



Great Southwest Council **Council Commissioner**



Communicator



September 28th, 2020

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 9

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"Social distancing protects us; Scouting connects us."

Council Commissioner Corner

- Commissioners: Recharter is starting!
 - Done virtually, units should have been emailed access codes, tool opens Oct 5th
 - Remind unit leaders to complete their JTE form as part of recharter; having one from the unit makes completing a Detailed Assessment a snap
 - See more details on Page 9 in the Unit Info/Headlines section
- The “5 Questions” approach to doing a Detailed Assessment has been updated to reflect the new unit-level JTE criteria during the pandemic. Check out the next two pages (pages 4 and 5)!
- Venturing News! (see third and fourth pages following, pages 6 and 7)
 - Venturing Leadership Award nominations are being sought
 - Changes to Venturing Advancement
- Commissioners can now view unit youth Advancement data from Commissioner Tools!
 - To access unit advancement data from within the web version of Commissioner Tools, go to the Contacts tab, display the units, select the unit desired, then the Advancement Report icon will appear in the gray bar next to the Charter download icon. Click the Advancement Report icon, **choose the desired date range** and run the report. Useful info for when doing a Detailed Assessment!
- The Commissioner Technology Focus Group Status Report #50, September 2020, is attached to the email with this newsletter
- The information for units on the **Headlines** pages is being sent directly to Unit Commissioners this month.
- Thanks for all you do! Stay safe!

*Yours in Scouting,
Dale*

Dale Balmer
Council Commissioner

A late-in-year Detailed Assessment in 5 questions (Pandemic version)

Pack

- Have you been able to hold Committee Meetings this year? Remote/virtual ones are OK. If so, how many? (#1)
- Did you attend Cub Day Camp? (#7) (Council-level alternatives are OK, but we didn't offer any. Maybe ask if they tried to do anything as a pack to replace day camp)
- Did you have any service projects (this includes home engagements serving others)? Were they entered in Scoutbook? (#8)
- How many pack meetings did you have this year? Dens meeting at least twice a month? (Remote/virtual ones are OK) (#9)
- Are your leaders trained, and if not, do you have a plan for, or need help, getting them trained? (#11)
- Other questions if you want:
 - Recruitment Plan? (#2) (For Bronze, OK to have personalized invitations AND a current BeAScout pin)
 - Retention Plan? (#3)
 - Webelos to Scout Transition plan? (#4) (Having remote/virtual meetings with a Troop are OK)
 - Plan to advance each boy? (#5) (Bronze criteria is to advance 50% of youth OR 50% of families are on Scoutbook)
 - Plans for den Outdoor activities and field trips? (#6) (This can include pack coordinated family home-centered activities)
 - Have enough leaders? Need to recruit some? (#10)

A late-in-year Detailed Assessment in 5 questions (Pandemic version)

Troop

- Have you been able to hold Committee Meetings this year? Remote/virtual ones are OK. If so, how many? (#1)
- How many short- and long-term campouts? (#6 & 7)
 - For short-term, alternative home-centered approaches are OK
 - For long-term, includes council-offered alternatives. I.e., did any youth participate in the Virtual Gorham summer camp?
- Did you have any service projects (including home engagements serving others)? Were they entered in Scoutbook? (#8)
- How many PLCs were held? Virtual/remote meetings are acceptable. (#9)
- Are your leaders trained, and if not, do you have a plan for, or need help, getting them trained? (#11)
- Other questions if you want:
 - Recruitment Plan? (#2) (For Bronze, OK to have personalized invitations AND a current BeAScout pin)
 - Retention Plan? (#3)
 - Webelos to Scout Transition plan? (#4) (Having remote/virtual meetings with a Pack are OK)
 - Plan to advance each boy? (#5)
 - Courts of Honor planned? (#10) (Virtual/remote meetings are acceptable)

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

- Hello from the Young Adult Program Commissioner! This month is the initial call for youth and adult nominations for the Venturing Leadership Award (VLA). Each year the Great Southwest Council can award up to 1 youth and 1 adult with this prestigious honor. Please be aware that we can't bestow the award to an adult without a youth winner. The VLA cannot be earned; the candidate must be selected through a nomination process. Criteria are simple: 1) Must be registered in Venturing for at least 1 year; 2) Hold a leadership position at the Crew/Ship or Council level; and 3) Show exceptional dedication and give outstanding leadership/service to Venturing and Venturers. For more info please visit: <https://www.scouting.org/programs/venturing/venturing-awards/leadership/venturing-leadership-award/> The attached nomination form is easy and self-explanatory; however the hard part is getting a couple of letters of recommendation from the nominees teachers/employer/religious leaders/etc.
- Completed **Nominations are due to myself by November 20, 2020**. Please send by email to briantolson99@yahoo.com.
- yours in Scouting.
- Brian Tolson
- Email: briantolson99@
- Phone: 505-967-6139



