

District Roundtables



To provide unit
leadership with the
will to do...

This important part of commissioner service is covered in detail in the annual *Roundtable Planning Guides* that provide complete methods and month-by-month suggestions for each of the monthly roundtables.

The Purpose of the Roundtable

1. To provide the skill to do—skills, techniques, information, program ideas—the know-how that makes for successful unit operation.
2. To provide unit leadership with the will to do—the morale, enthusiasm, inspiration, and vision that periodically renew the desire to serve youth.

Who Attends Roundtables?

They are designed for all unit leaders.

1. Cub Scout leader roundtables are for Cubmasters, den leaders, Webelos den leaders, all assistants, and pack committee members.
2. Boy Scout leader roundtables are for Scoutmasters, assistant Scoutmasters, and troop committee members.
3. Varsity leader huddles are for Varsity Scout Coaches and other team leaders.
4. Venturing forums are for adult crew leaders. On occasion, youth officers should attend also.

The Successful Roundtable

People will want to come when:

1. They get specific helps they can use during the coming month.
2. There is a separate, helpful session for each program phase. Cub Scouting people are not much interested in discussing Boy Scouting, nor do Venturing leaders want to spend the evening watching Cub Scout demonstrations.
3. There is a genuine sense of fellowship. They need to feel that they are wanted, that they are important, that they belong.
4. Learning is largely by doing or watching instead of just listening. The ideal is to let the individual watch and then practice.
5. A dependable schedule is maintained. This means both a regular night and a regular hour for opening and closing. Roundtables early in the month allow time for other steps in unit program planning before the end of the month.



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6. Every item in the program has been thoughtfully planned, carefully prepared, and snappily executed. The most important factor in next month's attendance is this month's program.
7. Physical arrangements are good.

To ensure a good program:

1. Make it the place to get program material.
2. Plan and assign parts well in advance.
3. Build part of the program around next month's theme.
4. Use competent masters of ceremonies to preside.
5. Include practical and useful items for unit people.
6. Use unit people to help with the program.
7. Use some activities that involve the participation of everyone.
8. Emphasize action and doing rather than sitting and listening.
9. Include fellowship and morale features, and have refreshments at the end of the program.
10. Keep it positive. Feature success.

To secure full attendance:

1. Be sure the roundtable program is practical and fun.
2. Involve many people in the production of the roundtable.
3. Provide good publicity before and after each roundtable.
4. Recognize attendance, and give credit for good attendance—both individual and unit.
5. When organizing each new unit, explain how roundtables help the unit.

Unit commissioner participation is important. Some proven ways of promoting it are:

1. Recognition by the commissioner staff that the roundtable is their party at which they are hosts.
2. Recognition by the commissioner staff that the roundtable is a basic part of their position.
3. Each unit commissioner should feel responsible for the attendance and participation of the people from his or her units.
4. Agreement in the commissioner staff that assigning a roundtable commissioner to a roundtable does not relieve others of responsibility for roundtable attendance.

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