Looking at the BSA website (www.scouting.org), a commissioner's role is defined as follows: A commissioner plays several roles, including friend, representative, unit “doctor,” teacher, and counselor.

The commissioner is a friend of the unit. Of all their roles, this one is the most important. It springs from the attitude, “I care, I am here to help, what can I do for you?” Caring is the ingredient that makes commissioner service successful. He or she is an advocate of unit needs. A commissioner who makes himself known and accepted now will be called on in future times of trouble.

The commissioner is a representative. The average unit leader is totally occupied in working with kids. Some have little if any contact with the Boy Scouts of America other than a commissioner’s visit to their meeting. To them, the commissioner may be the BSA. The commissioner helps represent the ideals, the principles, and the policies of the Scouting movement.

The commissioner is a unit “doctor.” In their role as “doctor,” they know that prevention is better than a cure, so they try to see that their units make good “health practices” a way of life. When problems arise, and they will even in the best unit, they act quickly. They observe symptoms, diagnose the real ailment, prescribe a remedy, and follow up on the patient.

The commissioner is a teacher. As a commissioner, they will have a wonderful opportunity to participate in the growth of unit leaders by sharing knowledge with them. They teach not just in an academic environment, but where it counts most—as an immediate response to a need to know. That is the best adult learning situation since the lesson is instantly reinforced by practical application of the new knowledge.

The commissioner is a counselor. As a Scouting counselor, they will help units solve their own problems. Counseling is the best role when unit leaders don’t recognize a problem and where solutions are not clear-cut. Everyone needs counseling from time to time, even experienced leaders. In the Rockland District, we have a list of dedicated commissioners who reach out to their assigned units and are there to help however they can.

Unfortunately, we do not have enough commissioners to cover all of our units in the district. So, if you feel you can fulfill the role of a commissioner, please reach out to me (wayne.kunow@gmail.com) and we will see if we can partner you with a unit. Friendships are often formed and everybody benefits in some way.

For all units who have or plan to partake in long term camping, we need to know where you went and how many youth/adults participated. Our district achieved gold status for the Journey to Excellence and this is just one of the metrics used in determining our score. You can forward this information to me or your unit commissioner.

A couple of final thoughts...The fall is just ahead of us and we are coming up on a prime time for recruiting! A key to building and maintaining your unit is a strong recruitment plan. This is also the time to put together your annual plan. A suggestion to keep your program fresh is to challenge your unit to add a couple of different activities this year. This could come in the form of participating in a new activity or going to a new camp. Reach out to another unit and ask them were their favorite activity is!

—Wayne Kunow
Begin Your Scouting Journey with Online Training

What’s New...

Recently launched Boy Scout eLearning content
This created an additional training option for leaders and volunteers who need to complete their position-specific training requirements for the Boy Scout program. In order to be triggered as position-trained in the BSA Learn Center, unit and assistant unit leaders must complete the required eLearning modules for their role and also must complete the Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS) face-to-face course.

These online modules can be used for the position-trained requirements for committee chairs and committee members. Merit Badge Counselor training is also included in this release. It consists of six online modules that, once completed, will trigger you as position-trained. Please note that Fast Start trainings are now retired and have been replaced by this online learning. Refer to the Boy Scout Position-Trained Requirements chart at http://www.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/TrainedLeader_Requirements.pdf (also listed here on pages 3 - 6) to see the online module requirements necessary to be completed for your specific position.

Online JTE and Council Market Analysis – Available Now
The Journey to Excellence online course explains the importance and benefits of JTE. The course walks you through how to use the JTE standards as you plan, develop, and evaluate your program. It will identify additional JTE resources and explain how to use them. This course is also in the committee and committee chairman online learning plan as a required course for being position-trained.

Roundtable, District, and Council Commissioner Training
These modules are grouped into three learning plans for each commissioner position to complete:
·     Before the first meeting
·     Within the first 30 days in your commissioner role
·     Position-Trained

BALOO
The new BALOO course will be done as blended learning where required prerequisite online learning modules provide the knowledge base prior to taking the BALOO outdoor course. A new course syllabus for the outdoor session will be available as well. This new course combines BALOO and OWL into one training.

New online courses for the following will be launched to replace the old courses in My.Scouting:
·     Safe Swim Defense
·     Safety Afloat
·     Climb on Safely
·     Trek Safely
·     Weather Hazards
·     Drive Safely

Area and Regional Commissioner Online Training – Projected Release: Fall 2017
Similar to the other online commissioner training, position-trained requirements can be achieved through these modules.

