



# Great Southwest Council **Council Commissioner**



## **Communicator**



**September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

*VOLUME 4 ISSUE 9*

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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*

- Commissioners, this is a key time for our units and our council. Recruiting and recharter season are upon us, and the success of these efforts will define the success, and future, for Scouting in our Council for the next 12 months, while planting seeds for success for years to come. Please make sure you're interacting with your units, passing on all the great resources to help them, and letting us know of any needs they may have.
- **Reminder: New Commissioner Training is now available.**
  - Access it through the BSA Learn Center. For Unit, Roundtable, District, and Council Commissioners. These modules replace the previous online training modules.
  - Commissioners who may have been taking the previous online courses and did not complete them will need to start again with the new material.
- **Please check out the Headlines page for info on such unit critical topics such as:**
  - Rechartering Tool and Processes
  - Latest Advancement Newsletter is now available
  - Information on using the BeAScout website
  - Waite Phillips Scholarships for those attending Philmont
  - Updates to the Guide to Safe Scouting
  - Lots of resources for membership and recruiting

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

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

Greetings Unit Commissioners.

We are still looking for nominations for youth and adult level for this year's Venturing Leadership Award (VLA). The VLA is a prestigious leadership award that can't be earned and only awarded after nominations. Please encourage your crews to submit their leadership. If anyone has questions regarding the VLA please have them contact myself.

Yours in Scouting.

Brian Tolson  
Assistant Council Commissioner for Young Adult  
Programs

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

Phone: 505-967-6139



# SEPTEMBER 2021 HEADLINES!!!!

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

- Here's the latest on the new rechartering tool!
  - A “Sandbox” with a practice version of the software is available as of Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>! This sandbox, available at <https://advancementspp.scouting.org>, will allow the unit to “test” the recharter process before actually committing the actions permanently in the new recharter system. To access, unit Key 3 will enter their same usernames and password they would normally use to access Scoutbook.com or My.Scouting.
  - The latest FAQ (*Internet-Rechartering-2.0-FAQ-2021\_09\_20.pdf*) and User Guide (*Internet-Rechartering-2.0-User-Guide-Michaela-Monson-2021\_09\_20.pdf*) documents are being sent with this newsletter.
  - **Training opportunities:**
    - **Tuesday, Sept 28<sup>th</sup>, 7pm: National-level training.** Register: at [https://scouting.org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_6Xphbn0QR4a40KgCZEfR6A](https://scouting.org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6Xphbn0QR4a40KgCZEfR6A)
    - **Thursday, Oct 14<sup>th</sup>, 7pm:** Council-wide Zoom Roundtable meeting with information about the recharter tool and the Council's recharter process
  - **More info at:** <https://www.scouting.org/resources/internet-rechartering/>
- Latest Advancement News was released on 9/23/2021! You can access it at: [https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Advancement-News\\_Sept-Oct-2021.pdf](https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Advancement-News_Sept-Oct-2021.pdf)
- Questions about how the BeAScout website and online leads works? Check out <https://www.scouting.org/resources/online-registration/>
- The Waite Phillips Scholarship Fund is available for those that may be attending Philmont in 2022 and could use some financial help. Contact the Council Commissioner, Dale Balmer, [dbalmer8@comcast.net](mailto:dbalmer8@comcast.net), for more information.
- There are updates to the Guide to Safe Scouting. See the next page for details!

