**2014 Journey to Excellence – Boy Scout Troop**

**Planning Guide**

**Troop Planning Reminders**

The purpose of this packet is to help provide a framework for a successful program year. The Journey to Excellence (JTE) standards are based on what successful troops do to continually improve. The JTE standards provide tangible measurements based on things likely already being tracked, such as advancement, and uses simple ways to calculate performance.

Tracking performance against the JTE standards can easily identify areas where your troop is already performing well. JTE can also provide guidance in areas where it might do better.

One of the most important functions of JTE is it provides early warning of potential problem areas. While tracking progress, it can identify areas where your unit is not performing as you might like and allows plenty of time to make corrections.

The notes below provide items to focus on monthly, for better planning of troop’s program.

**January**

* JTE Req #4 - Trained Leadership - Start talking to your leaders about the following school year. Start recruiting replacement leaders, if necessary. Encourage new leaders to take required online training as soon as possible, and plan to attend the next Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Specific Training, as well as Intro to Outdoor Leadership Skills.
* JTE Req #9 - Webelos-to-Scout Transition - Work with nearby packs to coordinate activities for the graduating Webelos Scouts.

**February**

* JTE Req #1: Advancement - Encourage boys to complete their Scout Badge joining requirements as soon as possible after joining the troop. Encourage new Scouts to achieve First Class rank within a year, or at least by their second summer camp.
* JTE Req #3: Building Boy Scouting - Make plans to participate in Webelos Graduation ceremonies at nearby packs’ Blue & Gold Banquets.
* JTE Req #7: Patrol Method - Troop elections should be every 6 months, and be held early enough to allow new SPL to have experience leading the troop prior to Summer Camp.

**March**

* JTE Req #6: Long-term Camping - Scouts should pay their Summer Camp early bird fee, and start the Summer Camp Merit Badge selection process.
* JTE Req #8: Service Projects - Make sure plans are in place for service projects.
* JTE Req #11: Court of Honor – Recognize scout by celebrating achievements between 2 and 4 times a year.
* JTE Req #13: Annual Charter Renewal Process – Committee Chair/Scoutmaster present charter to chartering organization at a meeting of the chartering organization.

**April**

* JTE Req #6: Long-term Camping - Scouts should be completing the Summer Camp Merit Badge selection process.
* JTE Req #12: Fitness- Stress ongoing fitness via SCOUTStong program.

**May**

* JTE Req #4: Trained Leadership - Encourage new leaders and parents attending Summer Camp to complete online Youth Protection training and consider training offered at camp.
* JTE Req #6: Long-term Camping - Get registrations in early for Summer Camp to allow better opportunity for Scouts to get into their preferred Merit Badge sessions.

**June**

* JTE Req #6: Long-term Camping - Attend Summer Camp and High Adventure.
* JTE Req #8: Service Projects - Look for Service Project opportunities… possibly a joint flag retirement ceremony with a local American Legion.
* JTE Req #11: Court of Honor – Recognize scout by celebrating achievements between 2 and 4 times a year.

**July**

* JTE Req #6: Long-term Camping - Attend Summer Camp and High Adventure.

**August**

* JTE Req #4 - Trained Leadership - Start talking to your leaders about the following year. Start recruiting replacement leaders, if necessary. Encourage new leaders to take required online training as soon as possible, and plan to attend the next Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Specific Training, as well as Intro to Outdoor Leadership Skills.
* JTE Req #6: Short-term Camping - Monthly troop campouts should be planned during the Annual Troop Program Planning Conference. The specific dates should be planned as far in advance as possible, to allow leaders and parents to schedule vacation, if necessary.
* JTE Req #7: Patrol Method - Troop elections should be every 6 months. Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) should lead the development of the troop calendar as part of the Annual Troop Program Planning conference.
* JTE Req #10: Budget - Have a unit budget created and approved by August 31. Get youth input for major activities.

**September**

* JTE Req #1: Advancement - Encourage boys to complete their Scout Badge joining requirements as soon as possible after joining the troop. Encourage new Scouts to achieve First Class rank within a year, or at least by their second summer camp.
* JTE Req #8: Service Projects - Make sure plan is in place for Scouting for Food bag distribution and collection.
* JTE Req #11: Court of Honor – Recognize scout by celebrating achievements between 2 and 4 times a year. September is a great month to recognize summer camp work.

**October**

* JTE Req #2: Retention - Be sure to contact inactive boys to encourage them to recharter with the troop. Complete Membership Inventory at October Roundtable. **November**
* JTE Req #9 - Webelos-to-Scout Transition - Work with nearby packs to coordinate activities for the graduating Webelos Scouts.

**December**

* JTE Req #13: Reregister On Time - If the recharter calendar is followed, recharter paperwork should be ready to turn Dec 1st.
* JTE Req #11: Court of Honor – Recognize scout by celebrating achievements between 2 and 4 times a year.

**Resources**

* http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts.aspx
* http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/Resources/Troop%20Program%20Resources.aspx
* https://myscouting.scouting.org