



Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting

February 2025 Newsletter

NER JCOS Chairman's Message

By Barry Hantman

I recently returned from a trip to Antarctica and was in awe of the beauty of our world. You can't help but appreciate the Lord's work when looking out at the vast glaciers and mountains, all covered in pristine snow. And, then I returned to New England where the snow, that I needed to shovel, didn't impress me quite as much. It's all a matter of perspective.

This is an exciting time of year for me. As I look at the calendar, I see a large number of Jewish Scouting events coming up. We have many Scout Shabbat/Havdalah/Shabbaton events in the next few months as well as the Kosher Klondike and our Annual Northeast Region JCOS conference (on March 30 at Broad Creek Scout Reservation).

As I look further into the year, we have our High Adventure Trek for Jewish Scouts at Northern Tier, the Northeast Region Kinus (over Memorial Day Weekend), and Shomer Shabbat Summer Camp Opportunities. Jewish Scouting is alive and well in the Northeast Region.

I hope to see all of you at the Annual Northeast Region JCOS conference on March 30. The NERJCOS conference is a day of interesting presentation, discussion, and camaraderie to help you provide a stronger program for our Jewish Scouts.

In closing, I hope you partake in many of these Jewish Scouting opportunities and instill in our youth a love for Scouting and Judaism.

Scout Shabbat

This is the time of year when we typically hold our annual Scout Shabbat services. Here in the Northeast Region, we have several Scout Shabbat services scheduled. See below for a listing. We also have a limited number of

Northeast Region JCOS Scout Shabbat Patches for sale. These are similar to the National Patch (pictured) but contain the wording "Northeast Region



Jewish Committee on Scouting" at the bottom. The patches are \$5.50 each (plus 50 cents shipping). Please send an email to neregion@jewishscouting.org if you wish to order the NER JCOS Scout Shabbat patch. The National patch is available on the NJCOS website (jewishscouting.org) for \$6 plus shipping.

Northeast Region Scout Shabbat, Scout Havdallah & Scout Shabbaton dates and information follows (please note that additional events may be scheduled; this is the list of known events as of 1/29/25). Some events are available via zoom (or similar) for remote participants.

- January 31st, 2025 – Suffolk County Council Scout Shabbat at Dix Hills JCC, Dix Hills, NY. For information and registration please call 631-499-6644.
- February 7th, 2025 - Suffolk County Council Scout Shabbat at Temple Beth Torah, 35

- Bagatelle Rd, Melville, NY. For information and registration please call 631-643-1200
- February 7th, 2025 - Suffolk County Council Scout Shabbat at Temple Beth Chai, 870 Townline Rd, Hauppauge, NY. For information and registration please call 631-499-6644
 - February 7th, 2025 - Theodore Roosevelt Council Scout Shabbat at North Country Reform Temple, 86 Crescent Beach Rd, Glen Cove, NY. For information and registration please call 516-671-4760
 - February 7th, 2025 - Greater New York Council Scout Shabbat at Temple Israel Reform Congregation, 315 Forest Avenue, Staten Island, NY. For information and registration please call 718-727-2231
 - February 7th, 2025 - Mayflower Council Scout Shabbat at Congregation B'nai Shalom, Westborough, MA. For information and registration please contact Aaron Fox at aaron.fox@townisp.com
 - February 7th, 2025 – Narragansett Council Scout Shabbat at Temple Sinai, 30 Hagan Ave, Cranston, RI. For information and registration please visit <https://scoutingevent.com/546-94814>
 - February 7th, 2025 - Greater Hudson Valley Council Scout Shabbat at Temple Beth Am, 60 E Madison Ave, Pearl River, NY. For information and registration please visit <https://mycouncil.ghvscouting.org/Event/8501>
 - February 7th, 2025 - Mayflower Council Scout Shabbat at Temple Beth Tikvah, Westborough, MA. For information and registration please call 508-616-9037
 - February 7th, 2025, Greater
 - February 8th, 2025 - Tidewater Council Scout Shabbat at the Commodore Levy Chapel, Naval Station Norfolk, Norfolk, VA. For information and registration please contact Joel Nied at joelnied@gmail.com or call 757-745-3412
 - February 8th, 2025 – Greater Hudson Valley Council Scout Shabbat at Temple Israel Center, 280 Old Mamaroneck Rd., White Plains, NY. For information and registration please contact Evan Gilder at wp613scoutmaster@gmail.com or Tammy Silby at tammy.troop613@gmail.com
 - February 8th, 2025 - Monmouth Council Scout Shabbat at Temple Beth Ahm, 550 Lloyd Rd, Aberdeen, NJ. For information and registration please visit <https://www.monmouthbsa.org/scoutsabbath>
 - February 8th, 2025 - Northern New Jersey Council Scout Shabbat at Temple Israel Jewish Community Center, 475 Grove St, Ridgewood, NJ. For information and registration please contact Mr. Rothschild at advisorlsss@gmail.com
 - February 14th, 2025 – Theodore Roosevelt Council Temple Scout Shabbat at Temple B'nai Torah, 2900 Jerusalem Avenue, Wantagh, NY. For additional information and registration, contact Michael Moskowitz, 516-457-3417
 - February 14th, 2025 - Suffolk County Council Scout Shabbat at Temple B'nai Israel, 67 Oakdale-Bohemia Rd, Oakdale, NY. For information and registration please call 631-563-1660
 - February 14th, 2025 - Suffolk County Council Scout Shabbat at North Shore Jewish Center, 385 Old Town Rd Port Jeff Station, NY. For information and registration please call 631-928 - 9704
 - February 21st, 2025 – Baden Powell Council Temple Scout Shabbat at Temple Israel, 4737 Deerfield, Pl, Vestal, NY. For information and registration please send email to bpjcos@gmail.com
 - February 21st, 2025 - Suffolk County Council Scout Shabbat at Bayshore Jewish Center, 26 Clinton Ave, Bay Shore, NY. For information and registration please call 631-665-1140
 - February 21st, 2025 - Patriots Path Council Scout Shabbat at Temple Har Shalom, 104 Mount Horeb Road, Warren, NJ. This service will also be available via zoom for those who wish to participate remotely. For information

and registration, please visit

<https://www.templeharshalom.org/events/cout-shabbat-2/>

- February 28th, 2025 - Suffolk County Council Scout Shabbat at the East Northport Jewish Center, 328 Elwood Rd, East Northport, NY. For information and registration please call 631) 368-6474
- March 1st, 2025 – Greater New York Council Scout Shabbat at the Israel Center of Conservative Judaism (ICCJ), 167-11 73rd Ave, Flushing, NY. For information & registration, please send email to infor@iccj2004.org or call 718-591-5353 x2
- March 7th, 2025 - Suffolk County Council Scout Shabbat at Temple Isaiah, 1404 Stony Brook Rd Stony Brook, NY. For information and registration please call 631-751-8518
- March 7th, 2025 – Theodore Roosevelt Council Temple Scout Shabbat at Congregation Beth Ohr, 2550 South Centre Avenue, Bellmore, NY. For additional information and registration, contact Michael Moskowitz, 516-457-3417
- March 7th, 2025 – Daniel Webster Council and Spirit of Adventure Council Scout Shabbat at Temple Emanu-El in Haverhill, MA. This service will also be available via zoom for those who wish to participate remotely. For additional information and registration, contact Barry Hantman at neregion@jewishscouting.org
- March 8, 2025 - National Capital Area Council at Congregation Adat Reyim, Springfield, VA. For additional information and registration, please contact Stuart Hill at goosewedding@yahoo.com
- March 21st, 2025 - Great Falls Council Scout Shabbat at Congregation Shir Shalom, Williamsville, NY. This service will also be available via Youtube, Facebook & Boxcast for those who wish to participate remotely. For additional information and registration, please call 716-633-8877.



Northeast Region JCOS Conference

The 2025 Northeast Region JCOS conference is scheduled for March 30th, 2025 at Baltimore Area Council's Broad Creek Scout Reservation - Camp Spencer.

The goal of the conference is to help you provide a vibrant and exciting program for our Jewish Scouts.

The conference is open to participants from across the country. Kosher Food is included in the conference fee. And, Saturday night accommodations are available for those who desire to stay overnight.



Camp Spencer is 1 Hour Northeast of Baltimore, 1 Hours 45 minutes from Philadelphia, 2 hours 45 minutes from West Orange, and 3 Hours 30 minutes from Queens

The Theme of the 2025 conference is "Executing our Vision". This will be a Day of Training, Discussion & Camaraderie with sessions to help you provide a strong Jewish Scouting program. Learn from the experts and get your questions answered. Sessions will cover everything from Camping on Shabbos to Creative Scout Shabbat Services to Jewish-Sponsored Scouting Events in the Northeast Region available to your units.

The registration form and information are included at the end of this newsletter. Be sure to put this event on your calendar! Accommodations are available for those who wish to arrive on Saturday evening.

The following is the draft conference program (session topics and times may change as the event draws closer).

- 8:00 am check-in
- 8:20 am – Minyan
- 9:00 am Opening - Sounding of the Shofar
 - Scout Color Guard: Pledge of Allegiance, Scout Oath and Law

- Invocation - Rabbi Art Vernon
- Welcome and Introductions - Mr. Barry Hantman, NER JCOS Chair
- Mr. Ken Miller, Scout Executive, Baltimore Area Council
- Overview of NJCOS Virtual Training Events
- 9:40 am Morning Presentations
 - Nusach – Lori Weber
Nusachs are the style of prayer, the chosen hymns, the way the tunes sound. This session will provide an introduction to the Nusach in Jewish Worship
 - NJCOS 100th Anniversary Plan – Speaker: David Malatzky
This presentation will describe the progress being made in the planning for the NJCOS 100th Anniversary in 2026 and the events/activities planned to commemorate the anniversary.
- 10:30 am Break
- 10:40 am NJCOS Initiatives and Q&A with the NJCOS President – Mr. Phil Sternberg
This session will provide an overview of some of the new initiatives at the National level and will answer questions from the audience
- 11:10 am Break to move between buildings
- 11:15 am Breakout Sessions
 - Jewish Religious Emblems – Speaker: Cheryl Cooperstein
This session will provide an overview of all of the Jewish Religious Emblems and then provide detailed information, including lesson plans, for teaching the Maccabee, Aleph, and Ner Tamid Emblems.
 - Jewish Worship in the Outdoors (i.e., how to conduct Jewish prayer when at camp or on the trail) – Speakers: Rob Weber & Lori Weber
This session will provide tips for conducting Jewish Worship Services when at camp and when on the trail in the backcountry, especially when those participating are from different branches of the Jewish faith (Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, etc.). The session will be based on real-life examples.

- Creative Scout Shabbat Services & Scout Shabbaton Weekends – Speakers: Craig Fenster & Mel Shichtman
This session contains two presentations. The first presentation will provide examples of creative Scout Shabbat/Havdalah Services that have been conducted in the Northeast Region. The second presentation will describe a successful Scout Shabbaton weekend held in the Northeast Region. These presentations are meant to provide ideas for providing a meaningful and interesting event for your Scouts that will increase attendance.
- 12:00 pm Lunch – Dining Hall
 - D'Var Torah - Rabbi Rachmiel Tobesman
 - Buffet Lunch
 - Birkat haMazon (bentching)
- 1:15 pm Group Photo
- 1:30 pm Breakout Sessions
 - Year-round Jewish activities for Troops – Speakers: Leah Romeo & Susan Beiter
Although the Western New York Council has no Jewish-sponsored units, the Council JCOS has developed a program to ensure that Jewish-focused opportunities are available to Scouts across the Council. This session will describe the program of Jewish-focus activities that the local JCOS conducts to instill Judaism into the Scouts BSA program.
 - JCOS High Adventure Activities – Speaker: Rob Weber
For several years, the NJCOS has sponsored treks to Philmont and SeaBase. This session will describe the high adventure treks planned for 2025 at Northern Tier. It will also provide initial information about the NJCOS plans for 2026 the National Jamboree Plans, and 2027 World Jamboree
 - Group Discussion - Camping on Shabbat – Moderated by Joel Straus
This session will be an open discussion regarding camping on shabbat. It will cover



subjects such as building an eruv and other concerns for Shabbos camping.

