



DCS 503

Developing Your Doctoral Project

Revision date 2/15/2026



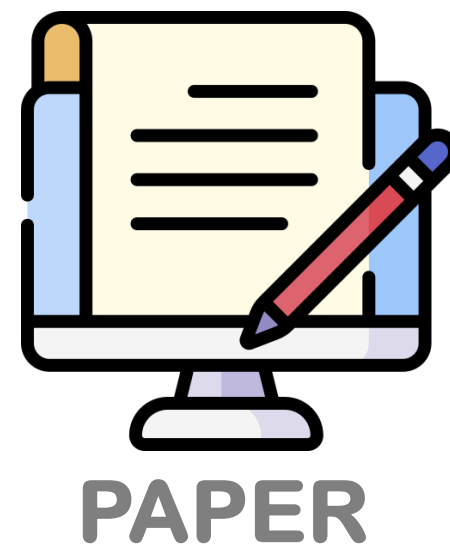
Learning Objectives

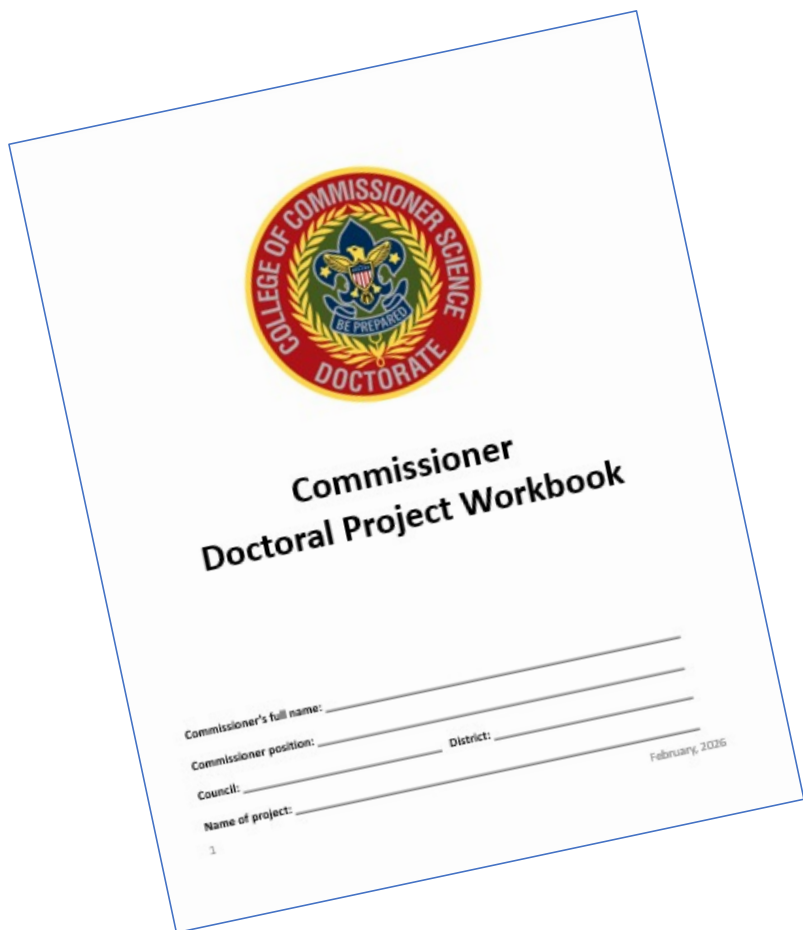
By the end of this training, a commissioner will be able to:

- **Develop** your doctoral project plan
- **Identify** methods of gathering information
- **Draft** an outline for your project



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**

Project Development



- **Research and preplanning**
- **Draft an outline**
- **Build your project schedule**
- **Confirm your plan**
- **Execute the Plan**
- **Results**





Research Sources

Where might you find information?

