THE COMMISSIONERS' INTERNET RESOURCES WORKSHOP

Version 2.0 - February 1996

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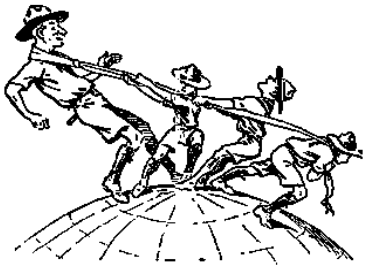


Welcome to the Commissioners' Internet Resources Workshop! I hope you enjoy it. This course was designed for Commissioners with some experience under their belts and an interest in using the vast resources available on the Internet via a personal computer to help Districts, Troops, Posts, Packs, and Ships to improve their programs. However, this information is not limited to just Commissioners, it is for anyone interested in helping to Deliver the Promise of Scouting to youth members. This workshop is the result of over two years of effort in collecting and preparing information in order to give you the best possible foundation in using all of the resources available to you to serve as a volunteer Scouter.

Just in case you may not be an experienced Commissioner or Scouter, I have included a lot of introductory information on the Commissioner Service and how to make it work for you. This should help you have a good foundation on the basics before we switch into high gear and move on to the Information Superhighway.

After the basics of Commissioner Service operation, you will find information on how to get access to the Internet and a primer on e-mail.

Once you are comfortable with e-mail, we'll explore how to use the rest of the Internet's resources to get to valuable resources ranging from sample ceremonies, information on Scouting events, Scouting policies, copies of various Scouting books and manuals, graphics files and much more.

Finally, you will also have the opportunity to put all of the basics and resources to use as test your skills as a Commissioner by working through some practical discussion questions.

A few lines down you will find a detailed Table of Contents for this set of Web Pages that will help you navigate through all of the information you can find here. And if you are just interested in skipping down to the Internet Resources, please be patient and keep scrolling down - you will hit pay dirt!

Now before I get to far, let me start off by saying that I am by no means a computer or internet expert. Many of you will know things about either computers, software, the Internet or all of the above which have simply escaped my attention or have exceeded my limited knowledge. If you have ideas, suggestions for improvement or comments, please do not hestitate to let me know so that I can continue to make this workshop more useful to more Scouters like you.

A SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS

This Web Page would not have been possible without the tremendous and dedicated support of L. Gary Hendra. The fact that I live in Virginia and that Gary lives in California is alone testiment to power and potential of using information technologies as a resource in Scouting. Perhaps Gary and I will meet somewhere other than in cyberspace at some future time, but in the meantime I am grateful that Gary has extended the hand of Scouting fellowship to make this information available to you. At some points in this presentation you will notice that some of the pages for Internet Resources are shared both by this page and Gary's Internet Scouting Resources Page.

This is because, we have joined forces instead of wandering separate paths to try to maximize our efforts provide all Scouters with the best possible information on Internet Resources Available to Scouters. My hat is off to Gary with heartfelt thanks. Now on with the show!

DISCLAIMERS - A SAD NECESSITY

Official Policy and Opinion

This Web page and related Web pages are the original work of the author, except where the work of another is specifically identified. Any opinions expressed here are strictly those of the author. These Web pages should not be regarded as expressing any official policy on behalf of the Boy Scouts of America, rather they are interpretations suggested by the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the World Organization of Scout Movements (WOSM) or the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). For official rules, regulations, policy, and guidance you should contact a member of your local Council's professional staff or refer to the Official Literature of the Boy Scouts of America.

Use of this Web Page

This Commissioners' Internet Resources Workshop was designed by Michael F. Bowman mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG for use in the George Washington District, National Capital Area Council. It is provided here as a reference source and a starting point for designing similar workshops in other councils. Please feel free to substitute your own local information for local information contained in this document. Registered members of any Scouting or Guiding Organization are free to use this material to help promote the aims of Scouting. However, Part 2, Section 2 cannot be used unless it is used in its entirety and reflects that the material is copyrighted to Dr. Bob Rankin, who has generously given permission for dissemination of the information.

