A GUIDE FOR YOUR NEW OR REORGANIZED LOCAL COUNCIL JEWISH COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Scouting for Jewish Youth! In a community with a sizable Jewish population, the local Jewish Committee on Scouting plays a vital role in the formation and maintenance of Jewish Scouting units and can provide direct contact with Jewish Scouts who are not members of Jewish units. The local committee or a Jewish Committee representative in smaller communities can serve to support the local Boy Scout council on pertinent matters, maintain contact with Jewish Scouts who are not in Jewish units and sponsor council-wide Jewish programs.

Your committee has three jobs. Job one is to form new, sustainable Jewish units. Job two is to help sustain existing Jewish units. Job three is to support all Jewish Scouts.

This booklet will tell you how to organize your committee to do your jobs successfully.

Volunteers are the key to Scouting for Jewish Youth. They are the catalysts that will help build the relationships with local Jewish organizations that will lead to more sustainable Jewish Scout units. Members of the local council committee need to take the lead in developing new Jewish units in partnership with the local council’s professional staff and its membership committee. You are the key to bringing the benefits of Scouting to more Jewish young people in your area.

Assistance can be found from your council, the National Committee website, www.jewishscouting.org, and your Regional Jewish Subcommittee on Scouting. Have each member of your committee become familiar with the website and the materials on it, especially what is on the “religious emblems” and “new units” pages. Make consistent use of the time-tested BSA methods of forming sustainable units by utilizing the “Unit Performance Guide” in your efforts. We look forward to collaborating with you in enhancing Scouting opportunities for more for Jewish Youth in your area.

-National Jewish Committee on Scouting
THE NEW LOCAL JEWISH COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

The mission of the National Jewish Committee on Scouting (NJCOS) is to prepare young Jews to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of Judaism as expressed in the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout Motto, Scout Slogan and NJCOS Mission Statement.

We carry out our mission through local council Jewish committees on Scouting. The time has come to change our entire approach to delivering Scouting to the Jewish community. Here is what we need to do:

YOUR JOB 1 IS TO FORM NEW, SUSTAINABLE UNITS.

YOUR JOB 2 IS TO HELP SUSTAIN EXISTING UNITS.

YOUR JOB 3 IS TO SUPPORT ALL JEWISH SCOUTS.

WHY ARE WE VOLUNTEERING FOR SCOUTING FOR JEWISH YOUTH?

You are volunteering for the most important thing you can ever do. You are going to help build young Jewish boys and girls into the caring, friendly, knowledgeable, level-headed leaders of tomorrow that we need in the Jewish and secular community through the programs of the Boy Scouts of America. Scouting for Jewish Youth teaches these young people skills, builds character and friendships and encourages families to grow closer by doing fun things together with a Jewish flavor. You can help bring these benefits to every young Jew in America by following our new plan in your local council Jewish committee on Scouting. Parents need Scouting to help their kids develop character and life skills. Organizations need Scouting to carry out their mission with young, committed families.

Here are some of the things we are teaching young Jews through Scouting:

- Values – Scouting’s values are found in the Scout Oath and Scout Law. We teach those values.
- Leadership – Our Scouts will learn how to become the leaders of tomorrow.
• Teamwork – Scouts learn how to build a team and how to work as a team to accomplish wondrous things together.

• The Importance of Community Service – Scouts learn to help others in their communities.

• Adaptability – Nothing ever works like we think it will. Scouts learn how to succeed in the face of adversity and how to think “outside the box.”

• Friendship – Scouts learn to meet and develop lifelong friendships.

• Time Management – Scouts learn how to schedule and manage their time to accomplish their tasks.

• Physical Fitness – Scouts learn to take care of themselves, staying healthy so they can accomplish their goals.

• Practical Skills – Scouts learn how to cook, administer First Aid, tie knots and myriads of other things that they will need to manage their lives as adults.

