



Relationships Beyond the Lodge: Working With Scoutmasters, Commissioners and Scout Executives

Session Length: 45 Minutes

Through this session, you will:

- Explain:** Describe the roles of the Scoutmaster, Commissioner and Scout Executive. Share the importance of good relations between the Lodge (Chapter) and the Scoutmaster, Commissioner, and Scout Executive.
- Demonstrate:** How understanding the roles of these adult positions can help build stronger working relationships.
- Guide:** Encourage thoughts how the youth can communicate with the Scoutmaster, Commissioner, and Scout Executives in the areas of program, OA candidates, OA growth and other areas.
- Enable:** Provide participants ideas to take back home and start their thought process on how their Lodge can build stronger relationships with the Scoutmaster, Commissioner and Scout Executives.

Learning Outcomes:

- Scouts will understand the roles of the Scoutmaster, Commissioner, and Scout Executives
- Scouts will develop a list on how the lodge can help the Scoutmaster, Commissioner, and Scout Executives in the areas of program, OA candidates, OA growth and other areas.
- Participants will develop a list of ideas to take back home on how their Lodge can build stronger relationships with the Scoutmaster, Commissioner, and Scout Executives

Theme Connection:

The theme of NOAC 2018 is “Decide Your Destiny,” emphasizing the message that today’s decisions shape tomorrow’s reality. This session will relay this theme in the following ways:

- The Lodge decides its destiny by shaping its relations with the Scoutmaster, Commissioner, and Scout Executive.
- Is the lodge seen as an “asset” by the Scoutmaster, Commissioner, and Scout Executive?
- How the Lodge can become a more integral part of the Troop and the Council.

This session will help the Lodge with the Journey to Excellence Requirement(s):





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1. Membership impact: Experience positive growth in youth membership over the previous year.
2. Membership retention: Improve the retention rate of the youth Lodge members.
3. Unit Elections: Conduct unit elections in all troops and teams within the council.
5. Lodge event participation: Improve lodge membership participation at full lodge events.
7. Service projects: Complete Scout Executive approved service project(s) on Council Property and in the community.
9. Unit visitation: Conduct an in-person visit to every troop or team in the council. Visits must happen at a unit meeting or event, and be conducted by trained Arrowmen from other units.
10. Unit of Excellence Award: Assist troops and teams in the council to earn the OA Unit of Excellence award.
11. Contribution to council: Contribute cash, materials, or both to the council.
13. Council designated support: Key 3 meets with Scout Executive and lodge Completes agreed upon projects.
14. Council program support: Provide OA member staff support for council and district program events.
15. Council camping support: Conduct camp promotion contacts to council troops and teams.
17. Planning and reporting: Submit a written performance plan and annual report of accomplishments to the Scout Executive and council executive board.

Required Materials: [tailor specifically for this session after the syllabus is done, e.g. handouts, flipcharts, projector, screen]

- Projector and screen
- Flipcharts
- Handouts

TRAINER PREPARATION

Trainers need to develop particular examples from their own experience on how the Lodge and Council work together well and not so well. Both types of experience can be learned from. Duplicate handouts ahead of time, PowerPoint presentations to update based on changes in BSA and OA.



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Session Narrative

Introduction

5 minutes

Good relationships between the Lodge and the Council, Units, and key leadership are vital to the success of the Order of the Arrow. A Lodge must reach out and support units and their program, must support their council because without the Council the lodge does not exist, and have good relationships with their Scout Exec, Scoutmasters, and District Commissioners to ensure the success of promotion of Lodge program.

I. First topic Scoutmasters

10 minutes

Role of the Scoutmaster

- Leads the troop
- Works with the Troop Committee
- Role model for the boys
- Role Model for other leaders
- Has a lot of persuasion on outings and Troop calendar
- Works with Cub packs to help recruit Cub Scouts. Without incoming members there is no need to push retention.
- Mentors the SPL and PLC
- Mentors Assistant Scoutmasters
- Works with new Parents
- Parental On-boarding
- Work with scouts and advancement
- Be a friend when scouts are in doubt if they will remain in Scouting

II. Second topic Commissioners

10 minutes

Role of the Commissioner

- Friend of a unit
- Provides support to the Troop
- Helps the Troop with rechartering
- Provides support with recruiting and retention
- Encourages Troop to attend Roundtables

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- Works with unit on JTE

Third topic	Scout Executive <u>Role of the Scout Executive</u>	10 minutes
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- CEO of the Council
- Supreme Chief of the fire
- Hires all full time staff
- Responsible for leading the council
- Answers to the Executive Board
- Is 1/3 of the Council Key (Scout Executive, Council Commissioner, and Council President)

Additional topic	Communicating with Adults	10 minutes
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Youth – Think about:

How you communicate with your friends?

How do you communicate with adults?

How do you communicate with Scoutmasters, Commissioners, and Scout Executives?

Adults – Think about:

How you communicate with each other?

How you communicate with youth? (Is YPT a factor?)

How you communicate with Scoutmasters, Commissioners, and Scout Executives?

Takeaway Challenge

Youth - please take out your notebook and pen. Think about the role of adults you work with. Think about their responsibilities and write down three key ideas related to this session that you could use to help improve the way you and your lodge works with a Scoutmaster, Commissioner, and/or Scout Executive. Think about the ways you can communicate with adults and what works and what doesn't work.

Adults - please take out your notebook and pen. Think about the youth you work with. Think about their responsibilities and write down three key ideas related to this session that you could

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use to help improve their scouting careers. Think about the ways you may have to change how you communicate with youth.

Appendix: Resources and Source Material

- 2016 Guide to Unit Elections, available online at <http://www.oa-bsa.org/pages/content/guide-to-unit-elections>
- 2012 Guide for Officers and Advisers, available online at <http://www.oa-bsa.org/pages/content/publications#goa>
- 2008 Lodge Finance Manual, available online at <http://www.oa-bsa.org/pages/content/publications#lfm>
- Chapter Journey to Excellence Workbook, available online at <http://www.oa-bsa.org/pages/content/printable-forms>
- [or whatever materials are relevant for participants in your session]