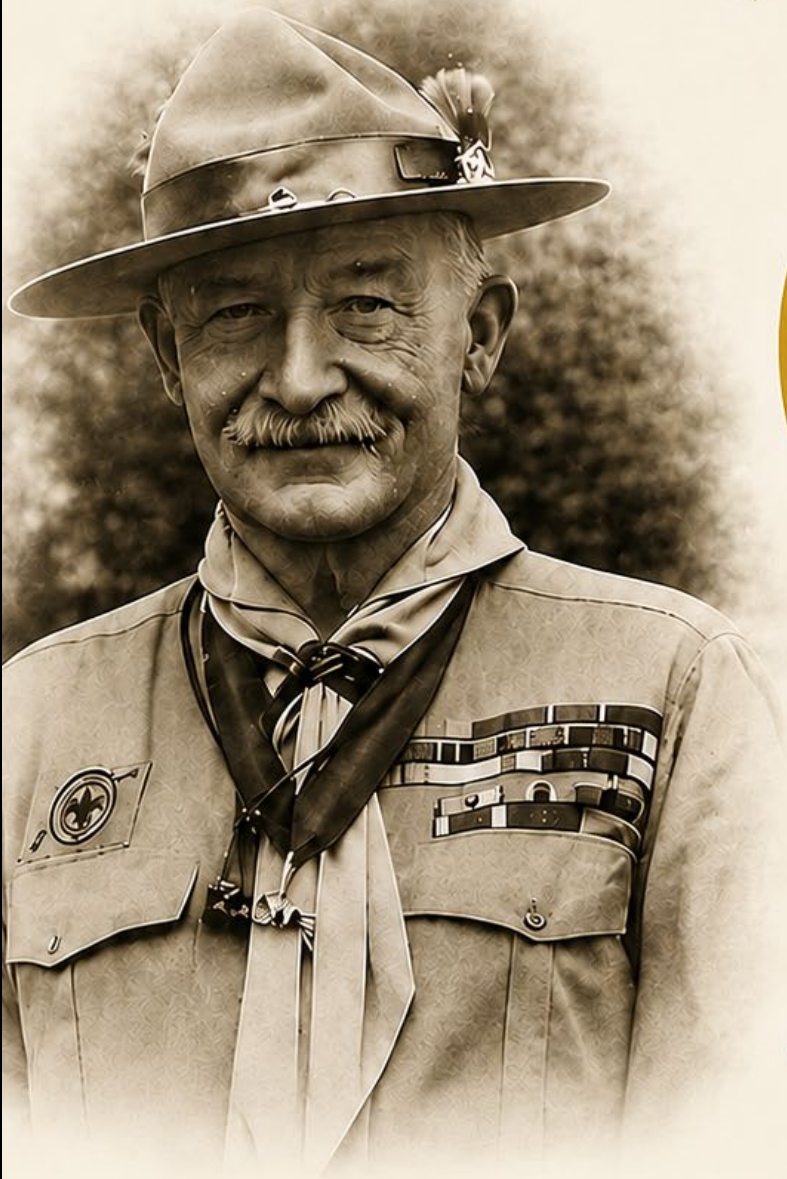




Northern Star
Scouting

Course Booklet



2026
College of
Commissioner Service

Saturday, November 14, 2026

Live & Virtual Training

Registration: <https://scoutingevent.com/250-ccs2026>



Highlights & What's New for 2026

- **Additional Learning Session** – An additional learning Session replace our keynote address giving more time for valuable content.
- **New course offerings** to enhance the training experience for all our commissioners. Look for the “**NEW!**” label in the course listings.
- We have added **new electives** to provide more choices for both new and experienced commissioners.
- **Basic Commissioner Training** is now offered with expanded courses to provide new commissioners with the tools to jump-start their role. See details on page 7.
- **Hybrid Learning**, The Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate, and Advanced Studies programs will be offered both virtually and in person. Those choosing the virtual format for all Degrees may only choose electives marked with “V” in the catalog.
- **Additional Advanced Studies courses** (those who have completed their Master’s or Doctorate degree): In addition to the Advanced Studies core required courses, if attending in person, you are able to register for any class offered at the college during that learning hour that will best suit your training needs.
- **Continuing Education Sessions** for commissioners is now expanded to 7 sessions dealing with today’s relevant topics for commissioners who want to hone their commissioner skills, without following the college degree format.
- **Focus Session:** A mid-day session focusing on **Retention** of Scouts, leaders and families. Discuss ideas and best practices to retain our scouts & leaders.

