



Commissioner Comments

Working the Plan

August is the time when Commissioners visit with their Unit Leaders and offer help in developing the Unit's Annual Program Plan. Plan your work and work your plan. This is not a new concept for the Boy Scouts. Preparing for a bike trip requires the trail to be mapped, a permit to be obtained, a list of participants developed, transportation organized, and many other details to be decided.



A Unit's Annual Program also must be planned. Program planning follows a pattern and should involve the boys. The five steps for a Unit Commissioner to keep in mind:

- 1– Do your Homework and be ready with Cub & Boy Scout & Crew program help documents.
- 2– Have Patrol Leaders help you find out what the Scouts want. Let the Crew officers lead the discussion for Venturing.
- 3– Hold a Leader program planning conference that includes the Sr. Patrol Leader, Patrol Leaders and Scoutmaster. For Crews, involve as many Crew members as possible.
- 4– Gain support from the Troop or Pack Committee and Crew Advisors.
- 5– Document the plan, pass the word and share the plan.

A good thought out program plan will ensure the boys in your units will advance in the aims of scouting; developing character, citizenship, and personal fitness. Mostly a good plan will ensure the boys and adults will have FUN with a Purpose!

Commissioner Focus

- August
 - Unit Program Plan
- September
 - Re-chartering On-line
- October
 - Un it Retention

News from the Board Board Meeting July 13 at Camp Mitigwa

- President Steve Sypal invited Ted Olson and Sandy Vos to share with the board how things are going with this year's summer camp.
- Kandra invited Camp Commissioner Marv Wilson to share what Commissioners are doing at camp this year and how the youth and Scout Leaders are enjoying camp.
- VP Properties, Chuck Biskner shared feedback he is receiving on the improved pool, roads and kitchen equipment.

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- Unit Visit Tracking System can be accessed at MyScouting.org. Record all your unit visits at this central location.
- Commissioner Manuals <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Commissioners/Manuals.aspx>
- Commissioner Fast Start is at www.myscouting.org- This 'fast start' training is designed to be taken by all commissioners within the first few weeks. Sign in Needed.
- New requirements for Youth Protection! [MyScouting.org](http://www.myscouting.org) takes you to ELearning for on-line training for Youth Protection, Climb On Safety, Safety Afloat, an more!
- Journey to Excellence Link: <http://scouting.org/sitecore/content/Home/Commissioners/Journey.aspx>

SAVE THE DATE!	
Aug 27	Basic Commissioner and Asst District Commissioner Training, RRV Hosting at Kaplan Univ.
Sept 17	Recharter Planning
Oct 7/8	Sporting Clays
Oct 29	Kaleidoscope

Unit Commissioner Visits

District	No. of Units	No. of Commissioners	Visits Reported on-line July 31
Bo Qui	63	14	13
Broken Arrow	50	25	9
Golden Eagle	27	11	1
Hawk Eye	70	16	47
Raccoon River Valley	103	44	14
Tamaha	35	11	1

July 2011						
Sun-day	Mon-day	Tues-day	Wednes-day	Thurs-day	Friday	Satur-day
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August 2011						
Sun-day	Mon-day	Tuesday	Wednes-day	Thurs-day	Friday	Satur-day
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Sept 2011						
Sun-day	Mon-day	Tues-day	Wednes-day	Thurs-day	Friday	Satur-day
					1	2
3						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Commissioner Pledge

On my honor, I will do my best by the example of my daily life to make the Scout Oath and Law a more vital force for the good character and citizenship in the lives of the boys and the leaders I serve.

I will do my best to help secure and help to make more effective the finest possible leadership for the units I serve.

I will do my best to help make the program of the units I serve the best that can be given, rich in wholesome fun and adventure.

In all that I do, I will strive to help my units attract into membership every possible boy so that, through his participation, that boy, can help make America a finer, greater nation in a world community.



Bob Hopper leads the flag raising ceremony at the site of the new Fred Maytag II building in July, 2011.