# Guide to Safe Scouting (GTSS) Updates

- The most current GTSS is on the Scouting.org/Scouting Safely site and was released on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. A pdf version can be found at this lengthy link:
- [https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34416.pdf?\\_gl=1\\*1t0dmlb\\*ga\\*MTIxNzgwNDgwNi4xNjE3MjExNTI4\\*\\_ga\\_20G0JHESG4\\*MTYzMjM1NzA0MC43Ny4xLjE2MzIzNTg4MzQuNTg&fbclid=IwAR1e1\\_gy3bakd1uHNPwmdsnkZzz87YIHgn\\_--JYUK3jBdXy9wRAEBQIkMrs](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34416.pdf?_gl=1*1t0dmlb*ga*MTIxNzgwNDgwNi4xNjE3MjExNTI4*_ga_20G0JHESG4*MTYzMjM1NzA0MC43Ny4xLjE2MzIzNTg4MzQuNTg&fbclid=IwAR1e1_gy3bakd1uHNPwmdsnkZzz87YIHgn_--JYUK3jBdXy9wRAEBQIkMrs)
- The online version will be released at a later date; for now use the pdf version above. Here's a summary of key changes:
  - **Aquatic Policy:** Update Scuba Policy, Prohibiting Full Face Snorkels
    - This refers to health updates for asthma and diabetic scouts/scouters, age restrictions
    - The full face snorkels were removed due to safety incident issues.
  - **BSA'S Commitment to Safety:** Update to Commitment of Safety
    - Other than as a general topic, was not detailed in our call.
    - Possible update to Chief Scout Executives CtoS statement.
  - **Camping Policy:** Update in Format/Delivery
    - Updates for Cub Scout Camping, age/skill reviews
    - Pack Site Appraisal form, required adult participation, sites meet NCAP standards.
    - Wilderness First Aid will be included.
  - **Immunization Policy:** Update to Requirements (Effective 6/1/2022)
    - REQUIRED: Tetanus, Diphtheria, Measles, Mumps, Chicken Pox and Polio (IPV)
    - RECOMMENDED: Hep A,B; Pneumonia; Influenza; HIB, HPV, Meningococcus A & B, Shingles, COVID-19.
  - **The Safe Checklist:** Transition from the Sweet 16 Of BSA Safety
    - SAFE Checklist will be the new format for delivering the scouting program.
    - See [www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/SAFE](http://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/SAFE)
  - **Transportation Policy:** Update in Format/Delivery
  - Meet Scouting's Barrier to Abuse requirements, YPT updates, All drivers 18 or older.

# Membership Minute

Questions about recruiting and membership? Contact the Council Vice President for Membership, John Foley, at [john.foley11@gmail.com](mailto:john.foley11@gmail.com)

- Upcoming Webinar for Scouts BSA Recruiting - Scout Me In!
  - Thursday, September 30th, 2021
  - 6:00 pm MT
  - Ready to start growing your Scout troop? This is the place to start! Join us for strategies for inviting more youth to join the adventure. We'll talk about:
    - Strategies and tactics for growing your troop.
    - Engaging with packs in your area
    - Plus, 'NFAs' = Normal Friend Activities (join us to find out what this is!)
    - Please register in advance for this meeting below:
      - [https://scouting-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_FdjVPxM6SgSmM-RdM7NgdQ](https://scouting-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FdjVPxM6SgSmM-RdM7NgdQ)
- Tools from Sept 12<sup>th</sup> National Commissioner Confab (being sent with this newsletter)
  - ***Confab\_Marketing\_Social-Media-with-notes\_9-12-21\_Compacted.pptx***. This presentation has multiple resources via the BSA Brand Center and other BSA sources, use of Social Media, etc.
  - ***2021\_Social-Media-Calendar\_NST-8-Social-Media-Campaign\_Compacted.xlsx***. This spreadsheet has a sample timeline for posting to social media, text that can be used for the type of media, and suggested pictures and video clips to help with your recruiting efforts.

