

MCS 353

The Cub Scout Roundtable Breakout



Time allotted	50 minutes
Teaching format	Instructor-led discussion with PowerPoint support, Group discussion

Resources

Handouts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MCS 353 –Roundtable Format 50-Minute format pdf• MCS 353 –Roundtable Format 60-Minute format pdf• MCS 353 –Roundtable Format 75-Minute format pdf
Equipment and materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MCS 353 – The Cub Scout Roundtable Breakout course plan• MCS 353 – The Cub Scout Roundtable Breakout PowerPoint presentation• Whiteboard or flipchart, appropriate markers, and eraser
Resources for additional participant learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• https://www.scouting.org/commissioners/• Commissioner Tools website tool

Course Connections

Connections to other CCS courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BCS 154 – Roundtable Fundamentals• MCS 354 – The Scouts BSA Roundtable Breakout
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Presentation Outline

Introduction and Course Objectives – 5 minutes

Instructor's Note: Introduce yourself and the title of the course. You have 50 minutes, but since most of this class will be based on discussion and brainstorming, time can easily slip away, so keep things moving.

Course Description and Learning Objectives

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

- **Explain** the importance and types of breakouts
- **Define** the elements of a breakout and group engagement
- **Apply** unit service and national resources

Why Cub Scout Breakouts – 15 minutes including a 5-minute activity (slides 3-4)

The Cub Scout Breakout

Instructor-led Discussion - Review the Parts of a Roundtable – 5 minutes:

Instructor Notes: Review the parts of a roundtable. Participants may have many different answers, but make sure in the list that they include the responses below.

- Networking time/Midway/Announcements
- Opening: Pledge, Oath, Law, Prayer
- Hot Topic
- Safety Moment
- Membership Moment
- Leader Specific Breakouts (Cub Scout, Scouts BSA, Venturing, etc.)
- Closing
- Optional networking
- You may refer to the 50 and 75-minute roundtable format pdfs included with this course if needed.

Once you are satisfied that the participants understand the parts of a Roundtable, move on to the *Why Breakouts* section.

For virtual presentation, students may be allowed to unmute and answer, required to raise their hands for the instructor or facilitator to call on, or required to input answers in a chat line so the facilitator can read them. If the platform has a whiteboard, it can be used to record answers and guide discussion.

Why?

Roundtable provides continuous training for all unit leaders. In turn, Cub breakouts are designed to reach those unit leaders who are implementing a specific part of the Scouting program (e.g. Lions, Tigers, Wolves, Bears, Webelos) and give them the *will to do* and the *skill to do* the job of a cub scout leader.

This is WHY Cub leaders attend roundtable.

In addition, the Cub Scout breakout is where we help demonstrate:

- How to plan out an outing
- Practicing a project or craft
- Demonstrate skills using the EDGE method (example: push cuts)
- Learn about program updates
- Cub scout adventure requirements
- Network and collaborate with other den leaders
- Make connections with subject matter experts

Let's dive deeper into the elements of the Cub Scout breakout...

Define the Elements of a Cub Scout Breakout – 25 minutes including a 5-minute activity (slides 5-9)

Types of Cub Scout Breakout Sessions include:

- Den Leader
- New or first-time leader
- Cubmaster
- New Member Coordinator
- Combined Den Leader
- Den Chief
- Committee Member

In addition to traditional den leader breakouts, other types of breakouts can be held to meet the needs of your district and units.

- Den Leader – including Lion, Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos and Arrow of Light. Leader-specific breakouts train den leaders on adventures and topics specific to their dens. It provides them with the best and most relevant training for their positions and allows them to network with other den leaders serving the same-aged youth.
- A first-time leader breakout is held for leaders who are new to Scouting and who have never been to roundtable. This breakout could cover topics for the new leader and enable new leaders to have questions answered.
- Cubmaster - Cubmasters can have a pack meeting example modeled for them and discuss the needs of the pack.
- New Member Coordinator breakouts could be held for the welcome team of the pack. They could discuss recruitment, retention, and welcoming new families and youth to the pack.
- Combined Den Leader - Depending on the needs of the district or council you may hold all the individual breakouts or you may need or wish to combine some groups together. Some ranks lend themselves to being combined, such as: Wolf and Bear and Webelos and Arrow of Light.
- A den chief breakout could be held for den chiefs in the district or council. Den chiefs benefit from regular training to help them model scout spirit and demonstrate behavior and skills to cub scouts. Den chiefs can learn how to demonstrate crafts, knots, and scout skills to cub scouts.
- Committee members can discuss the needs of the pack including: program, events, camps, training, etc. These breakouts could also include special events such as the Pinewood Derby or the Blue and Gold Banquet.

