



## Southern Region Jewish Committee on Scouting

**November 2025 Newsletter** 

#### Southern Region, National Jewish Committee on Scouting Chairman's Message:

By Bruce Streger

Shalom my fellow Scouts and Scouters. This is the first newsletter for the Southern Region. I hope everyone is doing well, staying healthy, smiling a lot, and participating in as many Scout events as possible.

The National Jewish Committee Website, JewishScouting.org, has a lot of information on what's going on in the Jewish Scouting World. It has all the requirements for our 5 religious emblems (Aryeh, Macabbee, Aleph, Ner Tamid and Etz Chaim. We also have a new Award for any Scout who has earned all the religious emblems they can earn in their Scouting tenure called the "Talmud Torah" Award.

Don't forget to request your Eagle certificate from the National JCOS and the Southern Region. Once you make Eagle, the NJCOS has four \$5000 Scholarships available for High School Seniors. For those families with Girl Scouts, we also have a certificate for their Gold Award.

For those energetic Scouts who have earned every Merit badge, we have the "Merit Badge Master" Award certificate.

Scout Shabbat 2026 patches will soon be available. The patch is a very special one as the National Jewish Committee is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



Other events in 2026 include the Northeast Region Conference on March 15<sup>th</sup> at Ten Mile River Scout Camps in Upstate NY.

The Scouting America National Annual Meeting (NAM) will be held in early May in Dallas Texas. The National Jewish Committee Annual meeting will be held just before NAM.

Next we move onto the 2026 National Scout Jamboree from July 22-31, 2026 at Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia. The NJCOS will have a large booth with many things to see and do. We hope to have the Shofar factory there.

Then in August, the NJCOS is having its first annual Jewish Campout called B'yachad gathering. Fun for all. This will be held at Ten Mile Scout Camp as well.

See flyers and registration information for all these events later in the newsletter . Hope to see you at some or maybe all!

#### IMPORTANT QUESTION FOR ALL LEADERS

We want to update our list of Jewish Scouting Units, Scouters, and Organizations in the Southern Region. Please send any information that could help to email: soregion@jewishScouting.org

\*\*\*\*\*\*Your help is much appreciated\*\*\*\*\*

If you would like to become a JCOS chair or start a new committee in your council, please let me know. Remember, we start off small and grow. Together we can make this happen, so our Jewish Scouts will have whatever is needed for their Scouting success.

#### Southern Region Zoom Meeting

Sometime by the end of January, I would like to sponsor a one hour Zoom meeting where we can get to know each other a little better. If you have any topics you would like to discuss, please email me at soregion@jewishScouting.org. The meeting will have a short presentation on what's going on in the Jewish Scouting community and Religious Emblems and Awards.

#### LOOKING FOR HELP

We are looking for individuals who would like to help Jewish Scouting with the Southern Region. Consider: writing the newsletter, membership, Coordinate Jewish Scouting in your state, chairing a JCOS in your council, Chairing the Southern Region, and helping with quarterly Zoom meetings/training seminars.

#### LOOKING FOR ITEMS

At the National Jamboree, we want to give Scouts that visit our booth free scouting items, such as patches, carabiners, knives, survival bracelets, or other small **tchotchke**. We would especially appreciate suede Kippahs with no writing on the outside. If you have any of these items, please email me at soregion@jewishScouting.org.

#### LEADER AWARDS

The National Jewish Committee has many Awards for leaders. If you know anyone who you think should be honored with an award (Shofar; Bronze, Gold and Silver Chai Awards; Yad Award for JCOS Chairs; etc.) email soregion@jewishScouting.org All listed on the NJCOS Website, JewishScouting.org.

#### **RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS**

Do you need help with a Religious Emblem? If you are not affiliated with a temple or you are in a remote area or you just need help, please contact the Southern Region at soregion@jewishScouting.org.

#### High Adventure Opportunity for Jewish Scouts in 2026



In 2026, the National Jewish Committee on Scouting is sponsoring a kosher, Shabbat-observant expedition at Scouting America's Premier High Adventure Base, Philmont. Philmont, located in the mountains of New Mexico, is the place to go to experience a challenging, high-adventure back-country trek through the Rocky Mountains while developing leadership skills, outdoor skills, and self-reliance. The trek is scheduled for June 25, 2026 through July 9, 2026.

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, see the flyer at the end of this newsletter with registration information. Space for these NJCOS treks fills up extremely quickly. If interested, don't delay in registering! Several spots for 2026 have already been claimed.

For 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.

The NJCOS expects to have both male and female leadership for this trek so all Scouts are welcome to participate! The dates will not conflict with the National Jamboree.

#### **Scholarships for Jewish Eagle Scouts**



In 2025, the National Jewish Committee on Scouting awarded \$20,000 in College Scholarships to four outstanding Jewish Scouts (see details in the July issue of the NER JCOS newsletter). In 2026, the NJCOS will once again be offering four \$5000 scholarships. For details and application forms, please visit https://www.jewishscouting.org/eagle-scout-scholarships/.

