.
5. Supporting unit leaders by delivering effective roundtables that provide program ideas, relationship development, and timely communication

COMMISSIONER ORGANIZATION

National Commissioner – Scott Sorrels

Territory Commissioner

Council Commissioner (+ACCs)

District Commissioner (+ADCs)

- *Unit Commissioners (minister to and support units and unit leaders)*
- *New Unit Commissioner*
- *Roundtable Commissioner*

DISTRICT LEVEL COMMISSIONERS

The District Commissioner

- *Leads the Commissioner staff of the District*
- *Guides and measures the District's unit service*
- *The District Commissioner is selected by a nominating committee & approved by the Scout Executive & Council Commissioner.*

The Assistant District Commissioner

- *Ensures every unit receives competent Commissioner service*
- *Supervises Unit Commissioners*
- *Are Appointed by the District Commissioner*

UNIT COMMISSIONERS

- Is a friend, coach, & counselor
- Is an effective communicator & resource provider
- Provides aid to Charter Organizations
- Operates quietly, generally in the background.
- Are effective communicators, providing the resources of the District / Council to the units they serve.
- Provide aid to Charter Organizations that operate the units

LATTER-DAY SAINTS AS UNIT COMMISSIONERS

Recruiting Latter-day Saints as Unit Commissioners:

- Bring a breadth of experience in Scouting and the Church
- Reinforce the culture and understand Unit needs
- Readily available for recruiting from the pool of Scouters who have years, sometimes decades of experience
- Work with District and Council staff to help make the invite
- Can work with Units of all types

QUESTIONS?