21 Feb 2025 CST 16 Weekly Commissioner Email

Commissioner Tools Update - Unit Service Improvements

**National 02/14/2025**

A new release of Commissioner Tools will occur on February 18, 2025.  The changes affect all aspects of unit service and aim to simplify and enhance

 the work of commissioners while providing greater support to unit leaders.  They are aligned with and support Scouting America’s Roadmap.

The update introduces Unit Metrics, which include six objective metrics calculated for each unit.  Unit Metrics are combined with a new process called Unit Connections, which promotes meaningful, objective-focused discussions aimed at strengthening units and empowering unit leaders.  Unit Metrics and Unit Connections have replaced subjective scoring and Simple/Detailed Assessments, and Commissioner Tools has been updated to reflect these changes. The overall design of Commissioner Tools will remain the same, ensuring that entering Connections is straightforward and easy to accomplish. Connection Guides are also being introduced, focusing on specific topics related to objective unit metrics and other common unit-level issues, providing helpful methods of communicating effectively with unit leaders.  Click the link for a short overview of the changes: **Error! Filename not specified.**[**The-Future-of-Unit-Service-is-NOW.pdf**](https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/The-Future-of-Unit-Service-is-NOW.pdf)

Additional changes to Commissioner Tools will include an updated Unit Dashboard and an all-new District Dashboard.  Each dashboard will offer useful summaries of unit metrics, detailed report information, and other helpful insights for quick reference. These dashboards are designed to assist unit commissioners, administrative commissioners, and district committee members in better supporting units and fostering success.

**Safety Moment:**

**Wounds—Cuts, Abrasions, And Punctures**

**SUMMARY**

The most common injuries reported at BSA summer camps are cuts, abrasions, and punctures. Most are minor and require little more than basic first aid. However, some injuries can become more serious if not treated correctly. A few simple steps can take care of these annoying injuries and get you back to the action in a hurry and in good shape.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Cuts** are by far the most common of these types of injuries, and they most often involve a woodworking tool—like a pocketknife—that is used as part of our program beginning in Cub Scouting.

**Abrasions,** such as scrapes and friction injuries, are also common. Falling and scraping a knee or hand while running or riding a bicycle are the most common causes.

**Puncture wounds** are those injuries where a sharp, usually narrow object pierces the skin and goes deeply into the tissue. Puncture wounds are less common than cuts or abrasions but do occur at home, in the woods, and at camp. Stepping on a nail, getting a splinter, or being pierced by an awl during leathercraft are frequent causes of puncture wounds.

**First Aid**

Minor wounds are treated the same and use the simple techniques taught in all levels of our program from Cub Scouting to Venturing.

1. Clean the wound: Simple soap and water work fine. In the case of a puncture, remove the small item (splinter, thorn, nail, etc.) unless it is in the face or eye.
2. Treat the wound: A small amount of antibiotic ointment or cream might help prevent infection. Wound-care experts have different opinions on the effectiveness of antibiotic creams, and some have argued that these medications are actually harmful. Others disagree. Be sure you don’t use something that might cause an allergic reaction. Some skip this step altogether and simply cover the wound with a clean bandage.
3. Cover the wound: A clean bandage is all that’s needed for most of these types of injuries, but absorbent  gauze and medical tape might be needed for larger abrasions. Replace a bandage that becomes wet, soiled, or bloody.

**Note that more serious wounds should be handled a bit differently.** Deep punctures, larger cuts, any wound that looks infected (is red, oozes, or is hot), or one that won’t stop bleeding might need to be evaluated by a medical provider. Puncture wounds might especially require attention, as a tetanus booster might be needed. Wounds around eyes and punctures in the chest, neck, or abdomen might also need rapid medical attention. Animal or human bites will require medical attention, especially if the skin is broken. Report to your council any incident that requires medical care beyond simple Scout-rendered first aid.

