

Doctorate of Commissioner Science Knot Award

The National Council has established a new square knot award for commissioners that have earned a Doctorate of Commissioner Science from a College of Commissioner Science. In our case this is the Hampton Roads Area Commissioners College up to 2002 or the University of Scouting 2002 to present.

This training is extensive and takes a number of years to complete. The commissioner finalizes his/her training with an approved thesis or project for the benefit of the Scouting program.

Having a knot award for the program requires that the commissioner complete, as a minimum, a training program standardized for all BSA programs. Our program in Tidewater Council has met all the qualifications of the standardized program and is eligible for the award.

The purpose of the recognition is to have a square knot to represent the doctorate award which we already present at Commissioners College. The doctorate is the real award here. The square knot simply provides a visible uniform recognition of the award that was earned.

Minimum Requirements:

Tenure

Serve as a commissioner for a **minimum of 5 years**. Their service can be in one or more commissioner roles or positions of service.

Training

A. Bachelor of Commissioner Science Degree (BCS)

Prerequisites

1. Maintain registration in any capacity as a Commissioner during the entire training program listed below.
2. Complete Commissioner orientation
3. **Complete commissioner basic training.**

Course Requirements

Complete a minimum of seven (7) courses of instruction, at least five (5) of the courses at the Bachelor's program level as listed in the Continuing Education for Commissioners manual.

Performance

1. Approval of Council Commissioner
2. Approval of Scout Executive

B. Master of Commissioner Science Degree (MCS)

Prerequisites

1. Completion of bachelor's degree.
2. **Earned Arrowhead Honor.**
3. Current registration as a commissioner.

Course Requirements

Complete a minimum of seven (7) additional courses of instruction (total of 14), at least seven (7) of the courses at the Master's program level as listed in the Continuing Education for Commissioners manual.

Performance

1. Approval of Council Commissioner
2. Approval of Scout Executive

C. Doctor of Commissioner Science Degree (DCS)

Prerequisites

1. Completion of master's degree.
2. Have been awarded the Commissioner's Key.
3. Current registration as a commissioner.

Course Requirements

Complete a minimum of ten (10) additional courses of instruction not used to qualify for other college awards (total of 24), at least five (5) of the courses at the doctor's program level as listed in the Continuing Education for Commissioners manual.

Thesis or Project

1. Completion of a thesis or project on any topic of value to Scouting in the local council.
2. The topic and final paper or project must be approved by the council commissioner, or assigned assistant council commissioner, or the dean of the doctorate program and the staff advisor for commissioner service.

Performance

1. Serve on the College of Commissioner Science faculty (instructor or support staff) or work with training support for commissioners for at least one year.
2. Recruit at least three new commissioners at any level.
3. Approval of Council Commissioner
3. Approval of Scout Executive

Grandfather or Sunset Clause:

Since the key requirement of this award is tied to an approval of a Thesis (Councils with a Commissioner's College) or Project (Councils without a Commissioners College) that is only earned once, this award is retroactive for individuals who have completed other requirements prior to the approval of this award. This clause applies for the previous 10 years. Any commissioner who meets these requirements would need to list any courses they have completed previously and then complete their thesis or project to apply for the award.

Anyone who earned their doctorate at the Hampton Roads Area Commissioners College is eligible as our doctorate meets the current qualifications and they will not have to repeat what they have already completed, even if it was prior to 10 years ago.

Award Knot Qualifying Certification and Availability:

The knot will be ordered by the council and available for purchase in the Scout Shop. I roster of Scouters who hold a doctorate from the Hampton Roads Area Commissioners College will be available to store personnel to verify a person's eligibility for the award. Anyone who earned a doctorate at another commissioner college will have to show the council commissioner/staff advisor what they have done and then be approved. Future doctoral candidates will receive their square knot as part of the ceremony when their degree is awarded by our Council's Commissioners College.