Venturing Program Advancement Changes

- Below is an update to Venturing. This is about our program and advancement.
- The National Venturing Committee is pleased to announce that certain restrictions regarding prior credit for Venturers have been changed. Effective immediately, Venturing Advisors have the discretion to give a Venturer credit toward Venturing award requirements for work previously completed by the Venturer while a registered member of a Scouts BSA Troop or a Sea Scout Ship. As explained in more detail below, this change aligns the Venturing advancement program with the Scouts BSA and Sea Scouting advancement programs.
- Another recent update to the Venturing Program is also intended to improve consistency among the different programs within Scouting. Since the adoption of the ALPS model, the Venturing, Discovery, Pathfinder and Summit awards have been referred to as core awards and not as ranks. The National Venturing Committee is also pleased to announce that effective immediately the Venturing, Discovery, Pathfinder and Summit awards will be referred to as Venturing ranks. The Quest, Ranger, and Trust Awards will remain as part of the Venturing program as specialty awards and are not considered Venturing ranks.
- Under the current edition of the Guide to Advancement and the latest printed edition of Venturing Awards and Requirements, a Venturer was required to complete all work on Venturing awards while registered as a Venturer, and Venturing Advisors were not permitted to give credit toward Venturing award requirements for work previously done by a youth in Scouts BSA or Sea Scouts. Neither Scouts BSA nor Sea Scouts have these same restrictions. Except as stated in the temporary transition rules covering first-time members entering Scouts BSA after February 1, 2019, in both Scouts BSA and Sea Scouts, unit leaders are currently able to consider work done in any program when giving credit toward completion of rank or award requirements. To improve consistency within the three programs and to encourage membership in Venturing Crews, Venturers may now receive credit toward Venturing ranks and specialty awards for work completed while registered in a Scouts BSA Troop or a Sea Scout Ship.
- The next editions of the Guide to Advancement, Handbook for Venturers, and Venturing Awards and Requirements will be revised to reflect the two changes to the Venturing advancement program described in this update.
- Information from Chris Sandberg, Area 6 Venturing Contact

HEADLINES!!!!

Key information for units in the Great Southwest Council!

ALL UNITS

- Silver Beaver Awards: Have a great, dedicated Scouter you'd like to recognize? Submit them for the Silver Beaver, the highest council-level award for a volunteer. The nomination form and writing guide can be found on the Council home page at: <http://www.gswcbsa.org/> (scroll down until you see the Silver Beaver info)
- Recharter is Starting!
 - Virtual this year!
 - Access codes sent to Unit Key 3s via email
 - System goes live on Oct 5th
 - Training sessions on 10/8 and 10/27
 - See next page for more details!

PACKS

- Sept 30th BSA National Pack Webinar
 - Best Practices for Virtual Meetings
 - Making In-Person Meetings Fun and Safe
 - Ideas on Where to Meet
 - Best Practices for Recruiting
 - All this, plus lots of other updates!
 - Wednesday, September 30, 2020
8:00 p.m. ET / 7:00 p.m. CT
 - https://scouting-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tU6_qwLySpm1kB1nySaVPg

CREWS

- Venturing Leadership Award nominations are now being accepted from now until November 30th. See the second page following for more information

"Social distancing protects us; Scouting connects us."

