

Form Your Own Unit

Cub Scouting—Form a Cub Scout pack for boys, for girls, or for boys and girls in separate dens from first through fifth grades. Jewish Cub Scouts follow the Scout Oath and Scout Law, learning through home-centered programs that teach life skills, habits, values, and attitudes consistent with Jewish practice. Members from your organization run the pack entirely, bringing all the Cub Scout dens together for character development, beginning camping activities, and fun! Parents of Cub Scouts get involved as they bring their children into the entry-level Tiger program and listen to Akela's call!

Boy Scouting—Start a troop for Scouts ages 11–18 as they develop leadership skills and build meaningful personal standards to live by. The Scouts will learn the fundamentals of self-sufficiency and gain hobby and career skills with guidance from your Scoutmaster and support from the troop committee.

Venturing, Exploring, and Sea Scouting—Create a unit for young men and women ages 14–20. Venturing, Exploring, and Sea Scouting can be integrated into your youth program and teach leadership, citizenship, fitness, and service. Participants focus on the outdoors, career exploration, or general activities. Units may be coed or not, as you choose.

Form Your Own Unit

Forming a sustainable Scouting unit is easy. Your BSA local council, your local Jewish committee on Scouting, if there is one, and the NJCOS can help. Just be sure to follow these steps:

1. Representatives of the local council, the council membership team, and the local Jewish committee meet with your rabbi, executive director, or youth director to explain Scouting for Jewish youth.
2. Your organization's board meets and adopts Scouting.
3. Your executive officer appoints a chartered organization representative from your membership.
4. The chartered organization representative and the organization's leaders recruit and train at least five primary registered adult volunteers for your new unit.
5. Programs are planned for the first six months.
6. Youth are recruited to join.
7. Unit meetings begin.
8. Your new Scouting unit is installed and receives its BSA charter. You're on the way to a great adventure for your youth.

Further information and assistance may be found in our brochure *How to Form a Sustainable New Unit at a Jewish Institution*.

Core Values

The Boy Scouts of America is the nation's foremost youth program for character development and values-based leadership training. Scouting can also support synagogues, temples, Chabad houses, and other Jewish organizations in bringing families together and helping them to become better Americans and better Jews.

Camping, hiking, and other fun Scouting programs teach young people self-assurance, teamwork, and leadership skills. Hands-on teaching and the wide range of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics)-related activities help them realize their potential and gain useful knowledge for the future.

Studies show that boys involved in Scouting develop more positive character traits including trustworthiness, helpfulness, kindness, and obedience. Men who were Scouts agree that Scouting has had a positive influence in all aspects of their lives, including education, career development, and raising a family.



For more than 100 years, Scouting has developed strong values in its youth members and adult volunteers as they follow the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

The Scout Oath. On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

The Scout Law. A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

For more information on Scouting for Jewish youth, starting a unit, or joining an existing one, visit our website at www.JewishScouting.org.



National Jewish Committee on Scouting
Boy Scouts of America
1325 West Walnut Hill Drive
P.O. Box 152079
Irving, TX 75015-2079
www.scouting.org

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SCOUTING FOR JEWISH YOUTH

For nearly a century, the National Jewish Committee on Scouting (NJCOS) has provided young people with a program that integrates Jewish values into traditional Scouting and offers

**LASTING FRIENDSHIPS • SERVICE
FUN AND ADVENTURE
A SAFE ENVIRONMENT
LEADERSHIP • SCHOLARSHIPS
DEVELOPMENT • OUTDOOR SKILLS**



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www.jewishscouting.org

Scouting Is...



Tradition—L’Dor V’Dor

Jewish participation and leadership has been an integral part of the Boy Scouts of America and has shaped the lives of thousands of Jewish Scouts for more than a century. Mortimer L. Schiff was one of the first Scouting leaders in 1910, and the first Jewish troop was formed in 1913 in New York City. The principles of Scouting were formed with the assistance of prominent Jewish leaders of the time. Even the first Scout uniforms were made by a Jewish manufacturer, the Sigmund Eisner Company. The National Jewish Committee on Scouting (NJCOS) was formed in 1926. Scouting is an official youth program of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America and other Jewish organizations.

