



UPDATES ON PROGRAMS AND SUPPORT AT ALL LEVELS OF SCOUTING

As of January 2, 2008

Training Updates:

Plans for updating training are in the works for 2008. These dates are tentative based on the amount of time it takes to develop and make it available for use in the field:

Cub Scouting:

- Cub Scout Leader Fast Start is being revised online and will be available by spring 2008.
- Cub Scout Leader Specific Training is being revised and will be available by spring 2008.
- Cubcasts will continue to be developed related to the monthly Cub Scout theme and shared one month in advance of the next month's program, including program ideas and a training topic.
- Den Chief Training Online will be released in the summer of 2008.
- Cub Scout Roundtable Staff Fast Start online training will be available by spring 2008.

Boy Scouting:

- Boy Scout Fast Start course online is available in Spanish by end of January 2008.
- Troop Leader Training currently available only in hard copy will be available online by summer 2008.
- Good to Outstanding (Advanced Scoutmaster Training) available by March 2008.
- Trainers' EDGE (Train the Trainer course for Wood Badge and National Youth Leader Training staffs) available by March 2008.

Venturing:

- Venturing Leader Specific Training being revised and available by summer 2008.
- Kodiak X Leadership Challenge Course syllabus available by end of January 2008.
- Kodiak Facilitator Training being developed and will be available by August 2008.
- Venturing Mentor Training Course being developed and will be available by August 2008.
- Venturing Teaching Others Course being developed and will be available by August 2008.

Commissioner Service:

- Commissioner Fast Start is being developed for new commissioners, especially for unit commissioners, to view shortly after agreeing to be a commissioner.
- Other potential projects being reviewed for online training include a series of video casts in support of basic commissioner training in small modules, with a plan for coaching in between sessions. Plans are to be available by the end of 2008.

Council and District Operations:

- Other potential projects being reviewed for online training include a series of video casts in support of: Council Key 3 fast start; Executive Board member fast start; District Key 3 fast start; and District Committee fast start Plans are to be available by the end of 2008.

Overall Training:

- Centennial Quality Award video will be distributed to every council with one provided complimentary for each district, as well as making it available online. It will explain the Centennial Quality Unit Award and how to set goals and accomplish them in providing a quality program.
- *ScoutParents* Unit Coordinator Fast Start training will be available online by May 2008. This is designed for any volunteer who works directly with parents in engaging them with their unit's program by encouraging them to volunteer to do occasional tasks. This will be a new registered adult position beginning June 1, 2008.
- New Leader Essentials Course is being revised and will be available online by summer 2008, as well as available through Supply for teaching face to face.
- Weather hazard prevention training will be available online early in 2008. This outdoor activity training will include safety precautions for lightning, windstorms, tornados, flash floods, extreme cold, etc.

Other Programs of Interest in Providing a Quality Program

1. Centennial Quality Award Program information – The 2008 “Commitment and Achievement forms”, along with the interpretations are online. They allow for you to enter the data in the form, save it, and send it to those who need a copy of the unit's commitments. Go to www.scouting.org and click on the Site Map. Then open the Centennial Quality Award Program tab under “C”. You can access the forms also on www.scouting.org/commissioners.

The 2008 Centennial Quality Award Program implementation booklet, along with Frequently Asked Questions is available online as well.

