



# Great Southwest Council **Council Commissioner**



## **Communicator**



**August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022**

*VOLUME 5, ISSUE 8*

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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*

- Hello, Commissioners! Hope you had a great summer!
- And now that summer is winding down, its..... almost..... RECHARTER Time! To prepare, please review the material at <https://www.scouting.org/commissioners/internet-rechartering/> The topic for the October virtual roundtable will be recharter training, so encourage your units to set aside Oct 13<sup>th</sup> to participate.
- And with the end of the year just a few months away, now's a great time to talk to your unit leaders about scheduling a time to do a detailed assessment. The contents of a detailed assessment correlate to the Journey to Excellence form, which your units will need to complete as part of recharter. It's also an excellent self-assessment tool for a unit to see where they've been, and make plans for where they'd like to go.
- Please ensure your units know there's an updated Partnership report! It's being sent with this newsletter, and will also be posted to the Council's webpage.
- Remind your units of the new YPT process that will be effective October 1<sup>st</sup>.... if you're YPT has expired, your membership will be suspended immediately!
- Keep up the good work!

*Yours in Scouting,*

*Dale*

Dale Balmer

Council Commissioner

**COUNCIL COMMISSIONER  
COMMUNICATOR  
AUGUST 2022  
UNIT-RELATED INFORMATION!!!!**

Key information for units in the Great Southwest Council!

- The ‘hot topic’ this month is preparing for recharter!
  - Key actions at this point are to:
    - Determine whom in the unit will be the lead for recharter
    - Ensure leaders will remain current for Youth Protection Training (YPT) through at least March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023
    - Perform a membership inventory to see which youth and adults may be dropping
    - Notify unit members of rechartering fees (see next page) so they can prepare family budgets
    - Key Dates: **Oct 1<sup>st</sup>**: Recharter tool is scheduled to open; **Oct 13<sup>th</sup>**: Council virtual Roundtable focused on recharter process training
- Here’s some Facebook links for different Scouting units:
  - **For Troops:**
  - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/scoutingfun>
  - **For Cub Scouts**
  - <https://scoutles.com/cub-scout-games/>
  - **For Webelos**
  - <https://www.boyscouttrail.com/webelos/w2/games.htm>
- An updated Partnership Program report being released with this newsletter. It’s been updated to reflect 2022 day camp/summer camp attendance data, and Initial FOS and Gondola donations information

# New BSA Fee Structure

Effective August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

- A reminder about the new national membership fee structure that will take effect **August 1, 2022**.
- **\$75** for Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouts participants **(was \$72)**
- **\$45** for Exploring participants
- **\$30** for council-paid memberships
- **\$45** for all adult volunteers (includes cost of background check)
- **\$100** for a unit charter/affiliation fee **(was \$75)**
- **\$25** one-time joining fee for new program participants in Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouts (Not pro-rated)
- **\$15** for Scout Life magazine; this is the first price increase since 2005 **(was \$12)**
- **At the current time, there is NO plan to raise the Council Program Fee; it will remain at \$66 for youth and \$39 for adults**

# Venturing Info

Hi, Advisors! I have a quick update on two opportunities for your Venturers that are available now.

1. **National Jamboree 2023.** After COVID delays, the National Scouting Jamboree is back: July 19-28, 2023, at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia! Check out the Jamboree at <https://jamboree.scouting.org>.

What's a Jamboree? It's *not* Boy Scout camp. National Jamboree is 360-degrees of fun, friends and fellowship with hands-on adventure that takes participants places they never thought they'd go and challenges them to try things they never thought they could, in a setting designed for top-tier adventure.

Venturers (and Sea Scouts and Explorers) will not only participate in all the program areas around the Jamboree, but will tent in a designated camping section created just for older youth. Special evening programs are being planned for that older youth area.

Plans are underway to make it possible for any Venturer in NST2 to go to the Jamboree as part of a contingent of older youth. Venturers who want to go that way will need to check a box on the registration form (<https://events.scouting.org/form/B5925B571FB44195/personal-information>) noting their preference for a separate older youth contingent. They will also need approval of their Scout Executive.

Details will be available soon about cost and logistics for a contingent, so please keep checking your email for more info. Right now, you can make sure your Venturers know about the Jamboree opportunity and can start generating interest in attending this pinnacle Scouting event. Look at the resources online at <https://jamboree.scouting.org/marketing/> for great videos that should inspire your Venturers to be part of this Jamboree. My Jamboree experience as a 15-year old was the high point of my time as a youth in the Program, and I know your Venturers will feel the same after 10 days at the Summit!

