



## **Roundtable Science**

# **College of Commissioner Science Report**

**2018**

**MAC Husker Trails**

**College of Commissioner Science**

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## **Steps**

1. Cub Scout Roundtable Dean.
2. What Training to Provide.
3. Staying Connected.
5. Building a team.
6. Sharing information.
7. Training Day.
8. Planning.
9. More than the basics.
10. Technology.
11. Stand Up and Volunteer.
12. Staff Support.
13. Location.
14. Linking presentations.
15. Uniforms.
16. Recruiting Roundtable Team Members.
17. Lunch is more than food.
18. Attending.
19. What we don't know.
20. Roundtable Commissioners.
21. Results.

### **Cub Scout Roundtable Dean.**

Ricky Holbert recruited me to be a Co-Dean for College of Commissioner Science Roundtable with Bill Pickle. I am a member of the Roundtable team in Wagon Wheel, Mid-America Council. Bill is a member of the Boy Scout Roundtable in Wagon Wheel, Mid-America.

Together our experiences provide insight to the needs of both Cub Scout and Boy Scout Roundtable. The Roundtable teams from Boy Scout and Cub Scout share a monthly Roundtable planning session and a review immediately after Roundtable.

The first meeting was face to face at the Lincoln Council building. The complete list of sessions for the Bachelor of Science Roundtable went with us. This list came from the National Syllabus, found online and available for download.

If registration could be opened 6 months out to pay and sign up for the day then let them pick classes closer to time. Then we are the “event” on their calendar.

### **What Training to Provide.**

I researched on line as many Colleges of Commissioner Sciences being held throughout the United States for their listing of the class offerings. We felt I was important to teach the entire listing of classes if possible during the event and in order. Each class builds on the previous class making a clear picture in the minds of Roundtable teams, the way to a better Roundtable for participants. . The sessions are the new model from National BSA. We were planning to teach these if approved by the College of Commissioner Science President.

As we reviewed each presentation, before the first Dean’s meeting in Lincoln, we had a clear understanding what each class presentations was about which made the job as Dean(s) much easier, in forum and staff recruiting.

A many of planning for sessions for the Bachelors Science and Masters classes were made that day. There was an opening for the Dean of Bachelor of Science to be recruited.

The last class of the day was an elective that was shared games for Cub and Boy Scout Leaders. The ideas covered are examples that Roundtable staff can train where Roundtable attendees who are not watching a council/district presentation. Not every member of a unit might want to sit through JTE or IIC.

While planning for this event, I based my vision on that, successful Roundtable training is getting participants back by a fun, informational & cheerful training. I shopped for fun foods and give away items based on the classes being taught. Those giveaway items were brought for each presenter as an option to hand out during their presentations.

### **Staying Connected.**

Monthly conference calls, with as many attendees as were available. We made repeated requests during the conference calls for help recruiting staff from all three councils to teach classes for Roundtable during the event. In retrospect we should have contacted the councils directly to connect with the Council Commissioner at Overland Trails and Cornhusker Councils for the names and contact information of their Roundtable Team Members. The Council Commissioner could have accessed that information from their Registrar. Conference calls, at times, are less effective than face to face meetings. It was difficult to know which person is suggesting an idea, who has the information or is getting the information that is needed.

Without the contact information from other councils, Bill was only able to email MAC commissioners over three different dates inviting Mid-America Roundtable team members to participate in the college. If we could have email directly the class list offering there might have been more Roundtable team members attending.

### **Building a team.**

We enjoyed having Bob Jacober and Ricky Holbert available as mentors. The CCS President repeatedly commented that she was learning also, there was someone with experience to go connect with.

We attempted to recruit from every council a diversity of presenters. We also encouraged presenters to recruit a co-trainer. Bringing in a second person to help train, increases the number of people completing this training and provides the trainer with support and energizes their presentation.

While recruiting our team, we explained as in all training : You should know your material well, make it fun and relatable and enjoy the day. The name of College of Commissioner Science seems to intimidate potential staff and participants alike. The Mid-America Council registration online that stated you must be approved by the council, may have prevented leaders interested in the training and becoming commissioners from registering and attending.

### **Sharing information.**

Too often paper work given is set aside and never reviewed. We shopped for flash drives on sale to keep cost low. A flash drive, you are more likely to reuse and hopefully will discover and review the information from the training. We were able to give every participant and staff member the Power Point presentations, Ceremonies for Den and Packs, Gathering Ice Breaker Games, and Mid-America Big Book of Scout Worship.

