

Being a Commissioner in Today's World of Scouting

by

Ogden (Yogi) Martin
7158 East Military Ave.
Fremont, NE 68025

402-727-4048

yogimartin@aol.com Home
ogden.martin@fpsmail.org School

Being a Commissioner in Today's World of Scouting

Thesis Statement:

A Commissioner's role today is to develop a multi-disciplinary approach to:

- 1. Applied leadership training**
- 2. Program development**
- 3. Helping to organize scouting and community events**
- 4. Work with today's leaders and scouts with new technologies;**

Website: <http://lgroups.msn/BSA> commissioner

Introduction

These seven leadership skills are the basic keys to success at any level and they are: planning, using your resources, using communications, sharing your leadership, setting and being a good example, learning to work with a group, and always having a positive attitude.

I am applying the seven leadership skills to being a successful commissioner.

Outline

Skill 1. Planning, Training, and the Four Responsibilities of a Commissioner

Skill 2. Using Your Resources and learning new technologies

Skill 3. Communicating

Skill 4. Sharing Your Leadership and knowledge

Skill 5. Setting and Being a Good Example

Skill 6. Learning To Work with a Group

Skill 7. Always Having a Positive Attitude

Main Body

The author has been in scouting since 1955 as a Cub Scout, joining Boy Scout Troop 103 in 1957 and going to my first summer camp at Camp Cedars. I became an Eagle Scout in 1962. I have been a patrol leader, junior assistant scoutmaster, committee member, assistant scoutmaster, scoutmaster, troop committee chairman, a member of the district planning committee, assistant roundtable commissioner, roundtable commissioner, on the district camping committee, now as a Commissioner and member of the district advancement committee with the title of Eagle Scout Coordinator. Since 1982, I have helped over 200 scouts become Eagle Scouts.

Now, with 38 years of teaching experience, I teach introduction to physics for Fremont Schools, I know that the ideas and thoughts in this paper work.

Skill 1: Planning, Training, and the Four Responsibilities of a Commissioner

1. Number one of the Four Responsibilities of a Commissioner, "To be Trained."

A commissioner should be appropriately trained. To be most effective, a commissioner, I feel, should have been a Scoutmaster for 3 to 5 years. This gives the commissioner a background in the big picture to the Boy Scouts of America.

2. Number two of the Four Responsibilities of a Commissioner, "To be a Friend."

Be a friend to the troop leaders. You should be available to them by phone. So, give them your phone number and email address. You should also promptly return their calls. Learn to read between the lines, help them before they need help. You should attend their troop meetings, committee meetings, some campouts, and other troop activities just as a friend.

3. Number three of the Four Responsibilities of a Commissioner, "To be a Doctor that helps prevent problems."

A commissioner's primary job is to work with the Scoutmaster, so to insure that he has a solid enough program to prevent potential problems. A doctor's job is to assist the Scoutmaster with illnesses, but who only offers possible effective inoculations.

4. Number four of the Four Responsibilities of a Commissioner, a Commissioner needs to apply the three A's: Attitude, Attendance, and Attire.

The commissioner should always have a positive **attitude** and always work to a positive solution.

The commissioner should always be in **attendance** at the appropriate scout activities, for example, troop meetings, committee meetings, district meetings, and council meetings/events. Be where you need to be when you need to be there. Another thing in attendance is to be in attendance at Eagle ceremonies, summer camps, district events, and council functions.

The commissioner should always be in **appropriate attire**. If he is there to clean up after a storm, work clothes are the correct attire. If he is attending a formal Scouting function, then the Class A uniform is the proper code of dress. When the Class A uniforms are changed by National, then the commissioner should set an example by wearing this as soon as possible. At times, the Commissioner may need to purchase attire appropriate to specific activities.

A Commissioner should understand Planning and Training

He should help the troop develop a 12 month program, with leadership training advancement programs, and boy-led unit and patrols.

Scout leadership training- Listed below is part of a Junior Leadership Program which I wrote and used many years ago, but which is still applicable today. Now, Council has a complete syllabus for this. Have the Scouts, when possible, participate in Pahuk Pride Youth Leadership Training Conference sponsored by Mid-America Council at the Little Sioux Scout Ranch. The commissioner can be an instructor at this leadership training or train Scoutmasters to be instructors.

This even is available in booklet form for any leader who wants to do a Junior Leadership Program. For example: at Camp Cedars there are many different types of commissioners who work out there during the summer, and the commissioners should be part of Junior Leadership Training when possible.