Breakout Content

Elements of a great breakout include:

- Program-specific content – examples: Adventure requirements and award requirements
- Group discussions, collaboration and brainstorming – examples: attendance incentives
- Group engagement - examples: teaching skits and songs
- Hands-on experience – Examples: knife safety, making a plaster cast of a footprint

- Coaching and mentoring – the roundtable commissioner or assistant roundtable commissioner coaches and mentors den leaders during the breakout.
- Utilizing resources effectively – Roundtable resources can be found at the roundtable support page at <https://www.scouting.org/commissioners/roundtable-support/>, in addition to this there are print and online resources from councils and districts.

In-Depth Training

The Cub Scout breakout provides in-depth training, discussion, demonstration and hands-on activities on the following subjects:

- Cub scout adventures;
- Songs, skits, crafts, interactive activities
- A deeper dive into the monthly Hot Topic and/or Safety Moment
- Topics based on specific unit needs in the district or council
- Topics based on the direct request of a unit or cub scout leader to address questions or issues they might have.
- Cub Scout Breakout video and discussion

The Cub Scout Breakout videos are supported by the National Service Center. Cub Scout Roundtable commissioners can look through the library or video content available at <https://www.scouting.org/commissioners/roundtable-support/>

and determine which if any best meets the needs of the units in the district. They may also be chosen by direct request of units or cub scout leaders to address questions or issues they might have.

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

Engaging the Group - Group Discussions and Brainstorming

Using the definition for roundtable, a roundtable is a conference for discussion or deliberation by several participants.

Roundtable noun

round·ta·ble | \ 'raʊn(d)-, tā-bəl

Definition of *roundtable*

1: a conference for discussion or deliberation by several participants *also*: the participants in such a conference

During a breakout, cub leaders can “roundtable” or collaborate with one another to share current information, tips or questions facing their packs or dens, and help each other solve their own problems. These discussions can provide and capture information.

If the roundtable commissioner does not have an answer, it can be obtained after roundtable and shared directly with the pack or den (ex: by email or phone call) or share with the group at the next roundtable breakout.

Example: Question on flag ceremonies.

Can you use a flag on the moon for the pledge of allegiance?

Answer after some research and given at the next month's roundtable:

According to the congressional report on flag etiquette (2002) you can use the flags on the moon in a pinch. Although, as a Scout they should be prepared and plan ahead with their own flag.

Group Engagement Activity – 5 minutes

Instructor Notes: Whether the roundtable is held virtually or in person, it is important to engage the group and provide hands-on experience. Participants have 1 minute to brainstorm ways that roundtable commissioners can engage the groups.

Possible answers include:

Skills	Crafts
Song	Knots
Activities	Games
Crafts	Quizzes

Lord Baden-Powell said, "A boy is not a sitting-down animal". Cub scouts are not sitting-down animals! Engaging them in games, songs, skits, crafts and skills with a purpose help cub scouts learn the important principles from the adventures and packs the den meetings full of fun! Remember the Cub Scout leader motto: **KISMIF** (keep it simple, make it fun)

Once you are satisfied that the participants have identified several ways to engage the breakout group, you may move on to the Unit Service Resources section.

**Applying Unit Service and National Resources – 5 minutes
(slides 10-11)****Unit Service Resources: Coaching and Mentoring**

Assistant roundtable commissioners or roundtable commissioners who are delivering breakout are giving unit service! They do this by:

- Being a friend to every unit
- Representative of the BSA
- A unit doctor
- A teacher
- Counselor

Roundtable commissioners and assistant roundtable commissioners learn about problems in group and individual discussions that occur at roundtable. Units, especially newer units and newer leaders emulate what they learn from being at roundtable.

Roundtable staff act as coaches and mentors to commissioners and cub scout leaders. They provide leaders with tools and information to continuously improve and deliver a quality program to units. They can live by the Commissioner Culture statement: Be the Heart, Build Relationships and Change Lives.

Districts and councils provide roundtable to support unit growth and retention; to contact units and capture information; to link unit needs to district resources; to support timely unit, district and council charter renewal; and to support unit leaders by delivering effective roundtables.

Utilizing the Roundtable Support Webpage

The Roundtable Support webpage has all the tools and information needed to plan and run a successful roundtable, including:

- Cub Scout breakout videos and support documents
- Roundtable Planning Resources
- Roundtable Formats
- Roundtable training for commissioners
- Other commissioner resources
- Virtual roundtable resources
- Other roundtable resources

In addition to the Roundtable Support webpage, there is almost no limit to the number of printed and electronic books and manuals available to support your breakout planning.

Summary/Conclusion – 5 minutes

From our discussions and activities, you should now be able to develop a plan to help units solve their problems using program-specific interest topics and resources, employ the breakout sessions to focus on the needs of leaders in unique positions, and apply unit service resources and help pack leaders solve their problems.

Questions?

What are your questions concerning this presentation today?
Thank you for your participation.