- 2:15 pm Break to move between buildings
- 2:20 pm Breakout Sessions
 - Hosting an Interfaith Seder, Speaker: Howard Prager - *This session will provide a description of a successful Interfaith Seder and provide instruction for hosting a similar event in your Council*
 - Annual Jewish Events in the Northeast Region for Jewish Units - Speaker Joel Straus *This session will describe some of the annual Jewish Scouting Events held in the Northeast Region that can be included in your unit planning calendar. These include a Kosher Klondike, NER JCOS Kinus, Kit Kat Camporee, and the Kosher Summer Camp*
 - Q&A Session - Ask the Experts - *This session is a chance to seek the advice of the JCOS experts. Bring your questions and concerns for the experts to address.*
- 3:15 pm Break & Mincha
- 3:45 pm Awards and Presentations
 - Chai Awards
 - Shofar Awards
 - Special Recognitions
- 4:15 pm Closing Ceremony
- 4:30 pm Closing Prayer for Safe Travel



Trading Post Items

The Northeast Region JCOS has a variety of Trading Post items available for purchase.

- Bolo Ties - \$15 (plus shipping)
- Kippot – Leather Embossed \$10, Leather with Embroidered Logo \$15, Knit \$15 (plus shipping) – Various Colors Available
- Patches – The Trading Post has a variety of patches from past JCOS events. The Trading post also has 100th Anniversary patches for \$5.

See the trading post flyer in this newsletter for pictures and ordering information.

NJCOS Chai Awards

The Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting presents Chai Awards to deserving Leaders during the Annual Conference. There are three separate Chai Award Levels: Bronze, Gold and Silver. Individuals, local JCOS or BSA Councils may submit nominations for these recognitions. Submissions are then subject to approval by the NER JCOS Awards Sub-committee. The recipient of the award must be present at the Annual NER JCOS conference to receive the award (no awards will be presented to those not physically present at the conference).

- Bronze CHAI Award: The nominee must have served at least two years on the local Jewish Committee on Scouting or on the Region or National Committees. Work should be of an outstanding and exemplary nature. All volunteers and professional BSA personnel who have done exemplary work toward the betterment of Scouting within the Jewish Community over a two-year period are eligible.
- Gold CHAI Award The Gold CHAI award is given to a deserving individual who has received the Bronze CHAI at least two (2) years earlier and continued to provide worthy service to Scouting and the Jewish Community.
- Silver CHAI Award The Silver CHAI award is presented to an individual who has received the Gold CHAI at least two (2) years previously and has now rendered at least six years of service to Scouting and the Jewish Community.

Please see the Chai Award application attached to this newsletter for complete details.



Northern Tier Opportunity for Jewish Scouts

In 2025, the National Jewish Committee on Scouting is sponsoring a kosher, Shabbat-observant expedition at the BSA Northern Tier High Adventure Base. While past NJCOS treks have visited Philmont & Sea Base, this year's trek will be the first to visit Northern Tier. The dates are August 4th through August 13th, 2025 (including travel days). The NJCOS has both male and female leadership for this trek so female scouts are welcome to participate!

What is a Northern Tier Trek? Northern Tier is the premier high adventure location for wilderness canoeing, providing a unique experience in the rugged wilderness of the Boundary Waters Wilderness Area. With the thick Boreal Forest making trails difficult to navigate and maintain, canoes are the preferred mode of transportation in the Northern Forest. Northern Tier is renowned for their challenging and rewarding wilderness canoeing expeditions.



Why a Jewish Trek? What better place can there be to ask the BIG questions? If this is "God's country," how does my Judaism fit in? When seeing a million stars before my eyes, how does that link me to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as they shepherded their flocks? When my friends and I observe Shabbat on the trail, how do I feel about my relationship with Judaism?

What is a Jewish trek? The JCOS treks include Shabbat observance, kosher food, daily prayer/reflection and on-going Jewish learning. As part of this unique experience, participants will grow physically, mentally and emotionally and most importantly, participants will experience a deeper insight into what it means to be a Jewish Scout.

For complete trek details or questions, please contact Dr. Robert Weber at 1topgum@gmail.com.

Past trek participants have come from throughout the country and have had a wide variety of Jewish backgrounds. Space is filling up fast. To express your desire to join the trek, visit https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1m-GecumacZ6mmpFKpl3mpEggKUXTLumJD5o92IN_xf

Forrestburg Shomer Shabbat, Kosher Summer Camp Opportunity

Once again, A Shomer Shabbat, Kosher summer camp opportunity is being offered at Forrestburg Scout Reservation in Forestburgh, New York. This Scout Reservation is the premier camp for Monmouth Council.

The Forestburg Shomer Shabbat camping will be two weeks: July 6-13 and July 13-20.

Registration does not require prepayment although the payment schedule below provides several discounts. Once you provide registration to the leaders will walk you through merit badge program selection. The later one registers the more likely that classes will be closed.