Table of Contents

What's New in 2026	1
Table of Contents	2
Letter from Council Commissioner	3
What Course Do I Register For?	4
Schedule	5
Focus Session	6
Basic Commissioner Training	7
Requirements for Degrees and Course Listings	
Bachelor of Commissioner Service	8
Master of Commissioner Service	9
Doctorate of Commissioner Service	10
Doctorate Project	11
Advanced Studies	12-13
Continuing Education	14
Detailed Degree Course Descriptions	
Bachelor's Courses	15
Master's Courses	16
Doctorate Courses	17
Advanced Studies Courses	18
Doctorate of Commissioner Service Knot Award	19
College Leadership and Ambassadors	20
Registration Details	21
About Base Camp / Leadership Center	22
Location Map	23

Welcome!

Welcome to Northern Star Scouting's College of Commissioner Service. This year, we gather around an important challenge and opportunity: **Expanding Our Impact.**

Today, **retention must be one of our greatest priorities.**

Across Scouting, we invest significant time and energy into recruiting new youth and families. But recruiting a Scout is only the beginning. If we want those Scouts to remain engaged, continue their Scouting journey, and experience everything our program has to offer, they need to be part of a unit that delivers a **fun, active, welcoming, and high-quality program.**

Great programs retain Scouts. That is where commissioners can make a tremendous impact.

Our role is not simply to check boxes, collect information, or tell units what they need to do. Our greatest value comes from **partnering with unit leaders**—asking questions, listening to their challenges, celebrating their successes, and helping them identify opportunities to make their program even better.

The strongest commissioners build relationships based on **trust, partnership, and a shared commitment to helping youth succeed.** We are not there to evaluate units from a distance. We are there to walk alongside them.

Now more than ever, we need to focus our energy on helping units create experiences that Scouts do not want to leave. Every successful campout, advancement experience, service project, Pinewood Derby, summer camp adventure, troop meeting, and moment of belonging contributes to whether a young person chooses to continue in Scouting. When a unit has a great program, retention follows.

As commissioners, we have the opportunity to influence that outcome—one unit, one leader, and ultimately, one Scout at a time.

I hope that your time at the College of Commissioner Service will provide you with new ideas, practical tools, and inspiration to strengthen your partnerships with the units you serve.

Thank you for your commitment to Scouting and, most importantly, for your commitment to helping ensure that every Scout has an experience worth continuing.

Yours in Scouting,



Nick Pedersen
Council Commissioner
Northern Star Scouting

What Program Do I Register For?

Bachelor of Commissioner Service: The Bachelor's program is open to anyone who has completed Unit Commissioner Basic Training. The Bachelor's program offers courses to supplement and build on your basic training skills.

See page 8.

Master of Commissioner Service: The Master's program is advanced training that follows completion of the Bachelor's program. This program offers courses to enable commissioners to work effectively with specific unit needs and special needs of Scouts in your unit. Learn concepts and learn skills for developing unit leaders and helping Units. **See page 9.**

Doctorate of Commissioner Service: The Doctorate program follows completion of the Master's program and includes carrying out a project that benefits an area of scouting. Doctoral candidates will attend advanced training courses and make a presentation on their completed project. **See page 10.**

Advanced Studies: The Advanced Studies program offers courses to supplement previous commissioner training. The program is intended for commissioners who have completed the Master's program or Doctorate program and who are interested in learning more – plus enjoying fellowship with other commissioners. **See pages 12 & 13.**

Continuing Education: The Continuing Education program is a degree Opportunity for Commissioners of any level to participate in a group discussion on key unit issues Commissioners need to address. **See page 14.**

Basic Commissioner Training: Basic Commissioner Training will be offered for new Commissioners. Basic Commissioner Training is now offered now with expanded courses to provide new commissioners with the tools to jump-start their role. **See page 7.**

Schedule

The degree granting programs require completion of 8 sessions in one day. Below is the schedule of the day.