Participation in district events:

This would include participating in district meetings. Within the district meeting, the commissioner should have a committee appointment such as Camping Commissioner, Advancement Commissioner, Training Staff, Fundraising (FOS, Popcorn Kernel), Membership, and Public Relations. When the Council puts on a major event such as the fall activity at Mahoney Park, the commissioner should have an active role in planning, implementation, and evaluation of the activity. At any major Scouting activity/event, the commissioner should take a leading role in getting the planning process started.

The commissioner should help plan a Leadership Training program.

The commissioner should help plan first and, above all, should be part of the District, local, and troop planning committee. In this way, he can help to make the programs interesting and exciting for all participants. He needs to be current in the types of activities which are happening in his location. Examples are District Camping Events, District Fundraising, District Benefits (Little Sioux Ranch Benefit held in Fremont, NE). As stated above, the Commissioner should make sure that the activity has a program which is up-to-date and exciting for today's youth because his enthusiasm would be contagious to the whole district.

Succession of both youth and leadership: Leadership within the troops changes from time to time, so the commissioner needs to be part of the selection team to choose appropriate leadership. Occasionally, a commissioner needs to play a vital role in the replacement of a Scout leader who is no longer effective in that role.

Help the troop plan their year: The effective commissioner also helps in the day-to-day operations of the local troops. In such capacity, he would help plan the Ideal Year of Scouting with the local troop's committees. The Ideal Year of Scouting Handbook provides a basic overview for what needs to be accomplished which can be implemented/adapted by the Scoutmaster.

Help them plan to attend district and Council events. The commissioner should encourage all of the local troops and Scouts to attend and participate in as many high adventures as possible. Examples are Philmont, World/National Jamborees, Boundary water excursions, Continental Divide Hiking, and Camping Outings. One tool at the commissioner's disposal is the monthly publication, BSA Bugle, because this gives the commissioner the big picture of the Council's current and future events along with specific information about whom to contact and when. The Bugle also provides information about happenings in neighboring districts. The commissioner should always be informed about the events in his district for possible attendance.

The commissioner should help with the planning and implementation of these activities. His role would be to help coordinate the local troops with the appropriate personnel to complete the activity.

The leadership list should be read every week- give each scout a copy

If I were running the troop meetings, after the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the Scout Oath and Law were repeated, the following leadership pages would be read and applied on a weekly basis.

The Seven Basic Leadership Skills

Skill 1. Planning

- Organize your ideas
- Make outlines
- Set goals, both short term and long term

Skill 2. Learn to Use Your Resources

- Learn to use computers, books, magazines
- Learn to work with people
- Learn to take notes, and learn to write things down
- Learn to use a daily planner
- Learn to use your money wisely

Skill 3. Communicating

- Ask questions and listen
- Show responsibility to yourself
- Get needed feedback

Skill 4. Share Your Leadership

- Have your part done
- Show your responsibility to others
- Take part in decision-making
 - "Remember to make the correct decision all the time every time because one wrong decision can change your life."
- Have a good sense of humor--smile

Skill 5. Set and Be a Good Example

- Do what you said you would do
- Remember that the work proves the craftsman

Skill 6. Learn To Work with a Group

- Help others be the best they can be
- Be able to work within a group of 2 or 3 other people successfully

Skill 7. Always Have a Positive Attitude

This attitude paragraph explains and clearly emphasizes the importance of a positive attitude.

Skill 1: Planning

Help them plan troop meetings and camp-outs.

The commissioner should make available to the Scoutmaster, as part of the IYOS/Program Guide, the Council Troop Meeting Plan worksheet and the Campout Guidelines Worksheet. The Commissioner should provide these worksheets in a binder so that they are ready to use by the Scoutmaster. He should be present as the Scoutmaster works through these the first couple of times to provide any necessary guidance.

Use the Leadership Skills every week as part of your opening.

As listed and stated above, along with the Scout Oath and Scout Law, the worksheet with the Basic Leadership Skills and Positive Attitude Sheet should be read every week. After the Leadership Skills are read, the Scoutmaster can show the boys what particular leadership skills are being covered by that worksheet.

Be part of the leadership training at the scout and district level.

