

TIPS for a better Relationship



- A. Intentionally begin to build a good relationship with your professional from your very first visit. Be positive. Be enthusiastic. Be well prepared. Think in advance about the impression you want to make as one of the trusted volunteers of the district.
- B. Be accessible to your professional adviser. Exchange phone numbers, e-mail addresses, mailing addresses, etc. Avoid the impression that you are too busy or annoyed when he calls. Return his calls.
- C. Create a welcome environment for the new professional and plan ways to incorporate him or her into the team. Remember that it's easy for a group to turn inward and make newcomers feel awkward or unwelcome. Send a letter of introduction to appropriate volunteers from an appropriate person in authority (council president, Scout executive, etc.). This helps a person feel good about joining the district or council. It also helps volunteers get acquainted with the new pro.
- D. A professional will try to make efficient use of commissioners' time and, as best they can, plan visits and meetings at times that are best for volunteers. Commissioners and professionals should help make the most efficient use of each other's Scouting time.
- E. Commissioners should know that they can turn to their pro for advice or troubleshooting. Help create the kind of relationship in which you are comfortable asking for help.
- F. There will inevitably be some professionals you don't like as much as others. That's human nature. However, part of being a good Scouter is working with all kinds of people, even when the human chemistry isn't just perfect. Feel free to talk with your professional partner about how you are working together.
- G. While you obviously want to form a Scouting relationship, it is nevertheless important to get to know your professional as a whole person. Most of us will feel more comfortable working with someone who is interested in other aspects of our lives as well as our Scouting responsibilities.

Keep in mind that Scouting is not a person's only priority in life. They will have family priorities and may be active in religious and other activities.
- H. Let your professional adviser know if you plan to have your spouse, secretary, or work associate assist you with a Scouting task, and how the pro can be helpful to that person.
- I. Develop good communication in which you and your professional really listen to and understand each other.
- J. In some instances the function of guiding other volunteers is shared between you and a pro. A district executive works with operating committee chairmen who also look to the district chairman for guidance. Both the district commissioner and district executive have a direct working relationship with ADCs. Unit commissioners work with both their district executive and their ADC.

Taken from netcommish.com (BCS 114)

GOOD COMMISSIONER-PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS