



# Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting

September 2025 Newsletter

## NER JCOS Chairman's Message

By Barry Hantman

Welcome to the late summer 2025 edition of the NER JCOS Newsletter. I hope you all had an enjoyable summer. I know that I had a lot of fun visiting various Scout Camps and vacationing in Greece, Bulgaria (where I saw the beautiful synagogue in Sofia) and North Macedonia.

As the Scouts head back to school, I'm excited to tell you about all of the activities available for Jewish Scouts in the coming year, many highlighted in this newsletter. These include the Annual Jewish Scout Conclave, Kosher Klondike, the Scouts Read Sacred Texts event, the Northeast Region Kinus, the National Jewish Committee on Scouting (NJCOS) Philmont Trek, the National Jamboree (with a Shomer-Shabbat contingent), the NJCOS 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Jewish Camporee, Kosher Summer Camp, and the fall Kit-Kat (Kids in Tents-Kosher Advancement Training) weekend. For leaders, there's the Northeast Region JCOS Annual Conference and Kosher, Shabbat observant Wood Bage courses. I encourage you to avail yourself of all that is being offered. 2026 is the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Jewish Committee on Scouting and it is clear that Jewish Scouting remains strong and vibrant. Personally, I'm planning to attend many of the 2026 activities (but the Philmont Trek is beyond my abilities at this point in life).

In closing, I'd like to wish all of you a Happy New Year. May this be a year of peace and joy for you, your family, your Scouts, and the Jewish people.

## 2026 Northeast Region Annual Conference

Mark your Calendars! The 2026 Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting Annual Conference will be held on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at Ten Mile River Scout Camp in Narrowsburg, NY. 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, Friday night & Saturday night accommodations are available for those who desire to stay overnight. There will also be an opportunity to visit the extensive Ten Mile River Scout Museum. See the flyer at the end of the newsletter for registration information.

Ten Mile River Scout Camp is 2 hours from the George Washington Bridge, 2 hours from White Plains, 2 hours from Newark, 2.5 hours from Syracuse, 3 hours from Philadelphia, and 4.5 hours from Baltimore.

## 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](mailto: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.



## National JCOS Virtual 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 held at 8:00PM Eastern Time, 7:00PM Central Time, 6:00PM Mountain Time, and 5:00PM Pacific Time. The upcoming seminars are:

- Sept 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Roundtable Discussion of issues & Problems - Panel Discussion
- Nov 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – High Adventure Programs for Jewish Youth in 2026

You should have already received registration information via email. Please direct any questions or register information to Barry Hantman, at [neregion@jewishscouting.org](mailto: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 or 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](mailto: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 12<sup>th</sup>. 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 13<sup>th</sup>. 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 100<sup>th</sup> 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. Award were recently presented to:

- Leonard Brownstein – Past Chair of the Cradle of Liberty Council JCOS
- Barry Kopoloff - Past Chair of the Suffolk County Council JCOS

## Scout Shabbat

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.

Have a Scout that wants to help design the 2026 Scout Shabbat patch? The patch design contest is already underway! The rules are simple:

- Design a patch that represents Scout Shabbat
- The patch should be 3 inches, round, square, oval, etc.
- Be creative and different. It's our 100th anniversary next year so you may want to include that in the design.
- Send your design by September 15, 2025. Email your design to Bruce Streger at [wb2adf@gmail.com](mailto:wb2adf@gmail.com)

The Winner will:

- Receive a framed patch with certificate
- Be recognized on the National Jewish Committee Website
- Receive 5 free Shabbat patches.

If you wish to order JCOS patches for your Scout Shabbat service, you have a few choices:

1. You will soon be able to order patches on the JCOS website ([jewishscouting.org](http://jewishscouting.org)).
2. If you want patches customized for the Northeast Region, these are available from the NER JCOS Trading Post (send email to [neregion@jewishscouting.org](mailto:neregion@jewishscouting.org)).
3. If you want patches customized for your Council, Unit, or Synagogue, you can order customized patches from the NJCOS (minimum order 25; see order form at the end of this newsletter)

## NJCOS 100<sup>th</sup> 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 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 Subcommittee. 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.

