

DCS 501 - Class Activity

Thesis/Project topics submitted for the Doctor of Commissioner Science Degree:

Performance Follows Expectations

The purpose of this thesis is to develop a program to improve the quality and quantity of unit commissioner visitations. (25 pages)

Training to Fit Unit Needs, The Commissioner’s Role.

This thesis explores the problem of trained leaders through the eyes of the Unit commissioner. What are the root causes of why we have so few trained leaders and what actions the Unit commissioner can take to help improve the number of trained leaders? (37 pages)

The impact of Commissioner Service on BSA Unit Health and JTE Attainment

This Thesis establishes a direct correlation between consistent unit service to unit health and achievement of JTE goals.

Long Range Camp Promotions Project

Develop long-range plans for 4 council camps to improve the program. This investigates and recommends updates on current program areas and new program features to include fundraising suggestions.

Improving Roundtable Attendance Primer Project

Describe methods that have been successfully used to increase roundtable attendance and share these methods council-wide to help districts increase roundtable attendance.

The list above provides a sampling of the topics commissioners have developed to complete their degree requirements. In the next ten minutes, as a group, list at least 3 possible topics that you might want to pursue as a possible project or thesis topic and describe how unit service could be improved by completing these topics. Also indicate whether you intend the topic to be a project or thesis.

Topic	Objective	Project/Thesis

Guidelines for Consideration for a Doctoral Project/Thesis

(Emphasizing that they should be unit service related)

Thesis or Project: It is recommended that the topic of a project or thesis be related to unit service and to the current commissioner position in which you are registered. There may be specific circumstances under which a topic related to another area of scouting would be appropriate. Local councils have the authority to approve topics related to another area of scouting when selecting one related to unit service isn't appropriate or practical. The council commissioner or designee may authorize an alternate topic.

Final Thoughts:

- A project/Thesis plan should be created with **specific objectives, timelines, measurable goals, and resources required**, etc.
- Doing a project or writing a thesis **requires a written plan** that should be followed.
- **The plan should be submitted** to and reviewed by the Doctoral Review Committee or the doctoral dean and/or the council commissioner. Each College of Commissioner Science should have guidelines for an approval process for a project or a thesis.
- The completed **project should have an after-action** report stating that the goals of the project were met, and the expected benefit has been derived.
- The **intent of doing a project or writing a thesis is for improved unit service** as well as personal growth.

Meet with your project/thesis advisor early and often.