



# Great Southwest Council **Council Commissioner**



## **Communicator**



**May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

*VOLUME 4 ISSUE 5*

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## **Our Mission**

***As commissioners, we share the BSA's mission: To prepare youth to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.***

## **Our Vision**

***Every member of the BSA has a great Scouting experience.***

# *Council Commissioner Corner*

- Recharter status: as of May 28<sup>th</sup>, we still have 12 units that haven't completed the recharter process. All 12 are receiving contact from their District Executive and the Council Registrar. If you have any questions, please contact one of them.
- Check out the Commissioner Technology Focus Group Status Report #54, being sent with this newsletter. **TONS** of info on recent and upcoming changes to my.scouting functions, including Commissioner Tools (CT) and functions used by units.
  - For instance, did you know that merit badge counselor lists can now be generated from my.scouting? REALLY?! YES! Check out page 2 of the attached!
  - Can't remember where to find stuff in CT? Check out pages 4-6 for a handy cross-reference!
- Getting questions from your units about what's going on with their program? Check out:  
<https://www.scouting.org/commissioners/program-support-resources/>
- As we head into summer, make sure your units are aware of opportunities at Gorham Scout Ranch, and local Day Camps. Things are opening up, and these provide a great chance for units (and Scouts) to get back out into the great outdoors!
- The information for units on the **Headlines** pages is being sent directly to Unit Commissioners this month.

*Yours in Scouting,*

*Dale*

Dale Balmer

Council Commissioner

# MAY 2021 HEADLINES!!!!

## Key information for units in the Great Southwest Council!

### ALL UNITS

- **Recharter status:** Can't see stuff in my.scouting or Scoutbook? Then you might be one of the 12 units that hasn't finished posting their charter! Contact the Council Registrar, Kathy Ferdig, 505-645-8603, x100, or [kathy.ferdig@scouting.org](mailto:kathy.ferdig@scouting.org) as soon as possible!
- **Check out the CTFG Status Report-Release54 - May 2021.pdf being sent with this newsletter.** LOTS of info on recent and upcoming updates to my.scouting.org
- **Training Items**
  - The online YPT course material is being updated! If you're current, you're OK. If expired, you have until 5/31 to complete the old training, or any partials will be dropped and you'll have to re-take all the courses after June 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - COR Training: June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6pm, via Zoom; email Mary Mazza-Andersen to register
- **2021 JTE tracking workbooks** (xlsx files) now available at: <https://www.scouting.org/awards/journey-to-excellence/tracking-workbooks/>
- **Questions about the latest changes and info on your program? Check out:** <https://www.scouting.org/commissioners/program-support-resources/>
- **PACKS**
  - Day Camp will be in-person this year! The theme is **Weird Science!** Camps will be available for Cubs in each district! For more info or to register, check out: <http://www.gswcbsa.org/day-camp/74501>
- **TROOPS**
  - Merit badge counselor lists, dated 5/7/2021, were sent to the DEs. If you need a copy, contact your DE or the Council Registrar. Also, your Unit Commissioner can now run merit badge counselor reports for you! If they don't know how, refer them to CTFG #54, page 2!
  - IOLS training on August 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at Gorham; more details forthcoming
- **CREWS**
  - Check out the news about the new Territory VOA on the message from the Assistant Council Commissioner for Older Youth Programs, included with this newsletter!

***"Social distancing protects us; Scouting connects us."***

# Membership Minute

- 1) Summer of Contests: Recruitment season is here! Join us this summer for our Summer of Contests as we engage in some friendly competitions! Contests for youth and adults will be available throughout the summer. Prizes include Visa gift cards, fishing poles, scouting materials, and more!
- 2) Cub Scout Day Camp is open to the general public (dates vary by district). This includes registered and non-registered youth entering K-5th grade in the fall. All Kindergarten, first graders, and non-registered Scouts must be accompanied by an adult.
- 3) Looking for resources (posters, videos, etc) to help with your recruiting efforts? Check out <https://scouting.webdamdb.com/bp/#/> OR <https://scoutingwire.org/marketing-membership/>
- 4) Questions about recruiting and membership? Contact the Council Vice President for Membership, John Foley, at [john.foley11@gmail.com](mailto:john.foley11@gmail.com)

