



Alabama – Florida – Georgia College of Commissioner Science

Hosted By Mobile Area Council

- DATE:** Saturday, August 23, 2025
Registration begins at 8:00am, Classes begin at 8:30am
- LOCATION:** University of Mobile, Ben May Hall
5735 College Parkway Drive, Mobile, AL 36613
- COST:** \$30, includes registration, course materials, lunch and a patch
- REGISTER:** <https://scoutingevent.com/004-101767>
- UNIFORM:** The proper uniform for your registered position is appropriate
- QUESTIONS:** Charlie Simpson, Dean of the College
E-mail charles@simpsonemail.com, or Call 251-533-3916

The College of Commissioner Science is designed specifically for those who are committed to supporting and improving Scouting units and programs. If you are a Commissioner, or aspiring to be one, this is your opportunity to deepen your understanding, refine your skills and become a more effective leader in the Scouting community.

Why should you attend? First and foremost, the College offers a comprehensive curriculum tailored to the unique challenges and opportunities faced by Commissioners. You will gain valuable insights into how to better support unit leaders, foster effective communication and address the diverse needs of the Scouts you serve. The classes are led by experienced adult Scouters who bring a wealth of knowledge and practical experience.

The College is not just about learning from experts: it is also about connecting with fellow Commissioners from different Units, Districts and Councils, as the networking opportunities here are invaluable. You will be able to share experiences, discuss strategies and build relationships that can provide ongoing support and collaboration long after the event is over.

Attending the College of Commissioner Science is an investment in your role as a Commissioner and in the overall health of the Scouting program. By enhancing your skills and expanding your network, you will be better equipped to guide and support the Units and leaders in your community. This, in turn, helps ensure that Scouts receive the best possible experience and that our program continues to thrive.

We encourage you to take this opportunity to grow, connect and make a meaningful impact. Join us at the College of Commissioner Science and become an even more effective Scouting volunteer.

College of Commissioner Science Curricula

The College's curricula has been selected to cover pertinent subjects relating to all facets of Commissioner service with a focus on topics currently presenting challenges to leaders in the Scouting America program both locally and nationally. Special attention has been made to offer a large number of new and recently updated courses.

All participants will pre-register for courses during the registration process so that adequate course materials can be prepared and so class sizes and training spaces can be optimized. A brief description of each course offered is included for reference.

It is recommended that all participants maintain a Doctorate of Commissioner Science Knot Personal Progress Record. This form is designed to track progress towards a Doctorate degree, but can also be useful in tracking your progress through all of the degree programs. All participants will be issued this form at the end of the College. If you already have one, bring it with you and it will be updated.

Participants are not required to take all courses in a single degree track and are free to take courses from any degree track to create their own curriculum if they have specific interests, have already achieved their degree goals or are not interested in obtaining a degree.

CLASS	COURSE TIMES	BACHELORS TRACK	MASTERS TRACK	DOCTORATE TRACK
1	8:30am - 9:20am	BCS 102	MCS 309	DCS 501
2	9:30am - 10:20am	BCS 113	MCS 302	DCS 503
3	10:30am - 11:20am	BCS 111	MCS 313	DCS 512
4	11:30am - 12:20pm	BCS 119	MCS 310	DCS 506
LUNCH/COMMISSIONER FORUM				
5	1:30pm - 2:20pm	BCS 150	MCS 314	DCS 509
6	2:30pm - 3:20pm	BCS 104	MCS 350	DCS 519
7	3:30pm - 4:20pm	BCS 120	MCS 312	DCS 550
CLOSING/GRADUATION				

College of Commissioner Science

Course Descriptions

BACHELORS

BCS 102 - The Unit and Membership Renewal Process

The unit renewal system is simple and streamlined since membership renewal is not part of the Unit renewal process. This presents an opportunity for time-savings for our Units, but it also creates a need for Unit leaders to make sure all members handle their individual renewals promptly.

BCS 104 - Connecting with Units

At the heart of Unit service are the contacts Commissioners make with their Units. This course offers strategies to improve and strengthen these connections.

BCS 111 - Commissioner and S.A.F.E. Scouting

Scouting does not compromise the safety of our youth, volunteers and employees. Safety is a value that must be taught and reinforced at every opportunity. Within Scouting, all are responsible and must hold each other accountable to provide a safe environment for all participants. For a commissioner, this means we need to be aware and knowledgeable of all that is available to support safety within Scouting and find every opportunity to share with Units.

BCS 113 - Welcoming, Engaging and Onboarding Commissioners

This course is designed to guide the District and Assistant District Commissioner to better support new Commissioners toward successful Unit service. It can also serve as an orientation guide for new Commissioners.

BCS 119 - Building Relationships

Unit service is all about relationships. This course will discuss how Commissioners can build and maintain positive relationships with those they serve and explore possible pitfalls that can undermine them.

BCS 120 - Technology of Unit Service

The course highlights the best technology tools for Commissioners to use in providing Unit service. It explains why these tools are the most effective, how to find them and tips for using the information available in them to improve Unit service.

BCS 150 - Roundtables in Unit Service

An effective Roundtable Commissioner team is vital to the success of all Roundtables. This course emphasizes the importance of the Roundtable Commissioner team and the unique and valuable position of Roundtables in the Scouting world.

College of Commissioner Science

Course Descriptions

MASTERS

MCS 302 - Supporting Unit and Membership Renewal

The Unit renewal system is simple and streamlined since membership renewal is no longer a part of the Unit renewal process. Commissioners play an important role in supporting this process and making sure that all Units and members renew in a timely and successful fashion.

