



MCS 315

Effective Unit Service In Rural Communities

Revision date 8/1/2021

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Course / Learning Objectives

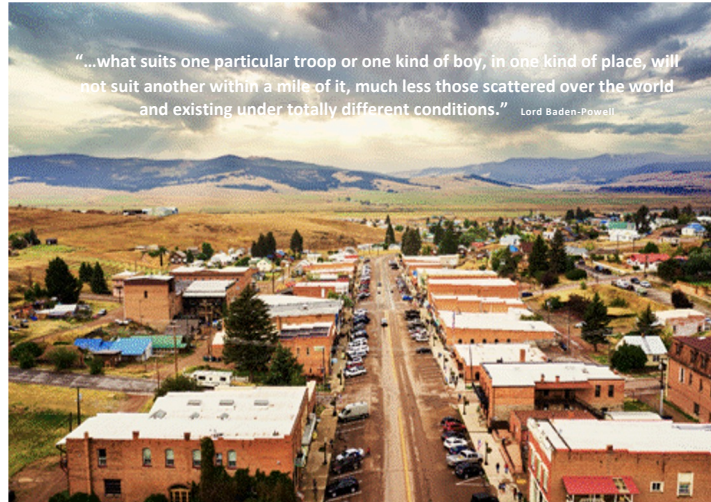


At the end of this training a commissioner will be able to:

- **Understand** the opportunities and challenges of working with rural units.
- **Learn** methods for recruiting leaders and Scouts in rural and distant communities.
- **Receive** and **share** methods to reduce the cost of Scouting.
- **Capture** methods for providing Scouting in small units.

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Rural Communities – the Heartland



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A Different Approach



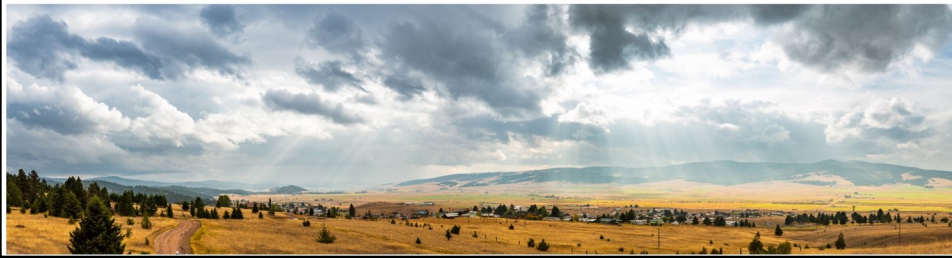
- Time and commitment to earn trust.
- People who live in rural areas are self-sufficient and generous in their community.
- These folks are busy, often holding multiple jobs and volunteer positions.

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People Considerations



- **Be aware of Scouter's life events**
- **Respect cultures and lifestyles**



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Recruiting in Rural Communities



- **Focus on serving youth**
- **Locate previous Scouters**
- **Talk face to face**
- **Learn community history and culture**
- **Get to know community members**

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Communication



- **Be a People Person**
- **Listen to leaders and parents**
- **Empathize**
- **Be responsive and timely**
- **Encourage**
- **Provide immediate recognition**

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Resolving Issues

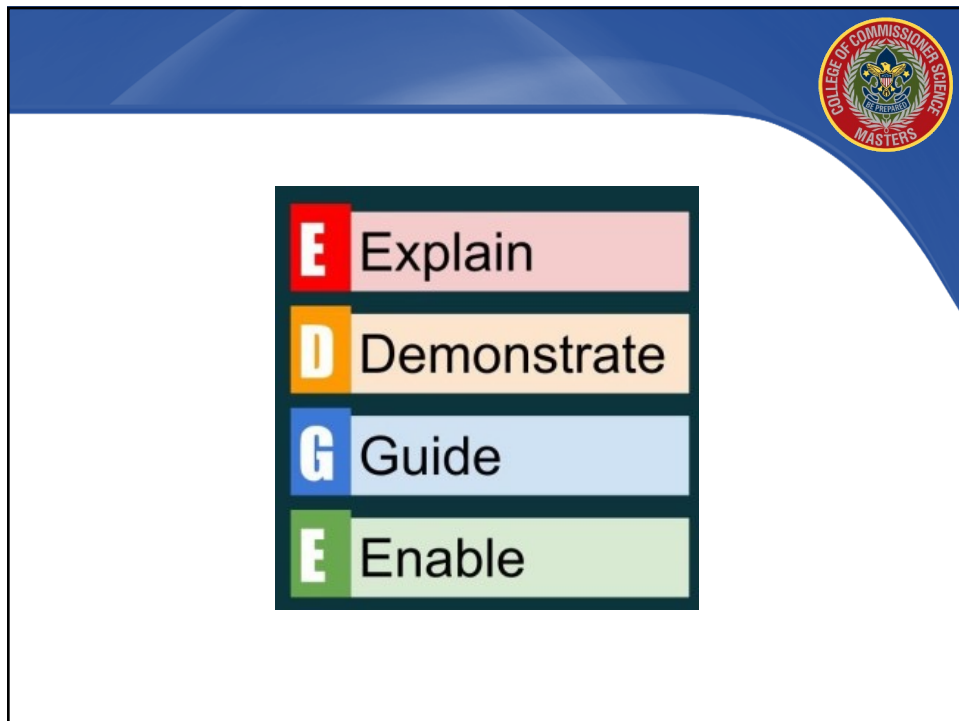


- **Stay Neutral and impartial**
- **Be available**
- **Be adaptable**
- **Alternative approaches**

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Reducing Costs of Scouting



- **Sharing resources**
- **T shirts / Neckerchiefs**
- **Multiple units combining activities**
- **Camperships / Scholarships**
- **Remote meetings / Virtual / Hybrid**

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Small Rural Unit Scouting Options



- **Den aide or Denner instead of den chiefs**
- **Multi-aged dens**
- **Lone Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA**
- **Wagon-wheel troops, weekly patrol meetings, monthly troop meetings**
- **Technology options: virtual meetings, social media, shared drives**
- **Multi-unit activities**

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Learning Check



Review this scenario and discuss as a class

Janet is the new Unit Commissioner for Firestart Council covering Faye county. None of the other Commissioners are in Faye county where 3 units are chartered. Janet has 3 years experience as a unit commissioner, and recently relocated with her family to start a new job at Acme. Janet has 2 older children; both have had the Scouting experience.

Faye county is sparsely populated but has 3 key employers that many residents work for: Acme auto parts, a manufacturing facility; The Refugee and Immigrant Center, temporary home to 500 families and Holy Divinity Bible College, a renowned theological school with 2000 students enrolled, though half are online. There is also a large retirement community in the county.

Janet has some key contacts at Acme, but needs a way to connect to the other big employers and community.

What are some strategies Janet can take to engage existing units and potentially expand Scouting in Faye County?

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Summary & Review



- **Get to know the community and residents**
- **Build relationships and find leaders**
- **Spend time, build community trust**
- **Recognize**
- **Economize**
- **Be flexible**



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College of Commissioner Science



**Questions?
Comments!**

