



the COMMISSIONER

A PUBLICATION FOR COUNCIL COMMISSIONERS AND SCOUT EXECUTIVES SUMMER 2003

www.scouting.org/commissioners

A Commissioner QUIZ!

This is not really a test.

It might look like a test, but there is no penalty for a bad score.

Think of it as a way for you to brush up on your commissioner skills by playing a game of 18 questions. If anyone's score is less than perfect, no need to worry. Everyone will know the answer by the time you adjourn.

So relax, grab a pen, and let the game begin.

1. You have a district with 60 units. What's the minimum number of commissioners the district needs?

- a. 1 in 3
- b. 20
- c. Less than 20
- d. More than 20

2. After agreeing to serve, a new unit commissioner should view the orientation video—

- a. Within 48 hours
- b. Within 4 weeks
- c. Within 4 months
- d. Before receiving the Commissioner Key

3. You are told that an assistant Scoutmaster has allegedly sexually abused a Scout during a troop camp. You should—

- a. Launch a full-scale investigation
- b. Obtain solid proof before reporting to anyone
- c. Tell the alleged abuser they can no longer be in Scouting
- d. Inform the Scout executive immediately

4. The greatest hazard to the effectiveness of a commissioner is—

- a. Taking on non-commissioner-related Scouting responsibilities

- b. Drinking too much coffee at commissioner meetings
- c. Giving top priority to a troop that lost its Scoutmaster
- d. Failing to earn the Arrowhead Award

5. You've just reviewed a copy of Continuing Education for Commissioners, No. 33615D. How should your council make the best use of this resource?

- a. Use training topic outlines at district commissioner meetings
- b. Use training topic outlines at council commissioner meetings
- c. Use the resource in the planning of your council's annual commissioner conferences
- d. Do all of the above

6. Your district has 7 lapsed units. Your commissioner staff should—

- a. Be sure the lapsed situation is a top priority for the assigned unit commissioners and their ADCs
- b. Be sure the lapsed situation is a top priority for the district executive
- c. Set up a weekly phone check or other reporting process on each lapse
- d. Do all of the above

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William F. "Rick" Cronk serves as national commissioner of the Boy Scouts of America. Rick is president of Dreyer's Grand IceCream, 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.



7. The two most important items on a district commissioner staff agenda are—

- a. Promotion of both district and council activities
- b. Inspirational opening and recognition of commissioner achievement
- c. A brief training topic and a time for ADCs to meet with their unit commissioners to review unit needs
- d. None of the above

8. "Commissioner Lifesaving" is—

- a. A process in which unit commissioners respond quickly when a unit has a life-threatening emergency
- b. Everything a commissioner does to help a unit stay healthy
- c. First aid skills such as CPR learned by commissioners
- d. First aid, swimming, and fire rescue skills that commissioners learned as Boy Scouts or Explorers

9. Explorer posts can receive unit service from—

- a. A unit commissioner
- b. A district Learning for Life committee
- c. The Learning for Life Division
- d. All of the above

10. You have been asked to make a presentation on the two most important ways commissioners can impact youth membership increases. You should include—

- a. Organizing new units and running school nights
- b. Preventing dropped units and ensuring full membership at the time of unit charter renewal
- c. Identifying unregistered boys at the district camporee and organizing new units
- d. Keeping district membership records and recruiting kids at school

11. An award that can only be earned by commissioners is—

- a. The Commissioner Key
- b. The Arrowhead Honor
- c. The Distinguished Commissioner Service Award
- d. All of the above

12. A good rule of thumb for the ratio of ADCs to unit commissioners is—

- a. 1 in 3
- b. 1 in 4
- c. 1 in 5
- d. 1 in 6

13. What should a district commissioner do who has a staff member who seems totally inadequate to do his or her job?

- a. Fire the sucker today
- b. Refer the problem to the professional
- c. Accept the fact that little can be done
- d. Review with your professional adviser the section in The Commissioner Fieldbook, No. 33621D, on "How to Remove a Volunteer"

14. When a Scout votes with his feet, walking out of a unit meeting never to return, it's probably because—

- a. Of the baseball team meeting down the street
- b. Uninspired leadership and program lacking fun and challenge
- c. His parents object to Scouting
- d. Illness or poor school grades