## 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/>

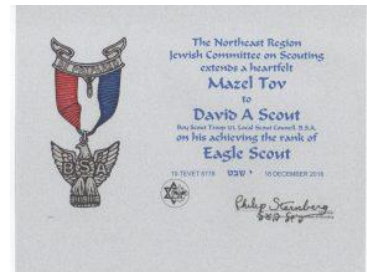
Please share this calendar with your council, district, and those planning Scouting events.



## 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
- 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/>

## 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



The Northeast Region Jewish Committee wishes to commend all who have earned a Jewish religious emblem between June 2025 and July 2025.

Cradle of Liberty Council

- Bennett Margolis

Greater New York Council

- Moti Beyderman

Mayflower Council

- Zachary Kosan

National Capital Area Council

- Noah Warschaw

Seneca Waterways

- Tzipporah Fuerst

Spirit of Adventure

- Jonah Castellucci

Theodore Roosevelt Council

- Hunter Kaplan

Twin Rivers Council

- Nathan Wind

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.

## Upcoming Events

- September 14, 2025 – NJCOS Virtual Seminar
- November 16, 2025 – NJCOS Virtual Seminar
- 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 100<sup>th</sup> 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

## How to be Forgiven of Sin

*A Rosh Hashanah story  
by Rabbi Rachmiel (Rock) Tobesman,  
NER JCOS Chaplain*

*You shall seek G-d, and you shall find Him, but you must search for Him wholeheartedly. In your distress, when all these things (sin) come upon you, in the end of days, you will return to the L-rd, your G-d, and listen to his voice. (Deuteronomy 4:29).*

A man who had drifted away from faith came to a holy rabbi and gave him a long list of sins he had committed over the years. He told the holy rabbi that he had hoped by fasting frequently and punishing himself by sleeping on the ground and putting pebbles inside his shoes, he could be forgiven for his terrible deeds. He wondered whether all of his actions were sufficient to attain forgiveness for his sins.

The holy rabbi listened closely and studied the list of sins carefully. Then he remarked, "It appears that you have done a complete job. Truly a complete job."

The young man was pleased that the rabbi appeared to have approved of his penance. "Then I am forgiven?" he asked.

"Not quite," the holy rabbi said. "Is not the soul a guest in our body, deserving of our kind hospitality? Today it is here, tomorrow it is gone" (Leviticus Rabbah 34:3) The rabbi paused and thought for a moment then continued, "You began by committing sins to ruin your neshamah (soul). Having done that, you then directed your attention toward ruining your body as well. That is a complete job."

The young man began to cry, "Rabbi, holy rabbi, I want to be forgiven of the terrible things I have done. I thought I was doing what is right, but now I see that I was wrong. What am I to do?"

The rabbi comforted the young man, "Begin a meal with words of Torah (Scriptures) and a

benediction (blessing)." (Megillah 12b). The rabbi instructed the young man, "Eat three meals each day, pray from your heart and study the Holy Words. Remember that 'through kindness and truth, sin is atoned' (Proverbs 16:6) Do this and you will be forgiven by man and the Holy One, blessed be He."

The young man looked up and asked, "how can this be?"