• Fun and Work – Scouts learn to have fun while they carry out their daily tasks. They will also learn to do things like building fires, chopping things, going boating, shooting, archery and rocketry.

• Safety – Scouts learn to perform safely for themselves and others around them.

WORK WITH THE RIGHT PEOPLE

The local council Jewish Committee on Scouting needs to have the right people to succeed. The right people need the right experience, the right resources and the right approach to Scouting. Selection of the chairman of the committee ultimately rests with the Scout Executive. Representatives of the Jewish community can suggest a candidate who has a background in Scouting, has connections to the entire Jewish community and is well respected.

The members of the committee need to be committed, goal setting individuals who are willing to devote time and effort to promoting Scouting for Jewish Youth.

Where do you go to find committee new members?
• Are there Jewish volunteers who are active in the council already?
• Do your Youth Serving Executives know of Jewish volunteers in the council?
• Do your key volunteers know people who are active in the Jewish community?
• Is there a synagogue or temple in your community? Does it have a men’s club?
• Form a focus group – get about 5 young Jewish adults together and work with them to obtain suggestions for leaders.
• See if you can put a piece in the local synagogue or temple bulletin or local Jewish newspaper which indicates you want to form a local Jewish committee and are looking for interested people – give your contact information.
• Talk to the local Rabbi or Youth Director.
• Talk to a family member of a Jewish Eagle Scout or religious emblem recipient.

Make sure all committee members are Scout trained.
Each committee member needs to understand and commit to carry out the mission of the National Jewish Committee on Scouting. Each member must embrace the “whys” of Scouting and the three jobs of the committee.
USE THE RIGHT STRUCTURE

No committee can function successfully without the right structure. The local Jewish Committee on Scouting is no exception. This is what you need to succeed:

[Note: Smaller committees may not be able to fill all of these positions but all committees need to work on all functions to succeed.]
Job Descriptions:

Chairman – The chairman of the committee is appointed by the council Scout Executive. The chairman is the leader of the committee and is responsible for leading it in carrying out its functions. The chairman, with the assistance of the rest of the committee, will form relationships with the council membership committee and the council’s designated representatives to obtain their assistance in forming new, sustainable units and in teaching them how to make use of the programs of the Boy Scouts of America.

A. New Unit Vice-Chairman – The new unit vice-chairman will head the new unit team. The new unit team has four components.

1. The Sales Team: The sales team will seek out new prospective chartered organizations to sell Scouting to.
   a. Survey the local Jewish institutions to pick the best candidates for units – 1. Jewish Day Schools; 2. Federations; 3. Large Reform and Conservative Congregations and Chabad Houses; 4. Jewish Community Centers; 5. Jewish War Veterans posts
   b. Prioritize – Institutions that can form packs are the first priority. Institutions with teen groups are the second priority.
   c. Make the sales call. Follow the Unit Performance Guide how to on how to do it.
   d. Follow up and close the sale.
   e. Maintain good relationships with all Jewish institutions whether they have a Jewish unit or not.
   f. The team will see to it that each Youth Serving Executive and the council’s membership committee receive A Guide for Youth Serving Executives Serving the Jewish Community publication.

2. The Unit Organization Team: The unit organization team is the bridge from the agreement of the new chartered organization to form a new unit to the beginning of the unit’s operations.
   a. Help the interested adults form a unit committee and select a committee chairman, treasurer and quartermaster.
   b. Help the unit committee select the unit leaders – Cubmaster, Den Leaders, assistants.
   c. The team will see to it that each new chartered organization receives The Chartered Organization’s Welcome to Scouting for Jewish Youth publication.

3. The Adult Training Team. The adult training team is not intended to be a team of trainers. That job belongs to the District and Council Training Committees. This team
is to make sure that all new and existing volunteers obtain appropriate Scout training.
  a. All volunteers need to take Youth Protection Training within 48 hours of volunteering.
  b. All volunteers need to take position specific training promptly.
  c. All volunteers need to become familiar with the programs of the NJCOS on the website.