Registration requires the following information:

- Name
- Address
- Contact phone number
- BSA ID (all camp participants must be registered with BSA)
- Birthdate

Pricing is as follows:

	Attend 1 week	Attend 2 weeks
Youth Pay by May 4	635	1230
Youth Pay by June 4	680	1320
Youth Pay after June 4	720	1400
Adults	250	500
Discount if leave on Friday July 11 or July 18	75	75

For further information, please contact Sheldon Freidenreich - 732-572-2568, sfreidenreich@gmail.com

Jewish Religious Emblems

The National Jewish Committee on Scouting offers Religious Emblems for Scouts of all ages. Here are the age/grade brackets for each of the religious emblems:

- Aryeh - Lions and Cubs through grade 1
- Maccabee - Lions & Cubs through grade 3
- Aleph - Cubs & Webelos through age 11
- Ner Tamid –
 1. Scouts BSA through age 14 or through 9th grade, whichever is later.
 2. Scouts BSA through age 20 if they also obtain the Etz Chaim and it is presented at the same time.
- Etz Chaim - Scouts BSA aged 14 to 20

Do you have a Scout that wants to earn an emblem but doesn't know where to find a counselor to work with? The NJCOS has you covered. If you are a Jewish Scout interested in earning one of our religious emblems, but you live far from a synagogue or Counselor, what can you do? Contact the NJCOS Chaplain, Rabbi Art Vernon (shaarayrabbi@gmail.com), and he will help you connect with a Rabbi or Counselor via Zoom! This is particularly important for the Ner Tamid and Etz Chaim medals which require a knowledgeable person to guide and assist. In the age of technology, distance is no longer an issue. Attached to this newsletter is a document describing the Jewish Religious Emblems. For detailed requirements for the emblems and an application form, you can visit the NJCOS website at <https://www.jewishscouting.org/> and click on "Emblems & Awards" at the top of the page.



NJCOS 100th Anniversary

100th Anniversary patches have been received! The patch was designed by Scout Tal Kaufman of Tenafly, NJ who won the competition to design the logo for the NJCOS 100th anniversary. Tal is the webmaster and Assistant Patrol Leader in his Troop.



The patch, shown here, can be ordered from the NJCOS website (jewishscouting.org) or from the Northeast Region trading post (neregion@jewishscouting.org). Patches are \$5 plus postage (typically \$1).

Be one of the first to have this special patch commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the National Jewish Committee on Scouting in 2026. Stay tuned for special 100th Anniversary events!

Scholarships for Jewish Eagle Scouts

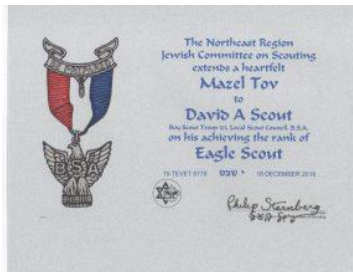
In 2024, the National Jewish Committee on Scouting awarded \$10,000 in College Scholarships to four outstanding Jewish Scouts. In 2025, that amount will double to \$20,000! We will be offering four \$5000 scholarships. For details and application forms, please visit <https://www.jewishscouting.org/eagle-scout-scholarships/>. In 2024, the NJCOS received nine scholarship applications which means the odds of receiving an NJCOS scholarship are much higher than many other scholarships.



Certificates For Eagle Scouts

The Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting provides certificates for presentation to those who earn the rank of Eagle Scout. These certificates are excellent for presentation at Eagle Courts of Honor. If you need a certificate for someone who is earning their Eagle rank, please send a letter to our NER JCOS Scribe, Ted Severe via US Mail (Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting, Eagle Recognition Certificate, c/o Mr. Theodore E. Severe, 3218 McElderry Street, Baltimore. MD 21205-2819). Please send Ted:

- The full name of the new Eagle Scout
- Unit type (troop or crew) and its respective number
- The name of his/her Scout Council
- The date of his/her Eagle Court of Honor
- Address to which the certificate should be mailed
- Scout's preferred pronouns (to ensure appropriate certificate wording)
- Contact information (phone number, email address) in case there are questions regarding the certificate request



If more than one Eagle Scout is being honored at the same Eagle Court of Honor, please provide the same information as above for each additional new Eagle Scout (these additional Scouts may not be Jewish but, by tradition, the Northeast Region will honor ALL Eagle Scouts at a single Eagle Court of Honor regardless of their individual religious faiths).

In addition, the National Jewish Committee on Scouting (NJCOS) provides an Eagle Kit, consisting of a letter & certificate, for Jewish Eagle Scouts. Details and the application form can be found on the NJCOS website at <https://www.jewishscouting.org/eagle-scouts/>

2025 Annual Kosher Klondike Derby

The Kosher Klondike Derby will be held over Four Days, Friday February 14th, 2025 through Monday February 17th at Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation, Schuylkill Haven PA

Come prepared for outdoor winter camping activities. For a checklist, see the Scout Handbook Each Scout wears a full Scout uniform and brings a backpack or duffel bag with his or her own personal gear, with sleeping bag. All food will be provided. An extra blanket is highly recommended. Male Scouts over the age of 13 are encouraged to bring tefillin.

What is a Klondike Derby? A Klondike Derby is a competitive way for Scouts to use their skills in fun-filled way. In addition to these skills, they will need to use teamwork and communication skills in order to excel at the various events. Each Scout should bring a day pack. Scouts will travel in a patrol. When they leave basecamp, they should have everything they will need for the various stations. This includes 10 feet of rope per patrol (Supplied), at least one personal first aid kit per patrol, a compass, matches, and tinder.

The planned stations are expected to be as follows (This may change): Cooktown, Blindfold Carry, Orienteering/Treasure hunt, Emergency Shelter, Ravine Crossing, Knot tying derby, and Susquehanna relay .

WHO: Registered Scouts & Adult Leaders in any Council are invited to attend! In the past Scouts from Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Massachusetts, Ohio, New York, & Virginia have attended.

WHAT: The 23rd Kosher Klondike Derby is a Multi-state event providing a chance for scouts to display their basic scout skills in a fun, energized competitive atmosphere.

WHEN & WHERE: Friday, February 14th to Monday February 17th at BSA Hawk Mountain Reservation, nestled in the beautiful rural wooded hills of historic Schuylkill County PA.

HOW: The heated Camp Lodges will serve as sleeping accommodations while the Dining Hall & conference Center will serve as base camp for winter camping in a traditional Jewish environment. (Please do not bring any other food, drinks or snacks.) "A scout is Reverent" states the 12th Point of the Scout Law. Therefore, we pause from our activities for Grace before and after meals and for daily services (Shacharit, Mincha and Maariv). While individual Scouts and adults may have many different personal perspectives on prayer, as a community our Derby will gather as one.