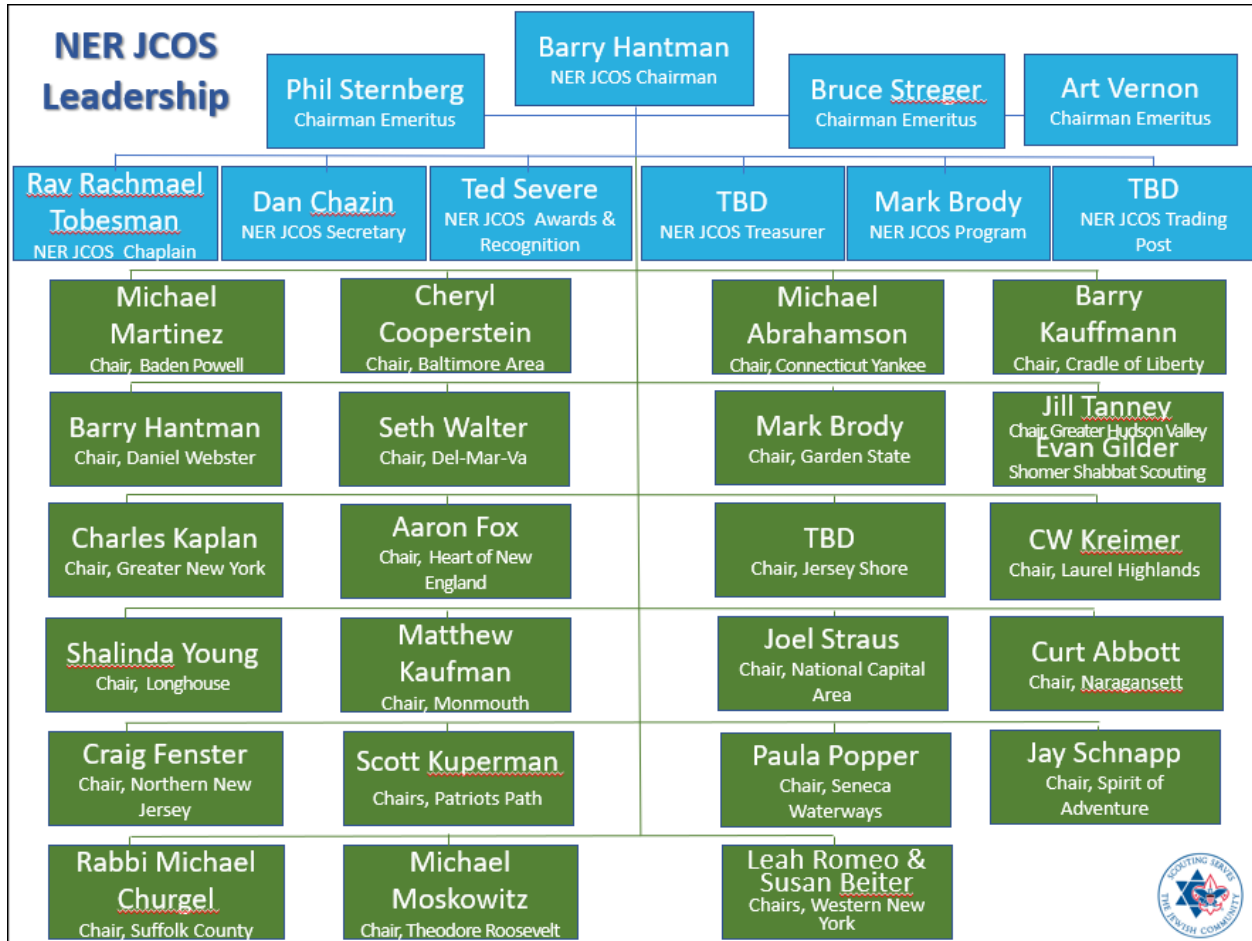
"We learn that 'G-d created man in His own image' (Genesis 1:27). Since man is created in the image of G-d, he has the ability to forgive and be divine in his deeds. For this reason, we are taught, 'Beloved is man who was created in the divine image.' (Mishna Avos 3:14)" answered the holy rabbi.

According to many great rabbis, atonement does not require self-torment and punishment. Rather, one should understand the gravity of transgressing the Divine will, appreciate how injurious this is to oneself, and make a concerted effort to refine his character so that he is no longer likely to repeat the improper behavior. Self-punishment can mislead one to think that he has achieved atonement, whereas nothing in his character may have changed.

An old Jewish teaching tells us that "great is repentance: it brings healing to the world." (Yoma 86a) Let us all hope that we can bring about a healing in the world.



