



# CM 005

## Commissioners – The Single Best Resource

<b>Time allotted</b>	15 minutes
<b>Teaching format</b>	Instructor-led discussions with PowerPoint support

### Resources

<b>Handouts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None</li></ul>
<b>Equipment and materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CM 005- Commissioners – The Single Best Resource Discussion Guide</li><li>• CM 005-Commissioners – The Single Best Resource PowerPoint presentation</li><li>• Computer and projector</li></ul>
<b>Resources for additional participant learning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National Commissioner Website (<a href="https://www.scouting.org/commissioners/">https://www.scouting.org/commissioners/</a>)</li></ul>

### Course Connections

<b>Connections to other courses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All Commissioner Position Specific Training Courses</li><li>• BCS 115—Commissioners – The Single Best Resource</li></ul>
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### Presentation Outline

#### Introduction and Course Objectives – 2 minutes

##### Slide 1—Commissioners – The Single Best Resource

Commissioners provide unit leadership with information and guidance on the latest changes in all Scouting America programs. Unit service is provided the same way regardless of unit type.

Change is constant throughout the national-level programs, and getting up-to-date information out to the units is essential to ensuring quality programs for all Scouting America youth and adult participants.

This makes the commissioner the single best resource for unit leaders to look to for the support they need.

## Slide 2— Course Objectives

At the end of this training, a commissioner will be able to:

- Understand the culture of unit service
- Be familiar with the attributes of each Scouting America unit
- Know where to find the resources available

## Commissioners – The Single Best Resource – 10 minutes

### Slide 3—Commissioner Priorities

As commissioners, we have many tasks and responsibilities, but we have three key priorities:

- Being the single, best resource. We help units deliver the Scouting program in a way that will make more adults and young people want to join and stay.
- Ensuring S.A.F.E programs (Supervision, Assessment, Fitness and Skill, and Equipment and Environment)
- Enabling significant, sustainable growth

Commissioners use these objectives to develop relationships and provide information/resources to the units they serve. Today, we focus on the unit structure and how a commissioner can understand a unit's program and find the available resources to support that unit.

### Slide 4—The Culture of Unit Service:

Commissioners have the mission of supporting units as they work with their youth in various ways.

- **Be the Heart**  
Scouting units are at its heart. The unit delivers the Scouting program to the youth, and Scouting's success depends on the unit's ability to deliver the program. Just as our hearts keep us alive, units keep Scouting vibrant and effective. Commissioners provide unique support to units as they create a safe, welcoming environment and deliver the Scouting program effectively.
- **Build Relationships**  
Commissioners must develop relationships with their unit leaders based on mutual respect, candor, and trust.
- **Change Lives**  
We know and have witnessed how Scouting changes the lives of youth and adults involved in the program. Scouting's values are adopted. Scouters and Scouts become more engaged citizens, strengthening their communities, our nation, and the world.

### Slide 5—Youth of Scouting America

Scouting America serves youth from age five until their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

- All the units share a common Oath and Law
- Even more importantly, they share a common mission:
  - To prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.
- And vision:

- To prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Law.

### **Slide 6— Unit Similarities**

There are some constants between the unit types of Scouting America.

Each unit has:

- Chartering organizations partner with Scouting America to deliver a Scouting program. They adopt Scouting to serve the youth in the community. A charter organization representative's primary responsibilities are to help units succeed and coordinate between the chartered organization and Scouting. This person appoints the committee chair and approves all adult leaders. The charter organization representative is a part of the Key 3 of each unit, providing resources from the chartered organization.
  - Each unit is organized into smaller units for program activities, each with a unique name depending on the age group.
- Each unit is known by a unique name and number based on the type of unit
- Unit Leader and Assistants: For each type of unit, the unit leader and assistants work directly with the youth, starting with adult-led dens in Cub Scouts and moving toward youth planned and led with Scouts BSA and the Senior Youth Programs.
- Unit Committee/Committee Chair: The unit committee works together to do all the tasks outside the direct contact program.

### **Slide 7— Program Training**

Adult leadership occasionally changes with each unit. Leader training is the best way for new leaders to understand the scope of the program they are involved with.

Training for adults registered in Scouting America is program-specific. Almost all training is online and taken in modules during different periods of learning a position's expectations. If clarifications or more information are needed, other unit members or the commissioner staff often support them.

