

Dear Scouting Volunteer,

Scouting's *Journey to Excellence (JTE)* is the BSA aspirational planning, performance and recognition program designed to encourage and reward success of our units, districts, and councils. It is meant to encourage excellence and continuous improvement in providing a quality program at all levels of the BSA.

The JTE standards are based on achievements the previous year or previous few years, both individually and for the creation of national standards. Due to the extraordinary circumstances occurring in 2020, benchmarking 2019 to 2020 at the district and council level is not constructive and similarly basing 2021 standards on 2020 for districts and councils is equally inappropriate. Many units, however, have largely adapted their programs to the challenges of 2020 so their members have continued to enjoy Scouting.

For these reasons, the Journey to Excellence recognition program for districts and councils is discontinued immediately. **The Unit level recognition program will continue, and recognition patches will be available for units.**

Unit Recognition

Revised unit criteria, due to the pandemic, is available at <https://www.scouting.org/awards/journey-to-excellence/unit/2020-scorecards-english/>. The criteria intentionally provide units a great deal of latitude due to the significant variability of programming due to local pandemic regulations.

2021 unit scorecards are available at <https://www.scouting.org/awards/journey-to-excellence/unit/>.

Journey to Excellence for Districts and Councils also represents data which is important to help districts and councils. A new membership reporting tool is under development to aid districts and councils with key membership data including gender and ethnic inclusion. You will soon hear more about this.

Unfortunately, the council and district JTE dashboard (dials) and finish line report require substantial manual compilation and data assessment each month. With the significant reduction in staff at the BSA National office, the staff support necessary to keep the dashboard current and helpful to you is simply not available. Consequently, it is necessary to decommission the JTE dashboard and finish line report effective September 18.

We suggest that even if JTE recognition is not available, the JTE standards still represent a vision of good Scouting for Districts and Councils and can be used in strategic planning.

We will be considering what assessment and/or recognition system will be most helpful to councils and district for 2022 and beyond. It is very premature to speculate on what that might be. Questions can be directed to jte@scouting.org.

Thank you for all you do for Scouting and for your support of the Journey to Excellence program.

Neil Lupton

Chair, National Assessment and Evaluation Committee

Boy Scouts of America