

The Commissioner Concept



The commissioner is the liaison between the local council and Scouting units. The commissioner's mission is to keep units operating at maximum efficiency, maintain regular contact with unit leaders, coach leaders on where to find assistance, note

weaknesses in programs, and suggest remedies. The commissioner is successful when units effectively deliver the ideals of scouting to their members.

Unit Commissioners can make or break a district's ability to see that every unit receives competent commissioner service. Unit service from a commissioner helps chartered organizations and the leaders of their units achieve the objectives of Scouting.

Roles the Commissioner Plays

The commissioner is a **friend** of the unit. Of all their roles, this one is the most important. It springs from the attitude, "I care, I am here to help, what can I do for you?" Caring is the ingredient that makes commissioner service successful. He or she is an advocate of unit needs. A commissioner who makes himself known and accepted now will be called on in future times of trouble.

The commissioner is a **representative**. The average unit leader is totally occupied in working with the boys. Some have little if any contact with the Boy Scouts of America other than a commissioner's visit to their meeting. To them, the commissioner may be the BSA. The commissioner helps represent the ideals, the principles, and the policies of the Scouting movement.

The commissioner is a unit **doctor**. In their role as doctor, they know that prevention is better than a cure, so they try to see that their units make good health practices a way of life. When problems arise, and they will even in the best unit, they act quickly. They observe symptoms, diagnose the real ailment, prescribe a remedy, and follow up on the patient.

The commissioner is a **teacher**. As a commissioner, they will have a wonderful opportunity to participate in the growth of unit leaders by sharing knowledge

with them. They teach not just in an academic environment, but where it counts most—as an immediate response to a need to know. That is the best adult learning situation since the lesson is instantly reinforced by practical application of the new knowledge.

The commissioner is a **counselor**. As a Scouting counselor, they will help units solve their own problems. Counseling is the best role when unit leaders don't recognize a problem and where solutions are not clear-cut. Everyone needs counseling from time to time, even experienced leaders.

Early Warning Signals

Unit commissioners help units succeed with a good program that attracts and retains youth members. Alert commissioners are aware of these early warning signals that may indicate problems:

Good Signals	Danger Signals
Meetings well attended	Irregular meetings
Program planned in advance	No written program
Regular rank advancement & awards	Little advancement
Fully uniformed unit	Few in uniforms
Good participation in Council & District events	Seldom seen outside their unit
Frequent outdoor activities	Little outdoor program, no camping
FOS support	No FOS participation
Attend roundtables	Never attend roundtables
Constant membership growth	No new members
Strong Unit Committee	Unit leaders work alone
Good parent support	No parent involvement
Strong Boy leadership	Adult leader does all the work
Assistant leadership	Only one active leader
Having fun	Lack of discipline