

Interest Topic: BSA Structure

Cub Scout Roundtable			
Time Allotted	Activity	Assigned to	Content
30–40 minutes	General session for all participants	Cub Scout roundtable team assisted by district committee members	Overview of district positions and a recruitment opportunity
10 minutes	Q&A	Cub Scout roundtable team	Opportunity to answer any additional questions
5 minutes	Announcements and Closing	Cub Scout roundtable commissioner	Closing flag ceremony

Takeaway: Pack leaders will understand how the pack fits into the district and how they can support the district, which in turn helps keep the units in the district strong. Provide an overview of district, council, and national structure; an overview of the Friends of Scouting (FOS) appeal; and council, district, and national opportunities.

GENERAL SESSION

Overview of Council, District, and Pack Structure and Relationship

Every good organization has structure and levels of management. This includes the Boy Scouts of America (BSA.) Once a youth joins, they are part of a pack, which is a part of a district, which is part of a council, which is part of an area, which is part of a region, which is part of the national organization of the BSA.

As a unit Scouter, you may work with district volunteers and council professionals. It is important to understand the part each of these people plays in delivering the promise of Scouting.

The Unit's Purpose

Unit is another name for a pack, troop, crew, or ship. The volunteers of a Cub Scout unit or pack provide the den and pack activities and meetings, applying the mission statement and the aims and methods of Scouting. A pack is led by the Key 3: pack committee chair, cubmaster and chartering organization representative.

The District's Purpose

A Scouting district is a geographical area of the BSA local council. Some districts are not geographical, for example special needs or Scoutreach. Districts are determined by the council executive board. District leaders are responsible for the success of Scouting units within the district's territory. Unlike a council, a district is not a governing body and does not have a board of directors. The district is led by a Key 3 consisting of a district chair (volunteer), district commissioner (volunteer), and district executive (professional advisor.)

The purpose of the district is to work through chartered organizations, community groups, and the units themselves to organize and support successful units. The end result of effective district support is a growing number of youth members receiving a better program.

The operating committees of the district are responsible for carrying out the functions of membership, finance, and program. The chair of each district operating committee may be a member of the related council-level committee.

All districts are responsible for carrying out four standard functions: membership, finance, program and unit service.

District Membership Committee

This committee serves to increase membership through:

- Organizing Scouting units. It schedules units to be organized or reorganized each year, and carries out the schedule.
- Recruiting new members and adult volunteers to join existing units. The district may assist a unit in conducting a roundup night or other recruitment event.
- Cultivating relationships with community organizations and businesses in the district.
- Helping to establish and maintain healthy relationships with schools and religious organizations.
- Retaining current members.

District Finance Committee

This committee encourages the members of the district to provide their financial support to the total council operating budget.

District Program Committee

This committee concentrates on youth advancement and recognition, helping Scouting units with camp promotion, training adult volunteers, and special activities including community service. It often conducts Cub Scout day camps or twilight camps. Quality program has a positive impact on membership retention.

Unit Service

The unit service function provides direct coaching and consultation by district volunteers (commissioners) to unit volunteers to help ensure the success of every Scouting unit.

The membership, finance, and program functions are carried out by members of the district committee. The unit service function is carried out by the district commissioner staff.

The Council's Purpose

The next level in BSA structure is the council. You wear your council's name on the left shoulder of your uniform, signifying you are part of that team. The purpose of the council is to carry out the programs of the BSA within the council jurisdiction. Councils are chartered by the BSA for that purpose. Councils deal with personnel issues, budgets, properties, and more. The council guides and supports its districts for the achievement of the movement's purpose. The council is the corporate legal entity and can be considered a small or sometimes large non-profit business. Major council decisions are made by the council executive board. The council Key 3 consists of the council president (volunteer), council commissioner (volunteer), and council Scout executive (professional advisor).

Area, Region and National

Nationally, the BSA is divided into geographical regions. Each is divided into areas. Areas, regions and national are each is governed by a Key 3.

Friends of Scouting (FOS) Overview

One of the ways the council raises money is through the annual Friends of Scouting campaign. (Note to presenter: Your council will be able to share information with you regarding the amount of FOS funds it raises each year and how that amount contributes to the council's budget.) With this income, the council operates, maintains, and improves its camps. It also employs the professional staff needed for the support and guidance of volunteers for training opportunities and activity planning and implementation. While the council's income will come from many sources, one of the most important is the annual Friends of Scouting campaign. Under the campaign, people who support Scouting enroll as Friends of Scouting through their financial contributions. This is usually the major source of income raised by volunteers within the council. The Friends of Scouting campaign has three parts: district/division, family and community.

District/division enrollment. These are district committee members, commissioner staff members, and others who are demonstrating their support by serving Scouting and enrolling.

Family enrollment. All parents of Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturers, and Sea Scouts are encouraged to enroll. Though most families welcome the opportunity to give, this is entirely voluntary and not a condition for membership in Scouting. It is important to communicate that money contributed to Friends of Scouting enables the council to support and build Scouting throughout the communities served. An ideal time to conduct the family enrollment is during the Cub Scout pack's blue and gold banquet and Arrow of Light ceremony, when a large number of parents will be in attendance.

Community enrollment. All prospects not included in the district or family enrollments are enrolled here. This includes former youth and adult members, community businesses, and previous contributors.

District, Council and National Training Opportunities

Training is an important feature of the district committee. This group keeps up to date on changes in training and makes sure that there are many opportunities for leaders to receive training. Every Scout deserves a trained leader, and a trained leader helps improve retention of youth in the program.

Training is important for other reasons as well:

- It builds the confidence of leaders.
- It improves the experience of the Scouts.
- It increases the tenure of leaders because they derive greater satisfaction from their position.
- It gives leaders the chance to become acquainted with and network with other leaders.

For all unit leaders, several levels of training are available: Youth Protection Training, New Leader Essentials, position-specific training, BALOO, University of Scouting, and many more. Many training courses are offered online or in person and may be taken either way. In addition there is Wood Badge training as well as training for trainers and commissioners. Your council may have a University of Scouting which offers many different opportunities. Volunteers can also benefit from national training opportunities offered at Philmont Training Center, Florida Sea Base, and the Summit Bechtel Reserve.