FAQs for JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE
PERFORMANCE RECOGNITION PROGRAM
(Unit)

1. How will new units be impacted by the change to JTE? New units will start their journey as any other unit. They will start when they originally charter, and work from that point on. An existing unit will start over as they begin a new charter year.

2. Will Journey to Excellence require the use of Internet advancement? No. Internet advancement has proven to be a good method for many units, and its use continues to grow. Advancement records should be kept by every pack, troop, or crew and be used in this program, whether or not they use the Internet advancement program.

3. I see the tiered ratings as a detriment to some troops. Graduating Webelos or their parents could use the JTE rating to judge troops and only go to those with a gold or silver rating. Has this been considered? This could happen. With the Journey to Excellence award, every troop will be working to improve so that the graduating Webelos, or new boys, will have gold or silver troops to pick from.

4. Can you give an example of an area of early warning? How would a unit know they are in jeopardy? Consider the service project requirement. If the unit has not yet performed a service project, and their charter year is already half over, that would be an early warning that they need to schedule enough service projects for the second half of the year to attain the level they want to achieve.

5. With the Journey to Excellence program, will the Summertime Pack Award stay the same? There is no plan at this time to change the Summertime Pack Award.

6. Will the service hours affect Good Turn for America entries? The new Journey to Excellence service hour website has replaced the Good Turn for America website, so there will never be duplication.

7. On the troop Journey to Excellence form, the requirement for service projects under the objective says hours are to be entered into the JTE website, but under the bronze, silver, and gold, there is no reference to entering hours into the JTE website. There seems to be no incentive to enter the hours. Troops can just say they did the service projects. Since the requirements stipulate entering the service hours into the Journey to Excellence website, it is implied that all service must be entered. If not, they will not count.

8. Where can I download all of the JTE forms? www.scouting.org/jte

9. Is this presentation available for download to look at later? The webinars were recorded and placed online toward the end of November at the same link as listed above.

10. Is there a Learning for Life component to this program? Not at this time.

11. For the district and unit webinars, what leaders do you recommend view the webinar? Any and all volunteers that are interested can participate in a webinar. At least one volunteer from every unit should learn about the program so they can assist their unit.

12. Will the 100-percent trained direct-contact leaders be going away? It would be good to have 100 percent of direct contact leaders trained. The reality today is that a lower level matches actual performance, and units need to work at continuous improvement to reach the 100-percent level in the future.

13. How are camping statistics gathered at the national level? Camping statistics are entered into online forms at the council-level in the fall every year. This populates the council dashboard with the data.

14. How different are the presentations for units than the district and council presentations? The district and council webinars are quite different, and both differ from the unit webinars. If you are with a unit, you should participate in a unit webinar. If you're at the district level, you should participate in a district webinar.

15. What constitutes a service project? Any service performed by your unit or members of your unit that helps someone else.

16. Should the silver award be higher than gold to match other hierarchy in the Boy Scout program? This was discussed by the task force, which decided that Journey to Excellence would be better understood by the majority of volunteers—especially new volunteers—if the program followed the bronze, silver, gold sequence.

17. How will JTE address large (more than 75 members) troops? It seems targeted to smaller (about 25 members) troops? The Journey to Excellence program was designed with two ways of achieving the requirements for just this reason. A troop can either meet or exceed a determined standard, which most Boy Scout troops with 75 members would be able to do, or to show improvement. Either way, a troop will be able to achieve the requirement.

18. How does "aging out" relate to going away to college? Could we consider Scouts to college part of aging out? ScoutNET calculates "age–outs," and to keep consistency, this will continue to be the standard.

19. Regarding superactivities for crews, would attending a high-adventure base qualify? High-adventure bases qualify as a superactivity.

20. Will there be a MyBSA dashboard that shows where a unit or district stands today? Not right away. A district dashboard is being considered for the 2013 JTE year, but not one for units. BSA computer systems do not track data at a level to make a workable dashboard for units.

21. Do the surveys also ask about family income levels? No, the scorecards are to assess the performance of units, districts, and councils. They do not drill down to the individual or family level.

22. Requirement no. 4 for crews at the silver and gold levels says that leaders must complete the Venturing Leadership Skills Course. I understand that course is being replaced and will not be available. Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews (ILSC) is replacing VLSC. This requirement can be met by completing ILSC. Occasionally, courses do get changed or updated. We'll try to list all such changes on the Journey to Excellence website. However, if a course listed in one of the requirements is replaced, the new course will also meet the requirement.

