

**The National
Jewish
Committee
On Scouting**

***New Committee
Improvement
Initiative - Scouting
For Jewish Youth***



www.JewishScouting.org

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Cover Photo: A scout doing a good turn at his local Jewish cemetery.

Introduction

Welcome to Scouting for Jewish Youth. This booklet is designed by the National Jewish Committee on Scouting to help both volunteers and professionals become familiar with Scouting for Jewish Youth and the best practices to increase the opportunities for Jewish youth to experience the benefits of Scouting. It is our task to support and form as many sustainable units at Jewish organizations as possible to provide these benefits. Please read this booklet with a view toward how you can help make it possible to fulfil our vision of providing Scouting to all Jewish youth now and for many years to come. You can find more detailed information on our website, www.JewishScouting.org under New Units.

The Scouting program includes some of the best methods yet devised to prepare youth for responsible citizenship-through activities designed to help them become "physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight." In association with other youth, these activities continuously stress the principles of learning by doing and leadership development under the guidance of carefully selected adults.

When the founding fathers established the Scouting program in America, they decided to make it available to all worthy community organizations - churches, synagogues, schools, civic groups, fraternal bodies, etc., to supplement their programs in their work with children, youth, and families. Representatives of Scouting approach community organizations and advise them of the value of owning and operating one or more units. Scouting provides the program, technical help, and special facilities. The chartered organization provides the leadership, meeting facilities, and the continuing interest of a responsible community group. Through the strength and wisdom of this cooperative arrangement, millions of young people have benefitted from Scouting.

Scouting is unique among community movements in the United States in that it doesn't own or operate Scouting units. The ownership of units is vested in community organizations or groups that have as their main activity something other than Scouting. The symbol of ownership is a charter granted by the Boy Scouts of America.

Since Scouting is not self-contained, it respects the aims and objectives of the chartered community organizations using its program. Scouting has become an important social and educational force. It covers all states and counties with council and district organizations. It serves organizations in cities of all sizes and reaches into the smallest villages, crossroad settlements, rural areas, and urban communities. It reaches into low income, hard to serve areas. It serves every racial, ethnic, and economic condition of our country. Scouting is dedicated to the principle that its program is available to all youth and has designed that program to bring the opportunity to every boy, young man, or young woman in the United States who desires it.

The Committee's Vision

The Committee's vision is that all Jewish organizations participate in a continuum of the development of our biggest resource, our children, to benefit our entire community.

Young Jewish children are raised primarily by their parents and in their synagogues, temples and communities with a view toward providing them with a basic knowledge of Judaism and the tools to develop self-esteem and self-reliance. Parents use existing programs such as the PJ Library, www.pjlibrary.org, to assist their children in the early stages of development.

As Jewish boys enter Kindergarten and First Grade, they have the opportunity to join the Lion and Cub Scout programs of the Boy Scouts of America. These programs are operated by chartered organizations (CO's), such as local JCCs, synagogues, temples, Chabad Houses and JWV posts. Their Scouting programs help them develop leadership skills, social skills and lifelong friendships. The religious emblem program provides them a comprehensive grounding in Judaism. Additional partnerships with groups such as PJ Our Way further solidify the Jewish identities of our youth as they grow older.

As the boys reach age 11, they join Boy Scout troops, again operated by chartered organizations. There they expand their horizons and develop life skills needed to succeed in the future. As they participate in the graduated religious emblem program of the National Jewish Committee on Scouting, they become full-fledged members of the Jewish community and associate with Jewish boys in Scouting around the country and throughout the world.

As young Jewish teens, both boys and girls, reach age 14, they join Venturing crews operated by chartered organizations. These units further develop skills and Jewish relationships. Scouting supplements existing youth programs for many chartered organizations.

We look upon Scouting as the one organization that can provide the glue to cement the future of Jewish development in America. We can act as a bridge to all different Jewish organizations and programs to bring us all together for a better future.

Mission Statement

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 and Scout Law.

Vision Statement

Scouting for Jewish Youth will develop generations of caring, concerned, capable citizens and leaders who are guided by the Scout Oath, Scout Law and Torah.

Goal Statement

The NJCOS will serve as the central organization:

- Acting as a catalyst to local councils in establishing new Jewish Scout units
- Promoting Jewish-content programming for Scouts of all ages
- Maintaining a Jewish emblem program for youth and an award program for adults and units
- Providing for chaplaincy at major national events and
- Assisting Jewish Scouting committees at all levels.

The NJCOS will make use of innovative technology to provide universal access to Jewish-content Scout programs, religious services, emblem programs and idea exchanges.

The NJCOS will promote Scouting among Jewish youth, help Jewish institutions and local council Jewish committees to provide Scouting opportunities for Jewish youth and promote Jewish values in Scouting through program enhancements and the religious emblems program.

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.