What are the requirements for the scholarships? To be eligible, you must:

- Be a registered, active member of a Scouts BSA troop, Varsity Scout team, or Venturing crew.
- · Have received the Eagle Scout Award.
- Be an active member of a synagogue and possess the Ner Tamid or Etz Chaim religious emblem.
- Have demonstrated practical citizenship in your synagogue, school, Scouting unit, and community.
- Be enrolled in an accredited high school and in your final year at the time of selection. Exception: Scouts whose Eagle Scout boards of review are held the same year of their high school graduation may apply in that calendar year.

#### **NJCOS Seminars**

The National Jewish Committee on Scouting hosts quarterly virtual seminars to assist local JCOS committees in providing a quality program. These 1-hour seminars are conducted via zoom and are provided free to all who want to participate. The Seminars are help at 8:00PM Eastern Time, 7:00PM Central Time, 6:00PM Mountain Time, and 5:00PM Pacific Time. The upcoming seminars for 2026 will be released shortly.

Please direct any questions or register information to Barry Hantman, at neregion@jewishscouting.org.

#### **Shabbat Friendly Wood Badge Courses**

Looking for a Shabbat Friendly Wood Badge Course with Kosher food in the Northeast Region? Look no further. There is one coming in 2026 here in the Northeast Region.



We are pleased to announce one planned for May and June 2026 in the Baltimore area. This training is open to Scouters from all councils. The orientation will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at the Schapiro Scout Service Center and the course itself will be held on Monday, June 15 to Friday, June 19, 2026, at Camp Spencer. For information and registration, please see the flyer later in this newsletter of visit the registration website at: https://scoutingevent.com/220-WB12220261

#### Jewish Scouting at the 2026 National Jamboree



Summer is the traditional time for Scouts to go outdoors to Summer Camp and on High Adventure Trips, and next summer, Scouts and leaders should plan to include the 2026 National Jamboree in their plans.

There will be a large Jewish Scouting presence at the upcoming National Jamboree at the Summit Bechtel Reserve next summer, July 22-31, 2026. Now is the time to decide to participate.

The National Jewish Committee on Scouting, NJCOS, will have a large booth at the Jamboree to celebrate its 100th Anniversary in Scouting, and, additionally, the Friends of Shomer Shabbat Scouting will have a contingent at the Jamboree for adults and youth who want to have an observant Jewish experience. Start by visiting https://jamboree.scouting.org/ to get a good look at what the Jamboree is all about. Next decide on how you want to participate. Your options include:

- Attend as part of your local council contingent.
   Check with your local council about registering.
- Attend as part of the Shomer Shabbat Contingent. See the flyer at the end of this newsletter.
- Work on staff as an adult or youth (16-29).
   Submit your registration online from the Jamboree website. The NJCOS is looking for Adults and Senior Scouts (ages 16+) who are interested in working at the NJCOS National Jewish Committee's booth at the 2026

National Jamboree! If interested, contact the NJCOS President, Phil Sternberg, at phil.sternberg@gmail.com

#### Scouting America National Annual Meeting

The next Scouting America National Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 11-13, 2026 in Dallas, TX. During this meeting, there are two events scheduled that are of particular interest to Jewish Scouters.

- The National Religious Relationships
   Committee (NRRC) will be meeting on Wednesday morning, May 12th. All of the Religious
   Committees, including the NJCOS, will be giving presentations.
- The Annual Duty to God Breakfast will be held on Thursday morning, May 13th. At this breakfast, several youth recipients of religious emblems will be recognized and the National Duty to God Award recipients will be announced. However, the highlight of the Duty to God Breakfast will be the keynote speaker, our very own Rabbi Peter Hyman. Rabbi Hyman is a long-time member of the Northeast Region and National Jewish Committees on Scouting, a Head Chaplain at three World Jamborees, and recipient of the Bronze Wolf Award (the highest Scouting award in the world).

The NJCOS encourages everyone to join us at the National Annual Meeting, and specifically at the Duty to God Breakfast, as we celebrate our 100th Anniversary of Jewish Scouting.

#### **YAD Award Recipients**



Please congratulate recent recipients of the NJCOS Yad Award. The Yad Award recognizes outstanding service by adult leaders who have served as Jewish Committee on Scouting Chairs. Awards were recently presented to:

- Stan Weinstein Tampa Bay Area Council
- Bruce Streger Central Florida Council

#### Scout Shabbat 2026/5786

This is the time of year when we start planning annual Scout Shabbat services (typically held in February). If your council or synagogue is hosting a Scout Shabbat or Scout Havdalah service, please let us know about it so that I can include it in the upcoming events section or the next newsletter and help you publicize the event.

If you wish to order JCOS patches, see the included order form.