2021 Recharter Process Highlights

- This year we're aiming for a virtual recharter! This means all steps will be completed electronically. This is due primarily to pandemic-related issues, and limited manpower at the Council Office to process traditional paper charters
- Recharter packets have been emailed to the Key 3 for all units. If you haven't received yours, contact your District Executive (DE). The packets include:
 - Online recharter access code
 - Recharter process info
 - Blank JTE form for unit type
 - Blank Charter agreement form
- Key Steps
 - Have any adults with YPT expiring before the end of 2020 complete YPT NOW!
 - Recharter tool will not allow charters to be processed if YPT expires before 12/31/2020
 - Register any new youth or adult members using the online application system BEFORE starting recharter
 - Use the online recharter tool to complete all actions, including
 - Recharter steps
 - Online payment using credit card or e-check
 - Online e-sign approval for recharter contents and submission
 - Print, complete, scan and email the Charter Agreement form and JTE form to your District Executive
- Key Dates
 - Oct 5th: Online recharter tool goes 'live'
 - Oct 8th: Council-wide Roundtable; main topic will be recharter
 - Oct 27th: Another online training/Q&A session
 - Nov 30th: Charters due
 - Dec 15th: Units wanting to qualify for Partner status must have all issues resolved and their charter ready for posting by this date
 - NOTE: The Council Office will be closed Dec 16th to Jan 3rd, 2021, so its important that charters be submitted well before then!

This page outlines the highlights of the 2021 recharter process. For any questions, contact your District Executive or the Council Registrar.

Be A Scout PIN Data

as of 9/28/2020

The table below provides a snapshot of district-level usage of the different features provided by the Be-A-Scout 'pin' program. Ideally, we'd have every unit using every feature.

District	Total Units	Pin Active	Pin View: Unit	Online App: Active	Unit Contact Listed	Unit Website
Rio Grande	51	50	43	24	45	19
San Juan Mountains	27	27	20	11	20	2
Sandia	43	43	32	19	34	15
Sangre de Cristo	20	20	7	5	10	5
Council Total	141	140	102	59	109	41

This table shows any changes since last month.

Delta from 8/28/2020 to 9/28/2020						
District	Total Units	Pin Active	Pin View: Unit	Online App: Active	Unit Contact Listed	Unit Website
Rio Grande	0	0	0	0	0	0
San Juan Mountains	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sandia	0	0	0	0	1	0
Sangre de Cristo	0	0	1	1	1	0
Council Total	0	0	1	1	2	1

Be A Scout PIN Actions


as of 9/28/2020

A reminder that if your unit updates your Be A Scout pin between now and Sept 30th, the unit will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a \$500 Scout Shop Gift card, or one of five \$100 Scout Shop Gift cards.

<https://scoutingwire.org/update-your-beascout-org-pin-and-your-unit-could-win/>

Here is information for a unit Key 3 on how to implement a BeAScout feature; more detailed instructions are available via the link at the bottom of the page:

- Turn on Unit View:



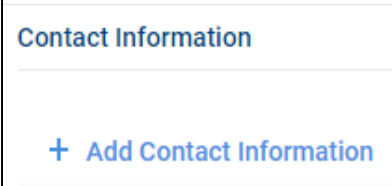
Appear on BeAScout:

- Activate on Online Application:



Allow People to Apply Online:

- Ensure a unit contact is listed:



Contact Information

+ Add Contact Information

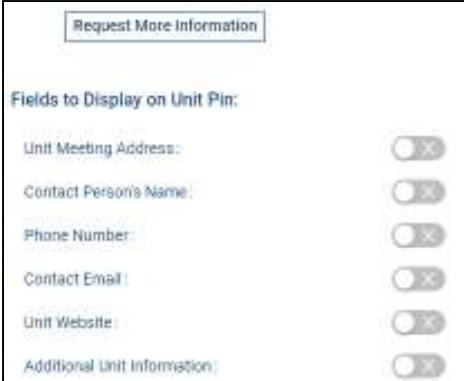
- List a unit 'website' or information site (social media, etc):



Unit Website

www.scouting.org

- And make sure to enable display of each piece of information:



Request More Information

Fields to Display on Unit Pin:

Unit Meeting Address:

Contact Person's Name:

Phone Number:

Contact Email:

Unit Website:

Additional Unit Information:

- More info at <https://www.scouting.org/resources/online-registration/>, scroll down to Step 2 and open the pdf file on the right

Commissioner-Related Strategic Plan Goals

This page summarizes the commissioner-focus areas outlined in Section 5, *Unit Service*, of the Council's 2020 Strategic Plan, dated March 26th, 2020. Subsequent pages in the newsletter look at each of these areas. All data is as of **September 28th, 2020**, unless otherwise noted. Results are shown for last month and the current month.

