

MCS 354

The Scouts BSA 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 354 –Roundtable Format 50 Minutes pdf● MCS 354 –Roundtable Format 60 Minutes pdf● MCS 354 –Roundtable Format 75 Minutes pdf
Equipment and materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● MCS 354 – The Scouts BSA Roundtable Breakout course plan● MCS 354 – The Scouts BSA 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 353 – The Cub Scout Roundtable Breakout
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Presentation Outline

Introduction and Course Objectives – 3 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.

The Scouts BSA breakout session focuses on the needs of troop leaders and helps them solve their problems and should help adult leaders learn scout skills as needed to help their youth leaders plan and run the troop program.

The breakout session will also help adult leaders learn that roundtable commissioners provide unit service.

Introduce the learning objectives, noting that by the end of this session, each participant should...

- **Explain** the importance of Scouts BSA breakouts
- **Define** the elements for creating a breakout that scout leaders will want to attend
- **Recognize** the role of unit service and national resources in roundtable

The Scouts BSA Breakout – 30 minutes including 3/5-minute activities (slides 3-7)

Let's Review the Parts of a Roundtable – 5 minutes

Instructor-led Discussion, brainstorm the parts of a roundtable – 10 minutes:

Instructor Notes: Students may have many different answers, but ensure they include the responses below in the list.

Possible responses could be:

- Networking time/Midway/Announcements
- Opening: Pledge, Oath, Law, Prayer, Songs, Skits, Run-ons
- Hot Topic
- Safety Moment
- Membership Moment
- Breakout sessions (Cub Scout, Scouts BSA, Venturing, etc.)
- Closing
- Optional networking

Move on when satisfied that the participants understand the parts of a Scouts BSA roundtable. Refer to the 50- and 75-minute virtual roundtable pdfs included in the course if needed.

For virtual presentations, 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 A Great Breakout Matters

A great Scouts BSA breakout provides the ***skill to do*** - skills, techniques, information, program and the know-how that makes for successful unit operation.

- Scout leaders need information and skills to train their youth to plan and run the program
- Timely and relevant information given during breakout must be useful and portable. It is of no use if they can't take it home to their units.
- Leaders come to get help with their unit problems, but can and will help other leaders solve their unit problems.

A great breakout also provides unit leadership with the ***will to do*** - the morale, enthusiasm, inspiration, and vision that renews the desire to serve youth.

Let's dive deeper into the elements for creating a breakout that scout leaders will want to attend...

Breakout Content

Breakout topics are an opportunity to provide in-depth training on rank advancements, skills or merit badges. Topics can be determined in the following ways, but should always be focused on what the unit leaders need.

- The Scouts BSA Committee creates videos for use during breakout with accompanying support documents for discussion. These are updated regularly on the roundtable support page at:
<https://www.scouting.org/commissioners/roundtablesupport/roundtable-planning-resources/#bsaSBSABreakout>
- Roundtable commissioners can choose which video best meets the needs of the units in their district by choosing from the library of content on the website.
- Specific topics can be requested by units or scout leaders who would like extra information and help on a subject.
- Topics can be chosen by the district and be relevant to an upcoming event such as Klondike, winter camping, or a skill such as canoeing.
- Content could come from the monthly safety moment and involve a more thorough discussion, demonstration, or hands-on activity. (for example: knife safety)
- Breakout content can tie into the main session hot topic and provide additional in-depth training and discussion on that topic.

Activity: Instructor-led Discussion - Brainstorm and List Types of Possible Breakouts – 5 minutes

Instructor Notes: List types of possible breakouts. In addition to traditional troop or scoutmaster breakouts, other breakouts can be held to meet the needs of your district and units. These additional breakouts can be held monthly, quarterly, or as needed.

Possible answers might include:

- First-time roundtable attendee (this class would be taken once and then the scout leader would attend their assigned breakout)
- Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster
- New Member Coordinator breakouts could be held for the New Member Coordinators, membership chair and welcome team of the troop. They could discuss recruitment, retention, and creating a welcome message for new families and youth to the troop. Districts could invite the district or council membership chair or New Member Coordinator to attend.
- Fundraising Breakout
- Committee Breakout
- A breakout for parents who have crossed with their Cub Scouts into a Scouts BSA troop.
- An annual breakout focused on charter renewal.

Move on once satisfied that the participants understand that there are multiple possibilities for Scouts BSA breakouts, move on.

Breakout Discussion

Lively and engaging discussions can be facilitated during the breakout. This is done by a roundtable commissioner or staff member being prepared to ask the right type of questions.

Divide the class into two groups. Have the groups discuss the questions. Assign a group leader in each group to respond instead of asking the group if anyone would like to answer.

The purpose of the activity is to teach commissioners to facilitate better discussion. Yes and No questions do not lead to discussion. Instead, try questions that start with W (why, when, who, where).

Activity: Discuss with the group the following questions and determine the questions that are most effective and least effective for fostering discussion.

