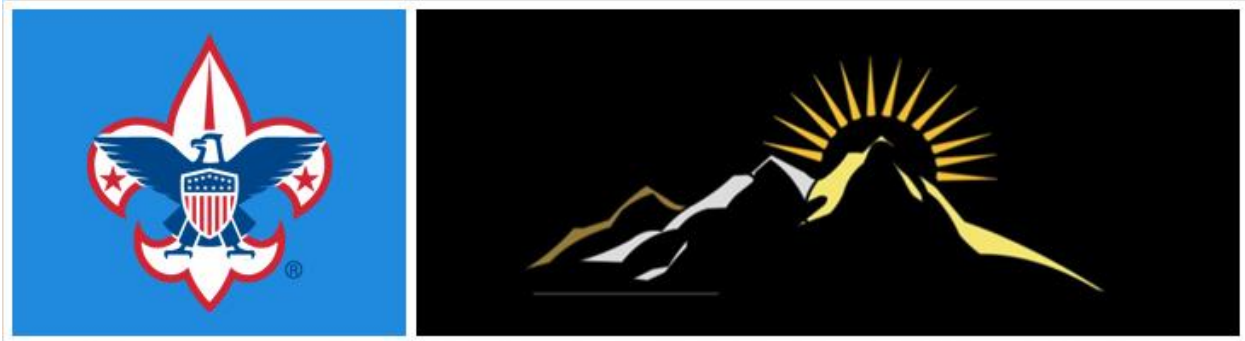


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## JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

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### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE?

Journey to Excellence, often shortened to JTE, is a self-evaluation tool that lets unit leaders see, quantitatively, how well their unit is meeting the goals of Scouting.

- Encourage continuous improvement.
- Measures performance vs. process.
- Rewards unit success
- Achieves the BSA mission of serving more youth through a higher-quality program.
- Help unit leaders understand the key factors that improve program.

### JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE STANDARD

Commissioners use JTE standards to help units meet and exceed BSA standards.

- Reinforces JTE as the unit-quality standard
- Helps the unit provide a quality program for the Scouts
- Encourages the use of all available district and council resources
- Reviewing JTE is a six-step process

So as a Unit Commissioner, makes an appointment with the Unit Key 3 (Committee Chair, Unit Leader, and the Charter Representative) to discuss the following six steps.

#### 1. WHY JTE IS WORTH THEIR TIME?

Commissioners need to let their units know why JTE is worth their time - JTE scorecards offer these benefits:

- A framework for planning the year with standards based on what successful units do to continually improve.

- A method for evaluating their unit in tangible ways (number of campouts, number of youth advancing, etc.)
- Guidance in areas where they might do better and early warning of potential problems.
- Specific guidelines and standards of what is considered good performance.
- Recognition for good Scouting: bronze, silver or gold.
- Benchmarking to get ideas and tips from other good units.

## 2. THE JTE SCORECARD

At the beginning of each calendar year, print out the latest JTE scorecard from the BSA website. There are scorecards for the following Scouting entities:

- Cub Scout packs
- Boy Scout troops
- Venturing crews
- Sea Scout ships
- Exploring posts
- Districts
- Exploring districts
- Councils
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## 3. INTRODUCE THE SCORECARD TO UNIT COMMITTEE

When meeting with the unit committee, ask them to fill in the sections corresponding to their function in the unit: finance, membership, program, leadership.

This is also where Guidebooks and tracking workbooks are available on the BSA website, come in handy. The JTE scorecards work best when several Scouters participate in tracking.

## 4. REVIEW PROGRESS ON THIS YEAR'S SCORECARD

At the end of the year and at regular intervals throughout the year, monitor the progress as the unit tries to achieve gold in JTE.

Suggest trying a “thorns, roses and buds” approach or look at things to “start, stop and continue.”

Either way, learn where units aren’t maximizing JTE points and find specific improvements. Suggest the committee chair appoint a volunteer to hold the unit accountable for those changes.

## 5. LOOK AT NEXT YEAR'S SCORECARD

The BSA releases scorecards early, meaning the unit has time to plan so they can meet their goals. Always best to *Be Prepared*.

## 6. COMPLETE THE SCORECARD AND TURN IT IN.

On Dec. 31 of each year, JTE scorecards are due to the unit commissioner, district executive or council representative.

Units that plan aren't surprised by their score; they're expecting it.

Like a marathon runner checking his watch after each mile, a unit should check its scorecard regularly to aim for gold.

Make sure the unit knows they can find all the Journey to Excellence information on the BSA website .

## RESOURCES

- Journey to Excellence Scorecards, Guidebooks and tracking Workbooks  
<https://www.scouting.org/awards/journey-to-excellence/>