In person participants will get a personalized class schedule at check-in. Virtual participants will receive a link for participation.

8:00 - 8:30	Registration and Fellowship-
8:30 - 8:45	Opening and Welcome
8:50 - 9:35	Session 1
9:40 - 10:25	Session 2
10:30 - 11:15	Session 3
11:20 - 12:05	Session 4
12:15 - 12:50	Lunch and Fellowship
12:50 - 1:35	Session 5 - Focus Session
1:40 - 2:25	Session 6
2:30 - 3:15	Session 7
3:20 - 4:05	Session 8
4:10 - 4:40	Graduation and Pictures
4:40 – 4:45	Closing

Sessions 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 cover the core and elective courses of different degree programs.

Session 5 is a general session, with a focus topic for everyone attending the college.

Focus Session

Session 5

“How to Retain Scouts, Leaders & Families”

The Focus Session.

Nick Pedersen, Council Commissioner

The purpose of this session is to explore an important topic that impacts every unit and every level of Scouting. This year, our focus is on **RETENTION**.

Recruiting new Scouts and volunteers is only the first step. To grow Scouting, we must also ensure that the youth and adults who join have an experience that makes them want to stay.

Great programs are the key to retention.

Youth stay in Scouting when they are having fun, experiencing adventure, building friendships, and feeling like they belong. Adult leaders remain engaged when they feel supported, prepared, appreciated, and connected to a team.

Our Challenge as Commissioners: As we discuss retention, consider this question:

What can we do as commissioners to partner with our units and help them create a program that Scouts and volunteers do not want to leave?

This session is an opportunity to share ideas, learn from one another, and identify practical ways we can help our units strengthen their programs, retain more Scouts and volunteers, and ensure that the people we work so hard to recruit remain part of Scouting.

Because recruitment brings people into Scouting—but a great program gives them a reason to stay.

BASIC COMMISSIONER TRAINING

Sandy Muench, Dean

Basic Commissioner Training – Sessions 1 - 4

We are pleased to offer expanded training opportunities for participants taking Basic Commissioner Training. When you register for this track, you will be provided with a full day of training designed to help you put your best foot forward from day one.

This is the starting point of your journey as a commissioner. In this comprehensive, four-hour course, you will learn who a commissioner is and what a commissioner does. You will leave confident in your ability to carry out your responsibilities as a new commissioner.

Your Next Step as a New Commissioner – Session 6

Now that you have taken Unit Commissioner Basic Training, what's next? This class will discuss what you and your District Commissioner will do together and individually as you begin your journey as new Commissioner.

The Unit Commissioner and the District Commissioner – Session 7

This class will discuss the unique relationship between the Unit Commissioner and the District Commissioner. Together, you serve the unit with the goal of unit growth focusing on program, retention, training, and leadership.

Session 8 - Using Council Resources

We have all heard “It’s not what you know but who you know.” But sometimes it’s what you know. Your District Executive is not your only resource. This class will provide information about who to contact at the council office.

BACHELORS OF COMMISSIONER SERVICE DEGREE

Margaret White, Dean

A. Prerequisites

1. Completion of Unit Commissioner Basic Training
2. Current BSA Youth Protection Training certificate

B. Requirements

1. Register as a candidate for the Bachelor's degree, with proper fees
2. Complete a minimum of eight courses of instruction from the college, including the core courses specified below for the Bachelor's program curriculum.
3. Be recommended for the degree by the dean of the bachelor's program.

