

2012 Journey to Excellence Frequently Asked Questions

District FAQs

1. **Market Share** – *The Market Share Requirement says “Increase market share (Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, Venturere, and Exporers.” What if my Market Share for cubs is 10% and it went up 2%, for the boy scouts it is 7% and it went up 1% , Venturing its 10% but it went down 3% and Exploring is 3% and it went up 1%. How do I calculate my total market share and my total increase or decrease in Market Share?*

- a. The Market share for a single area of scout does not matter and it does not matter if a single area of scouting goes up or down in a given year. Total Market Share is calculated to be the total number of Lone Scouts, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, Venturers, Sea Scouts and Explorers at the end of 2012 divided by Total Available Youth (TAY). TAY is calculated to be all available boys in the district ages 7 to 21 and all available girls in your district ages 14 to 21. Market Share increase or decrease is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Increase/Decrease} = \frac{\text{Market Share (2012)} - \text{Market (2011)}}{\text{Market Share (2011)}}$$

2. **Retention** - *I don't really understand retention. How do I calculate this?*

- a. Retention is meant to measure how well the units in the district are providing their programs. If you are not losing any boys due to lack of interest, then you have 100% retention. However, if a youth member drops from a unit because he/she is not interested in what the unit has to offer, this counts against retention. Here is a simple equation to calculate retention:

$$\text{Retention} = (C) / (C + \text{dropped, disinterested scouts}).$$

What this equation says is to take the number of youth in the district at the time of recharter (C) and divide that by the same number (C) plus the number of youth that dropped out due to lack of interest (not aged out or transferred scouts). This will give you the correct retention percentage.

3. **Unit Service** – *The unit service objective does not indicate who must fill in the Unit Visit Tracking System (UVTS) information. Can a District Commissioner or an Assistant District Commissioner fill in the information for a unit commissioner that is not comfortable with computers?*

- a. Yes, anyone with access to the UVTS system can enter in the unit tracking information as long as it is correct and accurate.

4. **Program** – *In order to achieve the Silver or Gold level in the program area, if a district wants to achieve the level using the percentage increase method, is the base percentage calculated before or after the increase?*
 - a. The base percentage is always before the increase. So, for example, to achieve the Silver level for Cub Scout Advancement using the increase method, a district must have 40% advancement before the increase and a 2% increase. So the district must go from at least 40 to 42%.
5. **Voice of the Scout** – *The Bronze Requirement says “Have 60% of all registrants (youth and adults) with email addresses in ScoutNET.” A tiger cub or a cub scout is a youth registrant, does the 60% include them?*
 - a. No, for scouts younger than 14 years old, a parent’s email address is used to count for the registrant’s email address.
6. **District Committee** – *For the district committee category, is a key 3 meeting considered a district meeting?*
 - b. No, a key 3 meeting is not a district committee meeting.

Troop FAQs

1. **Retention** - *I don’t really understand retention. How do I calculate this for the troop?*
 - a. See the retention FAQ for Districts above. The same formula applies at the Troop level.
2. **Trained leaders** – *As I read the requirement for the Trained Leader objective, I do not see that the bronze level requires the scout leaders to have Outdoor Leader Skills. Is this correct?*
 - a. Correct, even though Outdoor Leader Skills is a requirement for a leader to be considered fully trained and to allow the troop leader to wear the trained patch, OLS is not required to earn Trained Leader objective in Journey to Excellence.
3. **Trained leaders** – *Is it true that a troop can earn the Bronze or Silver level for training without new leaders taking any training at all? If I am to read the requirements literally, it appears that if a new unit leader “promises” to take the training within 3 or 6 months, then unit can claim Bronze (or Silver) level.*
 - a. It is true. In this way, new leaders coming in just before a troop recharter do not hurt the troop’s scoring because they haven’t had enough time to take all the trainings yet.
4. **Short term camping** – *What qualifies as a “short-term camp?” Can be a car campout that is as little as one night count?*
 - a. Correct. It can be any overnight that the troop goes on.

5. **Patrol Method** – *For the Gold level, the Patrol method objective requires that at least “one Scout attends NYLT.” What if a boy attends the Philmont NAYLE program? Does this also count along with NYLT?*
 - a. Yes it does.
6. **Service projects** – *In service projects objective, the general description says that “The troop participates in service projects, with one benefitting your chartering organization.” There is nothing in the Bronze, Silver or Gold level requirements that specifically say anything about “benefiting your chartering organization” so is this a requirement or is this simply highly suggested to fulfill the requirements?*
 - a. It is a requirement. The objective column provides the basics requirements that must be met before there is any consideration for bronze, silver or gold.
7. **Webelos-to-Scout transition** – *The bronze requirement says to hold two joint activities but the Silver requirement only requires the troop to recruit two webelos. Do we have to hold two joint activities to earn Silver?*
 - a. You must always satisfy the Bronze requirements before qualifying for the Silver level and you must satisfy the Silver requirements before qualifying for Gold.

Pack FAQs

1. **Retention** - *I don't really understand retention. How do I calculate this for the pack?*
 - a. See the retention FAQ for Districts above. The same formula applies at the Pack level.
2. **Trained Leaders** – *Is it true that a pack can earn the Bronze or Silver level for training without new leaders taking any training at all? If I am to read the requirements literally, it appears that if a new unit leader “promises” to take the training within 3 or 6 months, then unit can claim Bronze (or Silver) level.*
 - a. It is true. In this way, new leaders coming in just before a pack recharter do not hurt the pack’s scoring because they haven’t had enough time to take all the trainings yet.
3. **Service Projects** – *In the service projects objective, the general description says that “The pack participates in service projects, with one benefitting your chartering organization.” There is nothing in the Bronze, Silver or Gold level requirements that specifically say anything about “benefiting your chartering organization” so is this a requirement or is it simply suggested to fulfill the requirements?*
 - a. It is a requirement. The objective column provides the basics requirements that must be met before there is any consideration for bronze, silver or gold.

4. **Pack and Den Meetings** – *This category requires that one of the pack meetings include “reviewing program plans and asking for parental involvement.” Can a special parent meeting or parent breakout at a pack meeting satisfy this requirement?*
 - a. Yes, either one of these meetings would qualify.