

THE NATIONAL
JEWISH
COMMITTEE
ON SCOUTING

*Etz Chaim
Religious
Emblem
Requirements
and Workbook
Fillable PDF*



www.jewishscouting.org



Requirements and Workbook

The National Jewish Committee on Scouting has established four religious emblems for Jewish Scouts. You will need to work on these requirements separately from your school work even if parts of them are taught in your school. We suggest that you obtain a notebook to organize your thoughts and keep track of the information you need to complete work on each emblem. The notebook is not a requirement, it is not necessary to fill in, but we believe that it will help most Scouts organize and keep track of their work. It will be a great place for you to write notes so that you can demonstrate knowledge to your counselor. You may handwrite the information or you may prefer to use your computer for this purpose. As you complete the requirements we want you to demonstrate knowledge of them to your counselor.

Information to assist you in earning your emblem can come from many sources such as your local school, public, synagogue or Jewish community center library. Your parents may have a library collection or other information that you can use. The internet is also a great source of information. We encourage you to use it. Please review the BSA's safe web practices with your parents prior to beginning your research. Please search more than one resource to make sure that your knowledge is accurate. Some of the responses for the emblem requirements can only come from you and how you feel about being Jewish. These are questions of self-evaluation and reflection. Please consider these questions carefully but there is no specific right or wrong answer.

Some of the information required to earn these emblems can only be obtained by interviewing other members in your community. Please practice safe scouting practices when visiting or working with other adults on your emblem.

Each emblem has been developed as a complete unit. As you complete the requirements for each emblem and begin work on the next one please build on your previous knowledge and use the opportunity to further develop your understanding of Judaism.

Etz Chaim

14-21 Year Old Scouts

Go over the requirements with your counselor. Try to keep your work organized. Use the suggested workbook format and take it with you every time every time you see your counselor. Your counselor will guide you through completing the requirements.

The Etz Chaim requirements are mainly geared to Jewish life in communities with significant Jewish populations. In some communities, it will not be possible for a Scout to comply with some of these requirements. In those cases, your counselor should discuss alternatives with a representative of the Awards and Recognitions Committee of the National Jewish Committee on Scouting.

Family Life

Community and Family

Find out when one of the first Jewish people arrived in your community, where that person came from and why he or she left that previous home.

Find out when the following were established in your community and by whom:

The first Jewish cemetery

The first Jewish relief society or Jewish charity organization

The first social club or benevolent society

The first synagogue

Find out when one of your first family members arrived in your community, where that person came from and why he or she left that previous home.

Community

Community Institutions and Agencies

Collect bulletins, newsletters and membership brochures of five Jewish organizations in your community. Be sure to include at least one synagogue or independent chavurah, and/or Jewish community center. (If there are fewer than five Jewish organizations in your community, contact the state or regional offices of Jewish organizations that serve your community.)

List the purpose or mission of each organization.

Three reasons why someone might join or use the services of the organization.

Examine the names of the organizations. In the bulletin or newsletter mastheads, logos, etc., identify any Hebrew names or phrases

For each name or phrase, list where it is found in Jewish sources or tradition.

For each name or phrase, tell why you think the organization chose its name and what the name or phrase says about the organization today.

Jewish Life

- Synagogue Worship and Torah Study Attend Sabbath services regularly over a three-month period and complete the following activities:
- Describe the siddur used by the congregation, indicating the author/editor, the publisher, contents, languages used and any other significant feature.
 - Describe a typical service, either Friday night or Saturday, indicating portions read in Hebrew and in English, portions chanted by the cantor and/or congregation and whether the Torah was read.
 - Select any three Torah portions from this three-month period and write a summary for each portion list any specific injunctions or Commandments given in each portion and indicate what you think the lesson, moral or message is for today for each portion.

Jewish History

- Community and the Jewish World Obtain a copy of a Jewish newspaper that serves your community or region.
- Locate, read and summarize two articles dealing with the concerns of Jewish people in the United States.
 - Locate, read and summarize two articles dealing with the concerns of Jewish people outside the United States. For example, in Israel, Canada, Europe, etc.
 - Ask three Jewish adults you know what they do to help Jewish people outside the United States and why. Tell which effort interests you most.

- Community Sharing Create a record of your work for the Etz Chaim religious emblem. This may be a photographic essay, computerized presentation, a videotape recording, a series of drawings or a written journal.
- Give a presentation of what you have learned about your Jewish community to at least two groups. At least one presentation should be to a group of younger Jewish children. Use your record in your presentation.