2019 Council Strat Plan Area	Goal	JTE Area	Last Month	Current Snapshot	Page
5.1.1	80% of unit rechartrers to Council by 12/31/20	N/A	88%	Too early to measure	13
5.1.2	80% of unit charters posted by 1/31/21	N/A	84%	Too early to measure	14
5.2.1	45% of units have six contacts, including one DA (Gold criteria)	Council #15	7.1%	7.1%	15
5.2.2	75% of units have Bronze JTE or higher (Gold criteria)	District #14	66.7%	Too early to measure	16
5.3.1	Maintain ratio of one UC per three units	N/A	3.1	3.1	17
5.3.2	80% of commissioners complete basic training	N/A	83.6%	83.6%	18
5.3.3	100% of Cub Scout packs have a commissioner assigned	N/A	62.3%	66.0%	19
5.4.1	50% of units achieve Partner status by 1/31/21, under the Partnership for Scouting (PFS) program	N/A	Too early to measure	Too early to measure	20-21
5.4.2	Report PFS status periodically; propose changes to PFS by 6/30/20	N/A	1 st report issued!	1 st report issued!	20-21
5.4.3	Produce a new PFS brochure by 1/31/21	N/A	Too early to measure	Too early to measure	20-21
N/A	Units without commissioners	N/A	42.4%	37.1%	22

Strat Plan Area: 5.1.1

Recharterers to Council

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

Recharter data current as of 9/28/2020

District	Total Units	Units Dropping	Units Rechartering	Charters @ Office	Pct @ Office
Rio Grande	51				
San Juan Mountains	27				
Sandia	42				
Sangre de Cristo	20				
Council Total	140				

The 2021 Recharter season is upon us! The online recharter tool will be opening on October 5th. It's time to start tracking our progress in this area!

Strat Plan Area 5.1.2

Rechartering Process-Charters Posted

(Goal is to have 100% of recharterers posted by 1/31/2021)

Recharter data current as of 9/28/2020

District	Units Rechartering	Charters @ Office	Pct @ Office	Charters Posted	Pct Posted
Rio Grande	51				
San Juan Mountains	27				
Sandia	42				
Sangre de Cristo	20				
Council Total	140				

The 2021 Recharter season is upon us! The online recharter tool will be opening on October 5th. It's time to start tracking our progress in this area!

Strat Plan Area: 5.2.1

Unit Contacts

(Goal: 45% of units have 6 or more contacts, including one DA [Council JTE Gold])

This page looks at the critical unit-service area of unit contacts, which falls under Council JTE Criteria #16. The JTE criteria requires at least six contacts per year, with one a Detailed Assessment. 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 JTE criteria. Data is from a Council-level "District_Contact_Stats" report. In 2018, 40% of our units met this criteria, which equates to a Silver rating for JTE in this area. In 2019, 51% of the units met the criteria, which earned Gold. The challenge for 2020 is to continue the upward trend!

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	2020 Pct w/6 or more AND a DA
Rio Grande	51	473	51	100%	31	60.8%	10	19.6%	9	17.6%
San Juan Mountains	27	210	27	100%	22	81.5%	1	3.7%	1	3.7%
Sandia	42	410	42	100%	37	88.1%	0	0%	0	0%
Sangre de Cristo	20	135	20	100%	15	75.0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	140	1228	140	100%	105	75.0%	11	7.9%	10	7.1%
Bronze Goal (10%)									14	
Silver Goal (25%)									35	
Gold Goal (45%)									63	
Needed to reach Bronze goal									4	
Needed to reach Silver goal								To-Go to Silver	25	
Needed to reach Gold goal								To-Go to Gold	53	

Here's the to-date info on unit contacts so far in 2020. With 75% of the units in the Council having six or more contacts, the challenge now is entering Detailed Assessments (DA). With rechartering starting, JTE forms should be coming in that have the information needed to enter a DA!

Strat Plan Area: 5.2.2

Units with JTE Bronze or Higher

(Goal: 75% of Units achieve Bronze or Higher
[District JTE Gold])

This page looks at the how many units achieve JTE level Bronze or higher, which falls under District JTE Criteria #14. Districts that achieve 50% earn Bronze; 60% are Silver, and 75% are Gold. JTE forms are normally collected at the end of the calendar year, as part of the recharter process.

Data current as of 9/28/2020

District	# Units	NO JTE Form Submitted	Form Submitted	Pct w/ Form	None	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Total Bronze or Higher	Pct Bronze or Higher	District JTE #14
Rio Grande	51										
Sandia	42										
SdC	20										
San Juan Mtns	27										
Total	140										

With the 2021 recharter starting, we'll be collecting JTE forms with the recharter packets. So we've re-set our tracking mechanism in anticipation of the new data rolling in soon!

