

Cornhusker Council Commissioner Corner

Recap of Joint Commissioner and District Committee Conference

July 12, 2025

Thank you to all the commissioners and district committee members who attended this conference! Your time and commitment to the program is very much appreciated! Discussion topics included:

- * 3 Essentials of Building Relationships — *Be Known, Be Liked, Be Trusted*
- * Review of Commissioner Tools and Council Membership Tools
- * Roles of commissioners and district committee members in RETENTION
- * Roles of commissioners and district committee members in RECRUITMENT
- * Review of Cornhusker Council Membership Plan

We also spent time developing several Action Plans which will give the group a focus for the next several months. Here are the retention and recruitment Action Plans:

| Retention Task | Who | |
|---|--|---|
| AOL Crossover Troops need pack info (Key 3, leader & parents of 5 th graders) | Office needs to run report | Troops can only invite AOL's to attend troop events |
| Webelos Woods (must rename) – AOL only | Council Activities – Chad, Shannon, Faye, Phil, Pam, Bryan | October 12? – pm only, no campout Jeff to contact group listed |
| "Talking Head" video narrated by youth | Trev | |

| Recruitment Task | Who | Timeline |
|---|--|----------------|
| Need info from units about staffing of Open Houses and SNFS | District Key 3's & Membership chairs to contact units and request pack specific info / ask for help with staffing of committee members/commissioners Commissioners verify with assigned units that are aware of dates | ASAP |
| Info to units about Dynamic Recruiting | Roundtable staff | September RT's |
| Reviewing unit pins | District Key 3's & Membership chairs to contact units to verify info is current | ASAP |

The group suggested that we plan a follow-up meeting to discuss ongoing status of these Action Plans and to develop additional Plans with a different focus. Tentative dates are November 15 or November 22 — stay tuned!

Logging Connections in Commissioner Tools (my. Scouting.org)

As noted later in this newsletter, only a few commissioners have documented any "Connections" (and Lonnie has completed over half of them). Please document any contacts you have with unit leaders, even if you are not "assigned" to that unit — this includes all UC's & RTC's!

Focus on Membership Growth (fall recruitment plans), Retention (annual planning), Leader Training (efforts to get new Cub leaders trained), and Outdoor Activities (summer camp review).

Why is this important?

- ◆ Data can be used to identify units that need to be contacted by a commissioner
- ◆ Comments are reviewed by DC's/CC to determine unit health and challenges/successes of individual units
- ◆ Data is "tracked" by our CST and national — Let's make Cornhusker look good!

Scouting America



August 2025 Priorities for Unit Commissioners

Membership Recruitment:

Have your units started planning for inviting families to join scouting? Remind them to attend their upcoming Roundtables for the most up-to-date recruitment information!

Popcorn Sale Sign-up:

Are your units ready to sell popcorn this fall? Remind them that popcorn sales benefit the scout, the unit and the council! Popcorn University is scheduled for August 9th.

Unit Renewal:

As of July 31, there were many units that have not completed their renewal process.

Commissioners — you can check the status of your unit(s) by accessing Commissioner Tools on my.scouting.org.

Looking ahead to 2026, I would like to form a workgroup to develop a council-wide plan to complete this process in a more timely manner and fewer calls to Manuela! Let Karen know if you are interested in helping!

Save the Date!

College of Commissioner
Science

April 11, 2026

Bellevue College

We will need instructors and a Dean of the Master's Program!





Many thanks to the following commissioners who have logged their "connections" into Commissioner Tools on my.scouting.org:

Lonnie Pohlman, Stephanie Kist, Richard White, Peggy Nietfeld, Karen Griffin Sieber, Bryan Welty

The data shows the following % of units per district with a documented connection /visit by a commissioner:

- * 13% of Seven Feathers units
- * 14% of Salt Valley units
- * 100% of Prairie Winds units — thank you Lonnie!