# A Message from Brian Tolson, Assistant Council Commissioner for Older Youth Programs

- Hello and hope you are having a great start to the Summer Season. We are fast approaching the start-up of the new National Service Territory model of operations and the demise of the current regions and area model. This is intended to offer our Council a more direct line of assistance if needed. It remains to be seen how this will actually take shape once it becomes a reality. I figured you'd be interested in case any of the Units in the Council are asking questions about the recent bankruptcy and resulting reorganization status. Here is a link for a frequently asked questions (FAQ) page about how the Territory Venturing Officer Association (VOA) will function:
  - [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jSGKYcV6G3Jc\\_a9KRO9n17X\\_7hYyHDwV/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jSGKYcV6G3Jc_a9KRO9n17X_7hYyHDwV/view?usp=sharing)
- With the start of Summer our state also has relaxed a lot of the COVID-19 restrictions for gatherings and stays at our state's campgrounds. I hope all of our young adult units can resume "normal" operations with meetings and outings in June. I know I'm trying to restart my crew to in person events again. I ask that all Unit Commissioners make a contact with our Council's Crews and Posts to make sure we all resume on the right foot. At present we only have about a half of dozen Venturing Crews (which is about a 50% reduction over 2019-2020). If you happen to visit a unit, I am willing and able to accompany you.
- I wish all a happy and safe Memorial Day Holiday.

Yours in Scouting.

Brian Tolson

Email: [briantolson99@yahoo.com](mailto:briantolson99@yahoo.com)

Phone: 505-967-6139



# Commissioner-Related Strategic Plan Goals

This page summarizes the commissioner-focus areas outlined in Section 4, *Unit Service*, of the Council's 2021 Strategic Plan, dated March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021. With the pandemic and other challenges facing the council, and the elimination of District and Council JTE goals, the Strategic Plan for this year has been streamlined to focus on key components of the Council's operations, so there are fewer goal areas than in previous years. Subsequent pages in the newsletter look at each of these areas. All data is as of **May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021**, unless otherwise noted. Results are shown for last month and the current month.

2021 Council Strat Plan Area	Goal	Last Month	Current Snapshot	Page
<b>Strategic Plan Goals</b>				
4.1.1	80% of unit rechartrers to Council by 12/31/21	91.6%	93.2%	8
4.1.2	80% of unit charters posted by 1/31/22	79.8%	89.7%	9
4.2.1	50% of units have six contacts, including one Detailed Assessment	5.2%	7.7%	10
4.3.1	50% of units achieve Partner status by 1/31/22, under the Partnership for Scouting (PFS) program	Too early to measure	Too early to measure	11-12
<b>Other Commissioner Metrics</b>				
N/A	Commissioner Training	86.9%	90.2%	13
N/A	Units without Commissioners	Not Available	Not Available	14
N/A	Units per Commissioner Ratio	3.0	3.5	15

# Strat Plan Area: 4.1.1

## Recharterers to Council

(Goal is to have 80% of recharterers submitted to the Council by 12/31/2021)

**Recharter data current as of 5/28/2021**

District	Total Units	Units Dropping	Units Rechart-ering	Units logged into online tool	Units Submitted online	Pct @ Submitted
Rio Grande	53	12	41	41	41	100%
San Juan Mountains	27	4	23	23	23	100%
Sandia	43	7	36	35	34	94.4%
Sangre de Cristo	20	3	17	13	11	64.7%
<b>Council Total</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>93.2%</b>

**With the closing of the online recharter tool at the end of April, all further postings will have to be done manually, with representatives from the unit working with the Council Registrar. Ten units were posted using that method in May, leaving another 12 units to finish the process.**



# Strat Plan Area 4.1.2

## Rechartering Process-Charters Posted

(Goal is to have 100% of recharterers posted by 1/31/2022)

**Recharter data current as of 5/28/2021**

District	Units Rechartering	Charters Submitted	Pct Submitted	Charters Posted	Pct Posted
Rio Grande	41	41	100%	40	97.6%
San Juan Mountains	23	23	100%	22	95.7%
Sandia	36	34	94.4%	34	94.4%
Sangre de Cristo	17	11	64.7%	9	52.9%
Council Total	117	109	93.2%	105	89.7%