#### **NJCOS 100th Anniversary Camporee**

The National Jewish Committee on Scouting is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2026 and is hosting a nationwide camporee to celebrate! The Camporee will be held at Ten Mile River Scout Camps in Narrowsburg, NY on August 9th-12th, 2026 (these dates do not interfere with the National Jamboree nor the NJCOS Philmont Trek). Scouts will enjoy use of the camp facilities (waterfront, shooting sports, etc.) plus Jewish Program Activities. Chaplain and Chaplain Aide Training, and Religious Emblems Workshops (Ner Tamid, Etz Chaim). Merit badges will also be offered and, of course, patch trading. The camporee includes Kosher food, lodging, and avoids Shabbat. Come as a unit or register as an individual. Enjoy a camporee filled with fun activities, fellowship, and the opportunity to learn leadership skills together with Jewish Scouts from across the country. You'll want to include this event as you plan your Scouting Calendar for next year.

Please see the flyer and registration form at the end of this newsletter.

#### **Scouts Read Sacred Texts**



The Third Annual Scouts Read Sacred Texts Event is scheduled for May 7, 2026. This past year's event had 5683 Scouts and other youth participating, a 55% increase over 2024. Fourteen foreign countries and territories participated as well as 43 States. 24 different faith groups, including Judaism, were represented. Let's make next year's event even better!

#### **NJCOS Chai Awards**



- The Southern Region Jewish Committee on Scouting presents Chai Awards to deserving Leaders. There are three Chai Award Levels: Bronze, Gold and Silver. Individuals, local JCOS or Scouting America Councils may submit nominations for these recognitions. Submissions are then subject to approval by the Southern Region. 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.

#### 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/religio us-observances/

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



The Southern 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 email me the following information:

- · 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
- Please supply Contact information (phone number, email address) in case there are questions regarding the certificate request.

We would like to honor all Eagle Scouts at the same Eagle Court of Honor so please supply their information as well. Details and the application form can be found on the NJCOS website at:

https://www.jewishscouting.org/eagle-scouts/ and email to soregion@jewishScouting.org

#### **Scholarships**

The NJCOS awards four \$5000 Scholarships each year to high school seniors.

https://www.jewishscouting.org/eagle-scouts/

#### **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 Scouts BSA through age 14 or through 9th grade, whichever is later.
- Scouts BSA through age 18 if they also obtain the Etz Chaim and it is presented at the same time.
   Etz Chaim - Scouts BSA aged 14 to 20

The Southern Region Jewish Committee wishes to commend all who have earned their Jewish religious emblems. The Religious emblems knot can be worn on your adult uniform as well as the Eagle and Arrow of Light knots.

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 (ravart73@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.

#### The Talmud Torah Award



The Talmud Torah Award is available to all Scouts that have earned all their religious emblems during their tenure in Scouting.

https://www.jewishscouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Talmud-Torah-Award-Updated-01-08-25.pdf

#### **Upcoming Events**

- December 2025 Friends of Shomer Shabbat Scouting Annual Conclave
- February 2026 Kosher Klondike Derby on President's Day Weekend
- March 15, 2026 Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting Annual Conference
- March 20, 2026 Scouting America New Hampshire and Spirit of Adventure Councils Scout Shabbat
- May 7, 2026 Scouts Read Sacred Texts
- May 9, 2026 May 10, 2026 NJCOS Annual Meeting
- May 11, 2026 May 13, 2026 Scouting America National Annual Meeting
- May 2026 Northeast Region Kinus
- June 15, 2026 June 19, 2026 Shabbat Friendly Wood Badge at Camp Spencer
- June 25, 2026 July 9, 2026 NJCOS Philmont Trek
- July 22 31, 2026 National Scout Jamboree
- August 9, 2026 August 12, 2026 NJCOS 100th Anniversary Camporee
- December 2026 Friends of Shomer Shabbat Scouting Annual Jewish Conclave
- September 2026 Kit Kat Camporee over Labor Day Weekend
- July 30th August 8th, 2027 World Scout Jamboree

Please visit JewishScouting.org for the National JCOS events Calendar.

#### Please see the additional pages of useful information, events and forms

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy Thanksgiving; Happy Chanukah, and a secular New Year.

May we all go from strength to strength.

Please share information, pictures of any Jewish Scouting events. We want to publish this information in our newsletter. soregion@jewishScouting.org

Our Central Region Chair, Howard Prager, has written a book titled: Make Someone's Day, Every Day.

A SCOUT IS REVERENT

DO A GOOD TURN DAILY

LEAVE IT BETTER THAN YOU FOUND IT

That's, What We as Scouts, Do.