4. The Jewish Commissioner Team: The committee will recruit Jewish adults to be commissioners. The commissioners will be members of the Jewish committee and the District Commissioner staff.
   a. In some councils there may be a Council Jewish Commissioner to serve under the Council Commissioner and supervise the council’s Jewish commissioners.
   b. The committee will assist in finding a new unit commissioner for each new unit. The new unit commissioner will be assigned to a new unit for at least one year and will meet regularly with the Chartered Organization Representative, committee chairman and unit leader and assist in programming.
   c. The committee will insure that each new parent receives the Parents: Welcome to Scouting for Jewish Youth! Publication.

B. Religious Emblems vice-chairman – The religious emblems vice-chairman will head the religious emblems team.
  1. The religious emblems team will locate and train religious emblems counselors and maintain a list of qualified counselors.
  2. The religious emblems team will cooperate with the council’s religious emblem coordinator to promote the religious emblems program to Jewish units and to the council.
  3. The religious emblems team will promote Shofar awards for adults.
  4. The religious emblems team will make Jewish units and volunteers aware of the Nachshon Fellowship and the Shalom Award and encourage them to earn these international awards.
  5. The religious emblems team will provide for the religious needs of Jewish Scouts by arranging for rabbis and lay leaders to act as chaplains at camps where appropriate, providing prayer books and religious articles where needed and promoting Jewish religious services at camp.

The Activities vice-chairman – The activities vice-chairman will head the activities team. The team will promote and produce the activities of the local Jewish committee. Typical activities include service projects for chartered organizations, Scout Shabbat, a council kinus, a Ten Commandments Hike, religious services at events or chartered organizations, flag ceremonies
for chartered organizations and others, promotion of the international unit-to-unit programs of the NJCOS and promotion of the Messengers of Peace program. The team will publicize Scouting for Jewish Youth to the general public and the Scouting community by providing

- Recognition of religious emblem recipients at Scout meetings and temple or synagogue Shabbats.
- News stories for local publications and other media.
- Suggestions for service and Eagle projects to help the community. (Make sure pictures are taken and distributed.)
- Recognition for Eagle Scouts and Girl Scout Gold award recipients.
- Exhibits for midways such as mall shows, camporees, temple and synagogue events, community events and others.
- Connections to the local council by having members of the committee also perform council jobs.
- Donations for FOS and attendance at camp workdays.
- Attendance at all district’s roundtables.
- Flyers for committee events at the council office and in the council newsletter.

REGIONAL SUPPORT

Every local Jewish Committee on Scouting needs to be committed to the goals of Scouting for Jewish Youth. Your Regional Chairman or designated representative will provide you with information about the new committee structure and program. The Regional Chairman will discuss the new structure and the new program with your chairman to obtain cooperation in achieving the new program. The Regional Chairman will also consult with the Scout Executive to see if there are others in the community who may be good candidates for leadership roles on the committee. The Regional Chairman will encourage you and the Scout Executive or designee to bring appropriate new volunteers on board to assist in building up the committee. If building up the committee results in a turnover of volunteer members, the past volunteers need recognition and thanks for their service.
USE OUR NEW PAMPHLET

The NJCOS has developed a new recruiting pamphlet, *Scouting for Jewish Youth*. Copies are available from the National Office. The pamphlet can be a valuable tool for you in creating new units at Jewish institutions.

FOLLOW THIS PLAN OF ACTION

Committee Membership
The Local Council Jewish Committee on Scouting will develop an active membership dedicated to increasing the number of healthy, sustainable Jewish units within the council. Local Jewish volunteers, with the advice of the Regional Jewish Committee and the local council Scout Executive, will establish Local Council Jewish Committees on Scouting in each council where there are Jewish institutions capable of becoming chartered organizations. Existing committees will seek out new volunteers who are interested in forming new Jewish units and retain existing volunteers who will work toward the goals of the NJCOS. Where appropriate, the chairmen of local committees will seek new co-chairmen who are recommended by the local Scout Executive to enhance the ability of the committee to perform its mission. The Committee should create subcommittees for membership teams, prospecting, program support and community relationships. Each subcommittee should have its own chairman although memberships can overlap.

