



Commissioner Doctoral Project Workbook

Commissioner's full name: _____

Commissioner position: _____

Council: _____ District: _____

Name of project: _____

The Doctorate of Commissioner Science is the most advanced degree a commissioner can earn, building on coursework of colleges of commissioner science, service to units, and a doctoral project.

The commissioner's doctoral project should have a direct, practical impact on unit service by requiring candidates to identify a real, validated need and develop an evidence-based response to address it. It should support unit service in a very practical, hands-on way. Candidates should look closely at what units really need, listen to leaders, and use that information to create solutions that make a difference.

Rather than focusing on theory, the project helps improve how commissioners support units—whether that means more transparent communication, better tools, or stronger connections to resources. By putting these ideas into action and seeing what works, the project leads to meaningful improvements that help units run more smoothly and provide a better Scouting experience for youth and families.

This workbook is intended to assist both the candidate and their advisor in planning, carrying out, and documenting the work.

Workbook Purpose and Usage

This workbook is designed to help guide commissioners through the steps of a Doctoral Project as part of the Doctorate of Commissioner Science Degree program. The use of this workbook is optional; although the approvals/signatures indicated in this workbook are required to complete a project, these approvals may be obtained using forms other than this workbook.

Note that the Doctoral Project is one of the requirements for the Doctorate of Commissioner Science Degree, but it is not the only requirement. Other requirements include completing a required number of applicable College of Commissioner Science courses, completing a performance requirement, having earned the commissioner's key, and others. The project may be completed before or after the other requirements. Please refer to other documents, including the "Guidebook for Earning the Doctorate of Commissioner Science Degree" and the "Doctorate of Commissioner Science Knot Personal Progress Record" for more information about the other requirements.

Working with Your Doctoral Advisor

Once you have decided to pursue the Doctorate of Commissioner Science degree, talk with the dean of your Council College of Commissioner Science (or their designee if there is not an appointed doctoral dean) or Council Commissioner. This person will pair you with an advisor for the process.

Your advisor will be someone who has already earned their doctorate and has been where you are now. If problems arise, your advisor will provide the necessary assistance or find the help you need.

It is good practice to share your work with your advisor regularly so you stay focused on your topic.

Additional Documents

The following documents should be reviewed prior to starting work on your project proposal so that you know the requirements, expectations, and other details.

General information about the Doctorate of Commissioner Science Degree program:

- Guidebook for Earning the Doctorate of Commissioner Science Degree and Doctorate of Commissioner Science Knot Award: [Doctorate and Knot Award Guidebook – January 2026](#)
- [Doctorate of Commissioner Science Personal Knot Tracking Record](#)

Information about the Doctoral Project:

- [Identify a Need in Unit Service and Focus for Your Doctoral Project Topic](#)
- [Suggested Doctoral Project Proposal](#)
- [Checklist for Editing Doctorate Project Reports](#)

Copies of these documents may be obtained from the [College of Commissioner Science](#) website, as well as the [Doctorate Courses](#) webpage.

Doctoral Project Proposal Form

Complete this form and submit it to your Doctoral Advisor. They will review the proposal and may suggest revisions. If you need more space than provided on this form, you may attach additional pages as needed.

Commissioner Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Council and District: _____

Commissioner Position: _____

Name of Doctoral Project: _____

Date of Proposal: _____

Briefly describe your doctoral project:

Describe how your project benefits unit service in Scouting:

Describe how your project connects to your service as a commissioner:

Describe how your project is S.M.A.R.T.: (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and timely):

Commissioner Candidate’s Promise:

On my honor as a Scouter, I have described my doctoral project accurately on this form and will do my best to carry it out for the maximum benefit of unit service in Scouting. I have reviewed the guidebook for the doctoral degree and will follow the prescribed guidelines in carrying out this project, as well as all other rules and procedures required in Scouting.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Approval by doctoral advisor, council commissioner, or designee:

I have reviewed this proposal and discussed it with the commissioner. I have found the proposed project to be a worthy Doctoral Project and approve this project as described on this form. I will continue to advise and support the candidate as appropriate.

Name (printed): _____

Position: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Doctoral Project Report

Commissioner Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Council and District: _____

Commissioner Position: _____

Name of project: _____

Date of Proposal: _____

Briefly describe your project: (copy from the approved proposal)

Doctoral Project Description and Evaluation: (make as many copies of this page as needed)



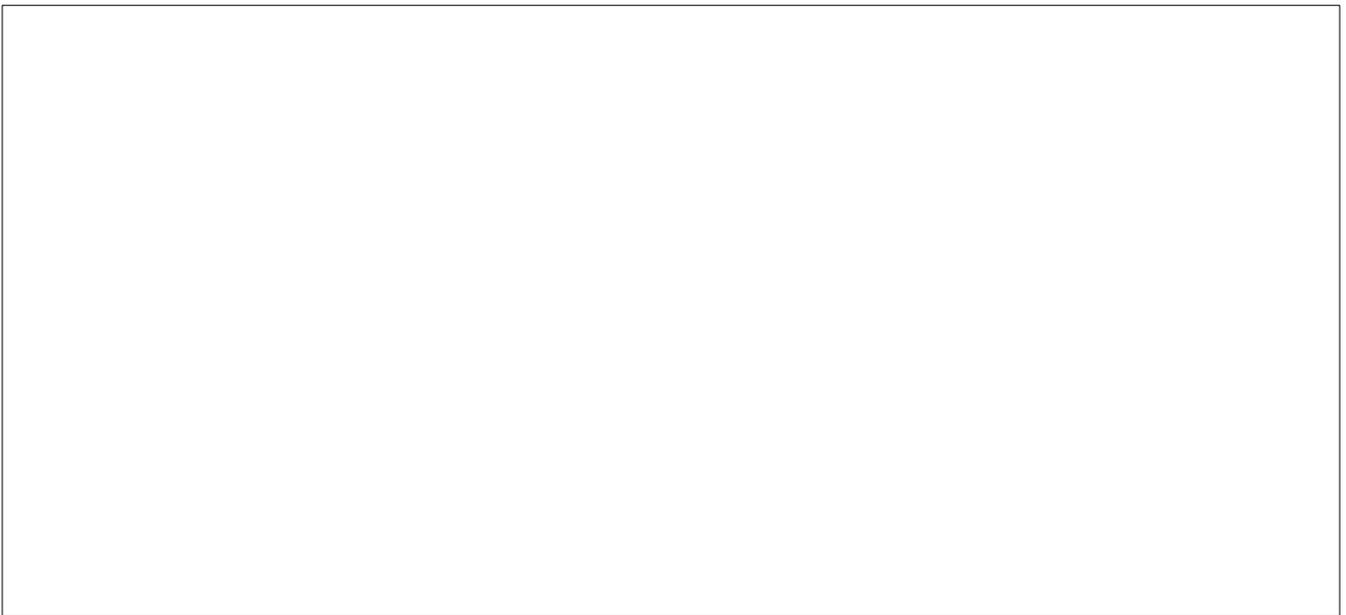
What changes, if any, were required after the proposal in order to carry out the project?
(Note that major changes require pre-approval from the Doctoral Advisor)

What went well?

What was challenging?



Conclusions:



Advice for future use of the project?

List of Appendices:

Additional information (if applicable):

Commissioner Candidate's Promise:

On my honor as a Scouter, I have described my project accurately on this form. I followed the prescribed guidelines for this project and all other rules and procedures required in Scouting.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Approval by doctoral advisor, council commissioner, or designee:

I have reviewed this doctoral project report. With my signature below, I approve this doctoral project as completed.

Name (printed): _____

Position: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____