**Ten charters were posted in May, leaving another 12 to be posted manually. Units with any questions about their recharter status should contact the Council Registrar, Kathy Ferdig, at 505-345-8603, x100, or [kathy.ferdig@scouting.org](mailto:kathy.ferdig@scouting.org)**

# Strat Plan Area: 4.2.1

## Unit Contacts

(Goal: 50% of units have 6 or more contacts, including one DA)

This page looks at the critical unit-service area of unit contacts. The National goal is for at least six contacts per year for each unit, with one a Detailed Assessment. The Council goal is for 50% of the units to achieve the National goal, with a sub-goal that all units receive at least one contact. This chart helps determine how a district is doing on both contacts, detailed assessments, and the combination of the two which determines the success in meeting the National goal, as well as the sub-goal. Data is from a Council-level "District\_Contact\_Stats" report.

District	# Units	Total Contacts	# of Units with any contacts	Pct of units with any contacts	# of Units w/6 or more contacts	Pct of units with 6 or more contacts	# of Units with a DA	Pct of Units with a DA	# with 6 or more visits AND a DA	2021 Pct w/6 or more AND a DA
Rio Grande	40	142	32	80.0%	11	27.5%	14	35.0%	6	15.0%
San Juan Mountains	22	68	16	72.7%	2	9.1%	2	9.1%	1	9.1%
Sandia	33	69	19	57.6%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Sangre de Cristo	9	24	6	66.7%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>70.2%</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12.5%</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15.4%</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7.7%</b>
<b>Council Goal (50%)</b>									<b>52</b>	
<b>Needed to reach Council goal</b>									<b>44</b>	

**This data above reflects the current data. However, with the dropping of un-rechartered units on May 1<sup>st</sup> from the database, the total number of units dropped from 134 last month, to 104 this month. This caused corresponding drops in just about every measure shown, as some of the dropped units had had contacts logged against them.**

# Strat Plan Areas 4.3

## Partnership for Scouting (PFS)

The Council's Scouting Partnership initiative, started in 2017, is an effort to recognize those units that meet certain goals for program, camping, and financial support of the Council.

***As the program hasn't been updated since it started over four years ago, we've started an effort to update the guidance for it. Any suggestions for improvement should be sent to the Council Commissioner.***

### **2021 Partnership Status Criteria**

- \$175 per registered youth, via FOS contributions, popcorn or other product sales, Gondola Patrol, or other donations to the Council
- Attend a Council-sponsored day camp (packs) or attend Gorham for scout camp (troops) at least once every three years; Crews need to achieve Bronze or higher for Crew JTE Criteria #4, Adventure
  - **Note: Summer camp and day camps were cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic, so that year won't be counted, unless a Troop attended a virtual Gorham sessions. In that case, they'll be given credit for camp attendance, but otherwise 2020 data in this area wasn't 'counted.'**
- Earn overall JTE Bronze or higher
  - **Note: BSA National released revised unit-level JTE criteria to reflect the impact of the pandemic on unit operations and increased virtual Scouting**
- Partner units must complete all recharter actions by Dec 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### **Partnership Status Recognition**

- Rebate of \$60 program fee
- 10% rebate for day camps and Gorham Scout Ranch fees
- Free Eagle Scout/Summit Award presentation kits
- Free cloth and card for rank advancement
- Free use of Gorham Scout Ranch in the off-season
- 10% off camping gear at High Desert Scout Shop
- Free basic training for all adult leaders
- 10% off Wood Badge, Brownsea and NYLT training
- 5% bonus commission for take order popcorn sales
- Free Journey to Excellence patches
- Free Pinewood Derby Cars for packs

# Strat Plan Area: 4.3.1

## PFS Unit Percentage

(Goal: 50% of units qualify as Partner units)

The goal for this measure is to have 50% of our units qualify as Partner units.

<b>District</b>	<b># Units</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Pct Partners</b>
Rio Grande	40	TBD	TBD
San Juan Mtns	22	TBD	TBD
Sandia	33	TBD	TBD
Sangre de Cristo	9	TBD	TBD
Total	104	TBD	TBD

**2021 units earning Partner status in 2022 won't be available until later in 2021. In the meantime, we've started an effort to update the program's guidance. Any suggestions for changes should be sent to the Council Commissioner.**

# Strat Plan Area: N/A

## UCs are Trained!

(Goal: 80% or more of UCs have completed basic training)

A key component of providing quality unit service is having UCs that are trained in their role. This table looks at commissioner training data. Data is compiled from a Council-level Trained Leaders Report (“TrainedLeader\_Great\_Southwest\_Council\_412”) produced from Training Manager in my.scouting.