The commissioner should be one of the trainers or instructors for the Junior Leader Training Campouts. He should make sure that the Program Guides are being followed properly. As a general outline, the Junior Leader Training is listed earlier in this paper. Where possible, the boys should attend Pahuk Pride Leader Training Program at the Little Sioux Scout Ranch. The local troop should pay for half or all of the expenses for a Scout to attend this program.

A troop should have a succession plan.

The commissioner should see that the Troop follows the Succession Plan as listed in the Commissioner's Handbook. This is important to do so that the Troop Leaders know who their replacement is and when that leadership transition will take place. Also by having a Succession plan, the Commissioner has a timetable to replace any ineffective leadership.

Help plan these topics for success, look for: – leadership.

As a leader applies the leadership skills and the attitude paragraph, the scouts will slowly understand the Leadership Skill being taught, the activity being used to teach it, and, in time, where the Scout fits into the scouting program.

As a Scout enters the program, he will probably not understand the big picture. But in time, as this is applied, he will see the big pictures and see how it all fits together. As a Tenderfoot, he is going to be told what to do and when to do it. It is the Patrol Leader's job to see that each Scout completes the task he has been assigned. The Senior Patrol Leader works with the Scout master and Troop Committee to help with all the planning of the troop's activities (IYOS). As the Tenderfoot becomes a Patrol Leader, he will better understand his role in the troop. As this young Scout someday may become a Senior Patrol Leader, who already may be an Eagle Scout and have been in Scouting 3 to 4 years, he will now spend the majority of his time as a leader where he has to make decisions. So, as the Young Scout enters scouting, he will experience

leadership development and understand each step of the way. It takes time and maturity for this to occur. Sadly for some people because they have never been exposed to this, they never develop a leadership plan for their life. Scouts learn to be motivated, and become part of this leadership development and the longer they are in Scouting and advance through the ranks they begin to see that they are not there to be served, but with the appropriate training, they are there to serve others.

The Commissioner should make contact with each of his troops once a month:

- Personal Visit
- Telephone Call
- E-mail
- Text Message
- Letter/Memo

Remember that the communication works both ways. Don't always wait for the other person to make the initial response. By reading between the lines, the Commissioner should be able to tell if additional communication is necessary to solve any problems.

Cubs (Webelos) to Boy Scouts

The Cub Scout program is vital to the life of the Boy Scout Troops, so it is supremely important that the Commissioner and Scoutmasters take part in the bridging-over process. The Commissioner needs to see that the Webelos Leaders understand the importance of their participation in the training program and in applying those skills to their pack. This will ensure the smooth transition from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts.

Advancement

Troop/Group merit badges classes

The Advancement Program starts out being a knowledge-level program for the young Scouts. They are learning the basic fundamentals of Scouting, such as proper camping, cooking, and hiking. So the different merit badges offer a knowledge-level base to that particular skill. The young Scout first become a Tenderfoot and then climbs the ladder with each rank getting progressively harder. Eventually, the Scout understands that the merit badges are simply individual steps in the learning process to the Scout skills and the basic steps for the development of personal maturity. Normally, once the Scout becomes an Eagle Scout with all the merit badges and the application of Bloom's Taxonomy, he will spend the majority of his time **"planning."** Eventually as the Scout matures, he can look back and see how he has progressed, not just in the knowledge base for Scouting. This should carry over into a life plan. The merit badge program offers a systematic progression to development of a positive life philosophy. Not just for the present time, but for an entire life. The Merit Badge Program helps a Scout pack a "backpack for life."

Youth attendance

Youth attendance starts with the three A's: Attitude, Attendance, and Attire. It is very important that the program be such that the Scout wants to attend. When a Scout's attendance becomes a problem, it is usually the program which has initiated the attendance problem, so it is very important for the Scoutmaster and the Commissioner to make sure the Scouts are attending all of the meetings and activities of the Troop.

Parent Attendance/Participation

It is extremely important that the Scoutmaster and the Committee keep the parents informed as to the activities of the Troop. At the same time, they provide an opportunity for those parents to make time for their participation in a variety of activities. Many parents have an expertise that they may be able to help as a merit

encourage their own kids to stay in Scouting and remain active. Parent attendance and participation is vital to the life of the Troop, in the long term, because parent involvement equals Scout involvement.

Overall Participation

Number One: You need parent participation for the success of the troop, but you also need the assistance of your charter organization. Most troops received some sort of assistance from the charter organization, such as: a place to meet at no cost; use of equipment and facilities for specialized events (fundraising activities). Many times the charter organization also offers financial help. Within the organization of the church (which is our charter organization), there are many small groups willing to offer assistance, financial help, and expertise to the Troop in whatever activities they are doing at the time.

