

UNIT COMMISSIONER DUTIES

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

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	<u>PAGE</u>
Introduction -----	1
Do unit leaders know their unit commissioner -----	2
Unit leaders definition of a unit commissioner -----	3
Job description of a unit commissioner -----	4
Unit leaders thoughts of where a unit commissioner can be of help-----	6
Are the unit commissioners available to unit leaders -	7
Conclusions-----	8
Bibliography -----	11

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Lloyd W. Smith  
P. V. Egan  
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INTRODUCTION

Do unit leaders have an understanding of the commissioner purpose and duties?

There are ways that the commissioners can help the Scout troops and Cub packs. Hopefully this thesis can help and explain whether the commissioner service is available to them.

A questionnaire was sent to unit leaders in the Echota District (Henderson County, North Carolina), Daniel Boone - Council, Boy Scouts of America. The following questions were asked:

- A) Do you know who your unit commissioner is? :
- B) What is your definition of a unit commissioner:
- C) How can a unit commissioner help you: and
- D) Is your unit commissioner available to you.

A 45% response (9 out of 20) was returned. This might be enough to have an impression to enlighten us.

DO UNIT LEADERS KNOW THEIR UNIT COMMISSIONERS

The survey shows how many unit leaders know who their unit commissioners are:

	<u>% response</u>
Yes - 3 -----	3/9 = 33
No - 4 -----	4/9 = 44
Did not answer - 2 -----	2/9 = 22

The survey does not cover a representative sampling of the Echota District (Henderson County, North Carolina), Daniel Boone Council, Boy Scouts of America. The people who answered the survey were active in Scouting for several years.

UNIT LEADERS DEFINITION OF A UNIT COMMISSIONER

On the survey, the definition of a unit commissioner by the unit leaders are as follows:

1) Help the pack with problems, co-ordinate with council and help with chartered organization:

2) A Scouter who serves on the district staff, who stays in touch with the district units, helping them with various needs -- mainly needs which can be fulfilled or supported by the district or the council:

3) A person assigned by the district to help you with problems:

4) A unit commissioner is someone who will be there to help me when I need help:

5) Someone who helps rechartering the troop.

6) Someone who communicate with each unit in the district the responsibilities of the unit and also helps each unit with membership and adult leaders. The unit commissioner also helps units solve problems when they arise, and helps in membership growth and quality membership, thus leading to quality units.

7) Someone to help me when I need help and

8) Coach.

NATIONAL JOB DESCRIPTION

Unit Commissioner

- A) Report to the district commissioner or assistant district commissioner
- B) Be familiar with the Cub Scout and Scout program themes
- C) Know the official literature used by units for program
- D) Know the unit program planning process
- E) Unit meetings of assigned packs/troops/teams/posts regularly, usually once a month
- F) Make regular contacts with unit leaders
  - 1) Counsel and assist new unit leaders in assuming a leadership role
  - 2) Visit in person and by phone at least monthly
  - 3) Keep unit leaders informed of district and council activities
  - 4) Periodically reviews with unit leaders the unit's progress towards Quality Unit Award
  - 5) Help with program planning
- G) Contact the unit committee & things
  - 1) Visit the unit committee meetings
  - 2) Offer help with plans, finances, rechartering, unit leadership, recruiting

(continued)

Unit Commissioner (concluded)

- H) Make periodic contact with the Scouting coordinator to offer help
- I) Guide the unit through the annual service plan, giving support to the membership inventory and inspection, charter-renewal meetings, and charter presentation
- J) Contact the head of the chartered organization following the charter renewal meeting to describe unit's progress and to make arrangements to the charter presentation ceremony
- K) Attend monthly meetings of the district commissioner staff
- L) Become trained
- M)
  - 1) Personal coaching
  - 2) Basic training
  - 3) Arrowhead Honoe and Scouter's Key
  - 4) Council commissioners conference
- M) Attend roundtables regularly. Promote roundtable attendance by all unit leaders and bring all new unit leaders
- N) Know the resources available to the unit in the neighborhood, district, and council
- O) Be rprepared to serve Explorer units
- F) Earn Distinguished Commissioner Service Award
- Q) Conduct own Self Evaluation No. 4424A

UNIT LEADERS THOUGHTS OF  
WHERE A UNIT COMMISSIONER CAN HELP

Answers from the survey where the unit commissioners can help the unit leaders are as follows:

- 1) Help organize the pack committee:
- 2) a) Help with district-wide Merit Badge Counselor list:  
b) Help with the boards of Review and Courts of Honor:  
c) Help secure adult unit leaders as needed:  
d) Serve as a counselor for Merit Badges he feels he is "expert" in:
- 3) a) Help become a quality unit:  
b) Provide moral support:
- 4) They can help me by answering my questions:
- 5) Help find new leaders:
- 6) A unit commissioner can help us by helping our unit become a quality unit and helping our membership to grow:
- 7) Tell me what I am doing right and what I am doing wrong: and
- 8) Moral support.



ARE THE UNIT COMMISSIONERS

AVAILABLE TO UNIT LEADERS

	<u>% of response</u>
Yes -- 2 -----	2/9 - 22
Yes - he has offered to help any way he can - 1 --	1/9 - 11
No -- 6 -----	6/9 - 67

CONCLUSION

The survey showed that the commissioner service is not available to all Scout troops and Cub packs. It showed that the commissioners are only available to two (2) units.

Only 9 out of 20 surveys were returned. This is only a 45% response. Although not enough surveys came back to make conclusive thoughts on the commissioner service. Enough came back to have some definite information on the commissioner service.

The survey showed that the unit leaders have some idea what the unit commissioner does.

The survey shows that more unit commissioners would have to be recruited and trained. There are unit leaders who would like to have unit commissioners. They could use the assistance of a unit commissioner.

Direct contact with the unit leaders do help in most instances as most of them would like to have the assistance, or help, of a unit commissioner. Problems do happen and a commissioner many times can help and/or help the unit leaders, such as:

- A) Help with the Boards of Review;
- B) Help with the Courts of Honor;
- C) Advisory capacity;

(continued)

- D) Bring news from the district and the council:
- E) Get help from the district and the council as needed:
- F) Help in securing leadership:
- G) Be as a coach:
- H) To be of help as needed:
- I) Meet with the unit committee:
- J) Meet with the representatives of the chartered organization:
- K) Attend the unit meetings on a regular basis; such as once a month and/or as needed:
- L) Help with the rechartering of the unit:
- M) Be of help in solving problems:
- N) Help the unit(s) be active in local, district, and council activities:
- O) Help to get the unit leaders trained:
- P) Help the unit leaders to attend the district roundtables:
- Q) Help to get the unit leaders get the recognition they need:
- R) Finances:
- S) Membership:
- T) Program planning:
- U) Help to get an active committee formed: and

(continued)

V) Help to have better understanding with the chartered organization.

The survey showed that the commissioner service is not available to all units.

Results of the survey that was answered by unit leaders in the Echota District (Henderson County, NC), Daniel Boone Council, Boy Scouts of America, showed that only two unit leaders knew who their commissioners were. This showed that the unit commissioners either were not getting out to the units or there were very few unit commissioners in the district.

I will try to work with the district commissioner to help him understand what he should be doing. Also, I will try to help the district commissioner recruit unit commissioners. An assistant district commissioner who understands the commissioners role should be recruited.

There should be a training session set up for the commissioner staff in the Echota District (Henderson County, NC) and/or for commissioner staff in the Daniel Boone Council.

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