As a commissioner, you will learn about each assigned unit and access the report detailing that unit's adult training. At an appropriate time, you should ensure the accuracy of the records. If training is incomplete, consider ways to support the leaders in finishing their position-specific training.

If opportunity permits, consider taking the same online training as the adult leaders you support. You will find yourself better equipped to understand and answer their questions.

### **Slide 8— Cub Scouting**

Cub Scouting is for youth, either girls or boys, in kindergarten to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The unit is known as a pack and is led by the cubmaster. Dens are organized by grade level. The den leader leads activities with support from a parent or assistant den leader. Dens usually meet weekly to work through program adventures. Sometimes, adventure activities are completed with parents.

The pack meets monthly at a pack meeting, where parents and Scouts gather for a special event designed by the unit to recognize advancement and include some activity or game that all are involved in.

The pack committee usually meets monthly to ensure the yearly plan is executed, allowing enough time to engage parents in helping with the major events.

Cubs camp with a parent/family. The number of campouts depends on the pack. Additional adult training is required for an overnight event. Day outdoor activities and service projects occur frequently for members of the Pack.

### **Slide 9— Scouts BSA**

Scouts BSA is for youth, either girls or boys, 10 years old to 17 (18). The unit is known as a troop and is led by the senior patrol leader with the support of the Scoutmaster. The troops are either girls or boys and, at times, are linked by a shared committee. Youth are organized into working units called patrols. Activities are led by the troop youth with the support of the Scoutmaster and assistants. The program is planned by a leadership group of scouts known as the Patrol Leaders Council, which meets monthly. The youth also participate in yearly leadership training and program planning.

Ranks are earned by the scout by completing specific requirements and on a timeline determined by the individual scout. The awards earned by the scouts are formally presented at a court of honor, which is held three to four times throughout the year.

Troops camp regularly, often monthly. During the summer months, they attend a weeklong summer camp or a High Adventure camp. Community service is also a part of their program. The troop committee usually meets monthly to perform tasks that are not program-related. Their work frees up the unit leaders to focus on supporting the youth of the unit.

### **Slide 10— Older Youth Programs**

Next are the older youth programs, those for youth 14-21. These units allow scouts who enjoy Scouting activities and want something different from the usual troop program to participate simultaneously in a troop and an older youth program.

These programs include:

- Venturing
- Sea Scouts
- Exploring

**Venturing** – Everyone has that moment that opens their eyes to a bigger world than they ever imagined. It might happen while paddling a quiet lake, bonding with new friends around a beach bonfire, or rising to the challenge of leading an exhausted crew to the edges of adventure. Venturing empowers youth to create their own experiences while bringing Scouting values to life through high-adventure outdoor activities and challenging real-world projects.

**Sea Scouts**—For over 100 years, Sea Scouting has promoted better citizenship and improved members’ boating skills through instruction and practice in water safety, boating skills, outdoor, social, and service experiences, and knowledge of our maritime heritage.

**Exploring** – Exploring provides exciting activities and mentorship for youth looking to discover their future. Working with a local organization to sponsor a post allows its participants to experience some aspects of a specific career, such as policing, health fields, etc.

### **Slide 11— Knowing Your Resources**

As a commissioner works on developing a relationship with a unit, it is also essential to understand how a specific type of unit functions.

- In addition to taking unit-specific training, reviewing the unit’s program resources enables a commissioner to answer questions from leaders of the unit as well as how a specific type of unit should function
- Resources for each Program (Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouts, Lone Scout, Explorers, International Scouting, Special Needs and Disabilities, STEM, and Awards Central) are found on the Commissioner Website:  
[Program Support Resources | Boy Scouts of America \(scouting.org\)](https://www.scouting.org/commissioners/program-support-resources/) - <https://www.scouting.org/commissioners/program-support-resources/>
- Review safety resources found at [Scouting Safely | Boy Scouts of America](#)
- If the situation is not something you have dealt with before, consider consulting other commissioners, such as your assistant district commissioner or district commissioner. You can also consult experts on the district committee. Use the expertise of others to determine how best to support this unit.

**Instructor Note:** *Have the class scan the QR code on the slide*

## **Summary/Conclusion – 1 minute**

### **Slide 12—Closing Thoughts**

- The culture of unit service reminds commissioners of the behaviors, beliefs, and values that enable them to achieve our mission and fulfill our vision.
- Each unit shares common attributes based on the Scout Law and Oath with similar organization.
- Commissioners should understand how a unit functions and the resources available.

## **Questions? – 3 minutes**