



# the COMMISSIONER

A PUBLICATION FOR COUNCIL COMMISSIONERS AND SCOUT EXECUTIVES WINTER 2004  
[www.scouting.org/commissioners](http://www.scouting.org/commissioners)

## GOOD TURN FOR AMERICA— AND THE COMMISSIONER

February is the launch date for Good Turn for America — a multi-year initiative to support the many council community service projects related to food, shelter, and health needs.

Good Turn for America goals include the following:

- Inspire youth and adult leaders in and out of Scouting to higher levels of service and volunteerism.
- Provide additional program experiences to help youth members learn qualities of good citizenship and gain a sense of belonging to and being needed in their communities.
- Build service collaborations with community organizations across every community in the country.
- Affirm the BSA as the nation's leading collaborating organization in community service.
- Heighten our nation's awareness of BSA's service commitment to all communities and citizens.

Councils and districts plan, promote, and carry out Good Turn for America projects through the efforts of their respective activities and civic service committees.

**Commissioner Role. Commissioners are also key players. They—**

- Encourage units to plan Good Turn for America projects as a part of a balanced unit program.
- Help unit leaders learn and use the six criteria to ensure that a project actually teaches qualities of good citizenship. (See pages 26-27 of the *Activities and Civic Service Committee Guide*.)
- Help unit leaders understand how participation in Good Turn for America projects can help Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers to achieve requirements toward rank advancement and other awards.

- Share Good Turn for America ideas and plans at district Cub Scout, Boy Scout, and Venturing roundtables.
- Look for ways in which Good Turn for America projects can strengthen the bond between Scouting units and their chartered organizations.

**Unit Leader Role. Units should be given the flexibility to incorporate a variety of service projects into the Good Turn for America initiative. Unit leaders:**

- Participate in the council and district activities organized under this initiative.
- Incorporate the Good Turn for America initiative into the unit's annual program plans.
- Consider planning additional unit-level community service projects.

- Enter service project data into [goodturnforamerica.org](http://goodturnforamerica.org).
- Coordinate with district and council committees to promote events and report successes. If these committees don't—do it yourself!

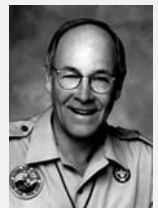
There are three major program areas.

### 1. Scouting for Food Activities in Collaboration With The Salvation Army or Other Local Organizations.

As unbelievable as it may seem, hunger remains a significant problem in the United States. In fact, one in five children in this country faces hunger. Hungry children, even  
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William F. "Rick" Cronk serves as national commissioner of the Boy Scouts of America. Rick recently retired as president of Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream, Inc. He is a Silver Beaver, Silver Antelope, and Silver Buffalo recipient who has served in a variety of local and national responsibilities, including troop committee member, council president, area president, and Western Region president.



## GOOD TURN FOR AMERICA— AND THE COMMISSIONER (continued on page 2)

those who experience only mild malnutrition during the critical stages of their development, may suffer irreparable harm. The BSA is concerned about hunger and helping community agencies provide food for the needy.

### 2. Scouting for Shelter Activities in Collaboration With Habitat for Humanity or Other Local Organizations.

The Urban Institute estimates that 3.5 million people in the United States, 1.35 million of them children, will experience homelessness during the course of a year. The need for simple, decent housing continues to grow in American communities.

The BSA is concerned about shelter to the needy and improving the quality of life of those who must live in group homes or shelters.

### 3. Scouting for Healthy Living Activities in Collaboration With the American Red Cross or Other Local Organizations.

Obesity has reached epidemic proportions in the United States. It is a major risk factor for the number one cause of

death: heart disease. Heart disease can be reduced by proper exercise and diet. Our children are being raised in an increasingly sedentary society, and obesity is a major health concern for youth. One out of five obese youth develops diabetes. Some researchers predict that today's children will be the first generation of Americans whose life expectancy will actually be shorter than that of their parents. The culprit, they say, is the health problems associated with obesity.

The BSA is an organization that has always been concerned about the physical fitness and good health of Americans.

Details may be found in the *Good Turn for America Guidebook*, No. 02-673.

#### As Council Commissioner—

- Have a knowledgeable council Scouter share Good Turn for America details at your next council commissioner meeting.
- Ask each district commissioner and district executive to cover this topic at their next district commissioner meetings.
- Copy and distribute this article to all commissioners.

## COMMISSIONER Shorts

#### • WISDOM FROM GEESE-AGAIN?

When a goose gets sick, wounded, or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it is able to fly again. Then they launch out on their own with another formation or catch up with the flock.

**LESSON:** Like geese, commissioners too will stand by each other in difficult times as well as good. Even more importantly, commissioners know that their finest hour is when they swoop down to help a sick or wounded unit until it too is able to fly again.