Nothing is impossible, except putting the toothpaste back into the tube. -B-P, A Family Album

Over the past 3 years, very seldom have I seen Bob Hopper show anything but a positive and optimistic approach toward scouting affairs. This day, Bob had concern written on his face. He shared with me the challenges the building committee was having with the placement of the new Scout Center on our property in Des Moines. It seemed the easement requirements from our new neighbor, the Des Moines Airport restricts building height, flag poles included. Between the Architects, the General Contractor, our Attorneys and the Building Committee the placement of the building had changed on paper, four times. Bob was not sure we would be able to find a workable solution for everyone.

A Unit's program plan is like a building plan. Scouts, Parents, Unit Leaders and Commissioners follow it during the year to encourage new skills, develop leadership and good character in our Youth, making sure there is plenty of fun involved. Unit program plans are designed to be flexible, even multiple changes are needed sometimes allowing Units to be as successful as they can be. The Commissioner's role is to know each phase of the Scouting program and be able to help guide the Unit if called upon.

Bob Hopper and the Council Building Committee, led by Bob DeWaay, found a workable solution for the building "footprint". Last Saturday, July 31, 2011, many Scouters, Board members and interested parties held a flag raising event to mark the beginning of the construction phase of the Mid-Iowa Council's Fred Maytag II Scout Center. It was a glorious day and I want to extend my sincere thanks for the leadership of those dedicated Scouters who, over the past three years, have made it their business to ensure the Mid-Iowa Council has the best plan possible.

- Kandra

Komments from Kandra

Welcome to *Commissioner Service!*

Welcome to Commissioner Service! The Unit Commissioner is one of the oldest leadership positions in Scouting. In 1910, Lord Baden Powell, founder of the Boy Scout Organization, appointed adult volunteers as Commissioners to help units maintain scouting standards, recruit members, train new leaders and oversee the growing organization. The Commissioner's role continues today as a friend and advisor where ever they can make a positive difference for units to succeed. Commissioners are also the only volunteer positions that share the wreath of service on their position badge with the professional staff.

The Mid-Iowa Council has a long legacy of a strong Commissioner Corps with their presence in all Scouting events. Every District has a District Commissioner, a key leadership position, who recruits and assigns Unit Commissioners to support Units in the District. A monthly meeting is hosted by the District Commissioner to share District communications and stay current with Commissioners on Unit happenings.

Every Cub Scout, Boy Scout and Venture Unit should be assigned a Commissioner. If you do not know who that person is for your Unit, please contact your District Commissioner. We welcome any interested adult to explore if this may be an area where you can make a difference in the success of a Scouting Unit. Please feel free to contact one of the District Commissioners below or me for additional information on how you can get involved.

Kandra

Kandra Dickerson, Mid-Iowa Council Commissioner (JWDickerson1@mchsi.com)

Linda Dedecker, Asst Council Commissioner (LDedecker@AOL.com)

Scott Moline, Asst Council Commissioner (Smoline@kaplan.edu)

District Commissioners:

Bo Qui District Commissioner: Ed Kuhl (e_kuhl@msn.com)

Broken Arrow District Commissioner: TBD

Golden Eagle District Commissioner: TBD

Hawk Eye District Commissioner: Randi Woods (woods.randi@principal.com)

Raccoon River Valley District Commissioner: Pete Bergeland (pbergeland@msn.com)

Tamaha District Commissioner: Greg DeSaulniers (gd.philmont@mchsi.com)

Contest!! WIN A Red Commissioner Jacket!

The National Council is tracking unit visits and encouraging the standard of a Commissioner visiting once per month. This number is driving the "Unit Visit" box on the Journey to Excellence dashboard. To encourage our great Mid-Iowa Council Unit Commissioners to record their visits using the on-line system, the Council Commissioner is sponsoring a contest to reward the #1 Reporting Commissioner. The winner will be announced at Kaleidoscope, October 29, 2011. See your District Commissioner for details.