Our Place in the World

- Community Jewish Leaders Interview five adult Jewish leaders who are prominent in your community. Choose at least one rabbi and one leader from a Jewish agency or organization.
- Why did the leader enter his or her chosen career or occupation?
 - What were the Jewish influences in the leader's life while growing up?
 - What volunteer work does the leader do now and why?

How do Judaism and Jewish values influence his or her life today?

What role does faith in God play in your life as a Jew?

Write a short composition (five hundred words) titled "The Qualities of Adult Jewish Leadership Today."

Community and Future

Ask ten Jewish young adults and ten Jewish adults what they think are the three most important challenges that Jewish people face in your community today. Organize the responses into three lists: personal issues, family issues and community issues. Select one issue from each list and tell what you think should be done to deal with it.

The Jewish People and the Future

Locate and read an article from a national Jewish magazine about Jewish people and the future. Tell how the topic discussed in the article might affect your Jewish community.

Service

Complete a minimum of 10 hours of volunteer service to a Jewish organization or agency in your community or any agency that serves Jewish people. Consider how your project relates to the 613 mitzvot. Write a brief report about your experience, which mitzvot it relates to and why it was beneficial to your community.

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Find out when the following were established in your community and by whom:

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Community Institutions and Agencies

Collect bulletins, newsletters and membership brochures of five Jewish organizations in your community. Be sure to include at least one synagogue or independent chavurah, and/or Jewish community center. (If there are fewer than five Jewish organizations in your community, contact the state or regional offices of Jewish organizations that serve your community.)

1. Organization Name

Organization purpose or mission

Three reasons why someone might join or use the services of the organization

In the bulletin or newsletter mastheads, logos, etc., identify any Hebrew names or phrases.

Identify where the name or phrase is found in Jewish sources or tradition.

Tell why you think the organization chose its name and what the name or phrase says about the organization today.

2. Organization Name

Organization purpose or mission

Three reasons why someone might join or use the services of the organization

In the bulletin or newsletter mastheads, logos, etc., identify any Hebrew names or phrases.

Identify where the name or phrase is found in Jewish sources or tradition.

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3. Organization Name

Organization purpose or mission

Three reasons why someone might join or use the services of the organization

In the bulletin or newsletter mastheads, logos, etc., identify any Hebrew names or phrases.

Identify where the name or phrase is found in Jewish sources or tradition.

Tell why you think the organization chose its name and what the name or phrase says about the organization today.

4. Organization Name

Organization purpose or mission

Three reasons why someone might join or use the services of the organization

In the bulletin or newsletter mastheads, logos, etc., identify any Hebrew names or phrases.

Identify where the name or phrase is found in Jewish sources or tradition.

Tell why you think the organization chose its name and what the name or phrase says about the organization today.

5. Organization Name

Organization purpose or mission

Three reasons why someone might join or use the services of the organization

In the bulletin or newsletter mastheads, logos, etc., identify any Hebrew names or phrases.

Identify where the name or phrase is found in Jewish sources or tradition.

Tell why you think the organization chose its name and what the name or phrase says about the organization today.

Select any three Torah portions from this three-month period and write a summary for each portion list any specific injunctions or Commandments given in each portion and indicate what you think the lesson, moral or message is for today for each portion.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Jewish History

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1. _____

2. _____

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1. _____

2. _____

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1. _____

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Community Sharing

Create a record of your work for the Etz Chaim religious emblem. This may be a photographic essay, computerized presentation, a videotape recording, a series of drawings or a written journal.

Give a presentation of what you have learned about your Jewish community to at least two groups. At least one presentation should be to a group of younger Jewish children. Use your record in your presentation.

Our Place in the World

Community Jewish Leaders

Interview five adult Jewish leaders who are prominent in your community. Choose at least one rabbi and one leader from a Jewish agency or organization.

1. Leader Name: _____

Why did the leader enter his or her chosen career or occupation?

What were the Jewish influences in the leader's life while growing up?

What volunteer work does the leader do now and why?

How do Judaism and Jewish values influence his or her life today?

2. Leader Name: _____

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Ask ten Jewish young adults and ten Jewish adults what they think are the three most important challenges that Jewish people face in your community today. Organize the responses into three lists: personal issues, family issues and community issues. Select one issue from each list and tell what you think should be done to deal with it.

Personal issues

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Family issues

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Service

Complete a minimum of 10 hours of volunteer service to a Jewish organization or agency in your community or any agency that serves Jewish people. Consider how your project relates to the 613 mitzvot. Write a brief report about your experience, which mitzvot it relates to and why it was beneficial to your community.