



Council Commissioner's Corner
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Commissioners and Service to Others

This past Saturday a large group of Commissioners gathered to attend the third annual Catalina Council College of Commissioner Science. Twenty-eight Commissioners attended, some as far away as the Las Cruces/El Paso area and Las Vegas.

“What in the world is a College of Commissioner Science?” you ask? It’s a series of advanced education and training courses that allow Commissioners to improve their knowledge and skills. The students work toward a degree, similar to the academic world. The many topics studied include subjects such as:

- Resolving Critical Unit Issues
- What Makes a Good Commissioner
- Core Commissioner Concepts
- Coaching and Mentoring
- How to Help Newly Formed Units

Participants earn a Bachelors, then a Masters, and finally a Doctorate degree, typically over a four-year period. While not as rigid as academic degrees, Commissioners work on these with the ultimate goal of being able to serve the leaders of a Scout unit, helping as needed to ensure a successful program for Scouts.

The Commissioners in Catalina Council are a dedicated lot. Most are no longer active in a Pack or Troop. This gives them the time to use their experience and knowledge to be a sounding board or mentor to the Scout units in our council. While some units don’t need a mentor, others do. Especially units with new leaders who are trying to bring the best experience possible to the Scouts in their charge. Our dedicated Commissioners will take the time necessary to point out the resources available to help any and all unit leaders.

Yes, it was an intense day packed with learning and camaraderie shared with both experienced and new Commissioners, not just from our council, but with Commissioners from other councils as well. The only thing missing was the presence of more new Commissioners.

The Commissioner Corps is dedicated to seeing the success of Scouting in Catalina Council and all across the nation. Frankly, we could use more Scouters with “service to others” in their hearts to add to our ranks. What better way to spend your time than to help Scouting grow and flourish?

If you have the heart for service to others contact me, or Joel Stoltz in Sky Islands District, or Juanita Portz in Cochise District. We can tell you more about the rewards of Commissioner service and help you discern if it is the right place for you. If your unit does not have an assigned Commissioner, and want some help, or a sounding board for your ideas, let us know.

