



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
GREATER TAMPA BAY AREA COUNCIL
FORT BROOKE DISTRICT

Fellow Ft Brooke Scout Leaders,

This is Don Olivier Ft Brooke's new District Commissioner (DC). I would like to take a few minutes of your time to explain the (often misunderstood) Commissioner Corps. First and foremost, the DC and the Unit Commissioners (UC) are veteran Scouters who are here to help Units with challenges and issues. Please allow me to emphasize, we are here to help and the Commissioner Corps, not the district professionals (DE, DD), should be your **first call** if/when you have a challenge/issue.

I also want you to know that nationally, under the leadership of Larry Chase, the chair of the BSA's national commissioners service team, the Commissioner Corps is undergoing some significant changes. Previously and ideally, there was 1 Commissioner to every 3 units. Well, in all candor, there are not, nor have there ever been, enough Commissioners to sustain that ratio. Here in Ft Brooke, we have 60+ units and a dozen or so Unit Commissioners: ergo; the math doesn't work in Ft Brooke either. Based on national's changes, I view the Commissioner Corps as akin to a "doc in the box"/aka walk-in clinic or appliance repair – you call us when you need us. Also, we have a proactive goal which is to contact every unit quarterly, most likely via email, to remind you that we are here to help and to see what, if any, additional support your unit needs. In general, our planned approach is as follows:

1. The Commissioner Corps will contact ALL units quarterly via email in order to maintain contact and to determine if the unit requires any additional support.
2. Our goal is to meet, in person, with units that need immediate assistance quarterly, if feasible. Or, if not feasible, meet with the units, at a minimum of twice a year.
3. Our goal is to meet, in person, with units that are "doing ok" twice a year. If not feasible, our goal is to meet with the unit once a year.
4. Our goal is to meet with very healthy units every year. If not feasible, our goal is to meet with them every other year.

I realize that some units already have a relationship with a UC and my goal is for that UC and unit to maintain that relationship. I also realize that some units have a Commissioner in name only (CINO), and other units do not have an assigned commissioner. As my goal is for every unit to have some form of commissioner contact quarterly units that have a CINO or do not have an assigned UC should expect a UC to contact your Key 3 soon for a "pulse check".

To summarize: Commissioners are volunteers whose job is to help ensure that every member of the BSA has a great Scouting experience. We're not here to tell the leaders what to do, or "spy" on you; but we're here to help unit leaders deliver the program successfully and to run a successful unit.

In the meantime, if you need some assistance or advice, please contact me at geauxlsutigers@protonmail.com and I'll have a UC get in touch with you. Please be sure to tell me what type of unit you are and what the issue is so that I can assign an appropriate UC.

Finally, if you're a veteran Scouter who is looking for a new challenge, please contact me at your convenience and let's discuss if the Commissioner Corps is right for you as we're always looking for people who want to help Scouting grow and succeed.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to "seeing you around the campfire".

Yours in Scouting,

Don Olivier, *Ft Brooke District Commissioner*