Another example of overall participation with the Little Sioux tornado was the coming together of many community groups to offer support and financial assistance to help replace some the equipment and personal belongings of the Scouts.

The Little Sioux tornado was a tragedy which has pulled Scouts from around the world together into a large Scout family. If this would have happened in another country, we know that many Scout organizations from within the United States would have offered assistance. This was a rare occasion where something happened within the United States that was a tragedy, but the world family of Scouting has stepped forward and assistance has been offered

It is heart warming for this unsolicited help to be offered at a time when people of the world are so "me" focused. Not only will the contributions help with the rebuilding of Little Sioux, but at the same time help to strengthen Scouting in the United States and around the world, because Scouting is a "World Wide Family."

Troop meeting operations involve many things going on at the same time. **Boy Leadership:** Several boys are involved with the actual leadership of the troop meetings and troop activities. **Patrol Activities:** The individual patrols are planning specific objectives for their current activity. **Skill Instruction:** A scout or parent could be giving some specific instruction regarding skill development or merit badge requirements.

Typical Activities of a Troop Committee are preparing a budget, supervising fundraising activities to promote troop needs, and having regular monthly committee meetings. This is an opportunity for parents and other support personnel to take an active role in the troop. The troop committee is the one organization within the troop that the commissioner needs to make sure is functioning properly. He should make every attempt to attend meetings on a regular basis. This is the one contact where he can be of assistance to the troop and its structure without being detrimental.

Skill 2: Use Your Resources and learn to use new technologies

Resources in the community as mentioned above are a resource that absolutely cannot be overlooked. The troop and its representatives need to be in the public eye at appropriate events. Scouts should not be visible only when they are selling popcorn, doing their annual Friends of Scouting promotion, or looking for other kinds of support. The commissioner has to be visible to the community so that when he does request assistance, it is not on a first time basis. Each community is going to have resources available to the Boy Scouts of America. It is up to the commissioner to make the contact and JUST ASK!!! Many organizations have financial support available in their budgets and are just waiting for someone to ask.

As an active commissioner and school teacher, I have included many Scout leadership activities into the daily operations and instructional models in my classroom. The first thing that I found was that the curriculum that was taught (in my case, introduction to Physics) involved literally hundreds of concepts to be discussed and explored. Many of these concepts are knowledge-level materials which will soon be forgotten

if they are not applied appropriately. I have found that these seven leadership skills can be taught to each and every student in a classroom. These fundamentals also include, without the students being aware of it, the ideology of the Scout Oath and Law. I have found that I can teach leadership at school during homeroom activity time in conjunction with "Character Counts" (Character Counts is a social development program that is taught to every student in the building.) As I start each classroom period, I use the patrol method to teach life leadership skills. The first 10 minutes of my class, leaders have been chosen as "patrol leaders," and they do an anticipatory set to get the class focused for learning.

Give the Scoutmaster an on-line copy of the Eagle Scout Service project packet via e-mail. Because the Scoutmaster now has this, he can e-mail this to the Advancement Chairperson. This makes it easier to update and change what needs to be completed for the Scout's Eagle project.

I always have some examples of Eagle Scout projects available to leaders. The Commissioner should make available to the Scoutmaster a list of some Eagle Scout Service projects with phone numbers to serve as a contact list. For example, the area Park and Recreation programs, churches, schools, area state parks, and area service organizations. This should make it easier for the Eagle Scout candidate to make a contact for an acceptable Eagle Scout project.

Have an Eagle Scout talk and work with the troop. As you have a number of Scouts close to Life Rank and beyond, it is a good idea to have an Eagle Scout visit with them to get the Eagle Scout's perspective on his project. He should be encouraged to bring a copy of this Eagle Scout Packet so that the potential Eagle Scouts have an idea of what is expected in an Eagle Project. The Eagle Scout candidate soon learns that he becomes a job site superintendent. One of the things that is learned is that people become your greatest resource. It is his job to see that all the work is completed, but isn't necessarily directly involved in completing the work. An Eagle Scout candidate will use the community resources available to complete his Eagle project.