C. Course detail for this degree: You must take the six core courses listed below, plus two electives from the list below. **Virtual program will offer all core classes, plus electives marked with V.**

BCS 101 – Core Concepts of Unit Service (Core)V

BCS 105 – Resolving Common Unit Issues (Elective) V

BCS 106 - Coaching for Commissioners (Core) V

BCS 111 – Commissioners and S.A.F.E. Scouting (Elective)

BCS 114 – Understanding & Communicating with Today's Leaders (Elective)

BCS 115 – Commissioners – The Single Best Resource (Core) V

BCS 119 - Building Relationships (Core) V

BCS 201 – Let's Get Started Using Commissioner Tools – Core V

BCS 202 – Focus Session – Retention – Session 5 (Core) (V)

BCS 220 – Recruiting and Keeping Volunteers (Elective) V

MASTERS OF COMMISSIONER SERVICE DEGREE

Jay Herbrand, Dean

A. Prerequisites

1. Hold an earned Bachelors of Commissioner Service Degree from this college or another recognized BSA College of Commissioner Service.
2. Hold a current BSA Youth Protection Training certificate.

B. Requirements

1. Register as a candidate for the Master's degree with proper fees
2. Complete a minimum of 16 total courses of instructions from this college or another recognized BSA College of Commissioner Service, including the core and elective courses specified for the Master's degree curriculum, and are recommended for the degree by the dean of the Master's program.

C. Course detail for this degree: You must take the five core courses and three electives that you select from the list below. **Virtual program will offer all core classes, plus electives marked with V.**

MCS 202 – Focus Session (Core) (V)

MCS 302 – Supporting Unit & Membership Renewal (Core) (V)

MCS 304 - Service to Units at Risk (Core) (V)

MCS 306 - Mentoring Skills (Core) (V)

MCS 307 - Serving Newly Formed Units (Core) (V)

MCS 309 – Effective Commissioning Through Relationships (Elective)

MCS 316 – Unit Service Today (Core) (V)

MCS 317 – Organizing Commissioner Teams (Core) (V)

MCS 406 – Facilitation Skills (Elective) (V)

MCS 410 - Coaching for Success and Managing Conflict (Elective)

DOCTORATE OF COMMISSIONER SERVICE DEGREE

Rose Buntjer-Little, Dean

A. Prerequisites

1. Hold an earned Master of Commissioner Service Degree from this college or another recognized BSA College of Commissioner Service.
2. Hold a current BSA Youth Protection Training certificate.

B. Requirements

1. Register as a candidate for the Doctorate degree with proper fees.
Submit Topic by October 1st to the Dean.
2. Contact the dean of the Doctorate program for a special registration password, at **Rose Buntjer-Little** Rosamaria.buntjer-little@thomsonreuters.com or **763-232-2208**, by **October 15th, 2026**.
3. Complete a minimum of 24 total courses of instruction from this college or another recognized BSA College of Commissioner Service, including the courses specified below for the Doctorate program curriculum.
4. Complete an approved project on a topic of benefit to Scouting related to commissioner service.
5. Be recommended for the degree by the dean of the Doctorate program

C. Course detail for this degree: little-work You must take the eight required core courses below.

DCS 202 – Focus Session (Core) V

DCS 506 – Coaching Commissioners (Core) V

DCS 509 – A Legacy of Servant Leadership (Core) V

DCS 512 – Recruiting for Diversity (Core) V

DCS 517 – Understanding Your District (Core) V

DCS 519 – Turning Relationships Into Partnerships (Core) V

DCS 604 – Doctorate Project Presentations Seminar - I (Core) V

DCS 605 – Doctorate Project Presentations Seminar - II (Core) V

DCS 202 – Focus Session (Core) V

The Doctoral Project

Candidates for the Doctorate degree will typically complete their Doctoral project in the 12 months between completing their Master's degree and the next session of the college. Projects should be substantially completed before a candidate registers for the Doctorate degree.

Project Requirements

1. The Dean of the Doctoral program or the commissioner College President must approve the project's topic before you start.
2. The project must be on a topic of benefit to Scouting related to commissioner service.
3. The project topic must show initiative through originality or by adapting an established activity to a new environment or theme. A typical project requires planning as well as implementation.
4. A typical project involves a medium level of effort – similar to a Wood Badge ticket item. The level of effort might involve two months of part-time Scouting work.
5. The project must not have been used to fulfill requirements for other training or service recognitions.
6. The candidate must attend the College of Commissioner Service and describe the project during a Doctorate Project Presentations Seminar (DCS 604 or 605).