## **Training Day.**

When we arrive the doors were still locked. Lucky, Bob Jacober had the security phone # 402-557-5000 for Bellevue University and we were able to get in an set up before the event started.

The first presentation was "Roundtable in Commissioner Service", so out came the yellow plastic construction hats. A simple card stating "Building trained leaders to change the world." there was an initial reluctance to put them on but it soon dissolved into laughter for both staff and participants

A participant mentioned to the group, "Look, everyone will know we are a team." Much of what we "say" to others, it is difficult to recall later. But hand them a candy or a toy and link that thought and they will be able to recall the "building a better leader" every time they see the little plastic hat. Giveaways or games reinforce a teaching moment.

Putting on the hats broke the ice between everyone. On some the hat was too small and sat way on top of their head and another it was low over their ears. We could all laugh together and relax!

Jody Kirby was the first presentation, explaining she had a bad knee and sat to present. An excellent example of reminding participants that we come in many shapes and abilities and everyone can participate and do our part.

Discussion of Wagon Wheels use of a Pack Doodle modeling a Den Doodle was warmly accepted. A picture of the doodle and what the beads represent will be emailed out to participants. At Wagon Wheel Roundtable, we have people who will stay late to be sure to get their Pack beads on their string. Each year they start over fresh and take back their string of earned beads to "brag" to their unit how well they have done. The Pack Doodle is also used as a gathering time activity.

During the presentation on "Using the Roundtable Program Guides" the Jeopardy style game isn't easy for participants to answer questions so small candy bars ramp up the interest in trying. You are rewarded for participating, not for getting the correct answer. Don Blair recruited Stacy Shenk to keep "score". Embarrassment is gone! Points were freely given and we found that competing teams began to share answers with the team on point. The game didn't reference just the Roundtable Planning Guides, it also referenced the Commissioner Notebook, Program Features for Troops and the Venturing Monthly Forum Book. Reminder, you don't need to know the answer, you just need to know how to use your resources: other scouters, the internet and scouting literature. Roundtable teams should have reference materials available for use at training.

At the beginning of the Cub/Boy Scout Roundtable comparison, I bought out a beach ball to play "This is My Favorite" (website, game, season, etc) as a gathering time activity/get to know you. With a \$2 beach ball everyone was soon re-energized and sharing about themselves. They actually made sure that everyone had a chance to share.

From the first class to the close of day we had an open forum for sharing and exchanging of ideas. Laughter was often found.

We had an open-door policy where all are welcome at any time during the training. Just like at Roundtable come early, come late, leave early, stay late, but come! Everyone is welcome. We like to see uniforms but come as you are.

### **Planning.**

Not every district has enough staff or participants to support a separate Boy Scout/Cub Scout Roundtable each month so we showed the side by side comparison of Cub Scout and Boy Scout Roundtable Planning Guides. In Wagon Wheel District we share our Yearly Planning Event and when we have a like event or idea when we can share a guest speaker. Sharing a guest speaker allows for seating Cub Scout Leaders and Boy Scout Leaders side by side. They are in a familiar place and can meet and become familiar with each other. Our hope is friendships will develop and Webelos Leaders will connect with Troops and more Webelos will bridge into Boy Scouts. Building a friend connection between Packs and Troop leaders is an important part of that link.

The importance of the yearly planning was reinforced. That getting events like IIC, JTE, Camp presentation by the District, and Program Kick off were included in the calendar year. That if not every member of a unit must attend one of these presentations that Roundtable can present a joint presentation for the remaining Cub and Boy Scout leaders. Whether games, star watch expert, owl presentation by the Raptor Recovery, KaPow, knots, parks, police dogs, biking, water safety or any common interest topic. Many suggestions of possible guest speakers that are free from all councils. That you shouldn't be the only one talking. Everyone like the idea of a Council meeting of all Roundtable staff. If an optional breakout/training isn't available then not coming for four months of the year becomes a habit to not come at all.

Planning a Roundtable has a basic framework common to both sides. Several Districts have an hour and a half Roundtable. Soaring Eagle has their shared Big Rock being Face Timed by their District Executive with his cell phone. Again, concern was raised that if was offered over the internet that participants might stop coming. Don Blair stated he didn't see a drop in attendance.

Talks of how working as a team and getting the support of others was important. We plan differently using the Roundtable Planning Guide if you are new or if you are experienced. It's

important to balance the current needs of the units attending, the district, council and national needs. That as quality trainers we will not accept the attitude of that's always the way it's been done. The Lee's from Omaha said it took them three months to get announcements short and simple. That at no time in this training does National say to make announcements more important than training. That training, fun and personal connections are the important parts of Roundtable.