**SHALOM** 

Your Southern Region:



#### Council Duty to G d Award

Do you know someone who should be honored with the Council Duty to G\_d Award? Please see the application attached.







https://WWW.JewishScouting.org

## The National Jewish Committee on Scouting --Scout Shabbat Patch for 2026— --Commemorating our 100th Anniversary—

Are you having a Scout Shabbat Program? Live, Zoom or Both. Send us the info to post on our website calendar

Contact:	Pho	one #:
Address:	State:	Zip:
Number of Patches: Organizati	on Name:	
Email Address:	Council:	
Ship Patches to: Same as above		
Name:	Phone #	
Address:	State:	Zip:
Email Address:	Council:	
Price for orders, with shipping:		
PRICE OF A PATCH = \$8.00	SHIPPING= \$2.00	Total= \$10.00
PRICE FOR 5-10 PATCHES=\$8.00 PER I	PATCH SHIPPING	\$6.00
<b>DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR 25 OR M</b>	ORE PATCHES: (PRICE	FOR PATCHES AND
SHIPPING TO BE DETERMINED PER O	RDER DEPENDING ON	QUANTITY).
Patches will be available by 1st week	in January.	

Send Payment to: JewishScouting.org/product/donation/

Patch will be on our Website store shortly. Pre Website orders send to email address below.

For Questions: Please email Bruce Streger @ WB2ADF@GMAIL.COM



## Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting



#### 38th Annual Conference

Sunday, March 15, 2026
Ten Mile River Scout Camp (TMR)
47 Headquarters Rd, Narrowsburg, NY 12764

Join the Northeast Region Jewish Committee for a day of
Training & Camaraderie
Sunday March 15, 2026
9AM-4:30PM (doors open at 8AM)

- Keynote Speaker: Mr. Ricky Mason Chair-Elect of Scouting America's National Executive Board
- Informative Training Sessions<sup>1</sup>
  - Shomer Shabbat Sea Scouts
  - Teaching Leadership Skills using Jewish Examples
  - o Kosher Menus for Campouts
  - Year-round Jewish activities for Scouts
  - 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Activities
  - Upcoming JCOS High Adventure Treks
  - The History of Jewish Scouting in New York
  - And Much More!
- Guided Tour of the TMR Scouting Museum including the NJCOS 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibit
- Kosher Breakfast & Lunch
- Jewish Committee Award Presentations
- Jewish Scouting Trading Post
  - Kippot, Bolo Ties, Patches
- Silent Auction



\$50 per person if paid by March 1<sup>st</sup> (\$10 additional after 2/15/26)

Lodging available Friday & Saturday Night, March 13 & 14 on a space available basis

See attached registration form

\_\_\_

Preliminary program agenda. Subject to change.

#### The 38th Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting Conference Registration



(Participants of all faiths and all Regions welcome) Ten Mile River Scout Camp, 47 Headquarters Rd, Narrowsburg, NY 12764 Where: When: Sunday, March 15, 2025, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM (lodging available Friday & Saturday Night, March 13 & 14, 2026) Conference fee: \$50.00 per participant if paid by Feb 15, 2026 After Feb 15, 2026, the fee increases to \$60,00 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: Last NER JCoS Conference attended (year): Have you Earned a Chai Award? Bronze Gold Silver Contact Information: Name: Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address (please print clearly): Home Phone: Cell 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: Optional Lodging (Select one of the options below if lodging is desired); Bring your own bedding. Beds are 20 to a room with separate rooms for male & female attendees (no mixed gender rooms). Lodging, while within the camp, is not within easy walking distance to the conference site. I request accommodations at Ten Mile River for Saturday evening, March 14. Cost: Additional \$50.00/person. I request accommodations at Ten Mile River for both Friday evening March 13 & Saturday evening March 14. Cost: Additional \$75.00/person (note: food will not be served on Friday or Saturday nor will food be readily available) 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 "2026 NER JCOS Conference" on the memo line

Venmo & Paypal accepted. Please enquire for details.

#### The National Jewish Committee on Scouting



#### 100th Anniversary Campout Sunday-Wednesday, August 9-12, 2026



1481 Crystal Lake Road, Narrowsburg, NY 12764 At Camp Aquehonga

**Ten Mile River Scout Camps** 

The National Jewish Committee on Scouting
Is Celebrating 100 Years 1926 - 2026
Join Us For Two Full Days of Activities and Fellowship

Lots of Activities for Scouts and Leaders Kosher Meals for All

- Event Patch, Jewish Program Activities
- Archery, Skeet Shootgun (\$1.25 per shot)
- .22 Target shooting (10 rounds for \$5)
- Canoeing, \*Delaware River Canoe Trip (extra cost to arrange)
- · Religious Emblems Workshops (Ner Tamid, Etz Chaim)
- Patch Trading and other normal Camp activities
- Merit Badges (list to follow)
- JCOS Leadership Training-Chaplain and Chaplain Aide Training

\$50 Down Payment Due November 30, 2025 \$175 Total Cost Per Person Due March 31, 2026 (\$50 additional after 3/31/26)

Includes - Lodging, all food, and all activities except additional fees for shooting or Delaware Canoing.