Internet Research*

Library Research*

Surveys/Questionnaires

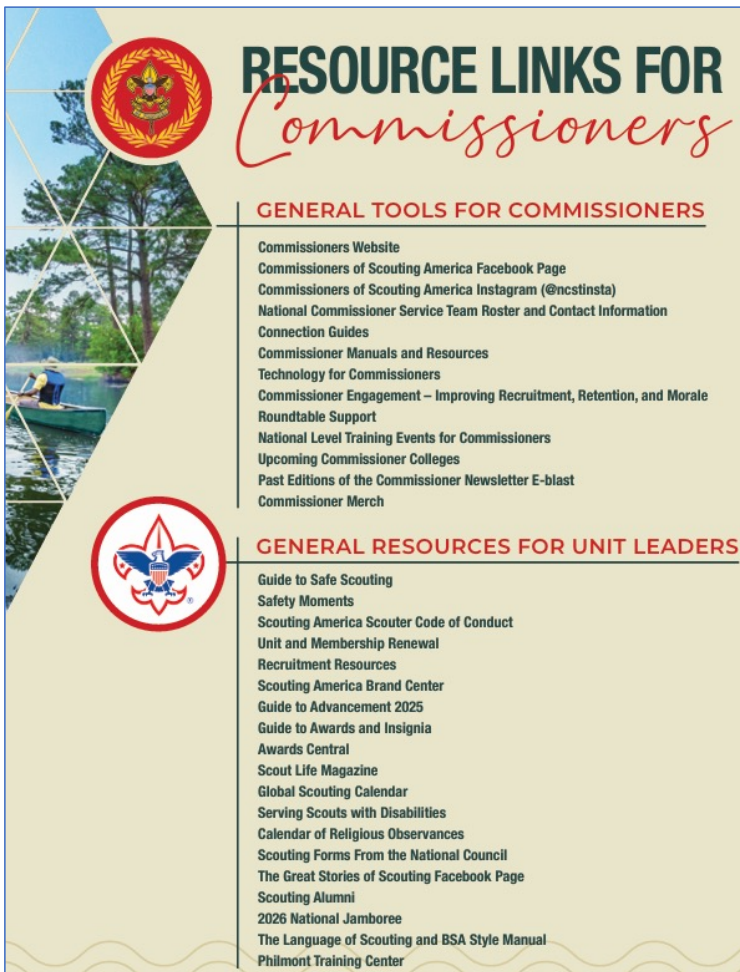
Interviews

Scouting Literature*

Group Interviews

Other Related Data

***Review current literature related to the topic**



RESOURCE LINKS FOR
Commissioners

GENERAL TOOLS FOR COMMISSIONERS

- Commissioners Website
- Commissioners of Scouting America Facebook Page
- Commissioners of Scouting America Instagram (@ncstinsta)
- National Commissioner Service Team Roster and Contact Information
- Connection Guides
- Commissioner Manuals and Resources
- Technology for Commissioners
- Commissioner Engagement – Improving Recruitment, Retention, and Morale Roundtable Support
- National Level Training Events for Commissioners
- Upcoming Commissioner Colleges
- Past Editions of the Commissioner Newsletter E-blast
- Commissioner Merch

GENERAL RESOURCES FOR UNIT LEADERS

- Guide to Safe Scouting
- Safety Moments
- Scouting America Scouter Code of Conduct
- Unit and Membership Renewal
- Recruitment Resources
- Scouting America Brand Center
- Guide to Advancement 2025
- Guide to Awards and Insignia
- Awards Central
- Scout Life Magazine
- Global Scouting Calendar
- Serving Scouts with Disabilities
- Calendar of Religious Observances
- Scouting Forms From the National Council
- The Great Stories of Scouting Facebook Page
- Scouting Alumni
- 2026 National Jamboree
- The Language of Scouting and BSA Style Manual
- Philmont Training Center

- **Official information for your role as a commissioner and common questions asked by units**



[Resource Links Guide](#)



Questionnaires and Interviews

- **Decide what information you are trying to get**
- **Remove bias**
- **Put your questions in a logical order**
- **Avoid “Yes” or “No” questions**



Questionnaires and Interviews

If using a rating scale, avoid a middle-of-the-road response:

Example: How was this class?

😐 A Worst – 1 2 3 4 5 – Best

X



😊 B Worst – 1 2 3 4 - Best





After Research – Then What?



- **Organize Data**



- **Develop a Preliminary Outline**

Analyzing Data



- **If using statistics, how valid is your sample?**
- **Make sure notes include where you got the information**
- **Save ALL of your materials**



ACTION PLAN

Writing Your Project Report



- **Organize notes according to the outline**
- **Organize diagrams**
- **Give accurate credit to sources**
- **Attachments– What could be included?**
- **Language of Scouting**

“Language of Scouting”



The rules in the "Language of Scouting" found at

<https://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Media/LOS.aspx>

will come in handy as you write your project report.



Write Your First Draft



- Write your first draft
- Read it aloud
- Does it make sense?
- Have you achieved your aim?



Proofread
Revise
Meet with advisor

Save Your Work



**Save all of your work on your computer
OR
Make a copy of all of your documentation.**

Meet with your project advisor



Breakout Session



Guidebook for Earning the



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



Revision date January 2026

1



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

Summary



- **Develop** your doctoral project plan
- **Identify** methods of gathering information.
- **Draft** an outline for your project



**Questions?
Comments!**