2. National Parent Initiative information –Resources for units to engage more parents and other adults in their unit's program are available as a part of the National Parent Initiative on www.scoutparents.org. A special link to involve Eagle Scouts in Scouting is being created. It will provide information for Eagle Scouts, their parents and grandparents on how to become involved. This site will be linked to www.scouting.org by June 2008. New applications will be available in June 2008 allowing parents to check off a block on the youth application to “Commit to be a ScoutParent”. The new adult application will also be available for a person in each unit to register as the *ScoutParents Unit Coordinator*.
3. The commissioner Web site (www.scouting.org/commissioners) can be accessed by anyone. It includes: 1) Podcasts on related training features to provide better customer service, 2) current and back issues of *The Commissioner* newsletter with ideas and updates on quality commissioner service, 3) PowerPoints and key training features presented at recent national meeting electives, 4) access to the commissioner unit visit tracking system, 5) special identity items available for purchase, linked to ScoutStuff.org, 6) available commissioner literature, and 7) information on a special ‘Roundtable Support’ section.
4. Commissioner manual revisions—will begin in 2008. The completion date is pending with the changes in training for commissioners and the new initiative to involve more commissioners. The plan is to have two loose-leaf manuals: 1) An Administrative Support Manual, and 2) A Basic Commissioner Fieldbook. The current five manuals will become two. Work has been started on the Administration manual including details on how to organize your council's commissioner staff and how to develop your staff from where you are to where you want to be to better serve units.
5. A monthly unit visit tracking system was released in August 2007 to help commissioners report on their unit visits. It will help commissioners work in identifying unit needs and helping them to improve the quality of their program. Each council can set this up for their districts by going to www.scouting.org/commissioners Web site. There is a “Help” tab available with the system.
6. 2007 *Boys' Life* Commissioner Award is available for all commissioners—unit, roundtable, and administrative—to earn. Applications are accepted between August 31, 2007 and January 31, 2008. The qualifications relate to supporting units becoming 100% Boys' Life Units.

7. A special "Roundtable Support" tab has been added to the commissioner Web site to provide resources to commissioners working with roundtables. The first items there are: Boy Scout Roundtable Commissioner Training, No. 34256 and Cub Scout Roundtable and Staff Basic Training Manual, No. 33013. The manuals are also available through Supply as a purchase item. We will be adding additional resources for "Best Practices" later in 2008.
8. A "commissioner blog or forum" for the commissioner Web site to share questions for discussion and "Best Practices" for quality unit service is being developed by mid-2008.
9. Philmont Training Center courses offered summer 2008 for volunteers and professionals in the area of council and district operations, including commissioner service include:

Week 2—June 8 – 14, 2008: District Key 3 —A Leadership Team; Commissioner Administration for Quality Scouting; The Unit Commissioner—Meeting Unit Needs; District Committees That Work; Training Management Seminar; Membership Growth Ideas for Districts & Councils; Special Needs Scouting; and the *Advanced Unit Commissioner****

Week 8—July 20 – 26, 2008: District Key 3—A Leadership Team; Council Key 3—Lead Scouting into the Future; Advanced Administration of Commissioner Service; The Unit Commissioner—Meeting Unit Needs; *Becoming a Stronger Executive Board Member****; and District Committees That Work

Week 9—July 27 – August 2, 2008: District Key 3—A Leadership Team; and the Council Key 3—Lead Scouting into the Future

Week 10—August 3 – 9, 2008: Council & District Activities Leadership; and Unit Commissioner-Meeting Unit Needs

Note: New courses offered for the first time in 2008 are marked with ***.
10. "Scouting for Youth with Disabilities" manual (No. 34059) is available in a loose-leaf format, with all areas of disabilities included in the same manual with alternate requirements, program ideas, best practices, and details about each disability and to involve all youth in your program. The manual will help every unit to understand how to work with youth in their unit.
11. An Eagle Search Campaign is underway to engage Eagles with the program. The focus is on identifying, recruiting, and engaging volunteers through the Eagle Scout search and the involvement of Scouting's alumni.
12. A research study has been released with findings to help you engage the multicultural groups in the Hispanic, Asian, and African/American populations, as well as the Generation X and Millennial parents. The results of this study are available in a pamphlet No. 02-1058.
13. A new manual, *Aquatics Supervision: A leaders' guide to youth swimming and boating activities*, is being developed to assist units, districts, and councils in support of all swimming and boating activities. This in-depth manual will be loose-leaf and will be carried by National Supply and released by the summer of 2008. It will include new BSA Lifeguard requirements for adult leaders. Two new courses will become available for unit leaders in 'Swimming and Water Rescue' and 'Paddle-craft safety'. Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat requirements are also being updated.

If you have ideas or best practices to share, contact:
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