

Cornhusker Council Commissioner Corner



News for Commissioners. . .

Commissioners top priority of 2025 is membership, membership, membership!!!

Make sure units are aware of the Cornhusker Council Membership Plan 2025:

- February — “Buddy Cards” available for Valentines Day
- March 1 — 1-Free Day at Day Camp Campaign (March 1—June 1)
- March 29: Scout for a Day (5th & 6th Grade Recruitment)
- April 1: Order Recruiting Marketing Materials
- April 5: Scouting for Food—deliver flyers, include flyer to join Scouts
- May 1: Membership Recruitment Training at RT’s

Commissioner’s Role in Retention:

In the coming months we will be asking commissioners to contact “lapsed” youth and adults of the unit(s) they serve. A “lapsed” youth/adult is one whose membership was not renewed by the deadline. This “lapsed” period is for 90 days at which point they will be dropped from the Scouting program. Our goal will be to determine the reason(s) each membership was not renewed — it may be because the unit neglected to renew the membership, the meeting day/time may not work for the family, etc. The next step will be to assist the family find another unit if they are interested. All data collected will be used to improve retention rates in the future across the council.

A “script” to use for these conversations is in development and will be shared with commissioners who will be asked to make these contacts. Thank you for your future assistance with these contacts.

Commissioner Tools Update from Nat’l Commissioner Service Team:

Due to the complexity of the changes required, the updates will be released by late February. Additionally, to enable the transition from Unit Assessments to Unit Connections, no unit contacts will be able to be entered until the final release. Please note that this will also mean that the mobile version will be inactive until the final release. We apologize for the inconvenience and request your patience as we complete this important upgrade to Commissioner Tools.

Email notification will be received several days prior to the “go live” date. Watch for updates from national, Karen or your district commissioner.

New Requirements for Commissioner Awards:

Commissioner award requirements have been updated to reflect the changes in Commissioner Service and Commissioner Tools. If you have been using the previous requirements, the completed forms must be submitted to your DC or Karen by March 1, 2025. Any forms after March 1 must be the updated forms (Rev 12/24). Use this link for the new requirements. . .

<https://www.scouting.org/commissioners/recognition/>

February 2025 Priorities for Commissioners



FOS Presentations:

Remind units to get their FOS presentations scheduled ASAP!

Succession Planning:

Have packs identified who will hold leadership positions (ie. Cubmaster, committee chair, den leaders) in the upcoming scouting year 2025-26? Is there a transition plan in place?

Summer Camp Plans:

Camping is a highlight of the scouting program! Make sure your units include camping in their summer program.

**March 29,
2025**



**College of
Commissioner Science
Bellevue University**

Increase your commissioner knowledge and skills to provide better unit service.

Tracks include:

- *Bachelor’s (1st year attendees)
- *Masters for either Unit or Roundtable Commissioners
- *Doctoral Candidates
- *Continuing Education

Need more info? Contact:

Karen: karensieber@live.com
or Bill: wlang50@gmail.com.

Happy Birthday, Scouting America!



**2025 CST 5
Program Symposium**

**Saturday, March 8, 2025
8am—1pm (CST)**

This is a FREE virtual symposium via Zoom. Register at <https://scoutingevent.com/312-95082-223181>

The 2024 CST 5 Program Symposium is open to all Scouters within CST 5 and beyond. This virtual event includes presentations by National scouting leaders and CST 5 Territory Members.

Commissioner Staff Contact Info

Council Commissioner:
Karen Griffin Sieber
karensieber@live.com

Ass't Council Commissioner for YPT
Mitchell Locken
mlocken@gmail.com

Prairie Winds District Comm.
Lonnie Pohlman
lpohlman53@gmail.com

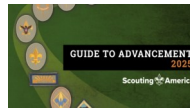
Salt Valley District Comm.
Bill Lang
wlang50@gmail.com

Seven Feathers District Comm.
Richard White
rwhite4576@gmail.com

Dates to Remember

- Feb 6: Roundtables
- Feb 8: Scouting America Name Kick-off
- Feb 16: NRA Basic Instructor Training
- Feb 22: SV District Dinner
- March 1: 7F Merit Badge University
- Mar 6: Roundtables
- Mar 8: First Aid, CPR, AED Training

Guide to Advancement Updates



Be aware of these updates:

- * Section 4.2.1.2, titled The Scout Is Tested, reads, "Once a Scout has been tested and signed off by someone approved to do so, the requirement has been met *and cannot be rescinded.*"
- * Section 7.0.4.12 is an entirely new section addressing the use of online merit badge classes.

More updates can be found at this link:

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2025/01/27/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-latest-updates-to-the-guide-to-advancement/>

Keeping Cub Scouts Engaged:



As the weather warms and nature begins to bloom, spring offers a perfect opportunity for units to provide engaging outdoor programming that excites Cub Scouts and encourages participation.

Spring Nature Hikes: Add themed scavenger hunts or badge-related activities

Outdoor Skills Workshops: Knot-tying, shelter building, fishing, and basic first aid provide hands-on experiences while preparing Cub Scouts for future adventures

Themed Adventures:

- Pirate Adventures: Include treasure hunts, map reading, and water-related activities
- Wild West Days: Introduce simple outdoor cooking, play "old-fashioned" games
- Superhero Training Camp: Obstacle courses, teamwork challenges, and problem-solving activities

Family Picnic or Campout: Feature simple games, nature walk and a campfire program

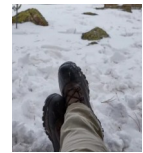
Outdoor STEM Programs: Build weather stations, bird houses, explore solar energy

Springtime Cub Olympics: Feature age-appropriate challenges like sack races, relay races, tug-of-war and water bucket relays

Spring Service Projects: Park clean-ups, plant flowers or trees, repair trails

Source: <https://www.scouting.org/trail-to-adventure-blog/keeping-cub-scouts-engaged-spring-programming-ideas-for-local-councils/>

**Safety Moment —
5 Things to Think about
when asking Scouts to
Camp in the Cold:**



1. Ask parents to pack with their child, but not for their child

The advantage of having a child pack their own bag is twofold. First, it helps them learn what they need on a winter campout. And second, it helps them remember where each item was packed. The first time a Scout learns what's inside their bag should not be when they arrive at their campsite.

2. Make sure everyone has plenty to eat and drink

Prepared soups and stews can be heated up in a matter of minutes.

And remember: Drinking fluids is as important in wintry conditions as it is during hot-weather adventures. Encourage everyone to drink up regularly.

3. Plan the right activities

It's not a good idea to perspire in the winter. Wet clothing isn't only uncomfortable, it can be dangerous. Remind Scouts to shed a layer if they begin to feel too hot.

4. Check the weather forecast often

5. Be familiar with the BSA's official materials on winter outings—check out Safety Moments:

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/>

Source: [Aaron on Scouting blog](#)

Philmont Training Center 2025



June 8-14: Commissioner Week

What could be better than learning while in beautiful Philmont! Choose one of these courses:

- * Applying BSA Technology for Impact
- * Connecting Unit Leaders and Commissioners
- * Empowering the Dist Comm Team
- * Comm Role in Growing Scouting
- * UC: A Strategic Perspective
- * Unit Service Today, Navigating Reality

<https://www.philmontscout ranch.org/ptc/ptc-conferences/>