The Commissioner should make available to the Scoutmaster the available materials from the Scout Office. First, the commissioner needs to know what the Scoutmaster needs, and he should provide this information in a notebook for handy reference. In this way, the Commissioner is using his resources to open up the resources available from the local and National websites and Council resources. An example of this would be to give some good examples of "Scoutmaster Minutes" to a local Scoutmaster because it is very important that as Scouts leave a meeting, they have something to think about. This would make each Scout a better person. The Commissioner should make sure that the Scout leaders are receiving proper recognition (Quality unit Award, etc.) for the time and effort they are spending on Scouting. The Commissioner may need to nominate Scout leaders for various awards at the local, district, and council levels.

Have the right people for the right jobs and events. As stated above, the Commissioner needs to know what resources each person brings to the table. Then working with the Scoutmaster and District personnel he can better assign duties which are comparable to their skill level, interest, and personality. Of course, the commissioner can select those people for various responsibilities at the local, district, and council levels. At the local level, this would include a position on the Troop Committee. It might be fundraising, camping or advancement. The Scoutmaster and the Commissioner need to be knowledgeable about the resources they have at their disposal. Additional resources might be community service organizations, (such as Kiwanis, Rotary), YMCA, ROTC, Job's Daughters and DeMolay, other church programs, town library, and city youth organizations. With these organizations, it also serves as an outlet for introducing more kids to the Boy Scouts of America.

The Commissioner should provide each Scoutmaster a packet of the necessary forms and resources. Some of these may include the travel permit form, map and travel route selection, and Medical and other emergency forms. Medical and emergency forms need to be updated on an annual basis. These emergency forms should be kept in the notebook and go to each Scouting function.

When working with the Scoutmaster, make sure that once or twice a year (6 months apart) that you do a troop assessment for/on the troop and scoutmaster. This would assist in getting the Troop leadership succession plan implemented.

As one can see, there are almost unlimited resources available and, nowadays, the telephone, cell phones, text messaging, and above all, the Internet. The commissioner should have the Scoutmaster's e-mail and other troop personnel's e-mail, and vice versa so that all communication can take place with a face to face meeting and still remain a very effective relationship.

Skill 3: Communicating

Communication, in today's world, may include all types of communications. The Commissioner needs to take advantage of each and every resource and communication tool. These can make his job more effective and beneficial to all Scouts in which he comes in contact. Don't forget about the traditional ways of communicating by use of the newspaper, newsletters and television/radio. The local newspaper and radio stations usually participate in the public service announcements. Also, most cable TV networks provide a local calendar of events, and the Scouts can also produce their own U Tube/My Space presentations. One idea may be to videotape the Scouts as they are setting up their campsite. The commissioner should have editing input as to what goes on the World Wide Web. They should also be aware of what is on U Tube/My Space and see what other troops have presented.

Know and Share with the troop the history of Scouting. The Commissioner should introduce himself to the Scoutmaster and the local troop. This history presentation would act as a good icebreaker at any Scouting activities or a Blue/Gold banquet for Webelos crossing over. It is also a good thing for parents to hear as well. A good beginning is to discuss the history and origins of Boy Scouting in America. This presentation should be from the Scout office and also available in print form to hand out to each Scout. The Commissioner should include his address, phone number, cell phone number and e-mail address. The Commissioner should share with the troop "What it's Worth in 2008" both orally and in handout form. He needs to stress that Yes, like the MasterCard commercial, the Eagle Scout medallion is worth \$7.50 in monetary value, but in terms of a lifetime experience, becoming an Eagle Scout becomes priceless throughout one's life. Just wearing the Eagle medallion or patch communicates discipline and accomplishment to those people who see and understand what it is.

The Commissioner needs to be familiar with and knowledgeable of the use of the Internet. This way he can communicate with Scoutmasters and Scouts with ease. There is much information available to a commissioner from the national BSA site. He should be aware of all the proper websites. Every merit badge completed should be accompanied by the worksheet which is available at meritbadge.com. These worksheets should be kept by each Scout in a notebook for future reference. The commissioner may need to provide these merit badge worksheets to begin with, and then show the Scouts how they can access/copy/paste this information. This information can then be forwarded electronically to all those who have need of it. The Eagle Scout should be able to include this notebook of completed merit badges as part of his memorabilia display at his Eagle Scout ceremony. As the Scout gets older, this notebook becomes a priceless tool in sharing this experience with others and his own memories.

As you can see, communications today is a world-wide and local arena to link all Scouting avenues together in a very positive manner.