1. What is the most important item to take camping?
2. Who would like to share an experience?
3. What is your troops favorite camping meal?
4. Is your troop ready for summer camp?
5. What are your favorite games to play with the troop?
6. What is your best tip for first time campers?
7. Do you require scouts to bring their own eating utensils?
8. How do you encourage scouts who are struggling in their leadership position?
9. Why is the EDGE method important in your patrols?
10. Does your troop require scouts to provide their own tents?

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Youth Led Programming and EDGE

The EDGE method is used not only for leadership in scouting but also for teaching. From simple tasks to more complex tasks, the EDGE method is the most useful teaching method and the most effective way to teach a skill. Using the EDGE method during roundtable models the way scouts become teachers. For example, to earn the Tenderfoot rank, a scout must “describe the steps in Scouting’s teaching EDGE method. Use the teaching EDGE method to teach another person how to tie the square knot.”

Using the EDGE method:

1. **Explain** how something is done - Describe the steps to tie a square knot
2. **Demonstrate** the steps that were explained - Demonstrate the square knot
3. **Guide** the learners as they practice - Guide the learners in tying their own square knot
4. **Enable** them to succeed - Scouts are now ready to tie square knots

Modeling the EDGE method during roundtable teaches scout leaders to use the EDGE method in their units. Assigning tasks or responsibilities to attendees allows them to take on leadership roles in the roundtable breakout and thus facilitates better use of the EDGE method in demonstrations and activities.

For virtual roundtables, a list of supplies may be sent to participants in advance. This allows them to “be prepared” to participate in the breakout activity or demonstration and enables them to use the skill in their own units.

Group Engagement - Making the Most of Breakout

Whether the roundtable is held virtually, hybrid or in person, it is important to engage the group and provide hands-on experience.

Use each format in a way that will enhance the topic and engage the students. Networking opportunities and discussion are also possibilities during the breakout. Having troop leaders discuss topics and share information during the breakout should be encouraged. Troop leaders often have long tenures and are great resources during discussions in the breakout because of their experience. Encourage them to collaborate with scout leaders and share their information.

Virtual Roundtable

In a virtual roundtable, the roundtable commissioner can discuss a topic and enhance it with demonstrations, videos and interactive games and quizzes. Commissioners should make the breakout as interactive as possible including asking questions and utilizing the chat function in the virtual platform. This helps participants stay engaged during the virtual meeting. It is important to remember that in a virtual meeting, students can easily become disengaged by distractions at home and adding components for engagement encourages participation and increases the amount of information that can be remembered and passed on to a unit.

In-Person Roundtable

When a roundtable is held in person, in addition to all the possibilities at a virtual round table, a roundtable commissioner is also able to engage participants with hands-on activities and demonstrations. These can be used to enhance the breakout meetings as well as make them more fun and memorable.

Roundtable IS Unit Service – 10 minutes (slides 10-11)

Before, during or after the breakout session, roundtable commissioners and assistant roundtable commissioners provide focused unit customer service to strengthen Scout leaders and units.

They do this by being:

- A Friend of every unit
- A Representative of the BSA
- A Unit “doctor”
- A Teacher

- A Counselor

Let's discuss the roundtable's role in unit service.

- Roundtable is a critical piece for success in our districts. It serves as the front line of unit service.
- Roundtable Commissioners learn about problems in group and individual discussions that occur at roundtable.
- They know who is attending and who isn't.... or who isn't anymore.
- Units, especially newer units and newer leaders, emulate what they get from being at roundtable.
- Roundtable commissioners are also active participants in the monthly district commissioner staff meetings. Here you can learn, in more detail common issues that units in the district are struggling with and design roundtable programs to assist units in resolving their issues.

Roundtables are full of energy and information that will help units put on a successful program back at home.

It doesn't matter what type of "shoes" a commissioner wears (which role they serve in). When commissioners actively strive to serve units, what results is where the shoes take them, where commissioners become the heart of scouting, build relationships and change lives!

Resources

Program Resources on the Roundtable Support Page

<https://www.scouting.org/commissioners/roundtable-support/>

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

Take advantage of the program resources at the Roundtable Support webpage. Scouts BSA breakout videos and discussion materials are added regularly. Breakout videos are a library of content and should be used as needed by your units and district during roundtable, regardless of the month they were posted.

The Roundtable Support webpage also has answers to frequently asked questions, resources, links to training and additional tools.

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

You should now be able to develop a plan for breakouts that engage leaders and motivate them to attend roundtable, to help units solve their problems using program-specific interest topics

and resources, employ breakout sessions to focus on the needs of leaders in unique positions, and apply unit service resources and help scout leaders solve their own problems.

You should now be able to:

- **Explain** the importance and types of breakouts
- **Define** the elements for creating a breakout that scout leaders will want to attend
- **Recognize** the role of unit service and national resources in roundtable

Questions? – 2 minutes

What are your questions concerning this presentation today?

Thank you for your participation.