2. **Territory Vice President opening.** Each National Service Territory has two youth leaders: a Territory President and a Vice-President. NST2 has an opening for its Vice President, who will work with Reese Davies, our Territory President, to plan and carry out the Territory's support for Venturing in our eight states. If you send me contact info for any interested Venturers, we will get them application materials for that important job.

Brian Tolson  
Assistant Council Commissioner for Older Youth Programs  
[briantolson99@yahoo.com](mailto:briantolson99@yahoo.com)  
505-967-6139

# Be A Scout Pin

A reminder that a great recruiting tool is the Be A Scout website (<https://beascout.scouting.org/>). However, it's important that the information about each unit on it's 'pin' be current and correct. Here's a snapshot showing the key functions of the website. Unit Key 3 can manage their 'pin' via the Roster function in my.scouting.org.

			<u>8/31/2022</u>			
District	Total Units	Pin Active	Pin View: Unit	Online Apps: Active	Unit Contact Listed	Unit Website Listed
Rio Grande	34	34	31	23	33	15
SJM	19	19	18	16	19	2
Sandia	33	33	31	29	31	12
SdC	14	14	13	11	14	7
Council	100	100	93	79	97	36

To get maximum benefit from the tool,

- 1- a unit's pin should be set to Active,**
- 2-showing Unit data,**
- 3-allow online applications,**
- 4-have a unit contact listed, and**
- 5-provide info on a website or social media account where more information can be found.**

We suggest you go to the Be A Scout website and search for the zip code your unit is in. How does your unit appear on the site? Anything that needs to be updated? How does your unit compare to others in the area?

If you need more information on updating your 'pin', you can contact your District Executive or the Council Commissioner.

# Youth Protection Training Current Status

BSA has established a national standard for Councils for Youth Protection Training (YPT) currency. The standard is to be at 98% or higher of registered adult leaders being Current with their YPT. For a Council our size, with approximately 1000 adults, this means we can have no more than 20 expired at any one time. Here is a snapshot of where we are as of August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

District	Current	Expired	Pct Current	Pct Expired
Rio Grande	296	19	93.97	6.03
San Juan Mountains	148	7	95.48	4.52
Sandia	400	9	97.80	2.20
Sangre de Cristo	169	4	97.69	2.31
Council Staff	51	1	98.08	1.92
Council Overall	1064	40	96.38	3.62

This reflects the current status, as of August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.  
Trend data is on the next chart.



# Youth Protection Training Trends

Council Trend*	
6/1/2022	96.88
7/1/2022	96.93
7/30/2022	97.33
8/31/2022	96.38

National Trend Data**					
Date	GSWC YPT %	GSWC NST Rank	GSWC National Rank	Councils Meeting Standard	Councils @ 100%
5/30/2022	96.74	6 of 12	149 of 249	76	7
6/30/2022	97.38	4 of 12	87 of 249	62	7
7/31/2022	97.03	4 of 12	79 of 249	63	10

\*-data from Council's my.scouting.org Training Manager

\*\* -data from National "Stack Charts"

***There have been updates to the National and Council processes for those with Expired YPT. Details are on the next page.***

# Great Southwest Council

## Expired YPT Process

updated 8/31/22

- On July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022, BSA National announced the following:
  - “A new Suspend feature is now available in My.Scouting, Registrar tools. This function can be used for any member who is not compliant with Youth Protection Training or for those councils that have state specific background requirements. The suspend option will suspend the member’s registration and remove any access to their my.scouting tools as well as access to Scoutbook. You may un-suspend a registration once they have submitted the required information in order to continue as a member. There is also a report available that can be pulled listing all registrations in your councils that are currently suspended.”
- Based on this, the Council has updated their Expired YPT process as follows:
  - As the Council hasn’t achieved the BSA national standard of 98%, and in order to address the #1 show-stopper for posting of annual recharterers (leaders with expired YPT), the Council Executive Board voted on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022, to establish a new process where, **effective Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, anyone with expired YPT will have their membership suspended immediately.** The change will take place effective Oct 1<sup>st</sup> to allow for advertising and education on this new process between now and then. In the interim, those with expired YPT will be contacted and given two weeks to complete YPT. After two weeks, their membership will be suspended.
- Any questions concerning the Council’s YPT process can be sent to the Council YPT Champion, Dale Balmer, at [dbalmer8@comcast.net](mailto:dbalmer8@comcast.net). YPT reports can be accessed by Unit Key 3 via the Training Manager function in my.scouting.