### **More than the basics.**

Service Projects can be modeled in a common area. Our example was, We have had Cub and Boy Scout leaders sign holiday cards for the Veterans Home. Always reminding units to credit themselves online (track it). An expert may be needed to demonstrate how to track service projects on-line for some units. Putting displays in a common area where interest from both sides is generated. We have found that putting a Cub Scout displays in the sign-in area creates interest in Cub Leaders and Boy Scout leaders alike. A one-on-one training sharing information happens.

Messengers of Peace application was found the night before so copies weren't made, we will be emailing that information out to all who attended. Active searches for updates and opportunities by Roundtable teams to share are important.

Another gathering time game was discussed, bringing oversized gloves and handing a participant a package of stick gum. Their task is to get out and unwrap a piece for themselves. After letting them struggle a little you mention you should ask the person next to you for help. When they do you whisper in their ear, "that's what you do in scouting, you teach the person next to you". You can stand and watch everyone there teaching someone else, as it circles the entire room! Beautiful.

Two small collapsible buckets were modeled as carrying your "treats" to toss during training. Treats get participation and keep people attentive during presentations. We also spoke of "drawing" tickets for small give away items related to scouting. Several trainers attending find this a successful draw to monthly Roundtables. The Lee's do giveaways at their Roundtables. They shared where to buy inexpensive items. The idea of a possible District Dinner ticket that would cause others to buy and come with their friend who won was a great idea.

The elective class covered "Shared Activities and Games". Some examples were Cooking, water games outside in the summer. They played a game where a few people try to keep balloons with Scouting "jobs" written on them: Den leader, Cubmaster, Committee chair, up in the air with a half a pool noodle. The game became wild and they struggled. Kristen turned toward me and I yelled, "ask me for help!" She said, "help me" and then within a short time turned and yelled to everyone else not in the game "Help US!" Recruiting was the answer and it was a fun

way to remind ourselves and Roundtable participants you can't do it alone. Games in Scouting are less about completing as much as they are a team working together and everyone helping. A reminder is that you are surrounded by people to want BSA to work and to make it better for all youth.

### **Technology.**

A presenter, Keesha Blamble, brought in [www.scoutwire.com](http://www.scoutwire.com) information and to the delight of many they were shown the PP slides and images available for building presentations for use at Roundtables. Discussions on Face Time and the concern of many, of the Roundtable team eventually being the only people in the building while everyone else is at home was watching. Twitter would require a staff member to add that to their list of responsibilities or recruitment of a new staff member. Do you have a district, Website, Facebook, twitter...

We created a certificate to be signed by both Deans for the trainers. So often Scouters participate in activities and training events year after year. It's hard to remember correctly what you have taught and what classes you sat through. The certificate thanked them for teaching and named the class. We also printed a list of the classes taught. Concern was that courses would change over time and participants might not attend additional training thinking they had already been.

### **Stand up and volunteer.**

During a break I brought to the participants attention, that when as trainers they hear of an upcoming event being planned, if they are interested in being a part of the event make contacts and volunteer. You learn by doing. The more trainers involved makes for better and more interesting event. At the end of the day we provided a printed list with the contacts of all BSRT presenters to Cynthia and Steve Lanni as possible contacts for presenters at other events.

### **Staff Support.**

Most of our instructors attended all day. Their input and energy added much to the event. Only two had schedules that prevented them from attending all day. For BS Roundtable I believe the attendance by staff all day is very important. With the instructors in class and participating throughout the day, they brought in their valuable input and were able to more easily refer to how other presentations linked to their presentation for a clearer image to participants. The doubling up of presenters allows for more energy, backup, creativity, and insight of the material being presented.

We loved the drop-in guests. Just like at our monthly Roundtables it's nice to introduce District, Council and National staff. Putting a human face on a job. I think the participants had the

perception that what we do is interesting and that they are an important part of the College because of the visitors.

It did seem that the word, to the fun being had in Roundtable planning spilled over into the graduation ceremony. Since we all now know a new version of a round of applause. Wonderful group of leaders. Everyone's life is busy, but people spent the day in training. I was so pleased to see so many uniformed Scouters.

### **Location.**

The room we had for the day was perfect. Large enough we had room to move around and small enough we were sitting together. We brought magnet dots, white board markers, permanent markers and remote controls "clickers" for use with the Power Point presentations. The giant self-sticking chart wasn't used with two white boards available.