Jewish Scouts learn the value of leadership and cooperation while having fun. They learn respect for the outdoors and the earth. At the same time they learn about Judaism, our holidays and observances, the history of our people, and modern Jewish life. They learn to serve the community through unit service projects and Good Turns.

Enhancing the understanding of Israel brings our young people closer to Judaism and makes it more likely that our future will remain bright and secure. Jewish Scouting’s relationship with Israeli Scouts provides a great opportunity to increase solidarity with our homeland in a way that young people can relate to. Further contact with Jewish Scouts in other countries is fostered through the International Forum of Jewish Scouts, which currently includes as charter members the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and the Scouts of France, Israel, and the United Kingdom.

Safety

Scouting provides safe activities for youth members, adult leaders, and families through

- Outstanding youth protection at each level of the program, creating a safe environment for all.
- Background checks and leadership approval from local chartered organizations to ensure quality leadership.

Service—Tikkun Olam

Do a Good Turn Daily—Jewish Scouts have the opportunity to learn the principles of Tzedakah (charity) by helping to provide food, shelter, and other resources for those who are less fortunate. Your new Jewish Scout unit can lead service projects that improve the lives of people throughout the community.

Leadership Development

Participating in Scouting over several years can help families in your organization develop strong core values unlike any other youth program. Scouting does require a greater investment of time and effort from your members than other activities like sports and extracurriculars, but this investment pays rich dividends in education, leadership, and family relationships. It also strengthens fundamental character and ethical values.

“Scouting encouraged me to learn and practice leadership skills, and to observe Judaism through its religious awards programs ... and I always thought I was just having fun.”
Rabbi Art Vernon

“My Scouting experience had a decisive impact on my growth as a believing, observant, proud Jew. I cherish the education and friendships Scouting provided ... and the experience of living as a serious Jew in a diverse American community.”
Rabbi Joseph Prouser



A teacher states: “I look at the advantages of the Scouting program from a unique perspective. One of the most important things teachers and families can do is get young people engaged and interested in the world around them. Scouting provides an avenue for that to happen.”

Fun

Scouting provides youth with rugged outdoor adventures and much more. Scouts have the opportunity to learn traditional skills like first aid, CPR, and lifesaving as well as modern ones such as digital technology, robotics, and animation while having fun. Scouting’s advancement programs offer a “ladder of skills” for youth to move up at their own pace, and they earn ranks and badges as their skills increase. The farther they go, the more challenging their experiences, and the more rewarding the results. Jewish Scouts can learn outdoor skills in an environment consistent with their personal level of observance.



Religious Emblems Program

Scouting provides an excellent opportunity to carry on a continuing program of Jewish education in familiar surroundings for all the young people in your organization. The Jewish religious emblems program provides age-appropriate goals for young people to participate in the religious life of the community.



The Maccabee emblem is geared to involving the families of Cub Scouts in first through third grades as they learn about and experience Jewish life. Maccabees learn Hebrew names and Jewish holidays, expressions, and symbols. They also study Jewish leaders and heroes.



The Aleph emblem provides a more advanced introduction to the Jewish home as well as to the synagogue, temple, or Chabad house, and to prayer, the Torah, and holidays. Cub Scouts learn about Jewish heroes of the Torah, America, and Israel.



The Ner Tamid emblem gives Scouts ages 11–14 the opportunity to learn more about home and community observances of Jewish religion, history, holidays, and heroes. They find out about Jewish books, kosher rules, and the calendar. Scouts are also active in providing service to the Jewish community.



The Etz Chaim emblem is designed for Scouts and Explorers over age 13 and Venturers and Sea Scouts, as they learn about the Jewish community in detail and provide service to it.



The Shofar Award is granted to adults in recognition of outstanding service to Scouting for Jewish youth.

Scouting Is Your Own Program!

The Boy Scouts of America issues charters to organizations like yours to operate the Scouting program. With help from the National Jewish Committee on Scouting, you establish your own Scouting units or strengthen your existing youth groups by using Scouting’s resources. You determine your own leadership and membership within the principles of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. You decide when and how often your group meets.