Special Opportunity: Tour New York City with your Unit! Plan it yourself or consider Trek NYC is a program operated by GNYC. Sightseeing in NYC 3-5 days, lodging at Alpine Scout Camp and all meals. Check out: https://www.treknyc.org/

See registration form-Sign up as a unit or as an individual.







## Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting Trading Post

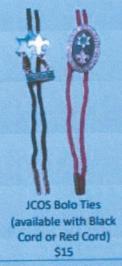


Your Source for Jewish Scouting Items!











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)

#### Southern Region Jewish Committee on Scouting

#### CHAI Mard Application

(	) Bronze;	(	) Gold; (	)	Silver Award
---	-----------	---	-----------	---	--------------

Instructions: Please print out this page and neatly print the information requested. The Award Nomination form should be approved as indicated below. Please email a (PDF) of the application to Email: soregion@jewishScouting.org.

Adult Nominee:  Nominee's Name:	
Nominee's Mailing Address:	
City, State, ZIP:	
Nominee's Current Position in Scouting:	
Nominee's Council Name:; Email Address:	
I nominate this person for the [ ]Bronze, [ ]Gold, [ ]Silver Award	
Nominator: Nominator's Name:	
Nominator's Mailing Address:	
City, State, ZIP:	
Nominator's Phone #: ()	
Nominator's Email:	
Approvals: JCoS Chairman/Rabbi:	Date:
Member of Local JCoS:	Date:

#### Southern Region Jewish Committee on Scouting

#### **CHAI Awards Requirements**

There are three levels of awards - Bronze, Gold and Silver. Individuals, local JCOS or Scouting America Councils may submit nominations for these recognitions. Submissions are then subject to approval by the Southern Region JCOS. On the back of the application form describe in detail the work done by the nominee. Please include dates, places, and most importantly, accomplishments.

#### **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 outstanding 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. Please include dates, places, and most importantly, accomplishments.

#### 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. Please include dates, places, and most importantly, accomplishments.

PLEASE SUBMIT a copy of the nominee's Scout Resume.

#### Announcing the 2026 National Jewish Philmont Treks

Contact National Jewish Committee on Scouting, Philmont Trek Coordinator Dr. Robert Weber, 1topgum@gmail.com, 646-425-6006 Evan Gilder, wp613scoutmaster@gmail.com, 914-946-4744

#### What is a Philmont Trek?

#### Itis the ultimate Scouting High Adventure!

Backpack through New Mexico's glorious Rocky Mountains. Participate in crew selected activities - panning for gold, archaeology, blacksmithing, burro racing, muzzle-loading rifle shooting and more.

#### 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?

#### Our treks include Shabbat observance, kosher food, daily prayer 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, all with rabbinical participation and supervision.

#### Can I go?

- We will have two (12 person) crews for the 12 day treks
- Youth Age 14-20 (or 13 and have completed 8th grade) Scout Rank - First Class or higher



- June 26th through July 9th, 2026 (plus travel days)
- Travel Arrangements will be coordinated by Crews.

- Up to 12 Adults over 21 years of Age

#### Where is Philmont:

- Philmont Scout Ranch Headquarters is 220 square miles in size, located four miles south of Cimarron, New Mexico.
- Check out this video: http://www.voutube.com/user/PhilmontScoutRanch

**Budget:** Estimated Trip Cost: \$3,200

- This covers Philmont Trek Fee, Meals, Flights, Ground Transportation, Lodging, Crew Shirts and Patches
  - o Reservation Fee:

\$100 due December 1, 2025

Initial Payment:

\$1,600 due February 1, 2026

o Final Payment: May 1, 2026

- It includes estimated cost of flights
- It does not include gear necessary for the trek.



The 2024 NJCOS Trek Crews

#### **Philmont Trek Registration Information Form**

#### For Trek Registration, Scan this QR code



or visit: https://forms.gle/g5tKC9d2hj4ezqMR9

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS TREK WILL <u>NOT</u> INTERFERE WITH ANYBODY WHO WANTS TO ATTEND THE 2026 SCOUTING AMERICA JAMBOREE, SO BOTH ACTIVITIES WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR THOSE INTERESTED.

#### What to expect for trek participation:

A traditional Philmont backpacking trek is 12 days in duration. Shabbat will be a day of rest and there will be no trekking. The trek duration will be 50-75 miles and will include 3 hours of conservation work necessary to earn the Philmont Arrowhead Patch.