*Be the Heart
Build Relationships
Change Lives*



Commissioner Staff Contact Info

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Dates to Remember

Aug 8: Paddle Craft Safety Course

Aug 9: Popcorn University

Aug 18: Program Cabinet

Aug 20: Commissioners Cabinet

Aug 22-24: Outdoor Preparedness /
Outdoor Adventures

Sept 4: Roundtables

Sept 12: Popcorn Kickoff

Every merit badge pamphlet is now available for free download from the official Scouting America Merit Badge Hub



<https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/all/>

- * To get to the PDFs, click on the name of the merit badge you're looking for, and scroll down until you see the button labeled "Download the Free Pamphlet."
 - * You can still buy printed merit badge pamphlets online or at your local Scout Shop.
 - * You'll notice that the requirements are no longer included in the PDF versions of the pamphlets on the merit badge hub. That's because Scouts and counselors should always check the merit badges homepage (or, alternatively, Scoutbook) to make sure you're getting the latest requirements, like the recent updates to the Chemistry merit badge.
 - * The process of earning merit badges remains the same. Pick a subject, connect with a merit badge counselor then, get to work!
- "Making every merit badge pamphlet freely available online meets Scouts where they already learn and share information," says Scouts BSA national program chair Angelique Minett. "By removing cost and access barriers, we're empowering more young people to dive into new skills the moment curiosity strikes."

Social Media Do's and Don'ts for Commissioners



Do's

1. **Promote Scouting Values** — Post content that reflects the Scout Oath & Law— highlight service, leadership and community
2. **Celebrate Units and Volunteers** — Recognize the achievement of scouts and leaders
3. **Educate and Inform** — Share official resources, key dates, safety updates, and training info
4. **Be a Role Model Online** — Your behavior sets the tone for others - stay courteous and helpful
5. **Protect Youth Privacy** — Follow Youth Protection rules. Don't post identifiable youth info without documented parental consent.
6. **Use Official Branding Property** — Follow guidelines from the Scouting America Brand Center for logos and materials.
7. **Be Encouraging & Accessible** — Support units and volunteers.
8. **Share Scouting Stories** — Highlight positive activities, such as campouts, service projects, and Eagle projects.
9. **Tag Official Pages**—Tag council/district/ national accounts to expand reach and show support.
5. **Keep It Uplifting** — Focus on solutions, successes, and positive Scouting experiences.

Don'ts

1. **Don't Break Safeguarding Youth Rules** — No private messages with youth and no posting photos without permission.
2. **Don't Air Dirty Laundry** — Handle disagreements or sensitive topics offline and privately.
3. **Don't Share Unverified Info** — Only post updates from official Scouting sources.
4. **Don't Post Political or Divisive Content** — Keep content inclusive and welcoming to all families.
5. **Don't Promote Personal Business** — Avoid using Scouting-related pages for advertising or self-promotion.
6. **Don't Use Someone Else's Content as Your Own** — Never post graphics, photos, or written articles created by others without permission or attribution.
7. **Don't Share Outdated Policies** — Verify requirements and procedures before posting— things are always changing.
8. **Don't Spam Groups or Pages** — Share relevant, timely content—don't flood feeds.
9. **Don't forget You're Always a Commissioner** — Even on your personal page, your tone reflects on Scouting.
10. **Don't Ignore Questions** — If someone asks for help, reply or guide them to someone who can assist them.

Safety Moment Tick Bites



How to protect yourself -

- Ticks infest areas like shady woods, leaf and wood piles, tall grass, shrubs and logs. Be extra careful in those types of areas.
- Stay in the middle of trails when hiking.
- Wear light-colored or white clothing outside. It makes it easier to spot ticks on your clothes. Wear closed-toe shoes, long sleeves and long pants, and tuck pants into socks.
- Use EPA-recommended permethrin-treated clothes and permethrin spray on your shoes. Also apply tick repellent to exposed skin. Always follow manufacturer instructions.
- Immediately put your clothes in the dryer on high for 15 minutes when returning from outdoors.
- Do tick checks every time you've been outdoors. Tick bites are painless, so you won't know if you've been bitten.
- When checking for ticks, start at your toes and work all the way up to the top of your head. Ticks like warm areas on your body.