Seminar Participation - Sorry But You'll Have to Do It Yourself

This Web page includes a sample advanced seminar for Commissioners. This seminar is provided as a sample only. The idea is for you to conduct a similar seminar in your own Council and to moderate e-mail discussion. Mike is not set up to run multiple seminars and has restricted participation to his local council. However, he welcomes comments, suggestions, ideas and informal discussion.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- PART 1 - LET'S STRENGTHEN OUR ABILITY TO SERVE UNITS AS COMMISSIONERS -- DELIVERING THE PROMISE
  - 1. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE
  - 2. IDENTIFYING THE BASIC BUILDING BLOCKS
    - What Is the Commissioner Service? How Is It Organized?
    - What Are It's Purposes and Goals?
    - What Do They Do? -- Job Descriptions for District Commissioner, Assistant District Commissioner, and Unit Commissioner
    - What Methods Are Used? -- Keys to Success include Communications, Resources and Training
    - What Is A Unit Service Plan?
  - 3. LAYING THE FOUNDATION
    - What Is the Role of a Unit Commissioner?
    - What Is the Role of an Assistant District Commissioner?
    - What Is an Annual Service Plan?
  - 4. BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE COMMISSIONER SERVICE - CHALLENGES
    - How Do You Recruit People?
    - How Can You Get New Commissioners Ready to Succeed?
    - How Do You Guide or Manage Them?
    - What Are Some Early Warning Signs of Trouble?
    - How Do You Respond to Challenges?
    - How Do You Recognize Burnout?

- 5. WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU -- USING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TO DELIVER THE PROMISE
  - Official BSA Literature
  - Communications
  - Resources you can use to help units
  - Training to improve commissioner service to units
  - Records & Data
  - Future Possibilities

PART 2 - BEGINNING BASICS -- EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT E-MAIL: USING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS

- 1. HOW TO GET YOUR FOLKS STARTED - GETTING ACCESS TO E-MAIL & THE INTERNET
  - E-mail - A Short Introduction
  - Nettiquette
  - Abbreviations You'll See
  - Using Community Freenets
  - Internet Access in the Washington, D.C. Area and in Your Local Area
  - National Commercial On-Line Services
- 2. DR. BOB RANKIN'S GUIDE TO OFFLINE INTERNET ACCESS (THIS CONTAINS A WEALTH OF USEFUL INFORMATION FOR ALL SCOUTERS)
  - How to Access Internet Services by E-mail

- Finding the Latest Version
- Acknowledgements
- A Short Aside... "What is the Internet?"
- The Rules of The Game
- FTP BY E-MAIL
- ARCHIE BY E-MAIL
- GOPHER BY E-MAIL
- VERONICA BY E-MAIL
- USENET BY E-MAIL
- An Alternative Usenet->E-mail Method
- Yet Another Usenet->E-mail Method!
- WAIS SEARCHES BY E-MAIL
- World-Wide Web By E-Mail
- Finding a Mailing List
- New in These Parts?
- FINGER BY E-MAIL
- "DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE" BY E-MAIL
- A FEW NET-GOODIES
- SUGGESTED READING
- CONTACTING THE AUTHOR
- MORE PUBLICATIONS FROM DOCTOR BOB!

3. RESOURCE BOOKS ON THE INTERNET

(This bibliography is dated, but is still useful)

- Books on Hooking Up to the Internet
- Books for New Internet Users
- Online Resources for Experienced Internet Users

PART 3 - YOU WON'T BELIEVE THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO YOU: USING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TO CAPTURE SCOUTING RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET