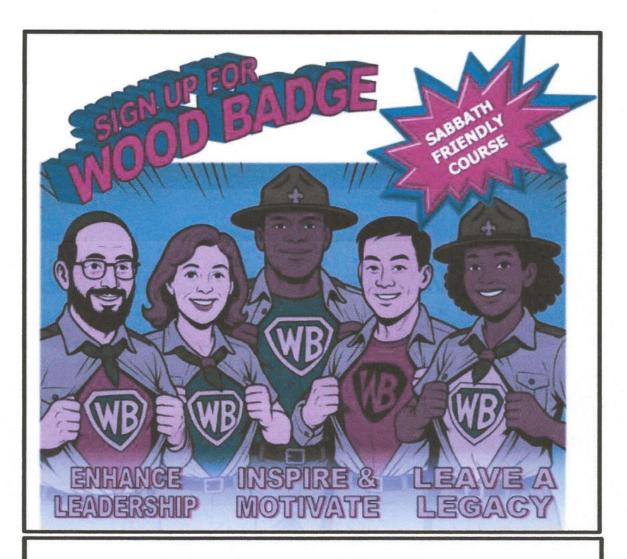
Trek preparation will involve extensive commitment to physical conditioning and training as well attendance at regular meetings

After pre-registering, we will send additional information to include:

Transportation Plans, Physical Conditioning, Equipment, Medical Forms, and more!

#### Questions?

Contact National Jewish Committee on Scouting, Philmont Trek Coordinator Dr. Robert Weber, <a href="mailto:1topgum@gmail.com">1topgum@gmail.com</a> (646) 425-6006



#### Spring – June 15-19 at Camp Spencer Sabbath Friendly

Course Director: Gabe Hare

Gabe.harewb26.1@gmail.com

https://scoutingevent.com/220-WB261

#### 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 12<sup>th</sup> point of the Scout Law ... "A Scout is Reverent"... includes observing the five requirements of:

- 1 The Jewish dietary laws at all times (Kashrut),
- The Sabbath from sundown Friday to nightfall on Saturday (Shabbat),
- 3 Daily prayer services in the morning and afternoon/evening (Tefila),
- 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: <a href="https://shomerShabbatScouting.org/">https://shomerShabbatScouting.org/</a> [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, President Mr. Sheldon Freidenreich, Vice President Dr. Yehuda Katz, Treasurer Rabbi Avraham A. Witty, Rabbinic Advisor 781 439-5250 732 887-1921 301 867-3795 905 709-6445



# THE NATIONAL JEWISH COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

The NJCOS promotes Scouting among Jewish youth, helps Jewish institutions, Regional and Local Councils and Jewish Committees. We provide Scouting opportunities for Jewish youth, and promote Jewish values in Scouting through Scouting America and the Religious Emblems program.

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

For additional information contact the Regional or NJCOS:

Religious Emblems, Awards and Recognitions: JewishScouting.Org/Awards

Visit the website where you can purchase patches and/or make a donation. Kippahs, bolos and other items can also be purchased from the Northeast Region JCOS.

NJCOS and Regional Eagle Certificates and Chai Awards are available in each region. There are 4 Eagle Scholarships for \$5000 available each year.

For all Jewish Scouting questions, Award Certificates and Religious Emblems, contact your Regional JCOS chair.

Central: Northeast: Southern:

CeRegion@JewishScouting.Org NeRegion@JewishScouting.Org SoRegion@JewishScouting.Org WeRegion@JewishScouting.Org

## Adult Awards

## The Shofar Award

Recognizes outstanding service by adults in promoting Scouting among Jewish youth, just as the Shofar, (Ram's Horn) calls people to the service of G-d. The requirements can be found at Jewish Scouting. Org/



## The Chai Award

These regional awards recognizes a continued service above and beyond to Jewish Scouts and Scouting. There are 4 levels: Bronze, Gold, Silver and Diamond.



## The Yad Award

For Adults who have excelled in chairing a local, regional or National Jewish Committee.

Jewish Scouting. Org/Awards#Yad



# Frank L. Weil Award for Jewish Units

Frank L. Well Award for Jewish Onlis

or ecognize Jewish Scout units that provide a
top-quality program.
JewishScouting. Org/Frank-L.-Weil-UnitRecognition-Award.pdf

## Mortimer L. Schiff Award for Jewish Committees

Recognizes local Jewish Committees on Scouting that meet standard objectives in the support of Scouting for Jewish Youth in their local council. It is named after Mortimer L. Schiff a member of the first BSA National Council and a former president of the BSA.

Jewish Scouting. Org/Mortimer-L-Schiff-Quality-Jewish-Committee-Award.odf

As an adult learn how you can play an important role in our youth's development and leadership skills. Learn how your organization can sponsor a Jewish Unit. Email your Local, Regional or National Chair.

## Mission and Vision

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. The Vision of the National Jewish Committee on Scouting is that Jewish Youth will develop generations of caring, concerned, capable citizens and leaders who are guided by the Scout Oath, Scout Law and Torah.

# How does a youth start working on Jewish Religious Emblems?

Download the workbook from the National Jewish Committee on Scouting website Cubs: JewishScouting.Org/Cub-Scout-Emblems/

## Scouts BSA, Explorers, Venturers. Sea Scouts: JewishScouting.Org/Scouts-Bsa-Emblems/

Ask your parent, Rabbi or Religious teacher/educator to serve as your counselor.

