



Commissioner Service to Exploring FAQ's



TRAINING

Is there an in-person training available? No. All Exploring Unit Commissioners and Service Team members must complete training online at my.scouting.org.

What training is available to UC's serving Exploring units? A new *supplemental* training module will be available in my.scouting.org by the end of April 2017. This is the "Servicing Explorer Units" module. However, unless the Unit Commissioner is familiar with Exploring, it is strongly recommended that he/she also complete the Service Team position training within the Exploring LMS (through my.scouting.org).

Is there a guidebook for an Exploring Unit Commissioner? Information that Exploring Unit Commissioners need to know is shared within the online training modules. For this reason, a guidebook will not be created. Additional Exploring information and program resources are available at www.exploring.org including the Exploring Guidebook for Youth and Adult Leaders.

Is there a PowerPoint available? Yes. The PowerPoint (Introduction to Exploring for Commissioners) is meant to be used as an introduction to this new initiative and does not suffice as a training. You can download the PowerPoint from www.exploring.org/training-safety in the "Training Resources" box at the bottom of the web page.

COMMISSIONER TOOLS

Does the Exploring Unit Commissioner get the same access as a Unit Commissioner? Yes.

Can Unit Commissioners log contacts for all unit types? Yes, both Exploring and traditional unit contacts can be entered.

Does Commissioner Tools show Exploring data? While Exploring unit contacts can now be logged, other data like trainings and membership are coming soon.

Are the unit contact questions different for an Exploring unit as compared to a Scouting unit? Yes. The questions are based on the Post/Club JTE scorecard available at www.scouting.org/jte.

Do Exploring Service Team Members have access to Commissioner Tools? Yes.

COMMISSIONER VS. SERVICE TEAM

Can I recruit someone to be a Service Team member if they are not already a traditional Unit

Commissioner? Yes, but they may be asked by their administrative commissioner to service both Exploring and Scouting units if registered as a commissioner. A person who is serving only Exploring units should be registered as a Service Team Member. The Service Team Member position code can be found on the Exploring adult application available at www.exploring.org.

How is this position different from a service team member? The purpose and type of service is no different. The only differences are that Exploring Unit Commissioners can also service Scouting units, whereas, Exploring Service Team members do not service traditional Scouting units.

What did the National Key 3 say about this? In a letter to the field in November 2016, National Commissioner Charles Dahlquist and Chief Scout Executive Mike Surbaugh clarified the purpose of this initiative and charged the field with utilizing Scouting Commissioners as a temporary stop gap while councils develop more comprehensive plans to serve their Exploring units. Here is an excerpt:

“Based on input from the field, the national Key 3 has defined two service models to best serve the needs of local councils. This will help in providing sustainable growth and developing necessary resources for Exploring today and in the future.

The following models should be based on your council’s size and resources. When considering the best option for your council, keep in mind the ultimate goal is to help facilitate the recruitment of potential untapped, high-level community leadership to your board and committees.

The first and most preferred model is to recruit and grow Exploring at the council level by enlisting an Exploring Service Team to provide the necessary resources to grow and support Exploring units. These positions will count in your Journey to Excellence criteria in the same manner as unit-serving commissioners.

If a council doesn’t have the resources to develop a full Exploring Service Team, the alternate model should include utilizing current council and district structures and resources to serve Exploring units. This model could include integrating Exploring into the current district committee and commissioner structure. It also should include an aggressive volunteer recruitment and training plan in order to ensure continuous support to unit service and growth.”

What are the position codes for service team members? The Service Team Member position codes are printed on the Exploring adult application available at www.exploring.org.

- 137 Council Service Team Chair
- 138 Council Service Team Member
- 139 District Service Team Chair
- 140 District Service Team Member

Should a Service Team Member also register as an Exploring Unit Commissioner? No. This is an opportunity for the council to focus on building a separate Service Team and Commissioner Corps as suggested by the National Key 3.

REGISTRATION

Is there a special position code for Unit Commissioners that are serving Exploring units? No.

JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

Are Explorer posts and clubs now calculated into overall unit totals when it comes the contact percentages? Yes.

Which 2017 Unit Service JTE objectives are impacted by Exploring on the council scorecard?

#'s 13,14, & 15 **What about the district scorecard?** #'s 12,13, & 14. **Note:** Exploring also contributes to a total of 8 measurements in the council scorecard and a total of 10 measurements in the District scorecard.

Is there a JTE scorecard for Explorer posts and clubs? Yes. **For Exploring-only districts?** Yes.

Download them both from www.scouting.org/jte.

OTHER

When did this change to Commissioner Tools occur? Exploring units were made available in Commissioner Tools on March 1, 2017. Unit Commissioners and Service Team members may begin serving Exploring units at any time.

How is this change being announced to the field? In March, this announcement and list of FAQ's was included in the Exploring newsletter, Commissioner Tools Status memo, Area Director newsletter, Scout Executive Council packet, BSA Employee Newsletter, and announced on Scoutingwire.org. In addition, the same announcement was shared in the following Facebook groups: Exploring Success, The Firm, Central Region Unit Serving Executive and the various Commissioner social media outlets. An article will be included in the spring issue of *The Commissioner* newsletter which normally is published just before the National Annual Meeting in May. Lastly, an email was sent directly from the National Exploring Office to the Exploring Executives, LFL Executives and registrar's email distribution lists in Outlook on March 31, 2017.

The announcement is also addressed at all of the Exploring Certification training courses for professionals and volunteers starting April 2017.

Are Exploring Unit Commissioners responsible for starting new Exploring units? No. While starting new units is certainly important, and we encourage everyone to play a part, the primary responsibility for starting new units remains with the professional staff and the volunteer structure that was created for their service area.

Does a Unit Commissioner have to be experienced with the Career Field of the Post in which he/she is servicing? You may find that current Unit Commissioners already represent a very large number of careers within your community. In servicing Posts/Clubs, it may be helpful to allow Unit Commissioners to service those units in which they presently work or have worked in the Career Field in which the Post/Club is specializing. This would give the Unit Commissioner a distinct advantage in being able to build relationships, credibility, and instantly relate to the leadership within the unit. Remember, the Post advisors

are already very knowledgeable or experts in their chosen Career Fields. Unit Commissioners may simply need to help them translate their career knowledge from an adult to a youth level that is fun, hands-on, and interactive for their youth. While this experience is not necessary to serve a Post/Club, a Unit Commissioner with this career knowledge or career experience may have a more immediate impact on helping the unit succeed.

Should a Unit Commissioner wear the Scouting uniform when visiting an Exploring unit? We all know that building relationships is a key component to servicing units. Unit Commissioners should consider how their Exploring unit leaders and youth are dressed when making a decision for his/her own dress. For each post/club this will vary greatly. Therefore, in most cases, a Scouting Uniform may not be appropriate.

Is service to Explorer units different from Scouting units? Yes. Therefore, Unit Commissioners who service Exploring units should complete the “Servicing Exploring Units” training module. We also highly recommend service team modules at my.scouting.

Should UC’s conduct the charter agreement visit for Exploring units as well? This is a decision that should be made at the local council level. If the council has an active Exploring committee, it’s likely one of the committee members or Exploring Executive will make these visits. Remember that this is an annual visit with the Executive Officer of the post or club, not with the post or club volunteers. This visit would be to review the Annual Memorandum of Understanding with the Executive Officer as there is no charter agreement in Exploring and Learning for Life.