1. SCOUTING RELATED BULLETIN BOARD SERVICES (BBSs)
   - Gajuka Lodge BBS
   - NCAC - Southern Maryland District BBS
   - Phoneix BBS - Phoneix, Arizona
   - BBSs Which Carry Scouting-Related Conferences
   - SCOUTNET
2. SCOUTING RELATED DISCUSSION GROUPS (Mailing Lists, Newsgroups, Usenet, and Others)
   - Alpha Phi Omega APO-L
   - Arrow-L: Membership is limited to members of the Order of the Arrow
   - CAN.SCOUT-GUIDE Newsgroup - Focus on Scouts Canada Open to all Scouts
   - DPVC-L: Des Plaines Valley Council List
   - E-SCOUTS: Open to all Youth Serving Orgainizations - Primarily BSA with focus on Information Technology
   - Explorer-Net: Open to all Explorers

- Guiding List: Devoted to Girl Guiding Issues
- JAMBO97: Devoted to discussions in preparation for the 1997 BSA National Jamboree
- J-SCOUT: For Jewish Scouts, Open to all Scouts
- NCAC-L: National Capital Area Council List
- PATCH-L: For Scout and Guide Patch Traders
- Philmont's PSA-List: For Philmont Staff and Alumni
- Rec.Scouting - USENET
- Scouting Canada - ScoutsCan-L: Open to all Canadian Scouts
- Scouting ES - Scouts Espanol: Lista de Distribucion Sobre Escultismo & Guidismo en Espanol
- Scouting-Europe: Open to all Scouts - Focus on European Scouting Issues
- Scouting-NL: Open to all Scouts - Netherlands - Dutch and English Languages
- Scouts-Girls-L: For GSUSA members
- Scouts-L: Open to all Youth Serving Organizations - Primarily BSA
- Scouts-LDS: Open to all interested in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Scouting Related Matters
- Worth Noting -- E-mail Odds 'n Ends

3. SCOUTING RELATED FTP SITES

- FTP Sites
- Goodies

4. SCOUTING RELATED IRCs

- IRCs
- Goodies

5. SCOUTING RELATED RESOURCES ON THE ONLINE SERVICES
   - America Online
   - Compuserve
   - Delphi
   - Genie
   - I RIME or Intelec
   - Microsoft
   - National Videotex Network
   - Others
   - Prodigy
6. SCOUTING RELATED RESOURCES ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB (WWW)
   - Best Bets to Start - Comprehensive Web Sites
   - Alpha Phi Omega
   - Adventure & High Adventure
   - Baden-Powell
   - Boy Scout Program
   - Boy Scout Troops
   - Camps and Scout Reservations
   - Councils and Districts

- Cub Scout Packs
- Cub Scouting
- Explorer Posts
- Exploring
- Girl Scouts USA
- International Guiding and Scouting
- Jamborees
- Non-Scouting Web Sites of Interest
- Order of the Arrow
- Other BSA Related Sites
- Sea Exploring
- Training and Leadership
- Wood Badge

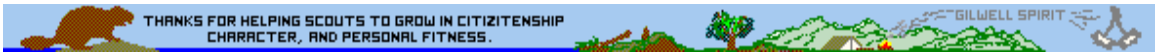
PART 4 - USING THE BASICS AND INFORMATION RESOURCES TO TRAIN COMMISSIONERS BY E-MAIL - PUTTING YOUR KNOWLEDGE TO THE TEST

1. Setting Up An E-mail Course - Sample Introduction and Instructions
2. Setting Up An E-mail Course - Sample Discussion Questions

- Scenario # 1 - COMMISSIONER'S NIGHTMARE
- Scenario # 2 - WHO’S MINDING THE STORE?
- Scenario # 3 - EAGER BEAVERS
- Scenario # 4 - THE TROOP FROM HELL
- Scenario # 5 - THE ANCIENT ONE

- Scenario # 6 - CONFLICT OF INTEREST?

3. Setting Up An E-mail Course - Online Help & Hints for the Discussion Questions
   - Scenario # 1 - COMMISSIONER'S NIGHTMARE
   - Scenario # 2 - WHO'S MINDING THE STORE
   - Scenario # 3 - EAGER BEAVERS
   - Scenario # 4 - THE TROOP FROM HELL
   - Scenario # 5 - THE ANCIENT ONE
   - Scenario # 6 - CONFLICT OF INTEREST?
4. Course Evaluation



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