



# MARK TWAIN DISTRICT CONNECTICUT RIVERS COUNCIL

AVON, BRISTOL, FARMINGTON, HARTFORD, NEWINGTON, PLAINVILLE, ROCKY HILL, WEST  
HARTFORD AND WETHERSFIELD

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## UNIT COMMISSIONERS

### **Why we need more Unit Commissioners.**

Adult volunteer leadership in the Boy Scouts of America is extremely transient. Probably less than 5% of adult leaders continue service in the Boy Scouts after their children are no longer associated with the program. It takes one year for a new leader to just experience a single “scouting cycle” of membership recruitment, program and advancement, district activities, re-chartering, camp, etc. Further, it probably takes two years for a leader to experience this cycle, receive training, and become a truly effective Scout leader for both the boys and the other adults they serve with. Unfortunately, the tenure of many a scout leader is not much longer than two years. They leave just when they would be getting quite proficient.

It has been our experience that restarting a Pack or Troop with entirely new volunteers is a two-year process to get these leaders firmly on their feet regarding the Scouting program. Restarts usually occur when current leaders do not recognize the importance of recruiting and developing new leadership that will replace them.

It is desirable, then, to have a Unit Commissioner who develops the core knowledge of Scouting’s operation, and works with one or more Scout units to achieve continuity that results in truly effective and proficient adult leadership.

### **Unit Commissioners accomplish this by:**

- Completing commissioner basic training.
- Attending a monthly meeting of all commissioners.
- Continue training in all aspects of scouting (Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Wood Badge)
- Earning the Commissioner Arrow Point Award and Commissioner Key

### **Unit Commissioner’s Duties**

- Facilitate unit leader attendance at training for their Troop, Pack, or other unit.
- Assist adult leaders to fulfill their unit’s committee roles and hold committee meetings.
- Help maintain accurate youth rosters and adult training records.
- Promote unit leaders earning adult recognition knots for the leadership positions they hold.
- Re-charter their respective units on time.
- Oversee units earning the Quality Unit Award.
- Facilitate Youth Protection Training for their units.

### **To be successful, the Unit Commissioner must:**

- Be patient.
- Persevere until quality leadership is established and then help maintain it.
- Exercise the utmost in tactfulness, understanding, and guidance.
- Commit to the long-term development and sustenance of the Scout Units they assist.

We are currently recruiting additional Scouters to be Unit Commissioners. The need is great. If you have any interest in working with several units to help their leaders run successful programs for our youth, please contact Mitch Underwood at (860) 747-9829 or [mitch@marktwaincommissioners.com](mailto:mitch@marktwaincommissioners.com) . Scouting needs your help.