Online Commissioner Basic Training
These modules are grouped into three learning plans for each commissioner position to complete:
·     Before the first meeting
·     Within the first 30 days in your commissioner role
·     Position-Trained
Learning plans are a set of courses that explain the aspects of commissioner service and provide information about what you need to know as you develop in your role. Learners who prefer to complete their courses in a classroom environment can find course dates by contacting their local district or council commissioner staff. Instructor-led basic training will still be available at: http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Commissioners/training/basic_training.aspx.

Chaplain
Serving as a chaplain provides the opportunity to help Scouts as they grow, both physically and mentally

Instructions for Accessing Online Training
1. Go to http://my.scouting.org (use Chrome on PC or Safari on MAC).
2. Enter your login name and password.
3. On the opening page, click on the BSA Learn Center or Exploring graphic.
4. Select the My Learning tab to access any Learning Plans assigned to you based on your registered position(s).
5. Click on a learning plan to view the associated list of courses.
6. From the list of courses click the launch button to launch the course.
7. If you are a new leader or not in a registered position, click one of the program buttons.
8. Select a Training Program from the list.
9. Hover over the learning plan name, and click the add (+) icon under the Actions column to add the learning plan to the My Learning tab. Once you have added a learning plan, it will be reflected in My Learning.
10. Follow steps 4-6 to launch your training course(s).
This summer's Cub Parent Weekend was a huge success. Be sure to put it into your calendar next year!!!
CUB SCOUTS

PACK 1
On a hot and sunny June 11th, several Pack 1 Cub Scouts arrived at the Haverstraw Elks Lodge ready to do their Duty to Country. The Scouts were there to carry the historic flags of our nation during the annual Flag Day celebration held by the Elks. They then joined in the singing of “God Bless America” and “You’re a Grand Old Flag.” Each Scout left there with a new appreciation for the history of the flag and those who protect it.

PACK 94
On June 3rd Cub Scout Pack 94 from Suffern, NY participated in a Trail Building Event on National Trails Day. With clippers, rakes and tools in hand, Pack 94 worked together with the NY/NJ Trail Conference and the Army Corps of Engineers to clear a whole new section of a multi-use trail in Sterling Forest State Park!

After having hiked many trails themselves before, the scout families thought it was pretty amazing to see the trail come to life before their eyes! Everyone had a new appreciation for all of the hard work it takes to build and maintain these miles of trails. The pack hopes to make it back some day for a hike on this very trail. (We built the part marked in blue on the map!) Pack 94 - We do more
BOY SCOUTS

TROOP 21
On July 8 and 9 8 boys and 7 adults from Troop 21 Suffern went on an awesome trip to the Great South Bay of Long Island, where they camped out on a deserted island for the 6th year in a row! The group woke up early Saturday morning and drove to Captree Island in the Great South Bay of Long Island. The group embarked on our trip. The troop loaded up all the gear onto boats and headed to an uninhabited island. They quickly set up tents and went clamming, and everyone had a lot of fun! The champion clammer was a scout who caught a staggering 151 clams! After that they went on a deep-sea fishing boat, the Laura Lee Express, where they caught Sea Bass and Porgies. The troop returned to the island, and got some much-needed rest before dinner. A special thanks to the scout who cooked for the weekend; for dinner he made some delicious hot dogs. The boys were able to try some of the fish we caught, and some raw clams which were both delicious! After dinner a few of the boys went right to bed, but the adults started a fire and some of the boys created the legendary “clam wars”. The next morning we had sausage and eggs for breakfast before going on a trip to the famous spongy land. I can’t say much more about spongy land, as it is a troop secret, but it was a lot of fun and no one wanted to leave! For lunch there was hamburgers, and after working on some requirements everyone packed up and headed home. Although the tents were sandy and during the night the mosquitoes were a nuisance, everyone had a fantastic time!!!

TROOP 79
Every year, Troop 79 takes a trip to Rhode Island for summer camp at Yawgoog Scout Reservation. This summer, it was the Reservation’s 102nd summer and 33 scouts attended to represent Troop 79. Yawgoog has everything and then some when it comes to activities! They are fully covered when it comes to water sports. There are three waterfronts, each with swimming, rowing, and canoeing. There is also a place for small boat sailing, kayaking, and paddle boarding called Ashaway. The land activities at Yawgoog are second to none. From hikes with the nature staff to shooting guns at the rifle range, Yawgoog has got you covered. Some of Troop 79’s favorite activities are frisbee, volleyball, and chilling in the hammocks. They always camp at the Manchosi site which is next to the Medicine Bow waterfront and mess hall.
To provide high achieving Scouts financial assistance towards post-secondary school education, The 37 Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit organization, has established the Rachel Reichner Excellence in Scouting Scholarship. The Scholarship is a non-academic award and is based on demonstrated leadership and achievements in the Scouting program. The scholarship is open to members of the Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of the USA aged 17 – 25, who have been a member of a Scouting program during high school, and who are enrolled or accepted into a post-secondary school.