A project abstract is required for approval by the dean of the Doctoral degree program. The abstract should be between half a page and one page in length when using 12 pt size font. The abstract will provide a summary of the project that includes the name of the project in the title, why the project was performed, how the project was performed, how the project benefits Scouting and the timeliness of the project.

Contact Rose Buntjer-Little, Dean of the Doctorate program, for a special registration password at Rosamaria.buntjer-little@thomsonreuters.com, or **763-232-2208**, by **October 15th, 2026**.

ADVANCED STUDIES COMMISSIONER SERVICE DEGREE

Peter Johnson, Dean

A. Prerequisites

1. Hold an earned Master of Commissioner Service or Doctorate of Commissioner Service Degree from this college or another recognized BSA College of Commissioner Service.
2. Hold a current BSA Youth Protection Training certificate.

B. Requirements

1. Register as a candidate for the Advanced Studies degree with proper fees and be recommended for the degree by the dean of the advanced studies program.
2. Complete a minimum of eight sessions of instruction from the college.

C. Course detail for this degree: You must take the four required core courses and four other sessions that you select from the Advanced Studies, Doctorate, Master's, Bachelor's, or Continuing Education courses. The registration system will present the list of possible courses you may choose from as part of your registration process.

ASC 202 – Focus Session (Core) V

MSC 307 - Serving Newly Formed Units – V

MCS 317 - Organizing Commissioner Teams – V

DCS 512 - Recruiting for Diversity - V

CED 701 – Combatting Commissioner Burnout/Stress V

CED 710 - Connecting Volunteers to New Scouting Rolls – V

CED 810 - Using AI & Digital Tools - V

ASC 816 – Navigating Difficult Conversations V

The Advanced Studies program allows considerable flexibility with course electives available for each hourly session, except for the Focus session which involves all participants. These electives are listed on the next page, listed by instructional session.

ADVANCED STUDIES

Advanced Studies In-person course electives:

Session 1

- MSC 304** – Service to Units at Risk
- CED 701** – Combatting Commissioner Burnout/Stress
- DCS 519** - Turning Relationships Into Partnerships

Session 2

- MSC 306** – Mentoring Skills
- DCS 512** – Recruiting for Diversity
- CED 812** - Working with Latino Families

Session 3

- MSC 307** – Serving Newly Formed Units
- CED 814** – Roundtable/Community Summit Promotion &Support

Session 4

- MSC 316** – Service to Units at Risk
- ASC 816** – Combatting Commissioner Burnout/Stress
- CED 815** - Understanding & Supporting Special Needs Youth in Scouting

Session 6

- MSC 302** – Service to Units at Risk
- CED 710** – Connecting Volunteers to New Scouting Rolls
- DCS 506** – Coaching for Commissioners
- CED 813** – Scouting Safely

Session 7

- MSC 317** – Organizing Commissioner Teams
- DCS 517** - Understanding Your District
- CED 811** – The Comeback Commissioner: Rebuilding The Bonds That Matter

Session 8

- MSC 406** – Facilitation Skills
- CED 810** – Using AI and Digital Tools
- DCS 509** - A Legacy of Servant Leadership

Detailed descriptions of these alternate courses are listed for Bachelor's degree sessions on page 8, Master's degree sessions on page 9, Doctorate sessions on page 10, and Continuing Education sessions on page 14.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Lisa Fix, Dean

A. Prerequisites

1. Be a currently registered commissioner.
2. Hold a current BSA Youth Protection Training certificate.

B. Requirements

1. Be interested in sharing your experiences as a commissioner.
2. Participate in discussions about pertinent topics as a commissioner.
3. Be willing to learn and expand your talents as a commissioner.

C. Course Details: The Continuing Education track has been added for those commissioners who are looking for a flexible and non-degree training experience. Beyond participating in the keynote and focus sessions, 7 - 45-minute discussion forums will be offered. This provides participants the opportunity to learn from their peers along with time for informative discussion and fellowship.