## NER JCOS Leadership



Please let provide any updates for this chart to Barry Hantman, [neregion@jewishscouting.org](mailto:neregion@jewishscouting.org)



# NER JCOS Photo Gallery



◀ ▶ ▶  
**NICOS Trek to Northern Tier  
 High Adventure Base**

▲ **Scouting America and Tzofim at the  
 Theodore Roosevelt Council Awards  
 Breakfast**



**Send us your  
 event Photos!**



▲ **Phyllis Stein presents the  
 Yad Award to Barry Kopelof at  
 the Suffolk County Council  
 Roundtable**



▲ **NICOS President Phil  
 Sternberg with Alan Yanofsky  
 at the TMR Reunion**

**Send us your  
 event Photos!**



◀ **Congratulations to Rabbi Sol  
 Goodman who celebrated his 25th  
 summer at Yawgoog Scout  
 Reservation in Narragansett  
 Council. We believe this makes him  
 the longest tenured Chaplain at a  
 Scout Camp.**



# 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](mailto:neregion@jewishscouting.org)**

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



# Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting 38<sup>th</sup> 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
  - 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*

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary program agenda. Subject to change.

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



(Participants of all faiths and all Regions welcome)

**Where:** Ten Mile River Scout Camp, 47 Headquarters Rd, Narrowsburg, NY 12764

**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:**

- Cub Scout Leader,  Scouts BSA Leader,  Venturing Leader,  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 JCoS Committee Member, Council: \_\_\_\_\_  JCoS Committee Chair  
Primary Scouting Position and Unit #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 1<sup>st</sup> Time Attendee? Who encouraged your attendance? \_\_\_\_\_  
Last NER JCoS Conference attended (year): \_\_\_\_\_  
Have you Earned a Chai Award?  Bronze  Gold  Silver

### **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:

### **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.

**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](mailto:neregion@jewishscouting.org)**

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**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

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**Person making the nomination:**

Nominator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Phone #: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Approvals:**

Scout Executive: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Council JCoS Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Member of Local JCoS: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# The National Jewish Committee on Scouting



## 100th Anniversary Campout Sunday-Wednesday, August 9-12, 2026 Ten Mile River Scout Camps



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

## 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 Shotgun (\$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 Canoeing.

**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.***



**AQUEHONGA**



## The National Jewish Committee on Scouting



### 100th Anniversary Celebration Campout



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

**When:** 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](mailto: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.*

Will you accept provisional Scouts to attend with your unit? \_\_\_\_\_

Can you help run a program activity? Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact information:** Name and Position \_\_\_\_\_

**Unit Type and Number, Council:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address (print clearly): \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Attending with:** \_\_\_\_ Youth \_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_ Adults \_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_ Female

Total Cost will be \$175 x \_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Please supply a roster of all attendees 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](mailto: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/>

# Announcing the 2026 National Jewish Philmont Treks

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

## What is a Philmont Trek?

***It is 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.**

## When is it?

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

## Can I go?

- We will have two (12 person) crews for the **12 day** treks
- Youth Age – 14-20 (or 13 and have completed 8<sup>th</sup> grade)  
Scout Rank – First Class or higher
- 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.youtube.com/user/PhilmontScoutRanch>

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

- This covers Philmont Trek Fee, Meals, Flights, Ground Transportation, Lodging, Crew Shirts and Patches
  - Reservation Fee: \$100 due December 1, 2025
  - Initial Payment: \$1,600 due February 1, 2026
  - Final Payment: May 1, 2026
- **It includes estimated cost of flights**
- **It does not include gear necessary for the trek.**



***The 2024 NICOS 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 NOT 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, [1topgum@gmail.com](mailto:1topgum@gmail.com) (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>



SCOUTING  
for  
JEWISH YOUTH

THE NATIONAL JEWISH  
COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

<https://www.jewishscouting.org>

## The National Jewish Committee on Scouting 2026 Shabbat Patch Contest

### Rules are simple:

Design a patch that represents Scout Shabbat

The patch should be 3 inches, round, square, oval, etc.

It's also our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year. Be creative and different.

**Design required by September 15, 2025**

Below are some samples of past patches

Email your design to Bruce Steger at [wb2adf@gmail.com](mailto:wb2adf@gmail.com)

The Winner will:

- 1- Receive a framed patch with certificate
- 2- Be publicized on the National Jewish Committee Website
- 3- Receive 5 additional Shabbat patches



**2026 Scout Shabbat Patch Order Form  
(for Customized Patches)**



<https://WWW.JewishScouting.org>

**The National Jewish Committee on Scouting  
--Scout Shabbat Program for 2026--**

The patch design contest is being released with this flyer.

