

College of Commissioner Science Bachelor of Roundtable Science

Submitted by Bill Pickle

For the degree of Doctor of Commissioner Science

Information regarding the 2018 College held by Mid-America, Overland Trails and Cornhusker Councils 24 March 2018 at Bellevue University, Bellevue Nebraska

Ricky Holbert recruited Judy and Bill Pickle to be a Co-Deans for the College of Commissioner Science, Bachelors of Roundtable Science. Judy is a current member of the Cub Roundtable team in Wagon Wheel, Mid-America Council. Bill is a current member of the Boy Scout Roundtable team in Wagon Wheel, Mid-America Council.

“A game with a purpose”

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Background

Bill and Judy have over thirty (30) years combined experience as Roundtable Commissioners. Judy has served as Cub Scout Roundtable Staff/Team and Commissioner, Boy Scout Roundtable Staff and Commissioner and Venturing Roundtable Staff. Bill has served as Cub Scout Roundtable staff, Boy Scout Roundtable Staff/Team and Commissioner and Venturing Roundtable Staff and Commissioner. This helped to provide insight to the needs of both Cub and Boy Scout Roundtable planning for this College. Currently Wagon Wheel District Roundtable Team members from Boy and Cub Scouts hold joint monthly Roundtable planning sessions and after Roundtable review sessions.

After being asked to join the team as Deans for the College, Judy and I were given a brief description of the responsibilities as Deans. Our first responsibility was to either develop curriculum or find curriculum that would fit our goals for the College. We went to the internet and searched for information from other BSA Colleges for the curriculum being used. We discovered that there is a national BSA curriculum for Roundtable Science.

Our first meeting was at the Cornhusker Council building, near Lincoln Nebraska. During this meeting Judy and I presented the complete list of sessions for the Bachelor of Science in Roundtable available online¹. This is the "new" national model for BSA. This was our first meeting as Deans and we were unsure what to expect.

During the meeting in Lincoln, the groundwork was laid out for future tasks to be accomplished by each of the different sections for this College and recommendations were made for follow up items. At the end of the meeting Roundtable had seven (7) classes laid out for the College. Our next tasks had to do with staff recruitment and preparation.

Monthly conference calls were set up for the Third Thursday of each month to keep in contact and relay information as to the progress of each of the sections. Judy and I requested help in recruiting staff from all three councils to teach classes for Roundtable during the event. This proved less than useful. We now know that we should have contacted the councils directly to connect with the Council Commissioner at Overland Trails and Cornhusker Councils for the

¹ <https://www.scouting.org/commissioners/training/bachelors-courses/>

names and contact information of their Roundtable Team Members. Council Commissioners can access that information from their respective Registrar.

Conference calls do serve a purpose, however, face to face meetings at least once every three months would have been helpful. Some of the information that was needed wasn't always available as individual participation on the conference calls varied from some who were almost always available during the calls to some who were available on very few of the calls.

Without the contact information from other councils, I was only able to email Mid-America commissioners inviting them to participate in the college.

We enjoyed having Bob Jacober and Ricky Holbert available as mentors. Their sound advice and calming answers were of great value. Having someone with experience to go to helped us immensely. Thank you, Rick and Bob!

Staff

Recruiting staff also proved to be a bit more difficult than I expected. An email was sent out requesting help from District Commissioners². The requesting email asked for anyone interested in participating as an instructor for the College of Commissioner Science to contact Judy or myself. There was zero response from these emails and no responses were forwarded to us. All staff members who were recruited were asked to recruit an additional staff member to work with them and share the in fun.

We had ten (10) staff members for the Roundtable courses:

One (1) staff member was from Lewis and Clark District, Mid-America Council, two staff members were from Diamond Dick District, Mid-America Council and seven (7) were from Wagon Wheel District, Mid-America Council.

Four (4) staff members are currently registered as Roundtable Commissioners or Roundtable Team Members, one (1) District Commissioner, one (1) is registered as District Committee (District Public

² in Mid-America Council, I had an email forwarded to me by the Wagon Wheel District Commissioner requesting assistance.

Relations/Media Relations), one (1) is registered as District Committee (Training), one (1) Venturing Committee member, one (1) Scoutmaster, one (1) Assistant Scoutmaster,

Three (3) were men and seven (7) were women. Experience in Scouting ranged from one (1) of the instructors being new to training and less than three (3) years in Scouting and one (1) with more than fifty (50) years instructing in Scouting and fifty-five (55) years as a Scout/Scouter.

