

----- Original Message -----

From: "Keith Christopher " <kchristo@netbsa.org>

To: <danielkurtenbach@hotmail.com>

Sent: Friday, March 02, 2007 9:39 AM

Subject: Response to Letter to Rick Cronk of February 11th

You had sent a letter to Mr. Cronk. He is now our National President and Don Belcher is the National Commissioner. I have been asked to respond to your letter concerning the Centennial Quality Unit commitment form. I am the director of the Leadership Support Service who monitors this program.

I appreciate your comments in the letter about the process. We invite your comments and will be looking at the forms for the future as we continue this approach at least through 2010-our 100th Anniversary. The original form was designed to have the unit and the commissioner/or a district representative to make the commitments and a copy would be submitted to the council office for recording, but the original form would be for displaying the criteria and the unit's commitment at their meetings for all youth and adult members to see what they needed to do in order to qualify for the award.

We are developing a form that is designed for the unit and the district representative (hopefully the unit's commissioner) to sit down at the end of October or by the end of the year to determine if they met their commitments and achieved the award. This form is being designed now and will be available by this summer.

I appreciate your comments on the layout of the form and how the questions were posed. We will take a strong look at them and make the necessary changes for the future years of the award. We are taping a podcast with the national commissioner later this month and releasing it by mid-April on "How a Unit can qualify to meet the criteria of the Centennial Quality Unit Award for 2007? We hope that this will be shared with every unit in America to help them in the interpretation and with the achievement of each of the criteria.

As it relates to the "outdoor program participation" criteria, the bottom line is "to improve" participation. We know that units who provide a monthly outdoor program experience for their youth and have a high percentage of youth participation have a better program than those they do not have a planned program. The 70% mark is the standard to aim towards, but if a unit is currently at 30% we want them to improve over last year-aiming towards the 70% over time. We know that every youth will not attend every monthly outing during the year, so an average of that attendance is probably optimum.

As for Venturing Advancement, a Crew can adapt this requirement and still achieve it. They can use leadership training, skills training or whatever their emphasis is to measure for advancement and for the outdoor. There is flexibility with this award that allows for here again, "To improve the QUALITY of program..."

The last two items about FOS, Product Sales and Unit commissioner visits are not part of the qualifying for the award. They were placed there for discussion purposes and to determine a unit's involvement and support of those items. This was explained under the "Frequently Asked Questions" number 8 on the www.scouting.org <<http://www.scouting.org>> Web site to help further the understanding for the award.

When you initially launch new program, you think you have it all clear. Then as you get into it you can see what needs to be explained better. A lot of people - volunteers and professionals, unit, district, and council level looked at the draft before we went to print and we all missed a lot. Your last comment about needing two forms was realized as we viewed the implementation and that is why we are developing a completion or results discussion form for release. The unit self-assessment forms are

available on the commissioner Web site, but we now know that we should include them with the materials or at least where and how to find them for easy access by unit leadership and the district leadership.

The connection to the Web site can be found by going to www.scouting.org <<http://www.scouting.org/>> and then clicking on "commissioners" at the bottom left hand corner. I have placed the connection below:

Resources for Commissioners

* Products for Commissioner Identity

<<http://www.scouting.org/commissioners/identity/index.html>>

* National Commissioner's Podcast

<<http://www.scouting.org/commissioners/podcast/index.html>>

* Basic Commissioner Manuals

<<http://www.scouting.org/commissioners/manuals/index.html>>

* Other Commissioner Resources

<<http://www.scouting.org/commissioners/resources/index.html>>

* The Commissioner

<<http://www.scouting.org/commissioners/newsletter/index.html>> -A newsletter for the council commissioner, the council Scout executive, and council professional advisor to commissioners *

Commissioners at the Philmont Training Center

<<http://www.scouting.org/commissioners/ptc/index.html>>

* National Meeting Presentations

<<http://www.scouting.org/commissioners/present/index.html>>

* Centennial Quality Awards

<<http://www.scouting.org/awards/centennial/index.html>>

Other Commissioner Resources

Forms

* Guidelines for Unit Self-Assessment and Action Planning Meeting

<<http://www.scouting.org/forms/33618/33618-24.pdf>>

* Pack Self-Assessment

<<http://www.scouting.org/forms/33618/33618-25.pdf>>

* Troop/Team Self-Assessment

<<http://www.scouting.org/forms/33618/33618-27.pdf>>

* Crew/Ship Self-Assessment

<<http://www.scouting.org/forms/33618/33618-29.pdf>>

I hope this long explanation has answered all of your questions. We appreciate your comments and are taking a look at how to improve the award, the implementation, and the process for successfully achieving the award. Please continue to share your thoughts and ways to make Scouting better for the youth we serve.

Thanks,

Keith Christopher

Director

Leadership Support Service

Program Group

Tel: 972-580-2125

Fax: 972-580-7894