#### • REVISIONS

The Commissioner Fieldbook, No. 33621E and Commissioner Administration, No. 34128E have been revised and released with new covers, photos, and other enhancements. The Fieldbook now mentions the new commission, the commissioner Web address, and discusses preventing new leader remorse. Commissioner Administration now includes sections on criteria for assigning commissioners, self-evaluation for commissioner leaders, a recruiting event agenda, and other updates.

Get your revisions today.

#### • QUOTE FOR YOUR NEXT MEETING -

**“Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you care.”**

**Council Commissioner Howie Liebmann  
Mount Arlington, New Jersey**

#### • LATEST RECRUITING IDEA

**At each council commissioner meeting, record a “commissioner dollar” to the account of each district with a complete staff. At the December meeting, each district commissioner uses his “dollars” to bid on Scouting memorabilia.**

#### • ONE MORE QUOTE-

**“I always wondered why somebody didn't do something about that, than I realized I was somebody.”**

**Lily Tomlin**

## A MEETING CAUTION

We've observed that a few districts across the country hold their district commissioner staff meeting and district committee meeting on the same night. Please note—that's a real no-no!

**Please check with your district commissioners at the next council commissioner meeting to correct this situation where it exists.** Scout executives should also review this matter with the professional staff. Holding commissioner meetings in conjunction with other meetings of the district short-

changes the unit service function and prevents the district commissioner and district executive from giving adequate attention to individual commissioner issues. Their hands-on involvement is key. For example, they often need to sit in on the essential ADC work groups where their direct input may be needed.

The district commissioner and district executive play somewhat different roles at the district committee meeting where their full-time attention is also needed.

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## 2003 Boys' Life Commissioner Award

The 2003 *Boys' Life* Commissioner Award recognizes commissioners who successfully promote 100% *Boys' Life* units. The 100% *Boys' Life* unit is defined as "a unit in which at least one subscription to *Boys' Life* goes to the home of each youth member."

### Qualifications

1. **Unit commissioners** qualify when they serve at least two 100% *Boys' Life* units.
2. **Roundtable commissioners** qualify after they have presented at least five *Boys' Life* roundtable features during 2003.
3. **Administrative commissioners** qualify when either one-half or more of the units in their service area are 100% *Boys' Life* units or they achieve a 10% gain in 100% *Boys' Life* units in 2003 over 2002.

The award is a fully embroidered three-inch patch.



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## Questions from Council Commissioners

### ✦ Where can I find help on unit problem solving?

- *Unit Problem Solving for Commissioners* video is a great resource to generate many solutions for 14 different problems. Use one or two a month or have a district run a commissioner problem-solving barbecue and use six or seven of the problems.
- Use the "Lifesaving Commissioner" chapter of the *Commissioner Fieldbook* to help address unit life-threatening problems.

- For over 300 solutions to several dozen other unit situations, see *Commissioner Helps for Packs, Troops, and Crews*.

### ✦ What are the different ways that council commissioners deploy their assistants?

- The most frequent roles for assistant council commissioners are found in chapter 4 of *Commissioner Administration* and come from a survey of council commissioners.

# SERVICE PLAN *Dates*

**The annual commissioner service plan gives specific purposes for regular and supportive commissioner contact with units. Prepare your commissioners for upcoming dates.**

**APRIL — Unit Leadership Inventory.** Conducted by the commissioner and unit committee. Find out who will continue and who will drop. Visit inactive adults. Recruit new adults.

**MAY — Troop Uniform Inspection.** Commissioner helps Scoutmaster and lends dignity to a high morale event. Encourage uniform for summer camp. Develop unit pride.

**30 DAYS AFTER EACH UNIT CHARTER RENEWAL — Charter Presentation.**

Commissioner presents charter at an event of the chartered organization (not the unit). Make it special.

**DURING THE UNIT CHARTER RENEWAL MEETING — Quality Unit Measurement.**

This is the time to help all unit adults check how they did during the past charter year and commit for the charter year ahead.

## *Calendar* ITEMS

2004

May 19-21

*National Annual Meeting, Chicago*

June 6-12  
June 13-19  
July 18-24

*Commissioner and Key 3 Conferences at  
Philmont Scout Ranch*



### UNIT COMMISSIONER BOX SCORE

*OCTOBER 31, 2003*

Region	Number of Units*	Unit Commissioners Required	Unit Commissioners Registered	Need to Recruit	Percent of Need Filled Last Year/This Year	Unit/Commissioner Ratio Last Year/This Year
Northeast	19,462	6,487	3,832	2,655	60.3 / 59.1	5.0 / 5.1
Southern	33,275	11,095	5,552	5,543	53.3 / 50.0	5.6 / 6.0
Central	27,217	9,072	6,203	2,869	68.4 / 68.4	4.4 / 4.4
Western	41,936	13,976	6,883	7,083	57.3 / 49.2	5.2 / 6.1
<b>NATIONAL</b>	<b>121,890</b>	<b>40,630</b>	<b>22,470</b>	<b>18,160</b>	<b>59.1 / 55.3</b>	<b>5.1 / 5.4</b>

\* Does not include Explorer posts or Learning for Life groups