

Friends of *Shomer Shabbat* Scouting
ANNOUNCES THE
Shomer Shabbat Contingent to the 2026 National Scout Jamboree

THE CONSTITUENCY SERVED:

Boys' and girls' Jamboree Troops are being organized for Jewish Scouts from throughout the United States and other countries, wishing to attend the 2026 National Scout Jamboree at the Summit Bechtel Reserve, in Glen Jean, WV.

These Troops eliminate all barriers to entry, and allow full access to the spectacular Jamboree experience, for Scouts whose observance of Scouting America's 12th point of the Scout Law ... "*A Scout is Reverent*"... includes observing the five requirements of:

- ① The Jewish dietary laws at all times (*Kashrut*),
- ② The Sabbath from sundown Friday to nightfall on Saturday (*Shabbat*),
- ③ Daily prayer services in the morning and afternoon/evening (*Tefila*),
- ④ Modesty in dress, behavior, speech, and thought, especially with regard to the interaction between males and females, guided by religious law (*Tzniut*).
- ⑤ Opportunities for ongoing religious learning (*Limudei Kodesh*).

A CHALLENGE AND A SOLUTION:

The National Jamboree, typically held every four years, gathers tens of thousands of Scouts from throughout the United States and other countries. This is one of the premiere events in a Scouting career. Scouts participate only as a member of a Jamboree Troop in a Council Contingent. In any Scout Council, there are only a small number of individuals with the requirements listed above. This makes it very difficult to respond to these needs — before the Jamboree (e.g. Troop meetings and a mandatory weekend-long Pre-Jamboree Training session), in transit to and from the Jamboree (e.g. travel and touring schedules, and food), and while at the Jamboree (e.g. program schedules). If these requirements are not met, then these Scouts cannot attend the Jamboree.

In 1989, this challenge was addressed by Dr. Howard Spielman, as he created **The *Shomer Shabbat* Contingent** and he has been the Contingent Coordinator for the past nine Jamborees. This program continues with strong support from Mr. Sheldon Freidenreich, Dr. Yehuda Katz, Rabbi Avraham A. Witty, and others. For 2026, Scouting America has again graciously agreed to support this program, with a direct liaison to the Jamboree Director. Since 2015, this program has been run by 'Friends of *Shomer Shabbat* Scouting,' a 501(c)(3) organization.

PROGRAM SUMMARY:

The 2026 *Shomer Shabbat* Contingent experience will begin Sunday July 12, 2026 at Forestburg Scout Reservation, Forestburg, NY. The program will include some touring time in Washington DC and, after returning from the Jamboree, will conclude in DC on Sunday August 2, 2026 with air travel home from the greater Washington area, or coach bus drop-offs in the Northeast

A CALL FOR ADULT LEADERS AND YOUTH PARTICIPANTS:

A more detailed program outline will be available in September, 2025, but at this time, we seek:

Adult Leaders (age 18+ by July 22, 2026) interested in getting more info and possibly serving as a leader:

Go to: <https://ShomerShabbatScouting.org/> [Staffing decisions will begin in September 2025.]

Click "**Adult Leader Application**" for more info and be considered for a role in the Contingent.

Youth Participants — Boys & Girls: (Age 12 by July 22, 2026 and not yet 18 by July 31, 2026.)

Go to: <https://ShomerShabbatScouting.org/>

Click "**Youth Interest Form**" to get updates on the 2026 *Shomer Shabbat* Contingent.

FRIENDS OF *SHOMER SHABBAT* SCOUTING:

Dr. Howard Spielman, <i>President</i>	Mr. Sheldon Freidenreich, <i>Vice President</i>	Dr. Yehuda Katz, <i>Treasurer</i>	Rabbi Avraham A. Witty, <i>Rabbinic Advisor</i>
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