When recruiting staff members, we explained that we were looking for instructors to teach one (1) session. We wanted them to stay for the day and participate in all sessions. We were NOT looking for professional college instructors, we DID want reliable trainers who would "Do their Best". We needed highly motivated, energized trainers.

We did need to reassure the individuals we invited that they were exactly what we were looking for. Many of them thought that they didn't have the expertise or were just plain worried that they weren't "good enough" to teach at a College.

The information on the fliers for the college listed "with Council Approval" as a pre-requisite for attending the course. This caused concern from the people we were trying to recruit. That almost kept us from getting our instructors.

Classes

The classes taught were:

- BSC 150 – The Roundtable in Commissioner Service
- BCS 151 – The Roundtable Commissioner Team
- BCS 152 – Using the Roundtable Program Guides
- BCS 153 – Promoting Roundtable
- BCS 154 – Cub Scout Roundtables
- BCS 155 – Boy Scout Roundtables
- BCS 156 – Recruiting, Training and Recognizing the Roundtable Team
- BCS Elective – The Fun Doesn't Stop

The classes presented at the initial meeting were reviewed during the preparation for the College and it was decided that the BCS 154 and BCS 155 would be presented as a comparative presentation. This would show the similarities between the two programs and give us the opportunity to present an

elective that allowed for collaboration and team building between Cub and Boy Scout leaders. This also gave us the opportunity to show participants ways to incorporate these types of activities into their respective programs.

Giveaways, Handouts and Paperwork

We had USB drives for participants with the national course materials. On the USB drives we included the presentations given with instructor notes. We also included both the “Cub Scout Roundtable Planning Guide” and “Boy Scout Roundtable Planning Guide”, “Ceremonies for Dens and Packs” and the “Big Book of Worship”. Additional items were handed to participants throughout the day. When we passed out a “Giveaway” there was often a “card” to go with the item. The “Giveaways” included Plastic Yellow Construction Helmets³, Peanuts⁴, Doritos®⁵, mini candy bars, full sized candy bars⁶, individual bubbles⁷, the BSA Uniform Inspection Sheet⁸, Arrowhead Honor tracking sheet⁹, Commissioner Key tracking sheet¹⁰, Cub Roundtable Planning Guide (physical copy), Boy Scout Roundtable Planning Guide (physical copy).

Giveaways are inexpensive items that can be distributed to reinforce a learning point or an activity. They can be collected throughout the month or year and used on various occasions. The yellow construction hats, for example, are under \$1 each and are one size fits almost no one. The mini candy bars come in a multi-variety bag to try and get selection for everyone’s taste. The full-sized candy bars can be directed to a point, for example a Payday® or \$100,000 bar® can be given as a reward.

We also discussed raffles during the day. A raffled item can be anything, Scouting related or not. These items can range from a giveaway item, to an item donated by a “sponsor”. Raffles are not normally announced in advance, to keep attendees looking forward to the unexpected. Some raffles are announced in advance to try and increase attendance for a special presentation or activity such as the

³ See Appendix A

⁴ See Appendix B

⁵ See Appendix C

⁶ Given for a Full Uniform during the Uniform Inspection

⁷ See Appendix D

⁸ See Appendix E

⁹ <https://www.scouting.org/commissioners/recognition/arrowhead-honor/>

¹⁰ <https://www.scouting.org/commissioners/recognition/commissioners-key/>

Re-Charter presentation. During those announced months trying to increase attendance larger/better items are normally available. In Wagon Wheel District Roundtables raffles have included:

- Sleeping bags
- Merit badge books
- Coffee cups
- Flashlights
- Neckerchief slides
- Blue and Gold decoration items
- Scouting cookware
- Tickets to the District Dinner

Sources for these giveaway items can include Good Will and Thrift stores, job fairs, garage sales or the basement/garage of long time Scouters. Please, get new candy bars from a store.

What we saw from the Participants

We arrived at 0700 and started to set up the room. Check in was in the basement of another building. When we had our room ready for the day we went to the check in area. Participants began arriving at 0800. There was a brief opening session adjacent to the sign in area. Coffee and doughnuts were available for staff and participants.

During the opening of the College, I was introduced to a participant who had signed up in an Associate's program. Her BSA registered position was Cub Roundtable Commissioner and she was concerned about the program offerings. Her friend had told her about the Roundtable Science degree and urged her to participate in our program. She had decided to attend the Roundtable classes and after a few minutes of discussion she appeared to feel more comfortable with that decision.

