

Journey to Excellence
Performance Recognition Program
Frequently Asked Questions for Units

1. How are new units impacted by 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 year.**
2. Does 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 unit 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 the best choices.**
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 year is already half over, it 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. Where can I download all of the JTE forms? **www.scouting.org/jte**
7. Is there a Learning for Life component to this program? **There are scorecards for Explorer posts.**
8. 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 and district dashboard with the data.**
9. What constitutes a service project? **Any service performed by your unit or members of your unit that helps someone else.**
10. 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.**
11. 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.**
12. Will there be a MyBSA dashboard that shows where a unit stands today? **A complete dashboard will not be available, but a unit will be able to get information through My.Scouting.**

Journey to Excellence
Performance Recognition Program
Frequently Asked Questions for Units

13. 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.**
14. 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.**
15. Where on scouting.org is the information? The search engine does not find it anywhere. **Go to www.scouting.org/jte.**
16. 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.**
17. 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.**
18. Does earning the Scout level count as an advancement for a Boy Scout in a troop or Varsity Scout in a team? **It counts beginning in 2016.**
19. 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.**
20. Is the troop level training program, Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills required 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.**
21. 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.**
22. In the retention requirement, can we count our drop outs? **No. You can account age outs, but you cannot count drop outs.**
23. 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.**



Journey to Excellence
Performance Recognition Program
Frequently Asked Questions for Units

24. 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.**
25. Does the chartered organization representative have to complete the Troop Committee Challenge training for JTE? Does it matter if the chartered organization representative meets as part of your unit committee? **Only if the chartered organization representative is multiple registered as a member of the troop committee, otherwise no.**
26. How do I determine my unit's retention percentage? **Retention is determined by taking the count of youth who reregister for a new charter year and divided it by the number registered at the end of the last charter year (less any aging out.)**
27. 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. 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.**

Updated 3/16/2015