Strat Plan Area: 5.3.1

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	51	17.0	18	2.8	-1.0
San Juan Mountains	27	9.0	9	3.0	0.0
Sandia	42	14.0	14	3.0	0.0
Sangre de Cristo	20	6.7	4	5.0	2.7
Total	140	46.7	45	3.1	1.7

There was no change in the data from August to September.

Strat Plan Area: 5.3.2

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	2	2	18	18	3	3	24	24	100%
SJM	1	1	1	1	9	4	0	0	11	6	54.5%
SA	1	1	2	2	14	13	3	2	20	18	90.0%
SDC	1	0	1	1	4	2	0	0	6	3	50.0%
Total	4	3	6	6	45	37	6	5	61	51	83.6%
Pct Trained		75.0%		100.0%		82.2%		83.3%			

To Goal	0.2	-1.2	-1.0	10.2	-2.2
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There were no changes in the past month. We remain above our 80% goal.

Strat Plan Area: 5.3.3

Packs have a UC

(Goal: 100% of Packs have a UC assigned)

Having strong packs that excite youth about Scouting is critical to retaining the youth as they age-up to become eligible for Scouts BSA, Venturing, and Exploring. Having commissioners assigned to the unit helps to ensure strong packs. The data is from the Assigned_Units and Unassigned_Units reports in Commissioner Tools.

District	Packs	Packs Assigned a UC	Packs Not Assigned a UC	Pct Packs Assigned
Rio Grande	22	19	3	86.4%
San Juan Mountains	10	5	5	50.0%
Sandia	13	11	2	84.6%
Sangre de Cristo	8	0	0	0.0%
Total	53	35	18	66.0%

Commissioners were assigned to packs in Rio Grande and San Juan Mountains. As a result, the percent of packs with an assigned commissioner increased from 62.3% in August to 66.0% this month.

Strat Plan Areas 5.4

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.

2020 Partnership Status Criteria

- \$175 per registered youth, via FOS contributions, beef jerky or popcorn 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: Since summer camp and day camps were cancelled due to the pandemic, this year won't be counted. If a Troop attended a virtual Gorham sessions, they'll be given credit for camp attendance, but otherwise 2020 data in this area won't be 'counted'**
- Earn overall JTE Bronze or higher
 - **Note: BSA National has released revised unit-level JTE criteria to reflect the impact of the pandemic on unit operations and increased virtual Scouting**

Partnership Status Recognition

- Rebate of \$25 insurance 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 Areas 5.4

Partnership for Scouting (PFS)

There are three goals in this area:

- 5.4.1-PFS Unit Percentage
 - Goal: Achieve 50% of units qualifying as Partner Units
 - Deadline: 1/31/2021
- 5.4.2-PFS Report
 - Goal: Prepare report on Partnership for Scouting status and proposed changes to PFS requirements to Council Executive Committee
 - Deadline: 6/30/2020
- 5.4.3-Promotion of PFS
 - Goal: Produce a new brochure promoting PFS
 - Deadline: 1/31/2021

The initial 2020 Partnership report containing membership data and initial FOS and Gondola Patrol information was sent to units in mid-July. Updated financial information will be reported in October, once September end-of-month financial data is available.

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 Unassigned_Units report in Commissioner Tools.

District	# Units	# Not Assigned a UC	Pct Unassigned
Rio Grande	51	5	10%
San Juan Mountains	27	15	56%
Sandia	42	15	36%
Sangre de Cristo	20	17	85%
Total	140	52	37.1%

A concerted effort in the Rio Grande District to assign commissioners resulted in a solid drop in the percent unassigned, from 42.4% in August to 37.1% in September.

GSWC District and Council Commissioners

as of 9/28/2020

District	Name	Email	Phone
Rio Grande	George Greenlee (acting)		
Sandia	Jerry Brenden	jabrenden@gmail.com	505-239-7656-c
Sangre de Cristo	David Jones	dciones59@gmail.com	505-662-5289-h
San Juan Mountains	Matthew Griffis	matthewgriffis@gmail.com	510-427-3843-c
Assistant Council Commissioner for Older Youth Programs	Brian Tolson	briantolson99@yahoo.com	505-967-6139
Council Commissioner	Dale Balmer	dbalmer8@comcast.net	505-898-9076-h 505-554-8545-c