Scout Law

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

Section 1 - The Role of the National Jewish Committee on Scouting

NJCOS activities are designed to provide Jewish Scouts with a valuable, life-changing experience. Those activities enhance the growth of Scouting for Jewish Youth. The NJCOS develops specific unit and membership goals and provides guidance and advice on national, regional, area and local levels to achieve these goals:

Goals

- Promote Scouting in the Jewish community.
- Encourage Jewish organizations to support Scouting
- Increase the number of units chartered to Jewish organizations

Results

The result of the efforts of the NJCOS is to

- Create additional membership and units.
- Enlist Jewish adults into the Scouting movement and provide opportunities for them to become youth leaders.
- Provide Jewish Scouting services to Jewish chartered units to sustain quality operations.
- Attract Jewish youth into Scouting programs

Committee Action Items

Relationships with National Jewish Organizations

The NJCOS provides the following services:

The NJCOS develops personal relationships with the leadership of National and International Jewish organizations to increase their knowledge about Scouting and the benefits of having units in their local programs. The NJCOS creates exhibits capable of being used at conventions and other national events and provides them for those events. The NJCOS regularly sends representatives to the conventions of National and International Jewish organizations.

National and international organizations to be considered for alliances include:

- B'nai B'rith
- Hadassah
- URJ
- USCJ
- Chabad
- Modern Orthodox organizations
- Reconstructionist organization
- Yeshivas
- JWV
- JCCs of North America
- PJ Our Way
- National fraternity and sorority alumni groups
- Jewish youth organizations

Efforts will continue to create partnerships with some or all of these organizations and to expand the list of Jewish partner organizations.

Liaisons

Each member of the NJCOS acts as a liaison to a local council to provide it with information and to become a conduit for local concerns to be brought to the attention of the full committee.

Religious Emblem Program for Youth

The NJCOS develops and maintains a religious emblem program for youth with recognitions appropriate for Scouts at all age levels. The NJCOS:

- Reviews the requirements for each religious emblem to make sure that they are appropriate and relevant to Scouts and the religious organizations they associate with.
- Maintains relationships with appropriate suppliers to make sure that the appropriate emblems and certificates are readily available.
- Insures that all religious emblem requirements are readily available to all Scouts and Scouters.
- Insures that proper procedures exist to provide appropriate recognitions on a timely basis.
- Maintains a database of emblem recipients.

Adult and Unit Awards Program

The NJCOS develops and maintains an awards program for adults and units. The NJCOS:

- Maintains an adult recognition program with adult awards that are appropriate for those individuals who provide service to Scouting for Jewish Youth.
- Maintains a unit recognition program with appropriate awards for high-achieving units.
- Reviews the requirements for its award programs to make sure that the awards are appropriate and relevant to the Scouts and Scouters they pertain to.
- Maintains relationships with appropriate suppliers to make sure that the appropriate awards and certificates are readily available.
- Insures that all award requirements are readily available to all Scouts and Scouters.
- Insures that proper procedures exist to provide appropriate awards on a timely basis.
- Maintains a database of award recipients.

Website

The NJCOS establishes and maintains an effective website to provide easy access for Jewish Scouts, Scouters and professionals. The website:

- Contains all NJCOS programs and guides in downloadable formats.
- Provides an opportunity for all Jewish units to link with each other and other resources and facilitates contacts among units
- Provides a means for individuals to contribute to the NJCOS.
- Provides a Scout Store with a convenient means of obtaining Jewish-related Scouting items.

Training

The NJCOS creates web and conference-call based training platforms through which it provides advice, training and other assistance to local and regional Jewish units. The NJCOS continuously explores the possibility of establishing training courses for use at National Training Centers for both Jewish Scouters and professionals. The NJCOS creates appropriate training materials for Jewish Scouters and Jewish units.

Unit Programs and Materials

The NJCOS creates, maintains and updates as appropriate program guides to Scouting with a Jewish flavor. The program guides are available online and fully downloadable, providing easy access to religious activities, secular Jewish-content programs and fun things for Scouts to do. The NJCOS continues to promote a Scout Shabbat on an annual basis.

Religious Calendar

The NJCOS continues to cooperate with other religious committees associated with the Boy Scouts of America to maintain an interreligious calendar with the religious holidays of all major religious and explanations of those holidays approximately two years ahead. The NJCOS continues to seek advice and cooperation from other Boy Scouts of America entities to provide easy access to the religious calendar to enable schedulers to avoid conflicts with major religious holidays.

Recruiting Materials

The NJCOS provides a program to assist local volunteers in forming partnerships with prospective chartered organizations and creating new units. These materials are available on line at www.JewishScouting.org under the heading "new units." The NJCOS continues to review and upgrade recruiting materials as appropriate. A Jewish Scouting pamphlet is available for recruiting on request. The NJCOS provides general advice for recruiters on a local level.

