

21 QUESTIONS—WHAT IS A COMMISSIONER?

BSA Reference Materials

- Commissioner Fieldbook for Unit Service www.scouting.org/Commissioners/Manuals.aspx
- Administration of Commissioner Service www.scouting.org/Commissioners/Manuals/33618.aspx
- Commissioner Helps for Packs, Troops, and Crews www.scouting.org/Commissioners/CommissionerLogos.aspx
- Display of commissioner patches using a PowerPoint slide, or a printout of commissioner patches (unit, assistant district commissioner, assistant roundtable, roundtable, district, assistant council, and council).

We are going to take a pop quiz regarding commissioners. Ask the following questions and, after a brief pause, state the answer.

Question 1—What distinguishes the commissioner position from other volunteer Scouting positions?

- **Answer:** It is the only volunteer position in Scouting that requires commissioning. The only other commissioned positions are for professionals who help deliver Scouting. All commissioners wear the wreath of service, also known as a position patch, as part of their badge of office. This tradition dates from the earliest days of Scouting's history.

Question 2—What Scouters are eligible to wear the Arrowhead Honor on their uniform?

- **Answer:** Any commissioner who has completed the requirements and is currently serving in a commissioner position. If you are dual registered in positions in Scouting, you only wear the Arrowhead Honor with the commissioner badge of office.

Question 3—What are the three types of commissioners and their primary roles?

- **Answer:** Administrative commissioners (council, assistant council, district, assistant district) are primarily responsible for recruiting, training, guiding, and evaluating the commissioner staff. Unit commissioners coach and mentor to ensure unit success. Roundtable commissioners provide resources such as program skills and other help for unit personnel at regularly scheduled roundtables.

Question 4—Which Scouter meetings are uniform meetings?

- **Answer:** All commissioner meetings.

Question 5—Who represents all of the uniformed Scouters in the council?

- **Answer:** The council commissioner.

Question 6—Who is the liaison between the local council and the unit?

- **Answer:** The unit commissioner.

Question 7—True or false: The commissioner's specific mission is to keep units operating at maximum efficiency so that they can deliver a good program to a growing youth membership.

- **Answer:** True.

Question 8—Who recruits, trains, and directs the team of commissioners to assure all packs, troops, teams, and crews in the district have quality program to keep youth in the Scouting program?

- **Answer:** The district commissioner.

Question 9—True or false: The only reason for having commissioners is to help units succeed.

- **Answer:** True.

Question 10—True or False: There is only one service to a unit that is constant—and that is the friendly, personal help given by the unit commissioner.

- **Answer:** True.

Question 11—True or false: It is OK for commissioners to be registered as unit key leaders.

- **Answer:** False. It is generally recommended that commissioners do not dual register as key leaders in a unit. They may, and often do, register in a unit as another unit committee member or assistant leader.

Question 12—True or false: Unit commissioners operate by persuasion rather than legislation.

- **Answer:** True.

Question 13—True or false: The unit commissioner reports the strengths and needs of their units on Commissioner Tools.

- **Answer:** True.

Question 14—Which commissioner supports timely charter renewal?

- **Answer:** The unit commissioner.

Question 15—What training must a Scouter have taken to be considered a commissioner?

- **Answer:** Youth Protection Training, commissioner position-specific training, and prescribed orientation for their position.

Question 16—Which two commissioners have the most direct contact with the unit?

- **Answer:** The unit commissioner and the roundtable commissioner (roundtable team).

Question 17—Which commissioner is considered a friend, doctor, teacher, and counselor of the unit?

- **Answer:** The unit commissioner. The commissioner is also a representative of the Boy Scouts of America.

Question 18—Which commissioner aids the unit in completing their JTE and encourages them to “go for the GOLD”?

- **Answer:** The unit commissioner.

Question 19—Which commissioner has all the Scouting answers?

- **Answer:** None of them do, but they will recommend where to find the answer.

Question 20—Do you know the name of your unit commissioner?

- **Response:** If yes, please stand.

Question 21—Has your unit had contact with the unit commissioner (visiting the unit, electronic means, or conversation at roundtable) within the past month?

- **Response:** If yes, please stand.

If you answered 80 percent or more of these questions correctly, great. If you did not, then hopefully after this presentation you will have a better understanding of the commissioner team.

Conclusion

The unit commissioner is the foundation of the commissioner team.

Without the commissioner team, Scouting would not be the youth program it is today.

Next time you see a Scouter wearing the wreath of service, thank them. They are doing all they can to keep the units strong, healthy, and presenting the best program to the youth in their units.

Pass around a paper and have the units list their unit number if they do not know or have not had contact with their unit commissioner within the last month. At the end of this presentation, give the list(s) to the district commissioner.