



## What Role Do Unit Commissioners Play in Roundtable?

The premise is that if skillfully executed, the roundtable experience should inspire, motivate, and enable unit leaders to provide a stronger program for their Scouts and increase the unit's Journey to Excellence scores annually.

In my February newsletter article, I laid the groundwork for a sequence of articles to address making sure that we are targeting the premise above most effectively. My May article addressed what makes an effective roundtable experience. This article discusses the unit commissioner's relationship to roundtable.

Roundtable is where Scouters in the district have an opportunity to interact with each other, learn about BSA policies and procedures, and obtain program materials. The roundtable commissioners *must* present a program that will make the Scout leaders want to return. Keeping good attendance records and reporting this at district commissioner meetings is important information for unit commissioners.

A unit commissioner has four primary areas of responsibility. One of those is to support unit growth through JTE. Another is to link unit needs to district committee resources. Roundtable, if operating as described in the May 2016 issue of *The Commissioner*, should be a primary source for accomplishing both of these tasks! Therefore, it is logical that a unit commissioner would see the value of roundtable and want to know whether the leaders of his or her units are regularly attending.

The unit commissioner's role in roundtable attendance is to promote roundtable by letting the leaders in his or her units know where and when roundtable takes place and what they can expect from attending. It is often assumed that leaders know about roundtable and just choose not to attend. In fact, many leaders, especially in the Cub Scouting program where den leadership seems to turn over fairly often, may not be aware of it at all or simply believe that it is just another night away from home with little purpose. The unit commissioner should especially pay attention to units that do not attend roundtable and have a low JTE score that indicates program issues may exist. Perhaps



**Daniel B. Maxfield**  
 National Commissioner Service Roundtable Chair  
[dbmaxi05@gmail.com](mailto:dbmaxi05@gmail.com)

including roundtable in the Unit Service Plan for some units is appropriate to meet assessed needs. And it's a pretty good idea for unit commissioners to visit a roundtable from time to time and even bring a reluctant leader or two with them. It may be especially important for the unit commissioner to engage the leadership of a new unit to attend roundtable, perhaps even taking them for a couple of months to make sure they feel comfortable and welcomed. This type of interaction provides a perfect opportunity for the unit commissioner to practice being a friend, doctor, and counselor. These could be very worthwhile evenings.

The next and last article in this sequence will address roundtable commissioner training opportunities and awards that can be earned.

Those of you interested in being able to engage in ongoing conversation with other roundtable commissioners can do so at [www.facebook.com/groups/ScoutRTCommish](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ScoutRTCommish).