MCS 309 - Good Commissioners Need Both Head and Heart

This course discusses how the servant leadership concept is carried out in service to Units using both your head and heart.

MCS 310 - Succession Planning

Adult leadership changes. To support the orderly change of leadership it is important to encourage each Unit to create a long-term succession plan. Commissioners need to understand the process to support the development and maintenance of a succession plan in the Units they serve.

MCS 312 - Recruiting the 21st Century Volunteer

All Commissioners are responsible for recruiting other Commissioners. This course familiarizes Commissioners on the considerations and techniques that support recruiting volunteers who represent the generations of the 21st century.

MCS 313 - Onboarding Commissioners

This session will discuss the Commissioner onboarding process and how it is to be successfully completed. It will also cover the importance of onboarding Commissioners into their new position and who is responsible for making sure that proper onboarding happens.

MCS 314 - The Commissioner and the Professional

Participants in this course will learn more about the relationship between the Commissioner and the Scouting professional and how they can work closely together to reach the common goal of providing quality service to Units.

MCS 350 - Unit and Roundtable Commissioners Working Together

Unit Commissioners and Roundtable Commissioners work together to ensure unit leaders have the support they need to succeed. Remember: "Roundtable is Unit service." This course will show how all Commissioners in a District help Units identify and address their needs.

College of Commissioner Science

Course Descriptions

DOCTORATE

DCS 501 - Selecting and Limiting Your Doctoral Project Thesis

This session assists doctoral candidates in selecting their project/thesis concept.

BCS 503 - Developing Your Project or Thesis

This session covers the project/thesis outline and a variety of suggestions for writing and revising the report.

DCS 506 - Coaching Commissioners

Coaching is about relationships. It is the ability to listen, to observe, to share, to support and to engage in a way that will help others solve their own problems, grow as individuals and reach their full potential. This course will discuss the principles of effective coaching, identify the fundamental elements of coaching for and by administrative Commissioners and examine coaching's role in building strong relationships within the Commissioner team.

DCS 509 - Legacy of Servant Leadership

Leading is not about what we gain from others but about what others gain from us. Leading well means serving others well. This course expands on the concept of servant leadership and further establishes the expectation that Commissioners serve both Units and other volunteers.

DCS 512 - Recruiting for Diversity

How do we ensure that every Unit is supported to offer a quality Scouting program? Simple. We recruit and empower enough Commissioners for the task. Throughout this course we will come to a better understanding of the need for diversity in Scouting volunteers as well as ways to work toward recruiting a more diverse Commissioner corps.

DCS 519 - Turning Relationships into Partnerships

As Commissioners, building relationships with our Units is at the core of what we do. Turning that relationship into a partnership develops trust and shared success, which impacts Unit service with our Unit leaders. This course prepares and helps Commissioners build partnerships with Unit leaders, strengthening the decision-making possibilities.

DCS 550 - Leveraging Roundtables in Unit Service

Consistent communication throughout the Unit Service team, especially during the monthly District Commissioner meeting, is key to providing effective service to Units through the Roundtable program.

College of Commissioner Science

Travel & Event Information

TRAVEL DIRECTIONS

From I-65, take Exit 13 (Saraland/Citronelle). Turn west toward Citronelle on Industrial Parkway (AL-158 West). Continue for approximately one mile and turn right onto the ramp for College Parkway (CR-55). Go south for approximately a half mile and the entrance to the University of Mobile will be on your right. Follow the signs to Ben May Hall.

ACCOMMODATIONS & SURROUNDING AREA

For those planning to arrive early and spend Friday evening in the area, there are a number of hotels at the Saraland exit (Exit 13 off I-65). A partial list of hotel options include brands such as Baymont Inn, Comfort Suites, Country Inn & Suites, Fairfield Inn, Hampton Inn, Holiday Inn Express, Sleep Inn, Quality Inn and others. For those interested in camping options, there are a number of recreational campgrounds in the area.

The Saraland exit also has a variety of restaurant choices and retail options (Walmart, grocery stores, pharmacies, gas stations, etc.), if needed.

FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL

Plans are being made, but have not been finalized, for a social gathering on Friday night before the event. This will be a casual, non-uniformed event geared towards reconnecting with old acquaintances, making new friends, and enjoying each other's company. Everyone is welcome and details will be sent out to all registrants as the event draws closer.

FOOD & REFRESHMENTS

Coffee, water, fruit and some light snacks will be available during registration. Lunch will be provided between the fourth and fifth class periods. Efforts will be made to accommodate all known allergies and dietary requests. If you have any food related concerns, please enter them when you register or e-mail them to Charlie Simpson at charles@simpsonemail.com.

CST16 COMMISSIONER FORUM

Our CST16 Commissioner plans to be in attendance at the College of Commissioner Science. During the lunch break, there will be a Commissioner Forum designed to update attendees on new information and program changes as well as provide an open opportunity to discuss best practices and seek solutions for any specific Unit service related challenges you may be facing. This will be an interactive presentation, so be sure to bring a list of any burning questions you need help with.

College of Commissioner Science

Campus Information

CAMPUS DIRECTIONS & INSTRUCTIONS

There will be a guard on duty at the entrance and they will have a list of all registered participants. Inform the guard you are attending a Scout function and they will direct you to Ben May Hall.

A campus map is below. Follow the black arrows into campus, around the central loop, behind Weaver Hall and then out of the circle towards Ben May Hall (marked #10 on the map). There is plenty of parking in the lot in front of Ben May Hall and the entrance is on the right side if you are facing the building from the parking lot.

If you have trouble finding the event, call Charlie Simpson at 251-533-3916.