15. Effective service to rural and low-income urban areas requires which of the following?

- a. Additional methods and resources
- b. A neighborhood-based form of district/council outreach
- c. Commissioners and professionals with exceptional people skills
- d. All of the above

16. Kids are most likely to stay in a unit if—

- a. They are advancing in rank
- b. Their unit meets in the summer and youth members take part in a long-term camp or other outdoor event
- c. Unit meetings are fun, challenging, and inspiring
- d. The unit's commissioner makes sure unit leaders succeed

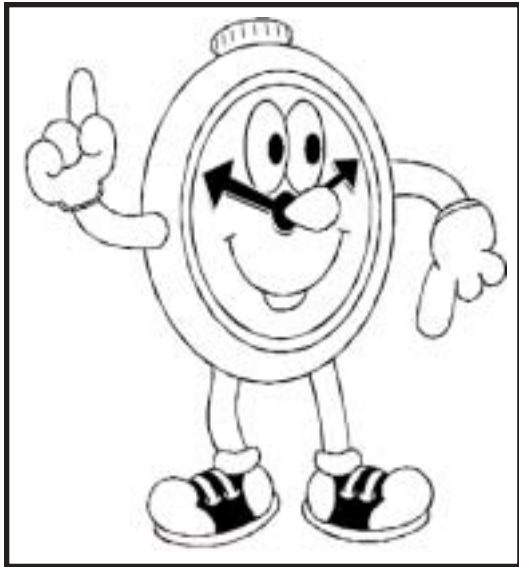
17. The tone and effectiveness of commissioner service is primarily set by—

- a. The quality of unit commissioners
- b. You
- c. The district commissioner and district executive
- d. None of the above

18. Commissioners can directly affect the quality of people selected as unit leaders by—

- a. Appointing the best people available
- b. Briefing the unit committee on the process as found in Selecting Quality Leaders, No. 18-981, and then coaching them as they complete the process
- c. Appointing your brother-in-law
- d. Personally conducting a commissioner kangaroo court

See QUIZ Answers on page 4.



TIMELY ALERTS—

- Does your council have persons signed up for the Philmont Training Center conferences for commissioners and Key 3's? It's not too late to get to the July and August events.
- Have you oriented your district commissioners and district executives on the new commissioner's commission? Do they have copies of the new commissioning ceremony? Have the commissions been ordered from the National Distribution Center?
- Are your commissioners sure that all units have planned their summer program? Which ones have not and need help?
- Have you launched your commissioner emphasis on serving Cub Scout packs? (Please see the spring newsletter.)
- Have all your commissioners been informed of the new commissioner Web site at www.scouting.org/commissioners/?

Quiz ANSWERS

1. **d.** More than 20. The district needs 20 unit commissioners just to meet the 1 unit commissioner per 3 unit ratio plus 4 ADCs to meet the 1 ADC per 5 unit commissioner ratio plus 3 roundtable commissioners and a district commissioner, for a total of 26 people.

2. **a.** See page 45 of the Commissioner Fieldbook, No. 33621D, for more information on commissioner training.

3. **d.** Immediately contact the Scout executive. He or she will see that proper procedures are followed as required by the BSA and state law. Volunteers are not to undertake investigations or make allegations of abuse or contact the alleged abuser. This is best left to trained professionals working through the Scout executive.

4. **a.** Commissioners are usually wonderful Scouters and can be asked to do many things. They must not fall into the trap of doing everything else in Scouting except their appointed job—unit service.

5. **d.** All of the above. This resource helps commissioners and professionals carry out all ongoing training beyond commissioner basic training.

6. **d.** Lapsed units are always a priority, as are any units with life-threatening problems.

7. **c.** ADC teams must share important observations from recent unit visits, identify key unit needs, and decide who will provide appropriate help.

8. **a.** Every commissioner of the council should be trained to be a "lifesaving commissioner."

9. **d.** Depends on how things are set up in the district and council and the nature of the local community.

10. **b.** Preventing dropped units and ensuring a full membership at unit charter renewal time. Other membership tasks are the responsibility of the district membership committee.