CED 701 – Combatting Commissioner Burnout/Stress

CED 812 – Working with Latino Families

CED 814 – Roundtable/Community Summit Promotion &Support

CED 815 – Understanding & Supporting Special Needs Youth in Scouting

CED 202 – Focus Session – Retention (Session 5)

CED 813 – Scouting Safely

CED 811 – The Comeback Commissioner: Rebuilding the Bonds That Matter

CED 810 – Using AI & Digital Tools

DETAILED COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Bachelors Course

BCS 101 – Core Concepts of Units Service (Core) V

Discover the foundation of Scouting's commissioner service. This course offers a thorough overview of key concepts and practical skills needed to support and assess units effectively. Perfect for new and returning commissioners alike.

BCS 105 – Resolving Common Unit Issues (Elective) V

Build strong, lasting relationships with your units. This course provides strategies for recognizing early warning signs of trouble and introduces practical tools for conflict resolution and problem-solving. This course will enhance the commissioner's knowledge of the early warning signs of a unit at risk of failing and facilitate group discussions on how to support problem-solving for common issues.

BCS 106 – Coaching for Commissioners (Core) V

Gain confidence in using coaching methods to strengthen unit relationships. This course introduces a new coaching model to support commissioners in addressing challenges and guiding units to success.

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

Parents are always concerned about their children's safety. Commissioners support the unit's understanding that all safety needs to be an overt and constant awareness at every meeting and outing. It begins with leadership knowledge and then action. For a commissioner, this means being aware of and knowledgeable about all available resources to support safety within Scouting.

BCS 114 – Understanding and Communicating with Today's Leaders - Elective

As commissioners, we need to understand the differences in relating to the generations involved in Scouting and inclusiveness. This course fosters understanding between different generations – particularly today's parents – to help commissioners communicate more effectively with their units. In this session, we will focus on how these new generations are impacting Scouting America and how Scouting America can effectively include today's parents.

BCS 115 - Commissioners - The Single Best Resource – (Core) V

An effective commissioner provides unit leadership with information and guidance on the latest changes in all Scouting America programs. This makes the commissioner the single best resource for unit leaders to look for the support they need.

BCS 119 - Building Relationships – (Core) V

Unit service is all about relationships. In this course, we will discuss how commissioners can build and maintain positive relationships with those they serve and explore possible pitfalls that can undermine them

BCS 201 – Let's Get Started Using Commissioner Tools (Core) V

Get hands-on with the updated Commissioner Tools. Learn how to efficiently use the streamlined interface, explore new features, and utilize advanced reporting functions for improved service delivery.

BCS 220 – Recruiting and Keeping Volunteers (Elective) V

Learn how to turn parents into passionate leaders. This session provides the insights and techniques needed to recruit, engage, and empower volunteers for sustainable unit success.

Masters Courses

MCS 302 Supporting Unit and Membership Renewal (Core) V

This session will examine how administrative commissioners, in particular unit commissioners, also support on-time unit and membership renewal.

MCS 304 Service to Units at Risk (Core) V This session will provide commissioners with methods to identify units that encounter problems that are hindering the unit and to discuss the processes needed to support the unit's move toward performing as an effective scouting unit.

MCS 306 Mentoring Skills (Core) V This session delves into the best way to strengthen a unit by strengthening its leadership. Mentoring is an effective method in helping unit leaders develop their potential.

MCS 307 Serving Newly Formed Units (Core) V This session explains why an engaged commissioner is critical for the success and retention of new units. New-unit commissioners focus on only new units, preferably a single unit, to which they have been assigned.

MCS 309 Effective Commissioning Through Relationships - Elective

This session defines the role of a commissioner relative to the unit's leadership. Learn how to engage units to identify unit needs and understand unit culture without getting caught up in the data.

MCS 316 Unit Service Today (Core) V *New!*

This session looks at the new contemporary approach that replaces the assessment-based approach for commissioners working with unit leaders. The Emphasis is focused more on listening and less on data parameters.

MCS 317 Organizing Commissioner Teams (Elective) V *New!*

As commissioners, we strive to be the single best resource for all Scouting units. This session will explore and discuss how to improve unit service through different organizational structures that have different advantages for the Commissioner team in a district.