WHY: For the development of scout skills, teamwork and fun in a competitive atmosphere Scouts will compete in a Klondike Derby course that will test their skills in fire- building, cooking, first aid, orienteering, teamwork and many other skills. Scouts compete in patrols and will be judged on time, and skill level. Prizes will be awarded.

In Addition To The Derby, Merit Badges And Core Advancement Skills Will Be Offered.

REGISTRATION will be accepted until February 7th. 2025 or until all spaces are accounted for. The cost is \$120 per person.

For more information, contact:

- Mr. Ben Altman, Asst. Scoutmaster-Troop 613 717-599-4407 – Ben@Altman.Blue
- Mr. Neil Schmerling, Asst. Scoutmaster, Troop 613 - 215-805-8483
- Mr. Joel Straus – Unit Commissioner NCAC - 202-441-0771
- Mr. Jeffrey Cohen – Scoutmaster – Troop 614 - 301-775-7173
- Mr Evan Gilder – Chartered Org Troop 613 (White Plains)

To Register: Unit Leaders or Provisional Scout parents should use the following Klondike online link: <https://forms.gle/SGUx4Yd1xeUaoLqdA> All attending adults must have completed Youth Protection training. When using the registration form, please be sure to inform us in advance of any special allergies or dietary needs!

Calendar of Religious Holidays

The Boy Scouts of America maintains that no member can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing an obligation to God, but it is absolutely nonsectarian in its attitude toward religious training. Its policy is that the home and the organization or group with which the member is connected shall give definite attention to religious life.

There are certain holidays that individual Scouts and Scouters of different faiths celebrate each year. These holidays are not always on the same date on the calendar and may not be familiar to everyone. In order to respect the traditions of all Scouts and Scouters, care must be taken in scheduling Scouting activities.

The Boy Scouts of America has developed a religious holiday calendar for the use of local units, councils and others in scheduling Scout-related activities. It provides a brief description of each holiday and an indication of the significance of each. The calendar is continuously updated to provide a two-year holiday schedule.

Please remember that certain holidays begin on the night before the actual day of the holiday as shown on the calendar.

The BSA Religious Holiday Calendar is here: <https://www.scouting.org/resources/relationships/religious-observances/>

Please share this calendar with your council, district, and those planning Scouting events.

JCOS Golf/Polo Shirts

The Jewish Committee on Scouting sells Golf/Polo shirts with the JCOS logo. The short-sleeve shirts are Royal Blue with White embroidery of the JCOS logo and "Jewish Committee on Scouting" in both Hebrew and English on left breast. An order form is provided at the end of this newsletter.

Shipping costs can be avoided if you pick up the shirt at the Annual Conference in March and order before February 20th, 2025!

Scouts Read Sacred Texts

The First Scouts Read Sacred Texts Worldwide event greatly exceeded everyone's expectations. On May 2, 2024, on the National Day of Prayer, over 3600 youth from 177 councils participated. They read their sacred texts for over 800 hours. Nearly 3900 patches were ordered.

Most Scouts read at home with their families. In addition to the United States, Scouts from Kenya, Nigeria, Puerto Rico, Belgium, Bangladesh, Chile, Singapore, Okinawa, and the Philippines participated. Scouts had never done this before. We made history.

This year's event will be on May 1, 2025. The goal is to significantly expand participation and invite other youth organizations plus youth from all Faiths to join us. So, while the event will be similar to last year, there are some minor changes:

1. We encourage all youth to read on the evening of May 1 (which is the U.S. National Day of Prayer) or anytime that week that is convenient.
2. We are suggesting that youth, their families and/or faith leaders decide the specific texts to be read. We suggest youth read for at least 15 minutes but that is up to each individual.
3. Other youth organizations are invited including 4-H, American Heritage Girls, Camp Fire Boys & Girls, Girl Scouts USA, International Scouts, Sea Scouts, Trail Life USA, and ALL faith's youth groups to join us.

In addition to participating, this registration form allows you to indicate your support in multiple ways.

Just like this year, a commemorative patch will be available to purchase.