Work on the activities/requirements, and record your work in the workbook. Discuss what you have learned with your counselor.

When completed, have your counselor sign-off. Submit the application form and payment per the instructions on the bottom of the application. The workbook is for you to keep, to use, and to display for your fellow Scouts to see.

The Emblem presentation should be made at a service in your synagogue, unit meeting, or other appropriate event. It can be presented more than once.

Your Religious emblem knots, youth and adult, should be obtained by your parents or unit at the closest Scout shop.



## Jewish Youth Religious Emblems For Jewish Youth Members in Scouting America

Aryeh Emblem - For Jewish Lion Scouts in Kindergarden or 1st Grade



basics of the Jewish Faith such as their Hebrew name, what Shalom means, what a mezuzah is, the beginner, with help from a parent, religious leader or counselor, will learn some of the Minyan, Jewish games and more. requirements are fun, and for



Jewish Tiger Cubs and Cub Maccabee Emblem - For Scouts, 1st through 3rd

Maccabee and his brothers, who led the military and the takes its name from Judah The Maccabee Emblem

with the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem practice of Judaism. Their revolt ended in victory during the holiday of Chanukah, the festival of Religious struggle against the Syrian King, Antiochus, who attempted to suppress the in the year 167 B.C.E. which is celebrated

JewishScouting. Org/Cub-Scout-Emblems/#Maccabee

Aleph Emblem - For Jewish Cub Scouts and Webelos, 3rd through 5th Grade

Just as Aleph is the first letter of are among the first steps that a activities of the Aleph Emblem Scout will learn to understand more about the Jewish faith. the Hebrew alphabet, the

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.

JewishScouting.Org/Scouts-BSA-

Emblems/#EtzChaim

Jewish Scouting. Org/Cub-Scout-Emblems/#Aleph

Explorers, and Sea Scouts 6<sup>m</sup> Ver Tamid Emblem - For Jewish Scouts, Venturers, through 9th Grade

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

Light that hangs in front of the Holy Ark in every Requirement areas include: Home observance, The Ner Tamid Emblem represents the Eternal American Jewish community and World Jewry. synagogue. The pendant is attached to a blue carries the inscription "Ner Tamid" in Hebrew and white ribbon and a bronze bar pin that Synagogue worship, Jewish Study, the letters and "Eternal Light" in English.

Jewish Scouting. Org/Scouts-BSA-Emblems/#Nertamid

and Venturers, Explorers and Jewish Scouts, ages 14-17 Etz Chaim Emblem · For Sea Scouts ages 14-20

の記れば、五名

young adult to Explore Jewish The Etz Chaim (Tree of Life) Emblem is to encourage the roles in the context of family, community, world and the Jewish people.



For a Scout who has earned Emblems during their tenure all of the Jewish Religious Talmud Torah Award in Scouting.

BSA-Emblems/#TalmudTorah Jewish Scouting, Org/ ScoutsFor Older Scout **Embloms scan** 

> **Embloms scan** For Cub Scout





Celebrating 100 Years 1926 - 2026



## Nomination Application for the Council Duty to God Award

The Council Duty to God Award was created to recognize registered Scouters who have demonstrated an exemplary history of transformational leadership in supporting and promoting the spiritual foundation of Scouting at the local Council level. It acknowledges the unswerving dedication to faith, fellowship, and service of those whose character embodies the moral principles and shared ideals of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA).

The award distinguishes Scouters who selflessly work to prepare youth for life by perpetuating the merit and legacy of a Scout's duty to their Creator. Nominations are open to candidates from all faiths and religious groups.

Please note that nominees for the Council Duty to God Award should not be notified of their nomination.

NOMINEE CONTACT INFO		Spouse's name:	
City or Town:		State:	Zip Code:
Home phone:	Work phone:	M	obile phone:
Email address:			
<ul> <li>Be currently regis</li> <li>Have five or more and/or territorial tradition.</li> <li>Have received the organization prior whose youth the</li> <li>Have demonstrate and edifying service duty to God and services</li> </ul>	nination and consideration for tered as an active, participal eyears of volunteer or profest level or other organizations of faith-appropriate adult relig to this nomination, or adult candidate has served. The dear outstanding record of the within the community and the same within the same wit	ting adult member ssional leadership or institutions, and gious recognition for religious recognition for transformational, and Council in the adaptit tradition.	follows: of the Boy Scouts of America. with service to Scouting at the Council the nominee's respective faith from the nominee's religious ion from another religious organization spiritual, moral, and ethical leadership tvancement and promotion of a Scout and service across multiple faiths.
Nominee's current place	of religious worship:		
			Zip Code:
Adult Scouting tenure:	(yea	rs/months)	Council number:

Major volunteer, elected, and appointed Scouting positions (inc	clude current position held):
Major non-Scouting and volunteer positions held in service to fa fraternal, and professional organizations and institutions:	aith-based or religious, civic, educational,
Awards & Honors (Include Scouting and non-Scouting religious a	and non-religious awards and honors):
RECOMMENDATIONS  The nominator(s) must provide and attach to this application not for the nominee including from the following people:  • A registered scout leader who can document the nomine Council level  • A current, active member(s) in a leadership role from not organization.  ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  Nominator must provide a summary narrative on a separate she nominee's service to faith and youth, as well as personal charact forth to receive this recognition.	ee's service in scouting to Duty to God at the minee's place of worship or affiliated religious et describing and detailing examples of the
RECOMMENDED BY	
Name:	
City or Town: State:	
Home phone: Work phone:	
Email address:	
Position in Scouting relative to this nomination:	
I attest that the nominee exemplifies the principles contained in the Scout Oatl spiritual and religious foundation by having perpetuated the legacy of a Scout's service and leadership. Therefore, I hereby recommend that the nominee recei	s duty to God through extraordinary and noteworthy
Signature:	Date:

#### **APPLICATION INFORMATION & SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Nomination forms may be submitted annually from the first business day in October through December 15.

All required nominating materials and supporting documentation for qualified individuals must be submitted in one, collated electronic file with a clear, identifiable name of the nominee for review by the selection committee. Please send your nomination submission to the nominee's Council Scout Executive or designee.

There are no restrictions on the number of nominations submitted to the local councils. Even so, a maximum of two Council Duty to God Awards per year may be awarded by 100 and 200 level councils and a maximum of one Council Duty to God Award per year may be awarded by 300, 400, and 500 level councils. Completed nominations will remain on file for two years. If after the second year, the nominee has not been selected, a new application must be submitted for future consideration. Successful nominees should be notified on or before March 1<sup>st</sup> following close of the 4-month nominating period.

For further information on the Council Duty to God Award or nominating process, please contact Bob Vogt, Chair of the National Duty to God Award Selection Sub-committee, at revogt1@gmail.com.

#### COUNCIL APPROVAL

i/We certify that the examples of faith, service, and leadership of this nominee through the promotion of a Scout's Duty to God have been thoroughly and carefully reviewed by the council's selection committee. It is thereby recommended that the nominee receive the Council Duty to God Award.

Signature:	Date:
Chair of Council's Religious Relation Council Vice-President of Members	nships Committee (If there is one) otherwise ship/Relationships
Signature:	Date:
Council Scout Executive or Council	Chief Operating Officer (or designee)
	minee's application for a period of two (2) years from this date of ered and reviewed for the Council Duty to God Award in each
successive year through	

#### AWARD PRESENTATION AND RECOGNITION

The Council Duty to God Award presentation should be conducted with the highest level of honor at a council event (e.g. Council dinner) or a religious ceremony of the recipient's faith. These individuals have provided spiritual leadership to their community, their Council, and their scouts. Each recipient should receive recognition worthy of the service rendered on Scouting's behalf.

Award materials which include a medallion with neck ribbon, lapel pin/device, and a certificate can be purchased from BSA National Supply. Councils may purchase the medallion, lapel pin/device, and certificate through the Supply Group at 800-323-0736 or www.scoutstuff.org



When:

#### The National Jewish Committee on Scouting





Will you accept provisional Scouts to attend with your unit?

#### 100th Anniversary Celebration Campout

Ten Mile River (TMR) Scout Camps, 1481 Crystal Lake Rd, Narrowsburg, NY 12764

Arrive -Sunday, August 9, 2026, Check-in after 1:00 PM, Depart - Wednesday, August 12,2026 (Participants of all faiths and from all Regions welcome) Questions: Email: chairman@jewishscouting.org Conference fee: \$175.00 per participant, \$50 Down payment by November 30, 2025. After Mar 1, 2026, the fee increases to \$225.00 per participant. Fee includes all Kosher meals, accommodations, patch, Campout program, and handouts. If you have specific dietary requirements, please let us know.

Can you help run a program activit	ty? Describe:		
Contact information: Name and P	osition		
Unit Type and Number, Council:	*		
Address:	City:	State:	Zip:
E-Mail Address (print clearly):			
Cell Phone:	Home Phone:		
Attending with:Youth	hMale Female	Adults	_ Male Fema
Total Cost will be \$175 x	= \$ Please supply a rost	er of all attendee	s names and ages.

Please bring a current Scouting America Completed Medical form for all in Attendance.

E-Mail this registration form to: chairman@jewishscouting.org

Make your check out to "NJCOS" and write "2026 NJCOS Campout" on the memo line. Mail checks to: NJCOS, c/o Phil Sternberg, PO Box 4052, Alexandria, VA 22303

Other Payments, e.g. credit cards: https://www.jewishscouting.org/product/donation/