

Module 1: Council Executive Board Overview

Video time allowed

7:09 minutes

Facilitator

Council president or other key council officer with assistance from the Scout executive

Learning objectives

This module serves two very specific purposes:

- It is designed to give the council an overview of Scouting and to make them feel good about their participation in the program.
- It provides a big picture of what the role of the council board is, and how the board impacts the success of local units.

After completing this module, board members should

- Know the basic history of Scouting and successful adults who were Scouts.
- Understand the mission of the Boy Scouts of America.
- Understand the mission of the council.
- Understand the four major functions of a well-operating council.

Materials needed

- Laptop, projector, and screen
- Council executive board handouts or binders—one for each participant—that can be printed in advance locally from the [online appendix](#)
- Whiteboard, flip chart, or overhead projector to facilitate discussion and presentation
- See the [online appendix](#) for links to the following publications:
The Council, No. 33071
Orientation Guide for Council Officers and Executive Board Members, No. 33161

Introduction of Module 1

The council president and/or the Scout executive welcome(s) participants and explain(s) how critical this training is to the council board's success. Explain how the training will be delivered (i.e., "over the next two days;" or "over the next three months at our board meetings," etc.). Explain that you're kicking off the program by an overview to give them the big picture of Scouting and their role on the board. Also make sure you let them know that this training is not only for new board members—but for **all** board members. Let them know their binders have all the reference material available through national to support them in their board positions. Ask them to bring their binders when they come back for each module of this training, as they will be referring to the materials.

Show Module 1.

Four Major Functions of a Council

- Explain that throughout the training, they'll be exploring each of these four areas in depth, because success in those areas builds a successful council.
- Re-emphasize that these four areas are the responsibility of the total board, not just the officers or committee chairpersons.
- Reference *The Council* manual and the *Orientation Guide for Council Officers and Executive Board Members*.

Membership Relationships

Review that this focus means ensuring units have a good representation of the youth in the area, as well as an adequate number of units being available for the youth to join.

Fund Development

- Explain that they are on the executive board for fund development, which includes generating adequate funds, ensuring that resources are used wisely, and maintaining a financially sustainable council.
- Throughout the training, they'll hear and respond to scenarios where wrong decisions were made with dire consequences.
- Let them know that actual scenarios will be used in this training.
- The purpose of spending so much time on this training is to make sure future council boards don't become one of those scenarios.

Quality Program

- Explain that there are specific measures for a quality program in Scouting, and that a council's goal is to ensure that a quality program is delivered to all the youth in the area.
- The board also ensures that the principles of Scouting are being upheld in that program delivery.

Unit Service

Explain that the board is responsible for making sure the chartered organizations use the Scouting program as effectively as possible and that the right leaders are in place to get the job done. This function provides support to units through the following:

- Rechartering
- Monthly unit visits
- A liaison between the council, the district, and the unit through an active commissioner staff

Questions?

- Ask if there are any questions on this section—or if there was any information that surprised them.
- Address questions, then move ahead.

(Estimated discussion time will vary, based on the board level of experience and participation.)