**RESOURCES**

* **Error! Filename not specified.**[BSA Wilderness First-Aid Curriculum and Doctrine Guidelines](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/680-008.pdf)
* *First Aid* merit badge pamphlet
* **Error! Filename not specified.**[Mayo Clinic, Cuts and scrapes](https://www.mayoclinic.org/first-aid/first-aid-cuts/basics/art-20056711)**Error! Filename not specified.Error! Filename not specified.**[Mayo Clinic, Puncture wounds](https://www.mayoclinic.org/first-aid/first-aid-puncture-wounds/basics/art-20056665)
* Scouts BSA handbooks

*Reviewed January 26, 2024.*

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**Volunteer Newsletter - Week of February 17, 2025**

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**Week of February 17, 2025**

*The Council Service Territory Volunteer Leadership Newsletter is an official weekly digest of information for*

*key local council and council service territory volunteers from multiple official Scouting America sources.*

*Learn more about the items that may be important to you and****please******share appropriate content with other***

***Scouters****.*

**Silver Buffalo Award Class of 2025**

Below are the recipients of the Silver Buffalo Award for 2025. The formal presentation of the awards will be

 at the National Annual Meeting in May. Congratulations to these servant leaders! Registration and other

 information about the National Meeting is scheduled to be released this week **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://nam.scouting.org/).

David Thomas Berry - Keller, Texas

Hon. Gerard J. Boyle - Campton, New Hampshire

Edward A. “Andy” Chapman - Chicago, Illinois

Gary Christiansen - Santa Clarita, California

Donna Jean Copeland - Bartlesville, Oklahoma

Julie A. Dalton - Wichita, Kansas

David Michael Ehrlich - Farmington Hills, Michigan

William Goebel - Greensboro, North Carolina

Linda Goff - Oak Ridge, Tennessee

James K. Hendren - Little Rock, Arkansas

Timothy I. Malaney - Chula Vista, California

Brad Tilden - Seattle, Washington

William Henry “Bill” Topkis - Park City, Utah

Daniel Walters - San Leandro, California

**Creating a Planned Giving Program with Minimal Time or Resources**

Many councils understand the importance of planned giving but struggle to find the time or resources to

launch a program. This session will provide a practical approach to getting started with a simple and effective

 planned giving program. Whether you have no budget, no dedicated staff, or just no idea where to begin,

 this session will give you the essential tools to start cultivating future legacy gifts today. Wednesday,

*February 19th* at 2:00 pm Central. In this session, you will learn:

* Why planned giving is crucial for long-term sustainability
* Three simple ways to start a planned giving program with little effort
* How to identify and engage potential legacy donors
* Easy marketing strategies using existing resources
* How to incorporate planned giving into your current fundraising efforts

Join **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://scouting-org.zoom.us/j/86213292536?pwd=N3JZQThodkFXMlg2YjVqK0NQUHVzUT09) and find previous webinars **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://spaces.hightail.com/space/cQFAO1Pg6L).

**NYLT Leadership Academy Offering Three Courses This Summer**

NYLT Leadership Academy is the premier training experience for National Youth Leadership Training staffers

 and those preparing to be on staff. The focus of this  program is on inspiring and enabling participants  to

 deliver  effective,  world  class National Youth Leadership Training courses in their local councils with special

 emphasis on improving presentation skills, evaluation skills, and on learning in more depth the course

 leadership skills. We offer three weeklong courses held in Northern California, Washington DC, and at

the Philmont Scout Ranch. These courses offer the opportunity to earn college credit through West Virginia

University. For more information, visit  NYLT Leadership Academy **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://nylt-leadershipacademy.org/) and check out our new promotional

 video *Unlocking Leadership Potential, NYLT Leadership Academy for Scouts* **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4r_ZOhUCJo). We are building

tomorrow’s leaders of leaders, one Scout at a time.

**Commissioner Tools**

A new version of Commissioner Tools is scheduled to be released on *February 18*. The changes will impact

 all aspects of unit service and are designed to simplify and improve commissioners' work while offering

greater support to unit leaders. They align with and reinforce Scouting America’s Roadmap. Look **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/The-Future-of-Unit-Service-is-NOW.pdf) and

 on the Home page of My.Scouting for more information.