Prospecting for New Units
The Local Council Jewish Committee on Scouting will form a relationship with the local council membership committee. It will take steps to determine where and how best to form new units and
assist in the process. The committee will perform a census to determine the number of Jewish organizations within the council boundaries, including such organizations as synagogues, temples, Chabad houses, JCCs, JWV posts and others. It will obtain the names, affiliations and contact information for all these Jewish organizations. Assistance may be obtained from local Jewish federations. The committee will evaluate each Jewish organization for the possibility of establishing new or additional units. It will identify a contact person in each organization. The committee will establish communications with parents and prospective members.

Community Relationships
The committee will seek to form relationships with local rabbis and other Jewish leaders at each Jewish organization, which are capable of becoming a chartered organization. It will meet with local Jewish youth leaders, educators and those involved in volunteer positions with local organizations. The committee will forge relationships with local council Scout Executives, Youth Serving Executives, Membership Chairs and Religious Relationships Chairs.

Starting New Units
The committee will assist in the formation of new units by coordinating meetings of Youth Serving Executives and local organization volunteers with the rabbis, executive directors and youth directors of local Jewish organizations, seeing to it that they have available to them the recruiting materials developed by the NJCOS and encouraging them as they progress. The committee will encourage the use of normal Scouting recruiting methods as modified for the special situation of Jewish organizations as it seeks to add new units. The committee will establish membership teams who can make presentations with the assistance of local professional staff. The committee will seek out appropriate individuals to become unit commissioners who will be able to serve Jewish units. The first priority for establishing new units is to establish Cub Scout packs where there are sufficient boys available. In communities with a local synagogue or temple youth group, the committee will explore the possibility of establishing the group as a Venturing crew in addition to its current affiliation. In those communities with existing Jewish units, the committee will promote the plan of having each existing Jewish unit commit to assist a new unit for up to one year. Chartered organizations with strong, existing units are prime candidates to form additional units. Use the booklet How the Local Council Sales Team Helps Form a Sustainable New Unit and the BSA publication Unit Performance Guide to form new units.
**Program Assistance**
The Local Council Jewish Committee on Scouting will provide appropriate program assistance to local Jewish units. The committee will reach out to the active Jewish units to engage new volunteers to support and grow Jewish Scouting. The committee will support existing units by maintaining personal contact with them and facilitating their use of available training and program opportunities. The committee will encourage each unit to participate in the Jewish Religious Emblem program and provide counselors who can give instruction in earning the emblems. The committee will provide local units with Jewish program ideas and assistance in carrying them out. The committee will conduct Scout Shabbat programs as appropriate on dates recommended by the NJCOS. The committee will be a conduit for program ideas from other local council committees and other sources to assist local units. Where appropriate the committee will cooperate with parallel programs such as the Girl Scouts and others to enhance the experience of Jewish Scouts. The committee will seek to incorporate regular Scouting programs and Jewish Scouting programs into a cohesive experience for units and their members. The committee will conduct workshops on the membership initiative for all Jewish Scouters, including any volunteers and professionals who are interested. Use the programs and ideas available on Scoutingwire.org.

**Support to the Council**
The Local Council Jewish Committee on Scouting will provide advice and information to the local council on specific considerations relating to Scouting for Jewish Youth. The committee will see to it that council planners have access to and consider the Boy Scouts of America religious calendar when scheduling activities. The committee will also provide information to local council professionals and volunteers about special Jewish viewpoints and religious concerns as appropriate. The Local Council Jewish Committee on Scouting will provide information on local concerns to the Regional Jewish Committee.