As we expected, when the participants first arrived, they were a bit reserved. We did have one (1) participant who had a Bachelors of Roundtable Science from a previous College in attendance. After introductions and the first session getting underway, we had our first giveaway. A yellow plastic construction hat. One participant didn't put his on at first because it was much too small, however, after another participant commented that we could now be identified as a group, that changed. He put on the hat and pointed out that his was difficult to wear due to its size. Then another individual in the

room pointed out that his nose kept the way too large hat from covering his entire face. The hats were the same size. This giveaway served its purpose very well.

The first giveaway was about five (5) minutes into the first presentation and was the ice breaker for the mood of the group. As soon as everyone discovered that learning could be going on at the same time as fun the mood in the room became much more relaxed and comfortable. Mini candy bars were given out as prizes/prompts during the Jeopardy Game, when someone attempted an answer they received a mini candy bar. This got momentum going, even if the individual didn't want to eat the candy bar at that point, the fact that they "won" something got the room involved.

During lunch many of the staff and participants sat together, not by design. One individual that did not sit with the larger group commented that "It looked like you were all having fun, I should have come to sit with you!"

A "surprise" uniform inspection took place just after lunch and everyone received a full-sized candy bar. The concept was explained that during a regular activity, a uniform inspection can take place and those in attendance get a mini candy bar and those in attendance wearing a full uniform get a full-sized candy bar.

At the end of the day, as we were presenting the Bachelors of Roundtable Science degrees to those who earned them, a loud "Whoop" was heard. A participant of the College, not Roundtable, commented "Of course that is the Roundtable group".

60-minute and 90-minute Roundtables were the two (2) formats used by staff and participants for their Roundtables.

What we saw from the Staff

Staff who had attended previous Colleges as either participants or instructors were comfortable with the format and flow of the day. New staff who had not either attended as participants or instructors were as nervous as the new participants while being recruited for staff.

New staff had to be assured that the information and classes were like other training courses that they had participated in as either participants or an instructor. The information being taught was from a common syllabus provided by national, except for the elective, and could be presented in any format they preferred.

BCS 150 – The Roundtable in Commissioner Service and BCS 151 – The Roundtable Commissioner Team were taught using PowerPoint presentations. These two (2) presentations deal with much of the administration and organization of the Commissioner Corps. The instructors felt the format of the charts and diagrams in the presentations were best suited to be projected.

BCS 152 – Using the Roundtable Program Guides was presented using the Jeopardy Game PowerPoint. While this presentation was initially designed to be a “friendly competition”, the instructor modified the class during the presentation as it was discovered that the questions and answers were not as straightforward as originally anticipated. The game referenced written materials that were not available to all participants. The game turned into a sharing of information opportunity, with all present researching and providing answers to the small group who chose the question. Points and competition became secondary to finding the correct answer. Instructional information was discussed and shared by the entire group.

BCS 153 – Promoting Roundtable, quickly ran through the national syllabus PowerPoint presentation and then went to the internet for different sources of information and different ways to have information transmitted to individuals, units, districts and councils. Information was provided for different forms of social media (twitter, Instagram, Facebook, etc.), their persistence as a media and other resources for information. Scouting Wire¹¹ and other internet resources were brought up in this session also.

BCS 154 – Cub Scout Roundtables and BCS 155 – Boy Scout Roundtables, this session was a combined session. After reviewing the two (2) PowerPoints which referred to the same information in both presentations. We combined the slides from both into one. Left side of the slide was Cub Scouts, the right side was Boy Scouts. Judy and I presented this together adding insight from our respective programs.

BCS 156 – Recruiting, Training and Recognizing the Roundtable Team was presented in a common area of the facility. The instructors for this class had us leave the classroom environment and move to the common area during the break between classes. Once we got to the common area the instructors did not immediately move us to a “classroom” setting. They began to mingle with the participants and staff and ask them to support the Scouting program by helping with a job. Each person got a personalized, one on one demonstration of the class prior to being seated and class “officially” beginning.

BCS Elective – The Fun Doesn’t Stop continued in the common area where there was room to move about. This session allowed participants to understand the value of an alternate session when District

¹¹ <https://scoutingwire.org/>

or Council staff have sessions that preclude the normal Roundtable activities. Multiple games and activities were demonstrated/played and explained. The purpose of team building and interpersonal relationships between the range of Scouting levels was stressed. The importance of having a year-round program was also stressed with different levels of activities to engage all adults attending joint sessions. This session also discussed local Fire or Police visits to the Roundtable. Other activities like C.A.P.O.W.¹², Raptor Recovery¹³, Local Game and Parks presentations were also discussed.