Let Us know if you are having a Scout Shabbat Program  
(Live or Zoom or Both to post on our website calendar)  
Our 2026 patch design will be released by the end of October  
**Send Us Your Order by November 1<sup>st</sup> or sooner.**

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Patches: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Ship Patches to: Same as above

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Price for orders, with shipping, to follow.

By ordering 25 or more, Your Council, Temple, JCOS, Organization  
name can be on YOUR patches.

Please email Bruce Streger @ [WB2ADF@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WB2ADF@GMAIL.COM)

## 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*),
- 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, *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

## Jewish Religious Emblems



### 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:** [JewishScouting.Org](mailto:JewishScouting.Org)

**Religious Emblems, Awards and Recognitions:** [JewishScouting.Org/Awards](http://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: [CeRegion@JewishScouting.Org](mailto:CeRegion@JewishScouting.Org)  
Northeast: [NeRegion@JewishScouting.Org](mailto:NeRegion@JewishScouting.Org)  
Southern: [SoRegion@JewishScouting.Org](mailto:SoRegion@JewishScouting.Org)  
Western: [WeRegion@JewishScouting.Org](mailto: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 [JewishScouting.Org/Awards/#Shofar](http://JewishScouting.Org/Awards/#Shofar)



#### The Chai Award

These regional awards recognize 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. [JewishScouting.Org/Awards/#Yad](http://JewishScouting.Org/Awards/#Yad)



#### Frank L. Weil Award for Jewish Units

To recognize Jewish Scout units that provide a top-quality program. [JewishScouting.Org/Frank-L.-Weil-Unit-Recognition-Award.pdf](http://JewishScouting.Org/Frank-L.-Weil-Unit-Recognition-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. [JewishScouting.Org/Mortimer-L-Schiff-Quality-Jewish-Committee-Award.pdf](http://JewishScouting.Org/Mortimer-L-Schiff-Quality-Jewish-Committee-Award.pdf)

**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/](http://JewishScouting.Org/Cub-Scout-Emblems/)

**Scouts BSA, Explorers, Venturers. Sea Scouts:** [JewishScouting.Org/Scouts-Bsa-Emblems/](http://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 Religious Emblems

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

**Aryeh Emblem** - For Jewish  
Lion Scouts in Kindergarden  
or 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

The young Lion is a 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, 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.

[JewishScouting.Org/Cub-Scout-Emblems/#Aryeh](http://JewishScouting.Org/Cub-Scout-Emblems/#Aryeh)

**Maccabee Emblem** - For  
Jewish Tiger Cubs and Cub  
Scouts, 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Grade

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, the festival of lights.

[JewishScouting.Org/Cub-Scout-Emblems/#Maccabee](http://JewishScouting.Org/Cub-Scout-Emblems/#Maccabee)



**Aleph Emblem** - For Jewish Cub  
Scouts and Webelos, 3<sup>rd</sup> through  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade

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.

[JewishScouting.Org/Cub-Scout-Emblems/#Aleph](http://JewishScouting.Org/Cub-Scout-Emblems/#Aleph)

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

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 and World Jewry.

[JewishScouting.Org/Scouts-BSA-Emblems/#Nertamid](http://JewishScouting.Org/Scouts-BSA-Emblems/#Nertamid)



**Etz Chaim Emblem** - For  
Jewish Scouts, ages 14-17  
and Venturers, Explorers and  
Sea Scouts 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.

[JewishScouting.Org/Scouts-BSA-Emblems/#EtzChaim](http://JewishScouting.Org/Scouts-BSA-Emblems/#EtzChaim)

**Talmud Torah Award**

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

[JewishScouting.Org/Scouts-BSA-Emblems/#TalmudTorah](http://JewishScouting.Org/Scouts-BSA-Emblems/#TalmudTorah)



**For Cub Scout  
Emblems scan**



**For Older Scout  
Emblems scan**



**Celebrating 100 Years  
1926 - 2026**