**National Sea Scout Roundtable**

Join the next National Roundtable, including discussions on planning Long Cruises, Scoutbook to Unit Metrics,

and Recruiting. *February 19* at 9:00 pm Eastern. Register in advance **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_a5kLIvNkRgaK7o4Y9L22vQ).

**Back Issues of the Volunteer Leadership Newsletter**

We have created a repository of the most recent back issues of the*Newsletter*. Find them **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://thoughtsonthetrail.net/).

Be sure to check them out

if you are new to this newsletter and to review earlier issues.

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**Reminders from Previous Newsletters**

National Annual Meeting - *May 12-16 -***Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://nam.scouting.org/)

Recognize Your Donors at the 2025 Good Turn Society Event – *By April 2* - **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://scouting.webdamdb.com/bp/#/folder/12725196/)

National Volunteer Training Conference - *April 24-26*- [here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wbzn8ot7d6MtdejNVmj_nONzQv9dPSQh/view?usp=sharing)

Spring Commissioner Impact Session – *April 26* - **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://laserfiche.scouting.org/Forms/2025SpringImpact)

2025 National Camping School Registration - **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/national-camping-school/)

2025 National Outdoor Conference - *September 17-21-***Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/noc/)

Scouting America Clothing Guideline - **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://www.scouting.org/program-updates/scouting-activity-clothing-guideline/)

**Program Livecasts**

Cub Chat Live (every Friday at 2pm CT) - **Error! Filename not specified.**[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/scoutingmagazine) and **Error! Filename not specified.**[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHjriDGKbdvClf7bYZVE50w)

Troop Talk Live (second Wednesday of each month at 2 pm CT) - **Error! Filename not specified.**[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/scoutingmagazine) and **Error! Filename not specified.**[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHjriDGKbdvClf7bYZVE50w)

Leading our Adventures (every other Friday at 5pm CT) - **Error! Filename not specified.**[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/groups/VenturingBSA) and **Error! Filename not specified.**[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHjriDGKbdvClf7bYZVE50w)

Trek on Tuesday (Tuesdays at Noon PT) - **Error! Filename not specified.**[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/scoutlifemag) and **Error! Filename not specified.**[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/@ScoutLife/streams)

National Exploring Live Hour (Monthly) - Dates and information **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://www.exploring.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/2024-Exploring-Live-Hour-Flyer-FINAL.pdf)

**Webinars**

Creating a Planned Giving Program – *February 19* - **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://scouting-org.zoom.us/j/86213292536?pwd=N3JZQThodkFXMlg2YjVqK0NQUHVzUT09)

Scouts BSA Spring Recruitment Webinar - *February 27 -*register**Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://scouting-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cMXOqKVeQ5ehFynxhmEupw)

2026 National Jamboree - Register for the webinars **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://jamboree.scouting.org/updates/jamboree-informational-webinars/)

* *March 13* - ELEVATE your Questions
* *April 10* – ELEVATE Your Recruitment
* *May 8* – ELEVATE Your Planning

**Important Links**

Youth Safety - **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://www.scouting.org/about/youth-safety/)

Health and Safety - **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](http://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/)

Scouting Emergency Assistance Fund - **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://donations.scouting.org/#/council/NCFD/appeal/6397)

Scouting America Brand Guidelines and Materials - **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://scouting.webdamdb.com/bp/#/folder/13252659/)

Executive Communications - **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://www.scouting.org/about/executive-communications/)

Philmont Training Center 75th Anniversary Conference Registration - **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://www.philmontscoutranch.org/ptc/)

National Council Videos - **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://vimeo.com/user39050689)

High Adventure Bases - **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://www.scouting.org/national-high-adventure-bases/)

National Jamboree - **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://jamboree.scouting.org/)

Council Support - **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://www.scouting.org/council-support/)