MCS 406 Facilitation Skills (Elective) V

This session will teach commissioners several different techniques to improve your facilitation skills during a meeting, so participants are actively involved in the meeting.

MCS 410 Coaching for Success and Managing Conflict (Elective)

This session will focus on developing coaching and problem-solving skills to retain/reenergize volunteers. It will also focus on gaining skills to manage an ineffective volunteer or issues and finding a common solution.

Doctorate Courses

DCS 506 – Coaching Commissioners (Core) V

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 attain their full potential. This course will explore how to coach in order to help others arrive at conclusions through their own analysis of the situation and facts.

DCS 509 – A Legacy of Servant Leadership (Core) V

The course explores characteristics of servant leaders, seeks a deeper understanding of servant leadership within Scouting, and recognizes the legacy of servant leadership, expanding on the concept of servant leadership introduced in earlier courses.

DCS 512 – Recruiting for Diversity (Core) V

Throughout this course, we will gain a deeper understanding of the importance of diversity in Scouting volunteers, as well as strategies for recruiting a more diverse commissioner corps.

DCS 517 – Understanding your District (Core) V

This course aims to assist districts in identifying organization methods and strategies that best suit their units and unit commissioners. As a result, commissioners will be able to provide better service to their units.

DCS 519 – Tuning Relationships Into Partnerships (Core) V

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 604 – Project Presentation Seminar I (Core) V

These are sessions in which doctoral candidates have five minutes to present their pre-approved project abstract to other doctoral candidates and interested attendees at the College of Commissioner Service.

DCS 605 – Project Presentation Seminar II (Core) V

The continuation of DCS 604 Project Presentation Seminar 1.

Advanced Studies Courses

MCS 307 – Serving Newly Formed Units (Virtual)

This session explains why an engaged commissioner is critical for the success and retention of new units. New-unit commissioners focus on only new units, preferably a single unit, to which they have been assigned.

MCS 317 – Organizing Commissioner Teams (Virtual)

As commissioners, we strive to be the single best resource for all Scouting units. We must be ready to adapt to units' strengths and challenges. Here, we will explore how to improve unit service through customizable organizational structures, presenting the advantages and considerations of different methods and strategies for district and unit commissioners.

DCS 512 – Recruiting for Diversity (Virtual)

Throughout this course, we will gain a deeper understanding of the importance of diversity in Scouting volunteers, as well as strategies for recruiting a more diverse commissioner corps.

CED 701 – Combatting Commissioner Burnout/Stress (Virtual)

We have all had our moments when we ask ourselves, “Why are we involved in Scouting? Why are we doing this?” This course will explore ways to help overcome burnout and stressful situations, and motivate ourselves and others toward improved tenure in Scouting America.

CED 710 – Connecting Volunteers to New Scouting Rolls (Virtual)

Growing our volunteer base is becoming increasingly critical for our units, district, and councils. Keeping our Scouters engaged poses a whole different level of challenge. This session explores a tools to help existing leaders in motivating adults to pursue a new or future role in Scouting.

CED 810 – Using AI & Digital Tools (Virtual)

As a commissioner, your time is one of the most valuable resources you give to Scouting. By pairing official Scouting platforms with modern AI and digital tools, you can streamline your workload leaving more time for what matters most: coaching and supporting unit leaders.

ASC 816 – Navigating Difficult Conversations (Virtual)

Most scouting conversations are pleasant and productive- but at times, differences can arise. It occurs whenever people disagree over their values, motivations, perceptions, ideas, or desires. Sometimes these differences can trigger strong emotions. As commissioners, we need to navigate these difficult conversations so that everyone feels heard, understood, and valued.

The Advanced Studies program allows considerable flexibility with course electives available for each hourly session. Refer to the listing of other elective course offered for each hourly session on page 13.

Detailed descriptions of these alternate elective courses are listed under the respective degree program pages.



Doctorate of Commissioner Service Knot Award

The DCS Knot award recognizes completion of a standardized program leading to the award of the Doctor of Commissioner Service (DCS), along with tenure as a registered commissioner, and demonstrated performance of commissioner skills.

