



Commissioner Newsletter

Your Single, Best Resource.

September 29, 2025 Edition

"It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change." - Charles Darwin

Developing Post Programming - September 30

Exploring is more a methodology than a program. One common misconception among both volunteers and professionals is that they need to have a fully developed Post program ready before even making a sales call to start a new Post. While it's certainly helpful to bring along a few program ideas to spark interest, the real magic happens later.

When a new Post is forming, part of the process is hosting an "All-In-One Program Planning" session with the Post Committee and key staff members from the organization. Together, they brainstorm and build a first 3–4-month program that reflects the sponsor's own resources, strengths, and ideas. From there, the youth officers—working alongside their Advisors—take the lead in shaping and growing the ongoing program.

Participants in this September 30 (8:00 PM ET) session will take part in an interactive exercise to brainstorm the beginning program for a new Post. This workshop will also help Commissioners learn how to enhance the program for Posts struggling to grow and retain members. Please register [here](#).

Advancement Myths – BUSTED! Webinar – October 1

Register [here](#) now for the upcoming Scouts BSA committee webinar, Advancement Myths – BUSTED! Happening on October 1, 2025, at 8:00 PM (ET), this free session is designed to clear up confusion, address common misconceptions, and share the official facts about advancement. It's the perfect opportunity for Scouts, parents, and troop leaders to get straightforward guidance on how advancement really works. Join to gain clarity, bust the myths, and discover how you can better support Scouts on their journey. This event will be recorded and posted afterward on the Commissioners of Scouting America Facebook page for anyone unable to attend live.

Fall Impact Session – October 18

The Fall Commissioner Impact Session will be held in Boise, Idaho, on Saturday, October 18, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Mountain West Council's Boise Scout Service Center, 8901 W Franklin Road. All are invited to attend this exciting opportunity to collaborate with the National Commissioner, members of the National Commissioner Service Team, and fellow commissioners from across the country. Together, we will explore important topics such as retention and membership, the future of unit service, opportunities for young adults in leadership roles, and more. The conference fee is \$45, which includes morning refreshments, lunch, materials, and recognition; however, travel and lodging are not included, and attendees are responsible for making their own arrangements.

For those arriving early, the Mountain West Council will host an optional welcome reception on Friday, October 17, at 6:00 p.m. at the Lou Alasso Scouting Heritage Center.

Registration for the Fall Commissioner Impact Session is now open [here](#).

Beascout.org Notifications

Learn who receives beascout.org notifications at the unit, district, and council levels and the timing of the notifications from [this video](#). This is a great resource to share with units unsure how the notification process works.

Commissioner Training Updates

Check out the updated Commissioner Position-Specific Instructor-Led Training. These courses now include our latest unit service concepts, Connections, and Unit Metrics—perfect for training your commissioner teams. Also available are Commissioner Onboarding Orientation Guides for all positions, replacing the old Onboarding Progress Records. Both are [here](#) on the Position-Specific Training page.

New Merit Badge Resources Are Here!

Updated resources make it easier than ever for Scouts to work on merit badges. Fresh videos, updated pamphlets, and online tools are now available for a wide range of merit badges, including Nuclear Science, Sustainability, Exploration, Genealogy, Painting, Sculpture, Dog Care, Fingerprinting, Scholarship, Robotics, Insect Study, Mammal Study, Environmental Science, Graphic Arts, Music, Pets, Family Life, Bird Study, Nature, Animation, Reptile and Amphibian Study, Digital Technology, Home Repairs, Camping, and Hiking. All of these resources can be found on the [Merit Badge Hub](#), which provides the latest requirements, downloadable pamphlets, helpful videos, and other materials in one easy-to-access location. More updates will be added soon.

Messenger of Peace Program Updated

Messengers of Peace, the World Organization of the Scout Movement's initiative dedicated to building a culture of peace worldwide, has been realigned to better empower Scouts as peace-builders and global citizens. The program now features five new learning paths, giving Scouts the freedom to engage in the way that inspires them most. These paths connect directly to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals—and Scouts who embark on them may also be on their way to earning a Messengers of Peace Award. Learn more and see how you can make an impact [here](#).

Do You Know Your Knots?

Not the bowline and half hitch – the other knots. Uniform square knots. Currently, there are 32 authorized square knots you can wear on your uniform; however, the Uniform and Insignia guide limits you to three rows of three knots, for a total of nine. Did you know, generally speaking, Scouting America has a policy not to authorize a new square knot if there is some other item that already recognizes the accomplishment or achievement? And, did you know the policy also restricts new knots by expecting at least 500 people to be eligible to earn the knot in a 10-year period? Learn more [here](#).

Follow Our Social Media Platforms

Follow the [Commissioners of Scout America's Facebook page](#) and [Instagram account](#) and help spread the word about Scouting by liking and sharing posts. Engage those whom you serve by being where they go for information.

How Can Your National Commissioner Service Team Serve You?

The National Commissioner Service Team (NCST) exists to serve commissioners. Learn who are the members of the 2025-26 team are and what they do [here](#). Reach out to us.

Ask A Commissioner

Q. Other than regular contacts, what are other ways a new unit commissioner can help a new unit and its leaders?

A. Every new unit and its leaders are different. Obvious, right? Before jumping in, it's important to get to know the leaders and their goals. What does success look like for them? How can you help them create a path to their goals?

Agreeing to serve as a commissioner for a new unit is a high calling. It usually requires experience and commitment. When preparing to interact with a new unit, here are some questions to think about:

- Do the leaders have some experience or are they new to Scouting? Do they have a basic understanding of the program they're leading? If not, then a commissioner might offer to coach, model, or attend weekly meetings for some time. Specific training also helps build confidence and show how the program works. If starting a new troop, other units might lend an older youth to model the SPL role for a while.
- Is there a support system behind the direct-contact leaders? An active unit committee and support of parents and the institution is critical to keep the new unit leaders from burning out. A new unit commissioner should praise the unit's progress and offer to help the committee understand their roles.
- What physical resources does the unit need? A new unit may not have equipment for an outdoor program at the beginning. A commissioner can help make connections with other unit leaders who are likely willing to lend camping equipment or a pinewood derby track.

Most commissioners join a unit service team after spending time as a direct-contact leader. Leverage that experience to help new leaders get off to a good start.

For more information, check out MCS-307 in the [commissioner college curriculum list](#).

Q. Are commissioners still needed for the 2026 National Scout Jamboree?

A. Yes!!! Commissioners make great staffers. They can serve for the entirety of the Jamboree or for half. Be part of a team that helps ELEVATE the Scouting experience for thousands of young people. Find out more [here](#).

You have questions? Commissioners have answers!

Reach out by email: commissionersserviceteam@scouting.org



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