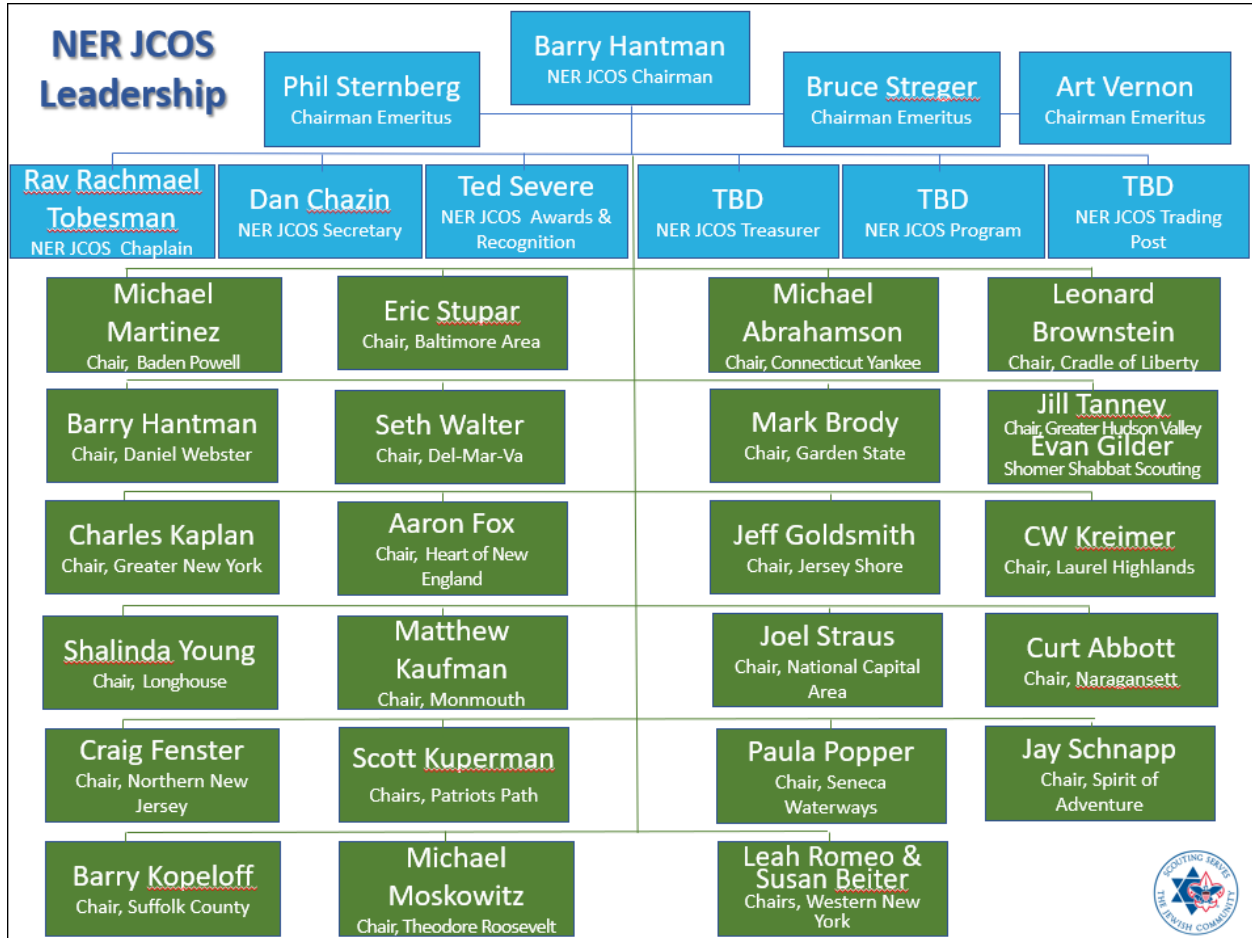
Participating in this event could help Scouts satisfy the Duty to God requirement necessary for advancement.

The event flyer, with registration information, is included later in this newsletter.

Upcoming Events

- Scout Shabbat events throughout January, February & March. See complete listing earlier in this newsletter
- February 14th, 2025 through Monday February 17th at Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation, Schuylkill Haven PA
- March 30th, 2025 – Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting Annual Conference at Camp Spencer in Maryland.
- May 1, 2025 – Scouts Read Sacred Texts event
- May 2025 – Northeast Region JCOS Kinus over Memorial Day Weekend.
- July 6-13 and July 13-20 - Forestburg Shomer Shabbat Summer Camp
- September 2025 – Kit Kat Camporee over Labor Day Weekend
- July 22nd – 31st, 2026 National Scout Jamboree
- July 30th – August 8th, 2027 – World Scout Jamboree





Please let provide any updates for this chart to Barry Hantman, neregion@jewishscouting.org





Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting 37th Annual Conference



Sunday, March 30, 2025

Broad Creek Memorial Scout Reservation, Camp Spencer
3773 Peach Orchard Rd, Street, MD 21154

Join the Northeast Region Jewish Committee for a day of
Training & Camaraderie

Sunday March 30, 2025

9AM-4:30PM (doors open at 8AM)

Camp Spencer, Street, MD

(Just south of the Maryland/Pennsylvania boarder)

- Informative Training Sessions ¹
 - Jewish Worship in the Outdoors
 - Creative Scout Shabbat Services
 - Camping on Shabbat
 - Hosting an Interfaith Seder
 - Jewish Scouting Events in the Northeast Region
 - Year-round Jewish activities for Scouts
 - 100th Anniversary Planning
 - Upcoming JCOS High Adventure Treks
 - And Much More!
- Kosher Breakfast & Lunch
- Jewish Committee Award Presentations
- Jewish Scouting Trading Post
 - Kippot
 - Bolo Ties
 - Patches



\$45 per person if paid by March 1st (\$10 additional after 3/1/25)

Lodging available Saturday Night, March 29, 2025 on a space available basis
See attached registration form

¹ Preliminary program agenda. Subject to change.

The 37th Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting Conference Registration



(Participants of all faiths and all Scout Regions welcome)

Where: Broad Creek Memorial Scout Reservation, Camp Spencer, 3773 Peach Orchard Rd, Street, MD 21154

When: Sunday, March 30, 2025, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM
(lodging available Saturday Night, March 29, 2025)

Conference fee: **\$45.00 per participant if paid by Mar 1, 2025**

After Mar 1, 2025, the fee increases to \$55.00 per participant.

Fee includes breakfast, lunch, patch, conference program, and handouts.

Those with a financial need should contact Barry Hantman (email address below.)

Registration Information:

- Cub Scout Leader, Scouts BSA Leader, Venturing Leader, Other: _____
 JCoS Committee Member, Council: _____ JCoS Committee Chair
Primary Scouting Position and Unit #: _____
 1st Time Attendee? Who encouraged your attendance? _____
Last NER JCoS Conference attended (year): _____

Contact Information:

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail Address (please print clearly): _____

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Breakfast includes bagels, spreads, fruit, coffee, tea and juices. Lunch includes cold cuts and tuna sandwiches, salad, fruit, and drinks (maybe Chinese Food). All food is kosher. If you have specific dietary requirements, please let us know:

Lodging:

- I request accommodations at Camp Spencer (bunk beds). Cost \$50.00/person. Bring your own bedding.
Beds are 4 to a room with separate rooms for male & female attendees

Comments: _____

Contact: NER JCoS Chairman, Barry Hantman <neregion@jewishscouting.org>

Mail this registration form and your check to

NER JCOS, c/o Barry Hantman, 52 Justin Drive, Danville, NH 03819

Make your check out to "**NER JCOS**" and write "**2025 NER JCOS Conference**" on the memo line

Venmo & Paypal accepted. Please enquire for details.

Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting

CHAI Award Application

(Bronze, Gold or Silver)

Instructions: Please print out this page and neatly print the information requested. The Award Nomination form should be signed by the local council Scout Executive, the local council JCoS chairman and another member of the committee. Please mail or email (PDF) the application at least Twenty One (21) days prior to the Northeast Region JCoS Conference to:

Barry Hantman, NERJCoS Chairman
52 Justin Dr., Danville, NH 03819
Email: neregion@jewishscouting.org

Person being nominated:

Nominee's Name: _____

Nominee's Mailing Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Nominee's Current Position in Scouting: _____

Nominee's Council Name: _____

I nominate this person for the []Bronze, []Gold, []Silver Award

Person making the nomination:

Nominator's Name: _____

Nominator's Mailing Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Nominator's Phone #: (_____) _____

Nominator's Email: _____

Approvals:

Scout Executive: _____ Date: _____

Council JCoS Chairman: _____ Date: _____

Member of Local JCoS: _____ Date: _____

SEE COMPLETE AWARD REQUIREMENTS ON NEXT PAGE

**Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting
CHAI Awards Requirements**

There are three levels of awards - Bronze, Gold and Silver. Individuals, local JCOS or BSA Councils may submit nominations for these recognitions. Submissions are then subject to approval by the NER JCOS Awards Sub-committee. The recipient of the award must be present at the Annual NER JCOS to receive the award (no awards will be presented to those not physically present at the conference).

Bronze CHAI Award

The nominee must have served at least two years on the local Jewish Committee on Scouting or on the Region or National Committees. Work should be of an outstanding and exemplary nature. All volunteers and professional BSA personnel who have done exemplary work toward the betterment of Scouting within the Jewish Community over a two-year period are eligible. On the back of the application form describe in detail the work done by the nominee. Please include dates, places, and most importantly, accomplishments.

Gold CHAI Award

The Gold CHAI award is given to a deserving individual who has received the Bronze CHAI at least two (2) years earlier and continued to provide worthy service to Scouting and the Jewish Community. Indicate on the application when and where the individual received their Bronze Chai. On the back of the application form describe in detail the work done by the individual after receiving their previous award.

Silver CHAI Award

The Silver CHAI award is presented to an individual who has received the Gold CHAI at least two (2) years previously and has now rendered at least six years of service to Scouting and the Jewish Community. Indicate on the application when and where the individual received their Gold Chai. Describe in detail the work done by the individual after receiving their previous award. On the back of the application form describe in detail the work done by the individual after receiving their previous award.



Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting Trading Post



Your Source for Jewish Scouting Items!



Knit Kippot
(available in Black & White)
\$15



Leather Kippot with
Embroidered JCOS Logo
(available in Tan, Brown,
Light Pink, Dark Pink,
Blue & Black)
\$15



Leather Kippot with
Embossed JCOS Logo
(available in Tan, Blue
& Black)
\$10



JCOS Bolo Ties
(available with Black
Cord or Red Cord)
\$15



Jewish Committee
Patches
\$5

The NER JCOS Trading Post also has a variety of patches from Jewish Scouting Events (NER JCOS Conferences, Scout Shabbat, National Jamborees, etc.) with prices starting as low as \$1 each

To order, please send email to neregion@jewishscouting.org

*Shipping cost is additional
(to avoid shipping costs, items may be picked up at the Annual NER JCOS Conference)*

Jewish Committee on Scouting Golf Shirt

Specifications:

- Color: **Royal Blue**
- Design: **White embroidery of detailed JCOS logo with "Jewish Committee on Scouting" in both Hebrew and English on left breast. Your first name on right breast if desired.**
- **Short Sleeves**
- Sizes available: **Medium (M); Large (L); Extra Large (XL); Two Extra Large (2XL); Three Extra Large (3XL), etc.**
- Fabric: **Poly-cotton Knit** (this is a "performance" fabric)
- Cost: **\$45.00 per shirt ordered** (if other "performance" fabrics are desired, the extra cost is \$15.00)
- **USPS Priority Mail postage \$15.00 to have shirt mailed to you.** You can also have the shirt delivered at the next NERJCOS Conference to save on the postage.

Directions for ordering your JCOS Golf Shirt:

Fill out this form with all requested information. Provide a check for the number of shirts desired made out to either "Theodore E. Severe," "Ted Severe" or "Rebecca Severe" and indicate on the check's memo line "JCOS Golf Shirt"

If you have any questions *before ordering*, please do not hesitate to contact **Pinky or Ted Severe** at 410-276-2686, via email at severefamily@verizon.net or via mail, 3218 McElderry Street, Baltimore MD 21205-2819.

ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Shirt Size/Quantity Desired: M _____ L _____ XL _____ 2XL _____ 3XL _____

Notes _____



YOUTH



READ SACRED TEXTS

We invite youth across the world to join us again in reading their own faith's sacred texts. Together, we can recognize our **Duty to God**, participating as a group or on your own.

Read your sacred texts on **May 1st, 2025**, or any time that week. Join Scouting America, other youth organizations, and all faith youth groups in a celebration of sacred texts

JOIN US

MORE INFORMATION

stlbsa.org/Scouts-read-sacred-texts-worldwide/
ScoutsReadSacredTexts@gmail.com



Promotion Video

Jewish Religious Emblems

The Shofar Award

(For Adults)

The Shofar Award was created to recognize outstanding service by adults in promoting Scouting among Jewish youth. The Shofar (Ram's Horn) calls people to the service of G-d.

The Shofar Award recognizes individuals who who serve Jewish youth in Scouting.

Current requirements can be found at:
<http://www.jewishscouting.org/awards/#shofar>



The Talmud Torah Award is presented by the Suffolk County JCOS to Scouts who have earned all of their Jewish religious Emblems. Both Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts may apply. Contact the Suffolk County JCOS for an application or Email

wb2adf@gmail.com

As a Scout, how do I start working on my Religious Emblems?

Starting work on a religious Emblem is simple. Start by downloading the current requirements from the National Jewish Committee on Scouting website,

<http://www.jewishscouting.org>, and ask your parent, Rabbi or Religious school teacher/educator to serve as your counselor.