Skill 4: Share Your Leadership and knowledge

Be available to the leaders

In sharing your leadership with the Scouters you must assign them duties/responsibilities. You may need to call them to reinforce, but you need them to do the tasks to which they have been assigned. Just as the Scoutmaster has to do what has been assigned to him for being a Scoutmaster, one leader cannot run a troop totally by himself. The leadership has to be shared. The commissioner's job is to be a doctor and that is to prevent the problem through training. In doing this, he is both sharing his leadership and giving accountability to those he works with. Just as the Scoutmaster has to rely on the troop committee, then the senior patrol leader, and finally the patrol leaders all to do their jobs, one person cannot do it all. A CEO is simply the decision maker and must rely on his middle management to successfully provide the needed information to make wise decisions.

Before you can share the leadership with the subordinates, they need to be trained.

Share copies of this paper at the college of commissioner science.

In sharing your leadership as a commissioner you need to share what you have learned with other commissioners at the College of Commissioner annual meeting.

Be a merit badge counselor

So that a commissioner can work at the Scout level, being a merit badge counselor is one way he can share his experiences and leadership.

Take part in the Decision Making

A certain sequence needs to be followed. I happen to call it the NASA Steps for Problem Solving. And it works for any and all problems.

NASA steps to problem solving

1. **What could I do?** What this means is: What is the problem, what are the facts.
2. **What should I do?** Here you brainstorm: "What are the options!"
3. **What will I do?** Pick the option that you believe will work correctly.
(Sometimes this is called, "Work the problem.")
4. **Test your idea.**
5. **Form a conclusion.** Did my test work? Was I successful or unsuccessful?
6. **Retest:** This is where you may have to retest another option until you find one that works.

I have found that these steps work all the time every time and in actuality it boils down to these three steps:

1. What are your problems?
2. Pick a solution to solve your problem.
3. Did it work?

I teach this to 300 + students and scouts each year. **These problem-solving steps work.**

The Commissioner figures out a way, **"To Get the Leader(s) Trained."**

As a final note, as a commissioner you cannot stress enough to other Scouters **“Get them trained.”** This is KEY to sharing your leadership.

In sharing one’s leadership, make sure that you work with the local troops and help them lead by using the materials available such as: program guide (The Ideal Year of Scouting), and with this try to always have a two-year program in motion.

Keep successes simple with practiced problem-solving skills.

The six items listed below are all sharing leadership steps, just stated in another way.

1. Volunteers
2. Responsibilities
3. Selection and recruitment
3. Orientation and training
4. Volunteer coaching
5. Recognition of achievement
6. Performance evaluation for individual betterment

Remember from previously stated in this paper, the key to being a leader and sharing leadership is to on a weekly basis, read the leadership skills, apply them to your troop meetings, and the attitude paragraph, always have a positive attitude. And for those that really understand this, this is Bloom’s Taxonomy – “TEACH IT, LEARN IT, and USE IT.”

Skill 5: Set and Be a Good Example (The Three “A’s”)

The Commissioner must always set and be a good example in attitude, attendance, and attire. In our district, we call this the (3A’s) to success. Just as the commissioner has to set and be a good example. This trickles down to the Scoutmaster, the Troop committee, and Scouts to always make the correct decision every time, all the time. By making the correct decision every time, all the time, you are setting a good example for others.

The items listed below are sample activities that a troop may be involved in to be considered a successful troop. As needed, the commissioner may need to help with his leadership and experience to direct the Scoutmaster in the activities his troop wants to be part of. To put it simple: The commissioner needs to be in attendance in proper attire at the necessary troop activities so that they can see an example of what a leader should look like.

Take an active part in all/most District Events

- Spring camp
- Summer camp
- Fall camp
- Fun Olympics
- The winter inside/outside events—The Zoo or SAC
- Popcorn sales
- Scout-o-Rama
- You should be visible to the district and public.

Examples are:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| ROTC program | Community benefits |
| The YMCA | Kiwanis and Rotary groups |
| Eagle ceremony(s) | Community events/politics |
| Church groups | Community Activities |

At the troop level, having high interest activities does help make a successful troop, such as Camping, swimming, hiking, and cooking. Put together a life/Scout "Bucket List" and have the scouts help. Again this is a repeat. Have each Scout, once a year, plan his Ideal Year of Scouting, "What is he going to get done this year with dates and deadlines."

