

Professional & Volunteer Relations

Time Available

10 minutes.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:

- Understand the overall Boy Scouts of America charter structure
- Understand how Council supports units
- Understand the function of Councils & Professionals

Suggested Presenter(s)

Have one or more of the following people present this topic:

- District Commissioner
- District Chairman
- District Executive
- Director of Field Services
- Scout Executive

Presentation Method

Stand-up with Notes, White Board or PowerPoint type presentation

BSA Reference Materials

- [A Guide for Volunteers on Good Volunteer-Professional Relationships](#)
- [Good Volunteer - Professional Relationships](#)

Presentation Content

Unique Boy Scouts of America Structure

- The Charter structure of both a Council and a Unit is very much like a “franchise”
- Units are owned and operated by the Chartering Organization (Church, Fraternal Organization, School, etc.) with a “Charter” from the council to operate
- Councils are owned by the communities through a Board of Directors of volunteers and have a “Charter” from the National Organization to operate
- The President and the Executive Board of each council is responsible to operate the council in accordance with the bylaws of the Boy Scouts of America
- Charter Organization Representatives have to have greater than 50% of the votes on the National Board of the Boy Scouts of America and can vote at every national meeting in May

Volunteer Impacts

- Volunteers represent over 900,000 adults in the movement while professionals are less than 5,000 across the entire movement (That is an average of around 18 professionals in the 265 councils in the

nation)

- The program can't operate without the volunteers
- Professionals help guide the volunteers and hopefully multiply their abilities through the abilities of the volunteers in their council, district and units
- Council and the professionals are there to support both the volunteers and the units in successfully operating the program and positively impacting the 3 Million youth in the program

What Does the Council Do for Me?

- Provides an overall framework for your unit or district to provide program to the youth
- Sponsors Council wide events such as Camporees, NYLT, Commissioners College, University of Scouting, Wood Badge
- Provides funding for the facilities (council office, outdoor camping facilities, etc.), support personnel (registration, Scout Shop, camping staff, etc), and professionals in the council through an overall Friends of Scouting campaign, working with foundations and philanthropic organizations, special events for fundraising (golf tournaments, skeet shoots, etc.), and running community and Board campaigns.

Who Are the Key Professionals?

- District Executive or District Associate – Junior commissioned professional who supports volunteers at the District level. Supports the District Chairman and District Commissioner in operation of units, district level events (Pinewood Derby, Camporee, Popcorn, etc.), fund raising, roundtable, and operation of the district.
- Director of Field Services – Senior commissioned professional who supports the council program operations and the individual districts. Usually a mentor to multiple council level volunteers as well as the District Executives and District Directors (in larger councils) who report to them.
- Scout Executive – Top professional in a council who supports council operations. Mentors the President and Board of Directors as well as the professionals and support staff in the council.