As you work on the activities/requirements, keep a record of your work in the workbook, and discuss what you have done with your counselor.

When you have completed all the activities and/or requirements, your counselor signs and submits the application form. The notebook is for you to keep, to use, and to display. The Emblem presentation should be made at a service in your synagogue, unit meeting, or other appropriate event.

The National Jewish Committee on Scouting

The National Jewish Committee on Scouting (NJCOS) promotes Scouting among Jewish youth, helps Jewish institutions, Regional and Local Councils and Jewish Committees, provides Scouting opportunities for Jewish youth, and promotes Jewish values in Scouting through the BSA, and Religious Emblem programs.



For additional information on NJCOS:
<http://www.jewishscouting.org>

For additional information on Religious Emblems and other Awards:
<http://www.jewishscouting.org/awards>

Contact either your local council Jewish Committee, or your Regional Jewish Committee for additional information on Religious Emblems and other Awards.
<http://www.jewishscouting.org>

The NJCOS website is a good resource related to Jewish Scouting.

Visit the website "Store" where you can purchase patches and other items.

Kippahs, Bolos and other items can also be purchased from the Northeast Region JCOS.

Eagle Certificates are available and special. Chai Awards are available in each region.

For questions and other Award Certificates, check with the **Regional JCOS** to learn more.

CENTRAL - ceregion@jewishscouting.org
 NER - neregion@jewishscouting.org
 SOUTHERN - soregion@jewishscouting.org
 WESTERN - weregion@jewishscouting.org

"A Scout is Reverent" JEWISH RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS

For ALL levels of Scouting

Lion Scouts
Aryeh Emblem



Tiger Cubs
Maccabee Emblem



Cub Scouts

Aleph Emblem



Scouts BSA,
Explorer, Venturers
Ner Tamid Emblem



Older Boy Scouts & Venturers
Etz Chaim Emblem



Adults

Shofar Award



Chai Awards



Bronze, Gold,
Silver, Diamond

Learn how **YOU** as an Adult, can play an important part in Jewish youth character and leadership development. And learn how your organization can sponsor a Jewish Unit. Contact the NJCOS and let the fun begin.

Jewish Religious Emblems

The Aryeh Emblem



For Jewish Lion Scouts in Kindergarten or 1st grade

The young Lion is a traditional Jewish symbol of curiosity, energy and power. The Aryeh Emblem challenges the youngest Scouts to learn. The requirements are fun, and for the beginner, with help from a parent, religious leader or counselor, they will learn some of the basics of the Jewish Faith such as their Hebrew name, what Shalom means, what a mezuzah is, Minyan, Jewish games and more.

<https://www.jewishscouting.org/cub-scout-emblems/#aryeh>

The Maccabee Emblem

For Jewish Tiger Cubs and Cub Scouts, grades 1-3



The Maccabee Emblem takes its name from Judah Maccabee and his brothers, who led the military and the religious struggle against the Syrian King, Antiochus, who attempted to suppress the practice of Judaism. Their revolt ended in victory with the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem in the year 167 B.C.E. which is celebrated during the holiday of Chanukah (known as the festival of lights).

What are the requirements?

Requirements can be started at any time. All requirements must be completed prior to completing the third grade. The requirements are subdivided into six categories: Jewish names, holidays, terms, symbols and objects, community helpers and heroes.

These categories should be sufficiently simple for the first graders to manage and should appeal to youngsters of diverse interests. Virtually all of the requirements should lend themselves to fulfillment at home with the active assistance of a parent. The total assignments should be completed within a nine-month time frame or sooner.

Current requirements can be found at:

<https://www.jewishscouting.org/cub-scout-emblems/#maccabee>

The Aleph Emblem

For Jewish Cub Scouts and Webelos, grades 3-5

Just as Aleph is the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet, the activities of the Aleph Emblem are among the first steps that a Scout will learn to understand more about the Jewish faith. Working on the Aleph Emblem will help the Cub Scouts get to know his or her Rabbi or religious educator who will be the Scout's counselor and guide along the way.

When do I start earning the Emblem?

A Cub Scout may begin to work on the Aleph Emblem as soon as he or she enters the third grade. All requirements must be completed with the Cub Scout as a registered member of a Cub Scout pack and before he or she completes the fifth grade.

What does the Aleph Emblem look like?

The Aleph Emblem is a medal with a Torah and a Ner Tamid on it as a reminder that once you have earned the Emblem, others will depend on you to teach them.

Current requirements can be found at:

<https://www.jewishscouting.org/cub-scout-emblems/#aleph>



SCOUTING
for
JEWISH YOUTH

THE NATIONAL JEWISH
COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

The Ner Tamid Emblem

For Jewish Scouts BSA, Venturers and Explorers, grades 6-9

Learning by doing is a basic principle of Scouting. The Ner Tamid (Eternal Light) program will help a Scout grow spiritually. It will help the Scout practice *Duty to G-d*, be *Reverent* and to be *faithful in his or her Religious duties*. Counselor's assistance is required.

The Ner Tamid Emblem represents the Eternal Light that hangs in front of the Holy Ark in every synagogue. The pendant is attached to a blue and white ribbon and a bronze bar pin that carries the inscription "Ner Tamid" in Hebrew letters and "Eternal Light" in English.

Requirement areas include:

- * Home observance
- * Synagogue worship
- * Jewish Study
- * The American Jewish community
- * World Jewry

Current requirements can be found at:

<https://www.jewishscouting.org/scouts-bsa-emblems/#nertamid>

The Etz Chaim Emblem

For Jewish Scouts, ages 14-17 and Venturers ages 14-20

The Etz Chaim (Tree of Life) Emblem is to encourage the young adult to explore Jewish roles in the context of family, community, world and the Jewish people. The requirements can be completed in six months with a counselor's assistance.



Current requirements can be found at:

<https://www.jewishscouting.org/scouts-bsa-emblems/#etzchaim>