Rachel Reichner earned Venture Scouting’s highest award, the Summit Award, just days before her untimely death from cancer in April 2015 becoming the first female and second Scout in the nation to do so. Rachel also earned her Quartermaster Award, the highest rank in Sea Scouting, in October 2013 while a member of Ship 37. Rachel was the first Sea Scout in the Hudson Valley Council to have earned the Award. Rachel also earned the Girl Scouts Gold Award and Venturing Silver Award. Rachel loved Scouting. She always felt that there should be scholarships for young people like her whose principal leisure pursuit was Scouting. She created the selection criteria and secured the funding for the scholarship. The 37 Foundation administers the scholarship. The scholarship was renamed in her memory at the request of family and friends.

This year’s award recipients were:

- Kaitlyn Maria Dow
- Addison Alexander Lash
- Sloane Peterson
- Peter Zollinger

This year’s award recipients were:

- Kaitlyn Maria Dow (Ship 584)
- Addison Alexander Lash (Ship 1808, Troop 355)
- Sloane Peterson (GSUSA Troop 40608)
- Peter Zollinger (Troop 97, Crew 97)

For more information on the Rachel Reichner Excellence in Scouting Scholarship visit The 37 Foundation website at www.the37foundation.org. Questions regarding the scholarship may be directed to Lynn Horwitz at scholarship@the37foundation.org.

UNIT NEWS

BOY SCOUTS

TROOP 97

Troop 97 sent 58 scouts and 9 leaders to Camp Nobebosco in Blairstown, NJ during the week of July 2-8 during the camp’s 90th anniversary celebration. 11 new scouts successfully completed First Class Adventure, worked on their T-2-1 rank advancement and completed a 5-mile hike to a local fire-tower where a park service ranger presented them with special pins. Over 150 merit badges were earned by our scouts in areas including Waterfront, Rifle, Handicraft and Scoutcraft. Several scouts completed the mile swim and participated in a Wilderness Survival overnight. Many also completed the “Oscobebon” camp challenge and received a special neckerchief from the camp.

We also have 5 eagle projects and fund-raising underway this summer with a quarter of our troop off to Jambo for more fun and adventure as part of 3 different Jambo Troops and Crew 97!
It’s Coming....

Merit Badge College

Saturday, March 24, 2018

Mark your calendars and Save the Date for the Hudson Valley Council Merit Badge College!

*Merit badges offered, location and schedule to be determined.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
HUDSON VALLEY COUNCIL
Want to learn how to make Scout Leadership great? Think University of Scouting!

**Cub Courses at the University of Scouting!**
Stem/Nova Overview, Leader-Specific Training, WEBELOS Adventures, Pack & Den Ceremonies, Lion Cub Program, Updates to the Cub Program.

**University of Scouting helps new and experienced leaders become more effective.**
Try Hiking Staves, Order of the Arrow, Geocaching, Merit Badge Counselor Training, Survival, or STEM.

**Venturing Courses have something for Youth and Adults**
Intro to Leadership Skills for Crews, Venturing Youth Protection Training, Goal Setting and Time Management...to name a few!

**Have you ever considered serving as a Commissioner?**
The University of Scouting is how.
Are you a new or prospective Commissioner?
The University of Scouting is a great place to learn the how-to’s of unit service.

**Youth Protection Training**
Protect our youth and yourself with this BSA required training.

**General Courses expand your training at any level of Scouting**
Check out Dutch Oven Cooking or some old favorites Lost Lore, Leave No Trace (Outdoor Ethics), CPR/AED Certification (class limited to 10 with an additional fee of $32.50).

**Youth Leader College**
These courses are designed to teach youth the skills necessary to help them succeed as leaders.

**Classes open to all registered Boy Scout and Venturing Scout Youth**
Dutch Oven Cooking, Intro to CPR, Campfire Planning, and more!

**Den Chief Training is a must for older Boy Scouts and Venturing Youth**
This course gives Scouts the tools they need to take on this important leadership role...

**Merit Badge Workshops**
3-Hour Merit Badge morning & afternoon sessions. All classes limited to 20 Scouts.

All classes may be limited in size.
No registrations accepted after October 30th — NO EXCEPTIONS
Early Bird Registration closes October 24th | Late Registration closes October 30th