



2025
Transatlantic Council
College of Commissioner Science Class Catalog

College of Commissioner Science - Bachelors (Scheduled Classes)

BCS 101

Session 1: 09:00 – 09:50

Instructor: Ray Eden

Core Concepts of Unit Service

The position of commissioner is one of the oldest in Scouting. This course reviews and reinforces the commissioner core concepts and identifies the key skills needed for commissioner to be able to assess the units they serve.

BCS 102

Session 2: 10:00 – 10:50

Instructor: Jesse Rhoades

Unit and Membership Renewal Process

Chartered organizations must submit an application to Council annually to renew its charter. This fosters a formal, timely plan for regular dialogue between the chartered organization and Scouting America, and assures membership is current so Scouts can participate in Scouting activities and advance in rank. Commissioners support the timely, error-free completion of the renewal.

BCS 103

Session 3: 11:00 – 11:50

Instructor:

Linking District Resources

Although commissioners are viewed as very knowledgeable and capable individuals, a key part of a commissioner's job is to link the unit to the district committee. Members of the district committee typically are individuals who can readily access further resources and wisdom to assist the unit.

BCS 105

Session 4: 13:00 – 13:50

Instructor:

Resolving Common Unit Issues Practical Solutions to Common Unit Needs

This course will build the commissioner's knowledge of the early warning signs of a unit in danger of failing as well as group discussions about how to support problem-solving of some common issues

BCS 106

Session 5 14:00 – 14:50

Instructor:

Coaching Leaders

In this session the commissioner will become familiar with the new Coaching model and how to use it to better serve their units. The learning objectives are: Recognize the importance of coaching, employ coaching methods to address different situations, and evaluate options for resolution.

BCS 115

Session 6: 15:10 – 16:00

Instructor: Misty Springer

Commissioners- The single best resource

Commissioners provide unit leadership with information and guidance on the latest changes in the programs of the SCOUTING AMERICA. Providing unit service is the same regardless of the type of unit. Improvement is constant throughout the national-level programs, and getting this information to the unit level is essential to ensure quality programs for all SCOUTING AMERICA youth and adult participants. This makes the commissioner the single best resource for unit leaders to look to for the support they need.

BCS 119

Session 7: 16:10 – 17:00

Instructor:

Building 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.

College of Commissioner Science - Masters (Scheduled Classes)

MCS 302

Session 1: 09:00 – 09:50
Instructor: Jesse Rhoades

Supporting Unit and Membership Renewal

Annually, sponsoring organizations and units apply to SCOUTING AMERICA for a new charter to deliver the Scouting program. This process validates youth membership and qualified leaders, confirms agreement to follow SCOUTING AMERICA policies, and collects registration fees. District commissioners must lead these activities which may engage volunteers who are inexperienced or unfamiliar with SCOUTING AMERICA procedures. This session explores leadership techniques to prepare, guide, and support units in completing accurate charter renewal applications on-time.

MCS 304

Session 2: 10:00 – 10:50
Instructor: Ray Eden

Service to Units at Risk

Early detection and systematic problem-solving is critical to support units when they encounter problems which may prevent them from functioning effectively. This session will provide the commissioner with ways to identify these units and to discuss the processes needed to support the unit's move toward performing as an effective scouting unit.

MCS 305

Session 3: 11:00 – 11:50
Instructor: Steve Sutton

Resolving Critical Unit Issues

The purpose of this course is to hone the commissioner's skills in assessing units, determining their strengths and weaknesses, and in developing plans to improve the functioning of the unit. When collaborating with the unit Key 3, the commissioner may be able to help identify critical issues and keep the unit from becoming an "At-Risk" unit

MCS 306

Session 4: 13:00 – 13:50
Instructor: Walter Fahnestock

Mentoring Skills

Mentoring is a long-term relationship in which one individual supports and guides the personal or professional growth and development of another. Mentoring is an essential skill of a commissioner and this course will provide tools for commissioners to use when mentoring others. This course will also explore the similarities and subtle differences between mentoring and coaching.

MCS 307

Session 5: 14:00 – 14:50

Instructor: Walter Fahnestock

Serving Newly Formed Units

An engaged commissioner is critical for the success and retention of new units. Commissioners designated as a new-unit commissioner focus on only new units, preferably a single unit to which they have been assigned. This session will assist the new unit commissioner to define the role of the new-unit commissioner, understand the partnership between the new-unit commissioner and the new unit organizer, recognize the importance of the Unit Service Plan, understand how coaching supports new unit leaders, and identify new-unit commissioner training opportunities.

MCS 310

Session 6: 15:10 – 16:00

Instructor: Jeff Arter

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 support.

MCS 312

Session 7: 16:10 – 17:00

Instructor: Jesse Rhoades

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.