23. Is there a percentage attendance requirement or number attendance requirement for a troop overnight or a pack outdoor event? There is no percentage attendance requirement or number attendance requirement. If your unit considers an activity to be a troop overnight or a pack outdoor event and attendance happens to be poor for that activity, you can still count it. Of course, if you have several such events and attendance is always poor, you might have other reasons to be concerned.

24. Does a patrol campout count as a troop overnight? Does a den outdoor activity or a Webelos den overnight count as a pack outdoor activity? The requirement is intended for your full unit to participate, so a single patrol campout or den outdoor activity would not count. However, if, for example, you had three patrols and each conducted their own patrol campout, your troop might count that as one troop overnight. Or, if each of your dens had their own outdoor activity, that might count as one outdoor activity for the pack.

25. Who will keep the data and statistics for the advancement criteria? Will the online advancement program support this sort of measurement? There has been a spreadsheet developed that will convert total number of advancements to the total number of boys advancing. You can find the Advancement spreadsheet on the JTE webpage. This is a much better measure of our impact.

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26. On the myscouting.org training update website, it indicates the 100-percent trained direct contact leadership criterion will be required in 2012. The JTE scorecard does not appear to reflect that push. The Journey to Excellence scorecard reflects how councils actually performed in the previous year. The 100-percent trained direct contact leadership criterion is still a corporate goal, but the Journey to Excellence scorecard is based up actual performance data, not goals.

27. Where on scouting.org is the information? The search engine does not find it anywhere. Go to www.scouting.org/jte.

28. Will any of these forms be available in Spanish? Not at this time, but that is a great idea and we'll look into it.

29. In 2011, requirement No. 4 on the troop scorecard, what is meant by "youth officer elections?" Every troop should hold elections for the position of patrol leader and up to senior patrol leader so that the troop is truly run by the boys.

30. In requirement No. 4, are all committee members required to complete the training, or just three committee members? All adults registered as part of the troop must complete at least the three listed online trainings.

31. Does this mean a pack could have a completely trained set of adults for the entire year, but start a new Cubmaster on December 30 and miss the requirement? If a pack had its leaders trained all year but changed leadership at the end of its charter year, as it was filling out the Journey to Excellence scorecard, it would still qualify for that requirement. The leaders were trained all year, and there is a provision in the requirement to have a three-month timeframe for the new leaders to complete training.

32. Our Cubmaster has earned a knot for the Centennial Quality Unit Award. Will there be a different knot for JTE? There isn't a knot in the works for JTE at this time, but there may be in the future.

33. If a Cub Scout, Boy Scout, or Varsity Scout advances more than one rank in a year, does the unit receive credit for more than one advancement? No. The standard is for individual youth earning at least one advancement during the year, not for the total number of advancements during the year.

34. Does earning the Scout level count as an advancement for a Boy Scout in a troop or Varsity Scout in a team? No. Scout is the joining requirement, not an advancement.

35. Does the Eagle Palm count as an advancement for a Boy Scout in a troop or Varsity Scout in a team? No. Eagle Palms are not considered advancements, even though the Scout goes through a board of review to earn it.

36. Is the troop level training program, Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills required for requirement #4 on the troop scorecard? In some councils, this is considered part of Leader Specific Training. Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills is not part of Leader Specific training. It is a separate training course. The 2011 troop Journey to Excellence scorecard lists Leader Specific Training in requirement #4 at the Silver level. This is the classroom training course and does not include Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills. OLS is required at the silver level on the 2012 on the Journey to Excellence scorecard for the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster.

37. In the training requirement on the unit scorecards, can you please define 'all' when referring to 'all leaders'? All leaders include all registered adults with the troop no matter what their position.

38. Can I achieve the silver or gold level without achieving the bronze level in any individual requirement? No. You must achieve the bronze level before you can qualify for the silver or gold levels. You must achieve the bronze and silver levels before you can qualify for the gold level.

39. What is the latest version of the scorecards? The documents that are on-line are the most current. We have begun to put the date on the bottom of page two of the scorecards so you can always tell which is the most current.

40. In the retention requirement, can we count our drop outs? No. You can count age outs and transfer outs, but you cannot count drop outs.