# 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 **Aug 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022**, 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	99.0%	99.0%	13
4.1.2	80% of unit charters posted by 1/31/22	99.0%	99.0%	14
4.2.1	50% of units have six contacts, including one Detailed Assessment	22.0%	24.0%	15
4.3.1	50% of units achieve Partner status by 1/31/22, under the Partnership for Scouting (PFS) program	26%	26%	16-17
<b>Other Commissioner Metrics</b>				
N/A	Commissioner Training	85.7%	86.1%	18
N/A	Units without Commissioners	35%	35%	19
N/A	Units per Commissioner Ratio	3.8	3.8	20

# Strat Plan Area: 4.1.1

## Recharterers to Council

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

**The online recharter tool opened on October 15<sup>th</sup>, for the 2022 recharter season. This is the seventh and final look at 2022 recharter data.**

District	Total Units	Units Dropping / Out of Cycle Recharter	Units Rechartering	Units logged into online tool	Pct logged online	Units Submitted to Council online	Pct submitted to Council online
Rio Grande	42	9/1	32	32	100%	32	100%
San Juan Mountains	23	4/0	19	19	100%	19	100%
Sandia	36	5/0	31	31	100%	31	100%
Sangre de Cristo	14	0/0	14	14	100%	13	92.9%
Council Total	115	18/1	96	96	100%	95	99.0%

**Recharter concluded in April. This data won't be updated until the 2023 recharter cycle starts in October 2022.**

# Strat Plan Area 4.1.2

## Rechartering Process-Charters Posted

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

**Units have been working recharter since the tool opened October 15<sup>th</sup>, so we've had about 6-1/2 months to work the process, which is now completed.**

District	Units Rechartering	Charters Submitted	Pct Submitted	Charters Posted	Pct Posted
Rio Grande	32	32	100%	32	100%
San Juan Mountains	19	19	100%	19	100%
Sandia	31	31	100%	31	100%
Sangre de Cristo	14	13	92.9%	13	92.9%
Council Total	96	95	99.0%	95	99.0%

**Recharter concluded in April. This data won't be updated until the 2023 recharter cycle starts in October 2022.**

# 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	34	248	34	100%	24	70.6%	11	32.4%	8	23.5%
San Juan Mountains	19	114	19	100%	10	52.6%	5	26.3%	2	10.5%
Sandia	33	206	33	100%	26	78.8%	12	36.4%	12	36.4%
Sangre de Cristo	14	123	14	100%	14	100%	2	14.3%	2	14.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>74.0%</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30.0%</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24.0%</b>
<b>Council Goal (50%)</b>									<b>50</b>	
<b>Needed to reach Council goal</b>									<b>26</b>	

**For the fourth month in a row, the number of units with six or more contacts increased. In May, it increased by 13, June by 15, July by 23, and three this month! Almost three-fourths of our units now have 6 or more contacts in 2022! This is a great step towards meeting the goal of a unit having six contacts and a detailed assessment by the end of the year.**

**The new troop that was chartered in Sandia District in early July received their first contact, ensuring that all units have had at least one contact.**

# 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.

*An **updated** report on the **2022** Partnership program, reflecting initial FOS and Gondola Patrol donations, and day/summer camp attendance, is being released with this newsletter. It will also be posted 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
- Partner units must complete all recharter actions by Dec 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### Partnership Status Recognition

- Rebate of Council program fee for youth members
- 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	41	15	34%
San Juan Mtns	23	5	22%
Sandia	36	7	19%
Sangre de Cristo	14	3	21%
Total	114	30	26%

**No change from last month; this reflects the final 2021 data.**

**Partner status 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	0	0	1	1	10	10	3	3	14	14	100%
SJM	1	1	0	0	7	4	0	0	8	5	62.5%
SA	1	1	2	2	7	6	2	2	12	11	91.7%
SDC	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	50.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>86.1%</b>
<b>Pct Trained</b>		<b>100.0%</b>		<b>100.0%</b>		<b>80.8%</b>		<b>100.0%</b>			

To Goal	-0.4	-0.4	-0.2	-1.0	-2.0
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**After having a percentage of 85.7% for three consecutive months, the percentage of trained commissioners increased slightly to 86.1% with the registration of a trained ADC in Rio Grande District.**

# 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	34	13	38%
San Juan Mountains	19	7	37%
Sandia	33	1	3%
Sangre de Cristo	14	14	100%
Total	100	35	35.0%

**Commissioner assignments have been updated in Commissioner Tools, and this data is now considered to be accurate.**

# 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	34	11.3	10	3.4	1.3
San Juan Mountains	19	6.3	7	2.7	-0.7
Sandia	33	11.0	7	4.7	4.0
Sangre de Cristo	14	4.7	2	7.0	2.7
Total	100	33.3	26	3.8	7.3

**The ratio remained at 3.8 for the third consecutive month.**

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

as of 8/31/2022

<b>District</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Rio Grande	Vacant		
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