What I learned from the College (Roundtable)

I believe that the name “College of Commissioner Science” is daunting to both staff and participants. While the name is appropriate for the sessions, individuals who have not attended previously have an expectation of a much more difficult and complex structure than other BSA training scenarios.

Registration was only opened 30 days prior to the College. I feel this directly impacted the attendance.

The classes taught are on par with national objectives. Not all the participants have the experience or knowledge that is expected from the national courseware. For example: Start – Stop – Continue is brought up in the classes. New Roundtable Team members may not have had the opportunity to attend other training courses where these are used/explained.

Training courses that I am aware of or have attended, are completely unknown to some of the newer Scouters. While we are very familiar with a University of Scouting in Mid-America Council, not every council participates with their own University of Scouting

There are a lot of things that I take for granted because of my longevity in Scouting that others just don’t know. For example, when in a session we passed out the Arrowhead Honor¹⁴ tracking sheet we mentioned that it was like tracking knots. We had to explain to one participant what the Training Awards¹⁵ (knots) were and how they are earned.

While we eliminated much of the jargon unique to BSA, there are still some concepts that are difficult to explain to individuals who have not experienced them for themselves.

¹² <https://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-arts-and-sciences/chemistry/community-engagement/capow.php>

¹³ <http://www.fontenelleforest.org/raptor-recovery>

¹⁴ <https://www.scouting.org/commissioners/recognition/arrowhead-honor/>

¹⁵ <https://www.scouting.org/awards/awards-central/>

Sometimes when we are saying exactly what we want to say, we are not clear to the individuals we are speaking to.

Suggestions for Masters of Roundtable Science Classes

A class that teaches tools for presentations, white boards, flip charts, PowerPoint. Like “The Trainers E.D.G.E.¹⁶” - **Module 2**— Part 1 Training Preparation-Logistics, Media, and Methods.

A class that goes in-depth in using the Commissioner Tools on line¹⁷ to log Roundtable activity and Unit Contacts. These are mentioned in the Bachelors courses briefly.

A class that names and explains different training courses available online and physical courses available to all Scouters who might attend Roundtable. We constantly say the youth deserve trained leaders, but do not let leaders know what training is available locally or nationally.

A class on games – “Scouting is a game with a purpose”, perhaps we should explain different games that teach scouting values and skills that can be taken to units. For example, First Aid Baseball, Communication game, knot race, Pocket version of Jeopardy with almost any topic you can think of.

References

Rick Holbert – Mid-America Council, Assistant Council Commissioner (Recognition)

Bob Jacober – Wagon Wheel District (Mid-America Council) District Committee (Training)

Steve Lanni – Mid-America Council, Council Commissioner

¹⁶ <https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/26-242.pdf>

¹⁷ <https://my.scouting.org/>

Appendix

A:

Round Table




Building trained leaders to change the World. Roundtables play a significant role in providing continuous supplemental training for unit leaders. This monthly event provides program topic guidance and structure suggestions for unit leaders.

A fun environment creates excitement around the coming month of activities and program for unit leaders to carry back for implementation in their units.

B:

Scouts acting squirrely?

Going nuts 

planning your den/pack/troop activity?

Round Table is the answer!



C:

Round Table Trainers

Feeding the fire.



D:

Round Table Trainers

Don't let them blow you off.

Contact your districts leadership and invite them to come.



E:

Scout Leader Uniform Inspection Sheet

Uniform Inspection
Conduct the uniform inspection with common sense; the basic rule is neatness.

15 pts **Attendance.** Presence at inspection merits 15 points.
Notes: _____

9 pts **Headgear.** Headgear is optional.
 Boy Scout leaders wear the olive visor cap, campaign hat, or troop-approved headgear.
 Varsity Scout leaders wear the blaze visor cap.
 Cub Scout pack leaders wear the olive visor cap.
 Den leaders wear the same visored cap as the youth they serve.
 Notes: _____

20 pts **Shirt/Blouse and Neckwear.** Official long or short sleeves with appropriate loops or epaulettes. Neckwear is optional but must be worn according to specifications in the Insignia Guide.
 Male Cub Scout and Boy Scout leaders wear the long- or short-sleeve uniform shirt.
 Female Cub Scout leaders wear either the official long- or short-sleeve yellow blouse, or the official long- or short-sleeve shirt.
 Female Boy Scout leaders wear the official shirt.
 Notes: _____

