



What Training Should Roundtable Commissioners Take and What Awards Can They Earn?

The premise of the roundtable experience is that, if skillfully executed, it 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 last February's newsletter, I laid the groundwork for a sequence of articles to address making sure that we are targeting the premise above most effectively. The May article addressed what makes an effective roundtable experience. The August article discussed the unit commissioner's relationship to roundtable. This article deals with roundtable commissioner training and awards.

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. This requires trained and organized roundtable commissioners. So, what training should they take and what awards can they receive?

Training for all commissioners is outlined in a chart on the Commissioner Training page of the Commissioners website. For roundtable it outlines the following:

1. An orientation that includes Youth Protection, Unit Commissioner Fast Start, and Commissioner Tools video modules
2. Roundtable Basic
3. College of Commissioner Science Bachelors in Roundtable (BCS 150-156)
4. Continuing Ed courses (these are general in nature to increase commissioner knowledge and not necessarily specific to roundtable)
5. National conferences at Philmont, the Sea Base, and the Summit

Awards available for commissioners are outlined on the Awards and Recognition page of the Commissioners website. For roundtable it outlines these:

- For the Trained patch to be received, Nos. 1 and 2 above must be completed.
- The Arrowhead Honor can be earned by roundtable commissioners and assistant roundtable commissioners.



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- A certificate of commendation can be awarded by councils or districts for commendable service that doesn't yet rise to the level of a distinguished commissioner.
- The Commissioners Key can be earned by roundtable commissioners and assistant roundtable commissioners.
- The Distinguished Commissioner Service Award is the highest recognition that can be given to a commissioner.
- The Doctorate of Commissioner Science recognizes completion of a standardized training program that includes a thesis or project.

More detailed information about all of the above is available at: www.scouting.org/Commissioners.aspx. Click on the Commissioner Training or Awards and Recognition links.

Our Scouts deserve the best program that can be provided. Take the training you need and receive the awards you are eligible for. These steps make you a better Scouter and set a great example for our youth!

Those of you interested in engaging in ongoing conversation with other roundtable commissioners can do so at www.facebook.com/groups/ScoutRTCommish.