District	# DCs	# Trained DCs	# ADCs	# Trained ADCs	# UCs	# Trained UCs	# RTCs	# Trained RTCs	Total Comm	Trained	Pct Trained
RG	1	1	1	1	11	11	3	3	16	16	100%
SJM	0	0	0	0	7	5	0	0	7	5	71.4%
SA	1	1	2	2	9	8	2	2	14	13	92.9%
SDC	0	0	1	1	3	2	0	0	4	3	75.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>90.2%</b>
<b>Pct Trained</b>		<b>100.0%</b>		<b>100.0%</b>		<b>86.7%</b>		<b>100.0%</b>			

To Goal	-0.4	-0.8	-2.0	-1	-4.2
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**There was a slight increase in the overall percent, as we went from 86.9% last month to this month’s 90.2%. This was driven by a decrease in registered commissioners, from 61 overall to the current 41. Most of the decrease (15 of 20) was in unit commissioners, which went from 45 to 30. Since some of the dropped commissioners were un-trained, our percent of trained rose slightly.**

# Strat Plan Area: N/A

## Units without Commissioners

(Goal: minimize the number of units without a UC assigned)

To have effective unit-level commissioner service, there needs to be 'ownership' of a unit (or units) by a UC. While not a Strategic Plan goal, tracking units without a commissioner assigned provides feedback on either making sure a commissioner has been assigned administratively, or show the need to recruit additional commissioners. Data is from the Assigned\_Unassigned\_Units report in Commissioner Tools.

District	# Units	# Not Assigned a UC	Pct Unassigned
Rio Grande	40	*	N/A
San Juan Mountains	22	*	N/A
Sandia	33	*	N/A
Sangre de Cristo	9	*	N/A
Total	104	*	N/A

**\*-Data currently unavailable due to ongoing unit and district recharter actions**

# Strat Plan Area: N/A

## Ratio of Units per UC

(Goal: 3.0 or less)

Having enough UCs to cover all units, without overburdening the UC with too many units to provide effective service, requires that we look at that ratio. This metric does just that! The data on number of units for the report is from looking at the number of units in the District\_Contact\_Stats report, and commissioner assignments from those shown as registered as UCs in the “TrainedLeader\_Great\_Southwest\_Council\_412” training report.

District	# Units	Goal # UCs	Actual # UCs	Ratio	# UCs to Meet Goal
Rio Grande	40	13.3	11	3.6	2.3
San Juan Mountains	22	7.3	7	3.1	0.3
Sandia	33	11.0	9	3.7	2.0
Sangre de Cristo	9	3.0	3	3.0	0.0
Total	104	34.7	30	3.5	4.7

**With the dropping of un-rechartered units, and un-registered commissioners, on May 1<sup>st</sup>, the number of UCs needed increased from -0.3 to 4.7.**

# ***GSWC District and Council Commissioners***

as of 5/28/2021

<b>District</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Rio Grande	George Greenlee	<a href="mailto:Ltcg2@earthlink.net">Ltcg2@earthlink.net</a>	505-681-7319-c
Sandia	Jerry Brenden	<a href="mailto:jabrenden@gmail.com">jabrenden@gmail.com</a>	505-239-7656-c
Sangre de Cristo	David Jones	<a href="mailto:dciones59@gmail.com">dciones59@gmail.com</a>	505-662-5289-h
San Juan Mountains	Matthew Griffis	<a href="mailto:matthewgriffis@gmail.com">matthewgriffis@gmail.com</a>	510-427-3843-c
Assistant Council Commissioner for Older Youth Programs	Brian Tolson	<a href="mailto:briantolson99@yahoo.com">briantolson99@yahoo.com</a>	505-967-6139
Council Commissioner	Dale Balmer	<a href="mailto:dbalmer8@comcast.net">dbalmer8@comcast.net</a>	505-898-9076-h 505-554-8545-c