The DCS Knot encourages commissioners to provide support to units in their delivery of a quality program experience for all youth in Scouting, and also provide councils an opportunity to recognize commissioners for their tenured service, their dedication in learning more about delivery of quality Scouting, and their involvement in support of others.

The DCS Knot is separate from the CCS Doctorate degree, and requires additional effort to earn. The DCS Knot is available to any currently registered commissioner who has completed the requirements.

Applicants must serve as a registered commissioner for a minimum of five years. They must also complete the Doctor of Commissioner Service (DCS) Degree at a recognized College of Commissioner Service. Additionally, they must serve on the College of Commissioner Service staff (instructor or support staff), recruit or positively influence at least three new commissioners at any level, and earn the Commissioner's Key.

Application forms are available on the Northern Star Scouting web page at: <https://www.northernstar.org/portals/0/Forms/NSC-DCS-knot-application.pdf>

College of Commissioner Service Leadership

Bruce Haverly, President

Donna Larson, President Emeritus, Special Projects

Margaret White, Dean of Bachelors Program

Jay Herbrand, Dean of Masters Program

Rose Bjuntjer-Little, Dean of Doctorate Program

Lisa Fix, Blake Erickson, Deans of Continuing Education

Peter Johnson, Dean of Advanced Studies

Sandy Muench, Dean of Basic Training

Nick Fasching, Dean of Administration

Katherine Syverson, Tool Box Talks

Joe Patterson, Promotions

Ronnie Cole, Staff Adviser

CCS Ambassadors

Nick Pedersen	Northern Star Council Commissioner
Chad Sackett	Central Minnesota Council Commissioner
Lisa Boomgarden	Twin Valley Council Commissioner
Kevin Kropf	Hawkeye Area Council Commissioner
Bill Serre	Illowa Council Commissioner
Mark Curran	Winnebago Council Commissioner
Darrin Gerry	Sioux Council Commissioner
Eric Strauss	Gateway Area Council Commissioner
Jeff Kranz	Gamehaven Council Commissioner
Ryan Zimmerman	Chippewa Valley Council Commissioner
Whit Johnson	Mid-Iowa Council Commissioner
Leland Tong	Northern Lights Council Commissioner
Scott Hooper	Montana Council Commissioner
Tim Park	Northeast Iowa Council Commissioner

Registration Details

Registration fee is \$35.

Fee is discounted to \$30 until 11:59 PM November 4, 2026 2:00 PM.

Staff members not registering for a degree pay a fee of \$13.

For more information see the website at:

<https://www.northernstar.org/about-the-college-of-commissioner-service>

Register on-line at:

<https://scoutingevent.com/250-ccs2026>

Registration includes courses, fellowship with other commissioners, lunch, patch and certificate presented at the graduation ceremony.

For more questions regarding registration or if you have any dietary requests, please contact:

Dean of Registration, at: nsccollege@gmail.com or

Ronnie Cole: Northern Star Scouting Staff Adviser,

At: rcole@northernstar.org

Doctoral candidates:

Please contact the Dean of the Doctorate Program, Rose Buntjer-Little, for a special registration password at Rosamaria.buntjer-little@thomsonreuters.com **763-232-2208**, by **October 15th, 2026**.

The College of Commissioner Service is a uniformed event. Please wear your official BSA Uniform.

About Base Camp

Base Camp / Leadership Center

Site of the 2026 College of Commissioner Service

New Adventure Comes to Life in an Old Building

Base Camp is located at historic Fort Snelling with two buildings. One is in the Teambuilding Center in a former cavalry drill hall and the other is the brand-new Leadership Center. Teambuilding Center is brought to life with opportunities including rock climbing, ropes courses, archery, and team games while Leadership Center has state-of-the-art technology. Owned and operated by [Northern Star Scouting, BSA](#), our mission is to serve all youth through field trips, lock-ins, retreats, summer camps, private parties, and community group activities.

Location: Base Camp / Leadership Center

[6202 Bloomington Road](#)
[Fort Snelling, MN 55111](#)

See you on November 14th!

Directions



<https://maps.app.goo.gl/GFTAjDSxKwR25Yky7>