The remote control made transitioning between slides by the presenter seamless. Bill also brought a second back up remote, just in case! Three of the 7 presentations were not PowerPoint. The Power Point presentations were administration ones.

Check in was fast. Signs at the lower floor doors would have been nice. Signs to point to the elevators from the lower level also. A coffee pot at the lower level would have been convenient. Super support with getting certificates and information from the staff. We brought a choice of muffins and appreciate the box of doughnuts that were dropped off.

A change of location for two of the classes by moving out of the room and to an open common area was done for the last two presentations. Out of the chair and moving helps for a long day.

### **Linking presentations.**

Stacy Shanek presented at end of the day. Her presentation was "Recruiting, Training and Recognizing the Team". She explained at the beginning of the session that she had listened throughout the day to everyone as they participated and shared information about themselves. She was using that to recruit us for a job. How important it is that we as Roundtable staff listen to others carefully. It was clear that face to face is important while recruiting. That she always says something warm before asking someone to help. Her co-teacher was recruited to help build that person's confidence in instructing in Scouting. The co-instructor loves teaching others and teaches in her non-scouting activities.

Reminders to all present what you want them to know. People come to Roundtable tired and stressed. Slides, static presentations, games, activities and presentation are all part of getting the message across. We should always be looking for the "light" to come on and checking for feedback. Not everyone's first language is English and our cultures don't always "match".

Lots of inspiration on the idea of Cub Leaders and Boy Scout leaders sharing games as a common activity. Whether big movement or small table top activities, it's easy to find games with a purpose and use them for training. Playing a game together can build a bond. People love to play.

### **Uniforms.**

Bill did a talk about full uniforms and giving out full sized candy bars to Boy scouts at unannounced uniform inspections. One participant went to Wood Badge because she asked a person wearing their Wood Badge uniform how she could get it one of those cool scarves. To encourage Cub Leaders to find a Troop for Webelos to bridge into, we can invite Boy Scouts come help teach knots, flags, or help with games. We are pleased to see so many uniformed Scouters.

### **Recruiting Roundtable Team Members.**

That if you close or open with a prayer that if you bring a printed form you can "recruit" a participant to be the one to read the Cubmaster or Scoutmaster minute at the end of Roundtable. It allows you to observe people you might want to recruit for other events and brings in enthusiasm. If they are a part of Roundtable they will want to keep coming. Not be just a chair sitter.

### **Lunch is more than food.**

The simple lunch of build a sandwich, chips, banana, sweet and a soda was enjoyable and restful. We enjoyed sitting together and learning from Steve McCollister, his talk of current interest was enjoyed by all. There were comments later about the fun and energy our group generated at lunch time.

### **Attending.**

One participant's husband signed her up to come and she wasn't thrilled. We pulled her into our training instead of her scheduled classes. It was a blast for her and she totally participated and was great asset to the program.

### **What we don't know.**

We had a participant who was unaware of what the knots on uniforms were. A participant, Steve, who had the uniform guide with him and shared it! We spoke of the importance of tracking what you participate in, where you train and your years in scouting. To share this information at their Roundtable. It was an important day not everyone in the class had seen [www.my.scouting.org](http://www.my.scouting.org) for recording reports.

Roundtable Staff Progress Record for the Scouters Training Award and the Unit Commissioner Progress Record for the Commissioner Key/Arrowhead Honor Award for them to start tracking their progress.

### **Roundtable Commissioners.**

National now says everyone on Roundtable Team is a Commissioner or Assistant Roundtable Commissioner, we are no longer Roundtable Staff. That we can do unit contacts. We would like to challenge all District Commissioners to contact and challenge their Unit Commissioners to attend and sit with their units. It would have been nice to see all Assistant District Roundtable Commissioners attend this training.

### **Results.**

Having a participant from Overland Trails told me we so inspired her that she was going to revamp her Cub Scout Roundtable and it ended in a teary-eyed hug for us both. She has been newly recruited to that position and she is the only one on the Cub Roundtable Team. I think many ideas given out in the day by all participants and presenters were the help she needed.

Steve .....came to Bill at the end of the day and asked to check the sign in sheet we passed around at the beginning of class. He wanted to be sure his email was on it so we can send updates and additional information to him. We took it as a sign the he enjoyed the day.