# 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 September 24<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 recharter to Council by 12/31/21	93.2%	93.2%	9
4.1.2	80% of unit charters posted by 1/31/22	93.2%	93.2%	10
4.2.1	50% of units have six contacts, including one Detailed Assessment	8.1%	8.2%	11
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	12-13
<b>Other Commissioner Metrics</b>				
N/A	Commissioner Training	88.6%	88.6%	14
N/A	Units without Commissioners	28%	27%	15
N/A	Units per Commissioner Ratio	3.5	3.4	16



# Strat Plan Area: 4.1.1

## Recharterers to Council

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

**2021 Recharter data current as of 8/30/2021.**  
**No re-charters were posted in September.**

District	Total Units	Units Dropping	Units Rechartering	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 are having to be done manually, with representatives from the unit working with the Council Registrar. As a result, the data above on units that have logged into the online tool or submitted online are not longer pertinent.**

**No charters were posted using the manual method in September. There are still eight units that need to finish the process for 2021. The 2022 recharter tool opens on October 15<sup>th</sup>, so this concludes the reporting on 2021 recharter progress. Starting next month, we'll be tracking 2022 recharter progress.**

# Strat Plan Area 4.1.2

## Rechartering Process-Charters Posted

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

**2021 Recharter data current as of 8/30/2021.**

**No re-charters were posted in September.**

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	35	97.2%	35	97.2%
Sangre de Cristo	17	11	64.7%	12	70.6%
Council Total	117	110	94.1%	109	93.2%

No charters were posted in August, leaving another eight to be posted manually to finish the 2021 recharter. The 2022 recharter tool opens on October 15<sup>th</sup>, so this concludes the reporting on 2021 recharter progress. Starting next month, we'll be tracking 2022 recharter progress.

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	274	36	90.0%	19	47.5%	14	35.0%	7	17.5%
San Juan Mountains	22	132	19	86.4%	15	68.2%	2	9.1%	1	4.5%
Sandia	36	138	30	83.3%	16	44.4%	1	2.8%	1	2.8%
Sangre de Cristo	12	65	9	75.0%	7	58.3%	0	0%	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>85.5%</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>51.8%</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15.5%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8.2%</b>
<b>Council Goal (50%)</b>									<b>55</b>	
<b>Needed to reach Council goal</b>									<b>46</b>	

**The number of units with six or more assessments AND a detailed assessment remained fairly static from August to September, changing from 8.1% to 8.2% due to one unit's out-of-cycle charter lapsing.**

# 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.

*Updated guidance on the Partnership program, and the initial 2021 progress report, have been posted to the Council's Partnership website at <http://www.gswcbsa.org/partnership-for-scouting/66229>.*

### **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 Council 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	36	TBD	TBD
Sangre de Cristo	12	TBD	TBD
Total	110	TBD	TBD

**2021 units earning Partner status in 2022 won't be available until later in 2021. In the meantime, updated program guidance was approved by the Council's Executive Committee, and has been posted to the Council's Partnership web page. In addition, the initial 2021 Partnership report, showing membership data, FOS goals, and updated camping data based on this summer's camping season, has also been posted to the website. Both files can be viewed at:**

**<http://www.gswcbsa.org/partnership-for-scouting/66229>**

# 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	13	12	3	3	18	17	94.4%
SJM	1	1	0	0	7	5	0	0	8	6	75.0%
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>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>88.6%</b>
<b>Pct Trained</b>		<b>100.0%</b>		<b>100.0%</b>		<b>84.4%</b>		<b>100.0%</b>			

To Goal	-0.6	-0.8	-1.4	-1.0	-3.8
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**For the third consecutive month, there was no change to this data.**

# 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	11	28%
San Juan Mountains	22	10	45%
Sandia	36	0	0%
Sangre de Cristo	12	9	75%
Total	110	30	27%

**There was one less unit this month, due to an out-of-cycle unit lapsed. This caused the percent of unassigned to decrease slightly from 28% to 27%.**

# 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	13	3.1	0.3
San Juan Mountains	22	7.3	7	3.1	0.3
Sandia	36	12.0	9	4.0	3.0
Sangre de Cristo	12	4.0	3	4.0	1.0
Total	110	36.7	32	3.4	4.7

**The ratio decreased slightly, from 3.5 in August to 3.4 in August. This was due to the charter lapsing for one unit that renews outside the normal cycle, while at the same time, there was no change in the number of registered unit commissioners.**



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

as of 9/24/2021

<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	Vacant		
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