These are all activities that are part of an Ideal Year of Scouting. When done correctly, they become "Priceless Moments" from one's life as related to scouting. Note: These are times when you have to have a camera ready. At some place at home or office, you post some of these pictures as some of your "priceless moments." They can also be e-mailed as attachments to friends.

People don't fail. They fail to plan. By setting and being a good example with all the leadership skills mentioned, it is difficult to actually fail.

Because Success Breeds Success!

Skill 6: Learn To Work with a Group

In learning to work with a group in the big picture, the group members need to be trained to do their part within the group because sometimes you have to tell someone to do something and walk away. Accept no excuse. In learning to work within a group, **failure is not an option.**

The Commissioner is a teacher, a counselor, and always an example to other Scouters and to the community.

As an example of a Commissioner working with a Troop Committee Chairperson, he should teach this person the importance of agendas and what allows for correct parliamentary procedures to be followed at all times. Otherwise, no decision making will occur. In doing this, one person can lead a group.

Attend some of their Troop committees- show them a proper agenda. Of minor importance is to try to keep the agenda only one page in length. This helps people feel they can accomplish this easily in one committee meeting. This also applies to any business meetings in addition to Scout meetings. Again in this way one person can lead a group but yet the group can lead the way.

From the District/Councils, this is the list of important things to remember as you work with troops and Scouter.

TROOP COMMITTEE CHALLENGE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Have an agenda for each committee meeting, if needed you show them one.
- Give you an opportunity to begin working together as a group and to get to know one another.
- Explain the aims and methods of Scouting.
- List the 3 major components of Scouting: Administration, Adult leaders and Youth Leaders.
- Describe the 12 elements that make up Boy Scouting.
- List all the major duties of a troop committee member.
- Identify the responsibilities of each troop committee member.
- Discuss the importance of each troop committee position in Boy Scouting.
- Describe how to efficiently conduct a troop committee meeting.

The commissioner should see to it that these program helps are followed in working with the local troop committees.

The final item in learning to work with a group is to discuss how troop committee members work together to assure the delivery of a quality program. In working with a group, it is obvious to ask the parents of the troop/committee what they want to do to help the troop become more successful. If you allow the parents and outsiders to provide input, they will feel that they are productive members of the group. Each parent that has a scout in the program should have a job title. As the boy signs up, sign up the parent a well.

The Boy Scouts are a world-wide family/group. It is appropriate to bring this up at this point because recently we had what we refer to as the Little Sioux Tragedy. Tragedies happen all around the world, and many times the Boy Scouts of America are to first to react to help others. It was extremely heartwarming to see that indeed the Boy Scouts are a world family as other countries called to offer their financial support and

Skill 7. Attitude (Always Have a Positive Attitude)

This is so very important, and this brings all of the leadership skills together into a proper perspective. (This just says it all.)

Attitude

“The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a company... a church... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is to play on the one string we have and that is our attitude... I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it.”

By Charles Swindoll

Note

Any scout who memorizes this should receive a reward; this may cost the leader two dollars to buy him a fourteen ounce bag of peanut M&Ms. The leader will understand that he has just given that scout a life long gift, a “PRICELESS MOMENT.” Anytime during that scout’s life that he hears the word attitude, he will remember this paragraph and know he understand the meaning of the word attitude.

My final closing thoughts are from Tom Osborne's philosophy of life and JFK's quotation.

From Tom Osborne, "Make the correct decision all the time, every time."

And most of the time, you will not even be aware that you are making the correct decisions, but people are noticing. You cannot predict what other people are noticing. Occasionally, different recognition takes place, but in the big picture, make the right decisions all the time because one wrong decision can change your life, just as can a correct decision can change your life. But life goes on for each of us and the consequences do unfold.

Remember as President Kennedy said,

**"Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country!"
After all, we are here to serve not to be served.**

Being a Commissioner in Today's World of Scouting

Thus, a commissioner's role today is to develop a multi-disciplinary approach to:

- 1. Applied leadership training**
- 2. Program development**
- 3. Helping to organize scouting and community events**
- 4. Work with today's leaders and scouts with new technologies**

If this is followed, scouting will be healthy and grow in each community.

Bibliography

No websites were used

No normal bibliography, because this with all from my personal experience as a person, teacher, and scouter, except for the leadership training I had at a Wood Badge, course number 410 in 1982. Some topic ideas discussed are from the Commissioners Guide Handbook.

Appendix: None used

Charts and graphs: None used