

March Commissioner Service

By Kevin Baker

I am writing this month's edition for the e-Totem sitting in airports and airplanes on my way back from Kentucky. Jo Lyn & I went to Lexington, Kentucky this past weekend to visit our son who has graduated from Culinary School and just accepted at the University of Kentucky to continue his education. So now you wonder what does this have to do with the Boy Scouts and Commissioner Service? We heard a couple of very impressive speakers at the commencement. One was the Chancellor and the other the Executive Vice-President of Sullivan University in Louisville & Lexington, KY. Both were great speakers and focused as you might expect on the accomplishments and challenges that face the graduates in attendance. The Executive VP is an Eagle Scout and former Scoutmaster. My ears perked up when one graduate, out of over 500 graduates, was specially recognized for his service to the homeless and at-risk youth. He had earned his culinary degree so that he would be better prepared to support a personal "mission". And he's a Scoutmaster as well. Following that experience I began to wonder just how many of those adults and youth in the audience, graduates and families of graduates, had been touched by the Boy Scouts of America? I know that my son's experience was positive and helped to shape his future. He might not have known it at the time but it did. He knows that now. The impact becomes exponential. And it all begins with a great program in an active Scouting unit in the many councils across this country and in other parts of the world. Many of these units are supported by a dedicated Unit Commissioner. And the leaders who attend a Roundtable led by a dedicated Roundtable staff are further supported. They get great ideas and training that they take back to their units to strengthen their program. Commissioner service is dedicated to the success of the units served. And every unit deserves one of those dedicated Unit & Roundtable Commissioners. Thanks to all of you who give that extra time to ensure that our leaders are successful. When the leaders are successful the program grows and the youth benefit in ways that we may never really realize at the time. But trust me...they do! Who influenced you? Good chance there was a dedicated commissioner helping behind the scenes to ensure that leader's success. If you can find a bit more time...let your District Commissioner know you would like to be a commissioner. It's fun and absolutely worth it!