20 pts **Pants/Shorts.** Units have no option to change.
 Male Cub Scout and Boy Scout leaders wear the official pants or the official uniform shorts or pants with no cuffs.
 Female Cub Scout leaders wear the official navy blue shorts, or pants with the yellow blouse, or the official uniform shorts or pants with the official shirt.
 Notes: _____

8 pts **Belt.**
 Male leaders wear the official web belt or official leather belt with the buckle of their choice.
 Female leaders wear the official navy blue Cub Scout or Webelos Scout buckle with navy blue pants, or the official web belt or official leather belt with the buckle of their choice with official uniform shorts or pants.
 Notes: _____

5 pts **Socks.**
 Male Cub Scout and Boy Scout leaders wear olive socks with official uniform shorts or pants.
 Female leaders wear the blue socks with the blue shorts or pants, or the olive socks with official uniform shorts or pants.

5 pts **Shoes.**
 Leather or canvas, neat and clean.
 Notes: _____

70 pts **Uniform points. Total points from above (75 possible)**

25 pts **Insignia* Insignia points from reverse (25 possible)**
 Correct shoulder loops, 5 points. Correct placement on left sleeve, 5 points;
 right sleeve, 5 points. left pocket, 5 points. right pocket, 5 points.
 Use the checklist on the reverse of this form to help determine score.
 *For more information about insignia, see the Insignia Guide, No. 41497.


100 pts **Total Uniform Inspection Score**
Uniform and insignia points combined. A perfect score is 100 points.

Total Uniform Inspection Score ▶

Name _____ Unit No. _____
 Address _____ District _____
 Office or position in unit _____

**Our unit inspection
will be held on**

Bring this form with you.



Internet Resources.

Silver Beaver: <https://www.scouting.org/awards/awards-central/silver-beaver/>

Award of Merit: http://www.boyscouttrail.com/content/award/medal_of_merit-1919.asp

Recognition knots <http://www.usscouts.org/awards/knots1.asp>

Mid-America University of Scouting - <https://scoutingevent.com/326-17429>

EDGE training- <https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/26-242.pdf>

Commissioner Arrowhead

<https://www.scouting.org/commissioners/recognition/arrowhead-honor/>

Commissioners Key <https://www.scouting.org/commissioners/recognition/commissioners-key/>

Uniform inspection guide http://www.boyscouttrail.com/docs/uniform_male.pdf

My.scouting <https://my.scouting.org/>

UC Field book http://mac-bsa.org/Post/sections/10/Files/field_book.pdf

JTE http://www.mac-bsa.org/jte_home.aspx

Roundtable planning. (cubs) [https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/cubscouts/pdf/510-714\(17\)_CS.pdf](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/cubscouts/pdf/510-714(17)_CS.pdf)

Roundtable planning (boy scouts) [https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/boyscouts/pdf/510-045\(17\)_BS.pdf](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/boyscouts/pdf/510-045(17)_BS.pdf)

Religious <http://www.macscouter.com/scoutsown/docs/BBRevrvnt.pdf>

Scouting wire. For PowerPoint slides for use at Roundtable

<https://scoutingwire.org/marketing-and-membership-hub/unit-recruiting/>

Venturing Manual <http://www.people.vcu.edu/~albest/Training/VenturingLeaderManual.pdf>

Training Awards <https://www.scouting.org/awards/awards-central/>

Messengers of Peace <https://www.scouting.org/international/messengers-of-peace/downloads/>

Ceremonies for Dens & Packs <http://cubsource.org/trng/CeremoniesforDensPacks.pdf>

C.A.P.O.W. <https://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-arts-and-sciences/chemistry/community-engagement/capow.php>

Raptor Recovery <http://www.fontenelleforest.org/raptor-recovery>

Additionally:

Image of the Wagon Wheel Roundtable Cub Scout Pack Doodle & beads. Beads are given for almost every activity or event units can attend. Examples are Pinewood Derby, Blue and Gold, Popcorn sales, or anything else you can think of. One (1) large bead is given if a unit has a Wood Badge attendee. One (1) white bead is given for each attendee at Roundtable.

It is suggested that you have a list of what color bead is for what activity or type of activity. This will help when restocking the beads and when beads are given out. Wagon Wheel beads are given out on an Honor system.