11. **d.** Be sure your district makes full use of all three.

12. **c.** 1 ADC for every 5 unit commissioners.

13. **d.** Please take some meeting time to share this with your district commissioners and council staff.

14. **b.** Your most important Scouting job is to visit units and to see that the unit has a great unit program.

15. **d.** Check out BSA rural and inner-city resource guidebooks.

16. **a, b, c, and d.** Again a reminder of commissioner priorities.

17. **c!!**

18. **b.** This is a great opportunity for you to make a major contribution as a commissioner. (Even though you can't personally appoint or remove a unit leader.)

FIRST

Don't worry... He won't notice until his second cup of coffee."

James K. Flynn, Troop 118

Mecklenburg County Council, Charlotte, N.C.

SECOND

"Tell me again, Flip. How did you get your nickname?"

Nancy Gilbert, Pack 559

Montana Council, Cut Bank, Mont.

THIRD

"Wow! That no-stick pan stuff really does work."

Mark L. Kidd, Troop 751

Gulf Stream Council, Jupiter, Fla.



SERVICE PLAN *Dates*

The annual commissioner service plan gives specific purposes for regular and supportive commissioner contact with units. Review these dates with your district commissioners.

AUGUST -- Unit Program Planning. Unit Commissioners visit with unit leaders to help where necessary with the planning process. With a new program year starting September 1, a unit annual plan should be completed by August 31.

OCTOBER -- Uniform Inspection. Commissioner helps pack and troop leaders, lends dignity to a high morale event. Encourage uniform for all members. Develop pack and troop pride.

NOVEMBER -- Youth Protection Visit. Commissioner explains and promotes latest BSA child abuse training booklets and videos at a fall meeting of adults in the unit. Guide your commissioners to make this a meaningful event in each unit.

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.

New Products Increase Commissioner Identity

A select line of items are now available for use by commissioners. First introduced at the council commissioner session at the recent National Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, the following items may be ordered at your council Scout shop or by calling 800-323-0732:

Beautiful Quality Golf Shirt—white, cotton knit with embroidered commissioner logo. S-No. 58391, M-No. 58392, L-No. 58393, XL-No. 58394; \$29.35. XXL-No. 58395, \$31.00. XXXL-No. 58396, \$32.65.

Lined Nylon Jacket—red, snap front, elastic sleeve cuffs, embroidered commissioner logo. S-No. 58291, M-No. 58292, L-No. 58293, XL-No. 58294; \$24.50. XXL-No. 58295, \$25.75. XXXL-No. 58296, \$30.75.

Embroidered Commissioner Neckerchief—maroon with logo. No. 28012, \$11.15.

Commissioner Logo Hat Pin—No. 28015, \$1.95.

Classy Window Pen—maroon with six messages for commissioners. Comes with presentation case. No. 28013, \$1.95.

Special Commissioner Ceramic Mug—No. 28016, \$6.05.

Striking Black Commissioner Portfolio—Ideal for unit visits. Has numerous sleeves, pockets, and holders. No. 28014, \$14.95.

Special Uniform Nameplate—white on red with metallic logo. One-line nameplate—No. 28017, \$6.00. Two lines—No. 28019, \$7.00.

Many other items in the BSA's Custom Design Catalog can also now be ordered by councils with the commissioner logo.

Calendar ITEMS

2003

June 15-21

July 13-19

July 27-August 2

*Commissioner and
Key 3 Conferences at
Philmont Scout Ranch*



2004

May 19-21

National Annual Meeting, Chicago

UNIT COMMISSIONER BOX SCORE

APRIL 30, 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	19,228	6,411	3,851	2,560	59.9 / 60.1	5.0 / 5.0
Southern	31,299	10,433	4,958	5,475	41.2 / 47.5	7.3 / 6.3
Central	27,106	9,038	5,949	3,089	66.3 / 65.8	4.5 / 4.6
Western	40,223	13,409	5,831	7,578	58.8 / 43.5	5.1 / 6.9
NATIONAL	117,856	39,291	20,589	18,702	55.9 / 52.4	5.4 / 5.7

* Does not include Explorer posts or Learning for Life groups