

Scouting Leaders,

While the new Scouting year has just begun, we are also nearing the end of the calendar year. This means it is time to begin working on your unit's recharter and Journey to Excellence form.

Before it's too late I hope your unit will review the requirements to ensure a successful year – is GOLD your goal? Silver? Spend a few minutes now reviewing the requirements so you can achieve your goal.

The JTE forms are posted on scouting.org/jte. Direct links to the forms are here:

- [Cub Scout Packs](#)
- [Boy Scout Troops](#)
- [Varsity Scout Teams](#)
- [Venturing Crews](#)
- [Sea Scout Ships](#)
- [Explorer Posts](#)

Here are a couple notes regarding certain requirements for your use:

Advancement (for packs, troops, and teams). The goal is for every youth to advance at least one rank during the calendar year. For Cub Scouts, ranks include Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, Webelos, and Arrow of Light. For Boy Scouts and Varsity Scouts Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle are included. The Boy Scout rank and Eagle palms do not count; or do Activity Pins or belt loops for Cub Scouts.

Get credit for this requirement by ensuring that all youth have advanced this year and that their advancements are recorded on an Advancement Report that has been turned in to the Council Service Center (a.k.a. the Scout Office). Units can turn in advancement reports generated from software like Troop Master, etc, or by manually completing the forms available at the Council Service Center or online [here](#).

Retention is defined as the number of registered youth that rechartered at the beginning of the year. If you need this number, please contact Registrar Stephen Keel at the Council Service Center or your District Executive.

Community Service The goal is 4 hours per year for every registered youth; so if your pack has 35 Cub Scouts, the goal is 140 service hours during the year. Be sure to log your unit's service hours at servicehours.scouting.org. Service hours can include local cleanup projects for your school or charter partner, Eagle Scout service projects, or any other service provided by members of your unit.

If you need any assistance with these items, or the Journey to Excellence program in general, please talk with your unit Committee or give your District Executive a call. Our goal is that every Pack, Troop, Team, Crew, Ship, and Post in the Golden Spread Council will deliver an excellent program for youth and be recognized as a GOLD unit in the Journey to Excellence!

Thank you for what you do in Scouting.

Joni Mickna
Council Commissioner

Andy Price
Scout Executive