

Unit Contacts - DON'T MISS THE BOAT

Recently, one of our Commissioners went on a Caribbean Cruise. He flew to a city close to his departure area several days in advance. Through no fault of his own, his onward travel was delayed several times and the ship left before his arrival. He literally "missed the boat".

Somehow, in my own way of thinking this made a Scouting connection. As Commissioners we are members of a Scouting community and, at least in theory, visit our friends in that community regularly. Do we take advantage of all the opportunities available for these visits?

Unit Contact Reporting is an outcome of our visitations. Recently, there has been a move to increase Commissioner Visitation to each individual Unit at Scout camp during the summer. This is a wonderful opportunity for Commissioners to work as a "Friend of the Unit" by working as a facilitator between Camp Staff and the Unit; visiting daily for updates and problem solving; and reporting these visitations through UVTS or whatever system the new Commissioner Toolbox will provide.

As good as this opportunity is, could something be missing? Is Scout Camp the only "cruise" taken by Units throughout the year? What other opportunities are there for Commissioners to visit many Units at one location throughout the year? Commissioners regularly visit District Roundtables and then make individual Unit Contact Reports.

Commissioners are generally invited to do booth judging at Mega Scout Expo each year. Do we not speak to the members of each of the Units represented and learn about them? Do we stop and speak to Scouts and Unit Leaders when we see them at businesses selling Camp Cards or Popcorn? Rendezvous and other events can bring many Units together for a fun Scouting weekend. Do we use this opportunity for Unit Contact? Cub Scout Day Camps and events can be another source of Unit Contact by Commissioners. There may be many more events that bring Units together under scouting programs that would make individual visitations within the group possible.

As Commissioners, we should be aware of our Units and their upcoming events. Don't let them "sail" without us.