

DIRECT CONTACT LEADER TRAINING

Direct Contact Leader training has improved slightly in the Districts this year. As District Commissioners you are the quality control officer of your District. The District Key 3 is made up of the District Chair, District Commissioner and District Executive, each with individual tasks, many overlap.

The District Executive oversees the District from a Council point of view and is in a position of having to do anything required that the District Volunteers do not accomplish; he has a big job! The District Chair is responsible for District Committees and oversees their operation. The District Commissioner is directly responsible to serving the interests of the youth in the program through the Commissioner Service Plan. He is the only member of the Key 3 with this specific task and the only member of the Key representing the youth.

Without guidance, anything a person does is a trial and error proposition. Too many adults involved in Scouting are allowed to “practice” their roles on the youth with varying results, some of which have led to injury or death. As equal members of the Key 3, the District Commissioner MUST work with the Committee Chair and Executive to assure ALL direct Contact leaders are trained in their current position. Even direct contact leaders who have received training years ago need to have their training updated to current BSA standards.

Trainings are provided by the Districts at many times throughout the year. They are advertised and promoted, yet few people attend. As quality control officers we must ask ourselves “why is this happening” and “how can we correct it”? Apathy has been allowed to prevail; our Scouts deserve better.

For better or worse, it is the duty of the District to train its members, just as the District Commissioner is tasked with Commissioner Training in his District. With the guidance of the Quality Control Officer, all aspects of District training need to be addressed. Find the REAL issues keeping Scouters from becoming trained. Is it location, timing, course material, poor instruction, or just lack of interest in getting the job done? Whatever it is; whatever it takes; we must do this for our Scouts!

How many generations will be positively influenced by what we do in Scouting today?