



Great Southwest Council **Council Commissioner**



Communicator



October 30th, 2020

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 10

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"Social distancing protects us; Scouting connects us."

Council Commissioner Corner

- Commissioners: Recharter is starting!
 - The Online Recharter Tool opened Oct 5th
 - As of Oct 30th, only 15% of units council-wide have logged into the tool; none have submitted their charter online
 - Remind unit leaders to complete their JTE form as part of recharter; having one from the unit makes completing a Detailed Assessment a snap
- A reminder about doing Detailed Assessments using the “5 Questions” approach. They’ve 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 page following, page 6)
 - Venturing Leadership Award nominations are being sought
- 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 final 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@yahoo.com
- Phone: 505-967-6139



HEADLINES!!!!

Key information for units in the Great Southwest Council!

ALL UNITS

- Recharter is Underway!
- Online Recharter Tool opened Oct 5th
- As of Oct 30th, only 15% of units council-wide have logged into the tool
- Recharter deadline is Nov 30th. Council office will be closed Nov 20th to Nov 30th, so any questions will need to be asked before then!
- Questions: Contact your District Executive, Unit Commissioner, or the Council Office (505-345-8603, x100), M/W/F 9am-5pm

PACKS

- Another National ***Back to Cub Scouting*** Webinar!
- Topics include: Ideas on where to meet; Making in-person meetings fun and safe; Best practices for virtual meetings; Best practices for recruiting during Covid
- Wednesday, Nov 4th, 6pm MST
- Register: https://scouting-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gJQII2KqTI-Ea8VPORZ5AQ

TROOPS

- Another ***Scouts BSA Live Office Hours***
- Topics include: Covid-19 Eagle extension requests; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advancement changes; Preparing for Arrow of Light crossover; Inaugural Class of Female Eagle Scouts; Retaining and recruiting Scouts during Covid-10
- Thursday, Nov 12th, 6pm MST
- Register: <https://scouting-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0sc-qvrDsiEte0Yv1jn6kVWiahBzl-VpJ9>

CREWS

- Venturing Leadership Award nominations are still being accepted from now until November 30th. Contact Brian Tolson, the Assistant Council Commissioner for Older Youth Programs for details, email: briantolson99@yahoo.com; phone: 505-967-6139

"Social distancing protects us; Scouting connects us."

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 **October 30th, 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 recharterers to Council by 12/31/20	N/A	Too early to measure	Starting to measure	9
5.1.2	80% of unit charters posted by 1/31/21	N/A	Too early to measure	Too early to measure	10
5.2.1	45% of units have six contacts, including one DA (Gold criteria)	Council #15	7.1%	9.2%	11
5.2.2	75% of units have Bronze JTE or higher (Gold criteria)	District #14	Too early to measure	Too early to measure	12
5.3.1	Maintain ratio of one UC per three units	N/A	3.1	3.2	13
5.3.2	80% of commissioners complete basic training	N/A	83.6%	85.2%	14
5.3.3	100% of Cub Scout packs have a commissioner assigned	N/A	66.0%	67.9%	15
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	16-17
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!	16-17
5.4.3	Produce a new PFS brochure by 1/31/21	N/A	Too early to measure	Too early to measure	16-17
N/A	Units without commissioners	N/A	37.1%	34.5%	18

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 10/30/2020

District	Total Units	Units Dropping	Units Recharter-ing	Units logged into online tool	Charters @ Office	Pct @ Office
Rio Grande	53			8		
San Juan Mountains	27			5		
Sandia	42			7		
Sangre de Cristo	20			1		
Council Total	142			21		

The 2021 Recharter season is upon us! The online recharter tool opened on October 5th. Congratulations to the 21 units that have logged into the online recharter tool. A reminder that the deadline for charter submission is November 30th.

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 10/30/2020

District	Units Rechartering	Charters @ Office	Pct @ Office	Charters Posted	Pct Posted
Rio Grande	53				
San Juan Mountains	27				
Sandia	42				
Sangre de Cristo	20				
Council Total	142				

The 2021 Recharter season is upon us! The online recharter tool opened on October 5th. The deadline for recharter submission is Nov 30th, so by next month we hopefully will have data to review for this measure.

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	53	510	51	96.2%	32	60.4%	11	20.8%	11	20.8%
San Juan Mountains	27	240	27	100%	22	81.5%	1	3.7%	1	3.7%
Sandia	42	439	42	100%	38	90.5%	1	2.4%	1	2.4%
Sangre de Cristo	20	156	20	100%	16	80.0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	142	1345	140	98.6%	108	76.1%	13	9.2%	13	9.2%
Bronze Goal (10%)									15	
Silver Goal (25%)									36	
Gold Goal (45%)									64	
Needed to reach Bronze goal									2	
Needed to reach Silver goal								To-Go to Silver	23	
Needed to reach Gold goal								To-Go to Gold	51	

Here's the to-date info on unit contacts so far in 2020. With over 76% 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 10/30/2020

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	53	17.7	18	2.9	-0.3
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	142	47.3	45	3.2	2.3

There was a slight increase in the ratio from September to October due to two new units being registered in Rio Grande District, with no corresponding increase in the number of unit commissioners.

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	5	0	0	11	7	63.6%
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	38	6	5	61	52	85.2%
Pct Trained		75.0%		100.0%		84.4%		83.3%			

To Goal	0.2	-1.2	-2.0	-0.2	-3.2
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Training for one unit commissioner was recorded this month, raising the percentage slightly. 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	6	4	60.0%
Sandia	13	11	2	84.6%
Sangre de Cristo	8	0	0	0.0%
Total	53	36	17	67.9%

Commissioners were assigned to a pack in San Juan Mountains. As a result, the percent of packs with an assigned commissioner increased from 66.0% in September to almost 68% 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**
- Partner units must complete all recharter actions by Dec 15th, 2020

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 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 released shortly

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	53	7	13%
San Juan Mountains	27	11	41%
Sandia	42	14	33%
Sangre de Cristo	20	17	85%
Total	142	49	34.5%

Commissioners were assigned to units in Rio Grande (1) and San Juan Mountains (2). As a result, the percent unassigned dropped from 37.1% in September to 34.5% this month.

GSWC District and Council Commissioners

as of 10/30/2020

District	Name	Email	Phone
Rio Grande	George Greenlee (acting)	Ltcg2@earthlink.net	505-681-7319-c
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