National Jewish Scout Association

The National Jewish Scout Association is created to provide an opportunity for Jewish Scouts, Scouters and supporters to meet each other, share common experiences and support scouting for Jewish Youth. The Association is created to be a non-profit corporation, a supporting organization for the programs of the NJCOS, and the developer of programs for its members to enhance their ability to remain connected to Scouting for Jewish Youth. The by-laws of the National Jewish Scout Association are available for viewing from the NJCOS.

International Scouting Programs

The NJCOS develops programs to enable Jewish Scouting units of the Boy Scouts of America to have direct contact with Jewish Scouting programs in other countries including, but not limited to Israel, France, UK, Australia and Brazil. The Nachshon Fellowship and the Shalom Awards encourage international ties for Jewish Scouts and units. The NJCOS supports the efforts of the Messengers of Peace program to assist in fulfilling Scouting's obligations to "Do A Good Turn Daily."

Scout Store

The NJCOS maintains an online Scout shop for the purchase of Jewish-content Scouting-related items.

The Scout store provides an opportunity for Jewish Scouts and Scouters to obtain patches to commemorate and celebrate such holiday observances as Scout Shabbat and Passover and also Jewish chapels, kinusim and other Scouting for Jewish Youth events. The Scout store provides local council committee flags and Scouting for Jewish Youth items for purchase, such as hats, shirts, kipot and souvenir items.

Scholarships

The NJCOS maintains a program of college scholarships for Jewish Scouts. The NJCOS solicits funds to increase the availability of its scholarships.

Section 2: The Role of the NJCOS Regional Subcommittee

Regional Subcommittees	Each region of the Boy Scouts of America has a Jewish Regional Chairman and a Regional Subcommittee. The Regional Jewish Chairman will recruit a subcommittee of at least five committed volunteers to assist in carrying out the goals of the NJCOS on a regional level. The Regional Subcommittee will act as a conduit to provide advice and assistance to local Jewish Committees on Scouting in their efforts in order to enhance the ability of the local committees to carry out their mission.
Subcommittee Structure	The Regional Subcommittee will create a structure to provide direct support to local council Jewish Committees on Scouting. It will create a regional new Jewish committee subcommittee, a new unit subcommittee, a religious emblems coordinator and an activities coordinator. The subcommittee will establish a regional membership subcommittee with one member from each local council Jewish Committee on Scouting and a member from each area in which there are no local Jewish committees.
Local Relationships Subcommittee	The new Jewish committee subcommittee will evaluate each council in the region and determine whether there is a sufficient Jewish population to warrant creation of a local Jewish Committee on Scouting. The new committee subcommittee will cooperate with local Scout Executives and other professionals in councils where local committees could be established to identify appropriate Jewish Scouters to form and operate local committees. In councils where local Jewish Committees on Scouting do not exist, the subcommittee will seek advice from the Scout Executive to locate a Jewish volunteer to represent the interests of Scouting for Jewish Youth in the council. The subcommittee will also advise and will work to maintain the health and viability of existing local Jewish committees.
New Unit Subcommittee	The new unit subcommittee will provide support and advice to local Jewish Committees on Scouting and to local Jewish volunteers in forming new, sustainable units.
Religious Emblems Coordinator	The religious emblems coordinator will act as a conduit to the appropriate national committees which will provide support and advice to local Jewish Committees on Scouting and to local Jewish volunteers in promoting the religious emblems program.
Activities Coordinator	The activities coordinator will act as a conduit to the appropriate national committees which will provide support and advice to local Jewish Committees on Scouting and to local Jewish volunteers on activities to carry out.
Regional Subcommittee Action Items	The initial job of the regional subcommittee will be to provide each local committee and each Scout Executive with the new committee structure and program. The Regional Chairman will discuss the new structure and the new program with the committee chairman to obtain cooperation in achieving the new plan. If the chairman is not receptive or does not wholeheartedly embrace the changes, the Regional Chairman will consult with the Scout Executive to see if there are others in the community who may be good candidates for the committee chairmanship. The Regional Chairman will encourage the Scout Executive or designee to bring the new person on as a co-chairman for a year and then as a replacement for the existing chairman. Under all circumstances the past volunteers need recognition and thanks for their service.

The Regional Sub Committee will maintain working relationships with the appropriate volunteer committees and professional staff members of local councils to facilitate Scouting for Jewish Youth in their territories. The Sub Committee will also provide programming activities and information directly to councils without local Jewish committees for use in assisting Jewish Scouts who are not members of Jewish units. The Sub Committee will maintain information concerning Jewish units, Scouts and Scouters throughout the region. The Regional Sub Committee will create and carry out area and regional kinusim on a regular basis to provide opportunities for regional units, volunteers and Scouts to obtain training and assistance in enhancing Scouting for Jewish Youth within the region and will provide appropriate opportunities for its members to develop their skills as Jewish Scouting volunteers.