National Camp Accreditation Program 2025 Standards - **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/2025-NCAP-Standards-430-056-Web.pdf)

Scouting Forums - **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://discussions.scouting.org/)

Order of the Arrow - **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://oa-bsa.org/)

*Aaron on Scouting* - **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/latest/)

Commissioners - **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://www.scouting.org/commissioners/)

*Abilities Digest* - **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://www.scouting.org/resources/disabilities-awareness/)

Program Updates - **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://www.scouting.org/topics/program-updates/)

Summer Camp Staff Jobs - **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://jobs.scoutlife.org/)

Awards Central - **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://www.scouting.org/awards/awards-central/)

Trail To Adventure Blog - **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/trail-to-adventure/)

Scouting Alumni - **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://scoutingalumni.org/)

Training Resources - **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://www.scouting.org/training/)

Marketing and Recruitment Resources - **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](http://www.scouting.org/recruitment/)

Scouting Newsroom - **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://www.scoutingnewsroom.org/)

Language of Scouting - **Error! Filename not specified.**[here](https://www.scouting.org/resources/los/)

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| |  | | --- | | **INVITATION: March 2, 2025 Council Commissioner Confab** | | | |

***You’re invited to attend our next Council Commissioner Confab on Sunday, March 2, 2025, starting at 8:00 PM (EASTERN).***

***Register in advance for this meeting at:***

**Error! Filename not specified.**<https://scouting-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/QZ_nJVbFQvyb6VKbDgFK5Q>

***PRESENTATION: THRIVE: The Commissioner’s Role in Supporting Strategic Change***

In March, Key 3 members from ~ 70 local councils will meet to explore how to serve more youth better through Scouting. Many of you have been invited;                                                                                      most of you likely have questions.

Scouting America must change to respond to changes in the communities it serves. We’ve seen sharp membership decline; the limited growth experienced                                                                                  more recently won’t enable fulfilling Scouting America’s mission. New strategies, technology, communication tools, and increased collaboration and cooperation

with community partners and among councils (both local and  national) are needed. Those need to be the subject of candid, collaborative discussion…discussions                                                                      that won’t always be easy. Over 150 other councils are available to work with those attending the March meeting. Working with them will enable meeting our goal,                                                                    which isn’t simply to survive, it's to ***THRIVE***.

Commissioners are the voice of the scouts and the unit leaders they serve; they can offer valuable insights into the challenges we face and potential solutions.                                                                              As members of their Key 3, council commissioners must be engaged in these strategic discussions;  their unique perspective will enable linking Scouting                                                                                    America’s boardrooms to its units’ campsites and meeting places. They can also inform others of  Scouting America’s efforts to serve more youth better through Scouting.

***SPEAKER:***

·        Dan Walters, Leadership & Governance Chair, National CST Leadership Team

***BREAKOUT DISCUSSIONS:***

Breakout discussions will enable you to offer your perspective and input.  Topics will include

1.      Is your council structured and positioned for success? If not, what would need to change to enable that?

2.      Would collaboration and partnership with nearby councils enable better engagement of community groups, marketing and public relations,and                                                                                          use of resources such as camps?

3.      Are there opportunities for collaborative agreement, geographic realignment or merger that would enable serving more youth better through Scouting?

4.      What other opportunities can you identify to enable Scouting America to THRIVE?

5.      What do you need to ensure others of Scouting America’s efforts to serve more youth better through Scouting?

We’ll look forward to being with you on March 2!

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**2025 CST 16 Commissioner Colleges and Conferences**

The **Gulf Stream Council**will be holding their annual College of Commissioner Science on **May 10, 2025**.

All commissioners serving in the Gulf Stream Council are encouraged to attend.

Location: Tanah Keeta Camp, 8501 SE Boy Scout Road, Jupiter, Fl 33469

Council Commissioner Tom Sutterfield.... 561 239 4011

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**The** **Greater Tampa Bay Area Council** Commissioner Conference will be March 15, 2025

Location: **GTBAC Council Service Center, 13228 N Central**