It did seem that the word, of the fun being had in Roundtable planning spilled over into the graduation ceremony. Since we all now know a new version of a round of applause. Wonderful group of leaders. Everyone's life is busy, but people spent the day in training. I was so pleased to see so many uniformed leaders. Scouting always finds a way to create a strong heart connection between its members.



## Support Sources:

Ricky Holbert, Assistant Council Commissioner for Recognition, Mid-America Council.

Ricky mentored me in clarifying issues and making decisions. Invaluable support.

Steve Lanni, Mid-America Council Commissioner, Clarified how the process at this share Council training worked.

Mid-America, Scouters Service 12401 West Maple Road  
Omaha, NE 68164P: 402.431.9BSA (9272) (contacts for Mid-America Roundtable commissioners, used to invite them to attend the College of Commissioner Science)

## 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](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](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](http://mac-bsa.org/Post/sections/10/Files/field_book.pdf)

JTE [http://www.mac-bsa.org/jte\\_home.aspx](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/BBRevrrnt.pdf>

Scouting wire. For powerpoint slides for use at Roundtable  
<https://scoutingwire.org/marketing-and-membership-hub/unit-recruiting/>

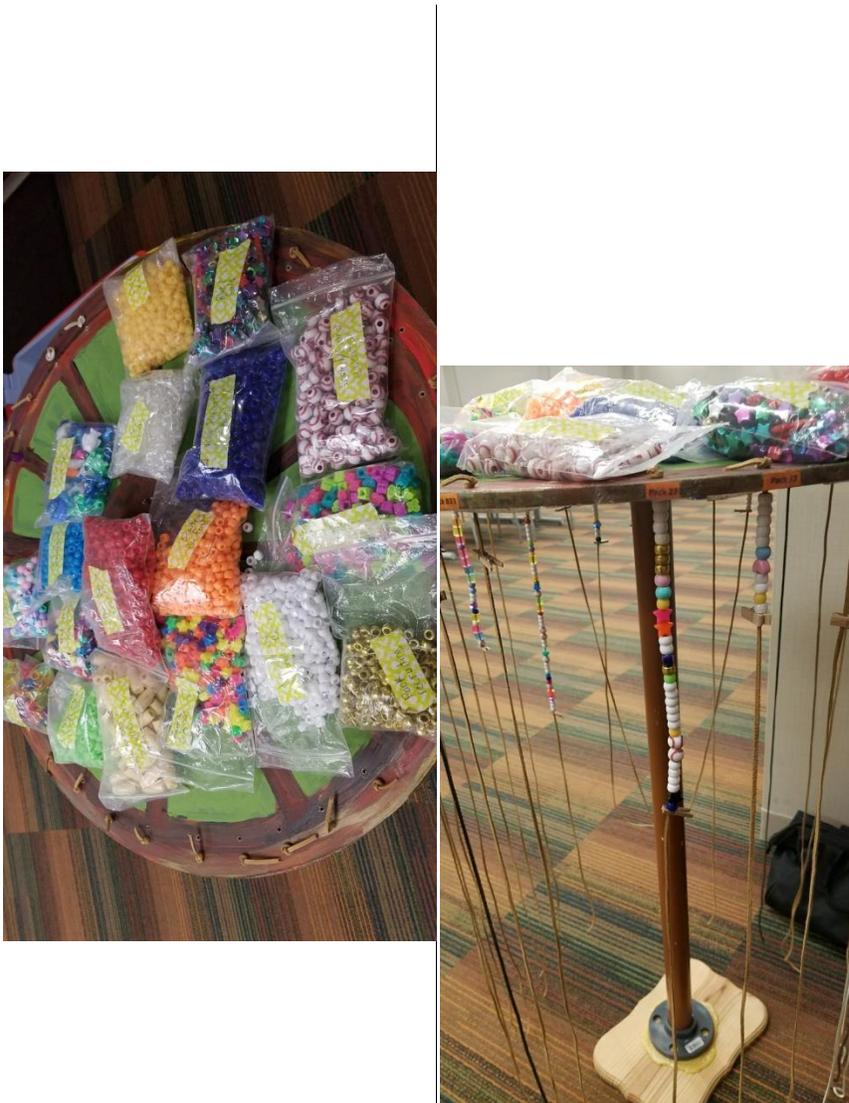
Venturing Manual <http://www.people.vcu.edu/~albest/Training/VenturingLeaderManual.pdf>

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

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

**Additionally:**

Image of the Wagon Wheel Roundtable Cub Scout Pack Doodle & beads.





**KEEP CALM**

**TRAIN ON**

Roundtable Team