



DCS 501

Selecting and Limiting the Scope of Your Doctoral Project

Revision date 2/15/2026

Learning Objectives



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

- **Understand** the requirements for the Doctorate Degree and the Doctorate of Commissioner Science Knot
- **Understand** the doctoral project
- **Identify** a project topic and limit the focus

Doctorate Degree Requirements



- Prerequisites
- Course requirements
- Project
- Service as a commissioner

Scouting America
on the recommendation of the

hereby presents this
DOCTORATE OF COMMISSIONER SCIENCE
to

For having satisfactorily completed the program of studies
prescribed by this College of Commissioner Science

Dean of College _____ Date _____ Council Commissioner _____

Prepared. For Life.® Scouting America

The certificate template is enclosed in a decorative border with fleur-de-lis corner ornaments. It features a central blue horizontal band for the recipient's name and another blue band for the date. The Scouting America logo is positioned at the bottom right, and the "Prepared. For Life.®" slogan is at the bottom left.

Doctorate of Commissioner Science Knot



- **Complete Doctorate of Commissioner Science**
- **Tenure**
- **Recruiting**

<https://www.scouting.org/commissioners/recognition/doctorate-award/>

Project Advisor



The Doctoral Project

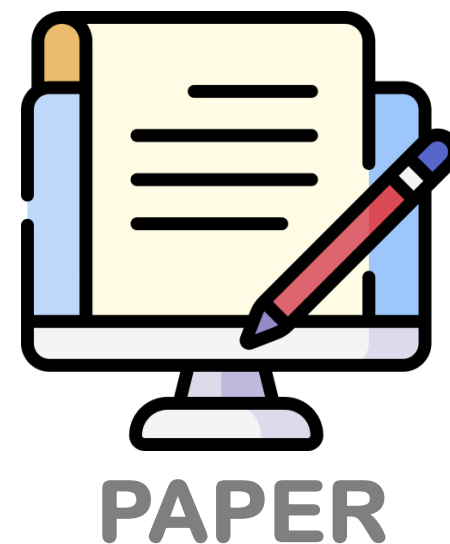


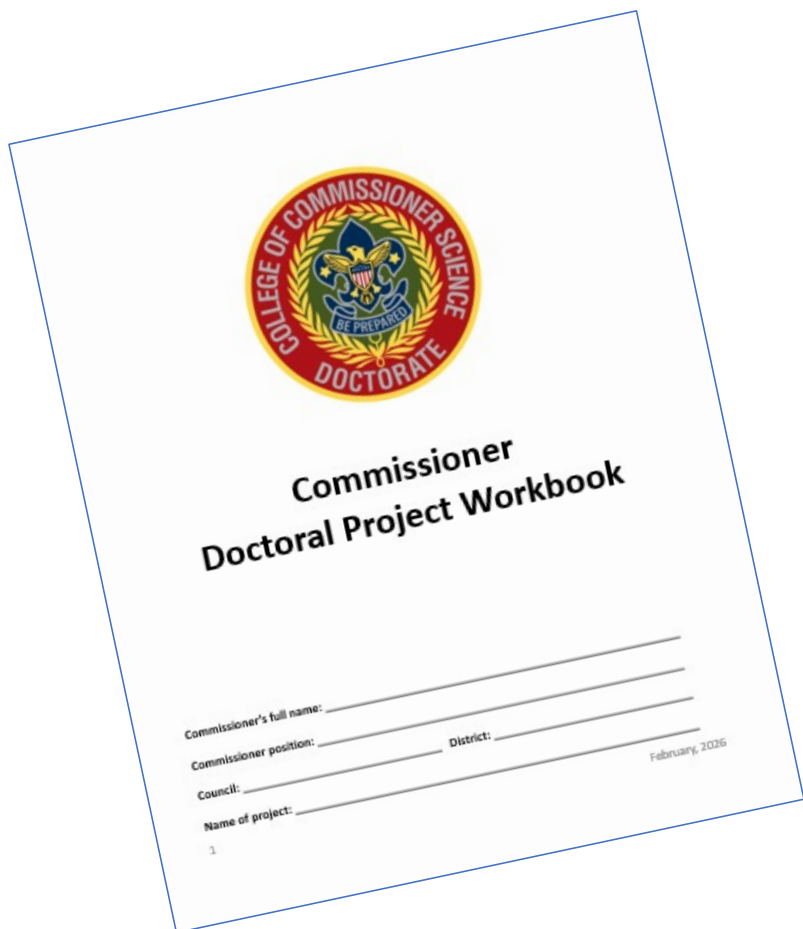
**An Initiative
Contributing to Unit
Service**





The Three Ps





[Commissioner-Doctoral-Project-Workbook-final-Feb-2026.pdf](#)



The workbook helps candidates:

- **Organize their project**
- **Demonstrate that the project meets S.M.A.R.T. standards**
- **Record approvals and signatures**
- **Document results, lessons learned, and recommendations for future use**

Doctoral Project and Scope



**Identify an Aspect of Unit
Service You Wish to Impact**



Limiting the Scope



Factors to Consider





SMART



Specific



Measurable



Attainable



Relevant



Time Based

Class Activity





Guidebook for Earning the



Doctorate of Commissioner Science Degree and Doctorate of Commissioner Science Knot Award



Revision date January 2026

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<https://www.scouting.org/commissioners/training/college-of-commissioner-science/doctorate-courses/>

Summary



- **Specific objectives, timelines, goals**
- **Written plan**
- **Plan submitted**
- **After-action report**
- **Improved unit service**

***Meet with your project advisor
early and often!***



**Questions?
Comments!**

