

Spring 2017

THE COMMISSIONER

A PUBLICATION FOR COMMISSIONERS AND PROFESSIONALS



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Commissioner Recognition: Questions and Answers

It's been over a year since revisions to commissioner recognitions were implemented effective May 1, 2016. There have been some questions in regard to those changes.

Why are commissioners no longer able to apply for the Distinguished Commissioner Service Award?

The team that worked on revising requirements believed the highest award available to recognize commissioner service should be given in recognition of impact rather than for completion of specific tasks. They also concluded the process should be similar to that used for other awards in recognition of volunteer impact, such as the District Award of Merit, Silver Beaver Award, etc. Too, their focus on impact led them to eliminate any prerequisite for time served as a commissioner. Instead, the requirements now stipulate only that a candidate is currently registered as a commissioner or has served as a commissioner within the last five years.

Can a roundtable commissioner still earn the Scouter's Training Award?

No. Several years ago, roundtable positions were restructured so that there were unit service positions for all volunteers involved with roundtable (previously, "roundtable staff," for which there was a position code and badge of office, was not part of the unit service organization). The revisions to our commissioner recognitions were completed later and the team made sure the new requirements covered all roundtable positions. As a result, the Scouter's Training Award for commissioners (including roundtable commissioners) was declared obsolete.

Why are there separate codes available for Commissioner's Key awards but not for the Arrowhead Honor?

There have long been both separate codes available for Commissioner's Key awards while serving in different unit service positions and separate devices available to be worn on a field uniform to provide an element of identification for the type of key earned. In the past, while there were separate requirements to earn the Arrowhead Honor in different unit service positions, separate codes had not been established and there was only a single uniform option available. The team elected not to expand uniform options. As a result, continuing the use of a single code was consistent with past practice and reduced the risk of confusion or error.

Some requirements appear to lack specific deadlines and others appear to leave room for interpretation; was that intentional?

Yes. The team's focus on impact was a factor in these decisions, too. While the value of timely completion of requirements was recognized (for example, the Arrowhead Honor recognizes completion of training and development of core skills that enable success in a position), achievement of those goals, rather than meeting an arbitrary completion date, was considered more important. Also, the team recognized situations in which administrative commissioners, who are responsible for administering and approving awards, would benefit from flexibility that enabled them to be most responsive to local needs.



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