

SCOUTS-L

**UNIVERSITY OF
SCOUTING**

Date: Wed, 14 Aug 1996 00:43:15 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>
To: SCOUTS-L - Youth Groups Discussion List <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
Subject: Re: Univ. of Scouting

Richard Axtman asked,

- > 1) What is the University of Scouting?
- > 2) Where is it, is it offered at different colleges?
- > 3) How can you attend?
- > 4) Where can we find more information?

BSA uses the University of Scouting as an annual continuing education program for Scouters. Typically, for Councils following the program recommended by National, the University of Scouting will be held on one day using a university in miniature approach. Participants may select from a number of courses related to their areas of service in Scouting to learn more about how to do their jobs. The purpose is to provide practical training.

In keeping with the model of using a college or university in miniature the courses are given numbers like BCS101 (Introduction to Commissioner Science) or MCS302 (Master's Program - Unit Finance) and participants work on a bachelor's program the first year, a master's program the second year, and a doctoral program in the third and fourth years.

In some Councils the Univeristy of Scouting may be more limited, but a full blown University of Scouting has separate Colleges for Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Exploring, and Comissioner Science with training offered on site for Den Chiefs. Here in the National Capital Area Council we offer the full selection (we also have a Cub Scout Leaders' Pow Wow a few months earlier).

All registered Scouters are invited to attend. It is up to local Councils to publisize the details for their own variations. So you will have to talk with your Council's Program Department to learn more about the who, what, where, when stuff.

The location varies greatly. In our area we have been lucky to have George Mason University and the University of Maryland to host the University of Scouting in successive years. Other Councils have used colleges, universities, meeting halls, Scout camps, high schools, and

whatever was big enough to handle the number of folks attending.

To give you more of an idea about what the degree requirements are I'm including a summary from the College of Commissioner Science:

BSA's Continuing Education for Commissioners, No. 33165 (1995) at page 19

sets forth SUGGESTED degree requirements as follows (many Councils including ours have altered these requirements slightly to adapt to local or unique circumstances; e.g. six instead of seven courses for a degree):

Bachelor of Commissioner Science Degree (BCS)

Prerequisites

Current registration as a commissioner, including those recently recruited.

Completion of commissioner orientation (Commissioner Fieldbook, pages 3-6)

Completion of commissioner basic training

Course Requirements

Completion of seven courses of instruction, at least five of the courses at the bachelor's program level

Performance

Approval of district commissioner

Approval of district executive

Master of Commissioner Science Degree (MCS)

Prerequisites

Completion of bachelor's degree or have been awarded the Commissioner's

Key

Earned the Arrowhead Honor

Current registration as a commissioner

Course Requirements

Completion of seven additional courses of instruction (total of fourteen), at least seven of the courses at the master's program level

Performance

Approval of district commissioner

Approval of district executive

Doctor of Commissioner Science Degree (DCS)

Prerequisites

Completion of master's degree

Have been awarded the Commissioner's Key

Current registration as a commissioner

Course Requirements

Completion of ten additional courses of instruction (total of twenty-four), at least five of the courses at the doctor's program level

Thesis or Research Project

Completion of a thesis or research project on any topic of value to Scouting in the local council.

The topic and final paper must be approved by the dean of the doctor's program and the staff advisor

Performance

Serve on the College of Commissioner Science faculty (instructor or support staff) for at least one year

Recruit at least three new commissioners

Approval of district commissioner

Approval of district executive

**Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman
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