41. Is there a report that I can get from the council service center that will help me determine how many of my scouts have advanced during the past year? Yes, the report is called Unit Advancement Summary Report. Your local council service center can print this report out and it will show every boy in your unit and what advancements they've earned in the past year.

42. If a family has 2 or more siblings in a unit, how is that considered for family attendance at courts of honor and other parents' meetings? When a family has 2 or more siblings in a unit and has one or more parent(s) attend a parents' meeting, each youth member is counted as having a family member attend. So, for example, if there are 3 siblings in a unit, credit should be given for 3 families attending the parents' meeting.

43. When I open the spreadsheets for units, I get a security warning about Disabled Macros. What should I do? Click the Options button and then click to Enable Macros. The spreadsheet will only function if the Macros are enabled.

44. When I open the spreadsheets for units, I can't see the two tabs at the bottom for each page. How do I see them? At the top right hand corner of the spreadsheet, (not the Excel program), next to the "X" to close the spreadsheet, is a box to "Maximize" the spreadsheet. Click that to maximize the view of the spreadsheet, and you'll be able to see the two tabs.   If this doesn't work, there are two tabs all along the left side of the spreadsheet; one is to print, and the other will move your from page one to page two and back.

45. Do YMCA lock-ins to work on swimming requirements, lock-ins at indoor climbing facilities, etc. count as short-term camping for JTE purposes? Yes, these activities do count as long as they're troop outings.

46. It does not appear from the 2011 Scorecard that Fast Start is required for any other leaders aside from Committee members - is that correct? No, scoutmaster, and all Assistant SM must have Fast Start for 2011. Here is what the back of the Troop JTE form states: "Have a troop committee. All SM, SA, MC, VC, and VA (paid or multiple registration) have completed This Is Scouting, Fast Start training, and Youth Protection training or, if new leaders, complete within three months of joining"

47. Do all of the Committee Members have to complete Troop Committee Challenge in addition to Youth Protection and This is Scouting for JTE Silver level? Yes, because Troop Committee Challenge is the leader specific training for troop committee members.

48. Does the Chartered Organization Rep have to complete Youth Protection; This is Scouting and Chartered Organization Representative training for JTE Silver level? No, this criterion refers only to troop leaders and troop committee members

49. Does the Chartered Organization Rep have to complete the Troop Committee Challenge training for JTE? Does it matter if the Chartered Organization Rep meets as part of your Troop Committee? Only if the Charter Rep is multiple registered as a member of the troop committee, otherwise no.

50. How do I determine my unit's retention percentage for last year? Journey to Excellence is all about improvement, and we, here at the national office are working hard to make the data collection easier and more convenient. As of this year, there is no report that you can get that counts number of boys who advance, but that is coming next year with the new computer platform being built. Everything else does have reports that will help you. Retention can be gathered by going to MyBSA, click on Membership, click on MS Analysis on the blue bar towards the top, scroll down until you find the box on the left called membership analysis, and in that area you will find a report called 'percent youth retention by program. Put in the date you want the retention figures for and hit submit. You will get a report listing all units and what their retention percentage is. Reporting will become easier with the new computer platform and a new district dashboard slated for 2013.

51. Do I need to take the current training courses to be considered "trained" for Journey to Excellence? The requirement for Journey to Excellence is to be trained according to the current training requirements for your position. While Scout leaders certainly can have completed an earlier generation of training, things in Scouting do change. Requirements change; policies and procedures change even certain skill elements change. It is important that Scout leaders use current methods, policies and procedures. The current Training Continuum has been in place since about 2001, so most of our trained leaders have participated in most, if not all, of the current training courses. And when a leader changes jobs, to be considered trained for the new position, they need to complete training for that position although they do not need to take courses they have already taken. There are several ways to complete training requirement including: a) group training b) on-line training c) personal coaching d) self-study. If you believe that, based on your completing an earlier version of training AND YOUR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO STAY UP TO DATE WITH CURRENT SCOUTING POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND METHODS, you have at least the same knowledge, skill and attitude as a person who completes group training today FOR YOUR CURRENT POSITION,   you should talk with your Unit Commissioner and your District Training Chairman. Those leaders have the authority to determine that a leader has done what is necessary to be considered trained per the current requirements and to certify them as trained for Journey to Excellence.   But this is not automatic.   Your youth are entitled to a leader who has knowledge and is trained per the current requirements.

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