



Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting

January 2026 Newsletter

NER JCOS Chairman's Message

By Barry Hantman

It's now 2026! This year marks the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the National Jewish Committee on Scouting. Jews have had a role in Scouting from its very beginning. In 1910, soon after the founding of the Boy Scouts of America (now Scouting America), William Boyce met with Mortimer Schiff, a prominent Jewish financier, and William Mitchell, the national president of the YMWA (Young Men's and Women's Hebrew Association). Both men thought that Jews and Jewish institutions should be involved in the movement based on a similar program run by Lord Baden-Powell in England. Schiff became Vice President of the BSA in 1910 and later became the organization's President. In 1926, the National Jewish Committee on Scouting was formed and recognized by the National Council. Their goal was to merge Jewish values with the Scouting movement, fostering ethical leadership and strong character by integrating Jewish education and tradition (such as Torah and the Jewish holidays) with outdoor skills, community service (Tikun Olam), and the Scout Oath and Law, thereby helping Jewish youth develop a strong, connected Jewish identity alongside core Scouting principle

100 years later, the torch has now been passed to us. It is our responsibility make sure that we instill in our youth the important, shared values of Judaism and Scouting for the years ahead.

May 2026 be a year of joy for your & your family!

2026 Northeast Region Annual Conference

**with Keynote Speaker Mr. Ricky
Mason, Chair-Elect of Scouting
America's National Executive Board**

Mark your Calendars! The 2026 Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting Annual Conference will be held on March 15th, 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. Registration is now open!



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.

The draft conference agenda follows (specific sessions and times may change as the conference date draws closer).

8:00 am Check-in & Breakfast

8:20 am – Minyan

9:00 am Opening - Sounding of the Shofar

- Pledge of Allegiance, Scout Oath & Law
- Invocation
- Welcome and Introductions

9:20 am Opening Remarks

- Ms. Saroya Friedman-Gonzalez - CEO & Scout Executive, Greater New York Council
- Mr. Felix Lam – Chief Administrative Officer, Greater New York Council

9:40 am Keynote Presentation – Speaker: Mr. Ricky Mason Chair-Elect of Scouting America’s National Executive Board

10:20 am Morning Presentations

- 10:20am - NJCOS History – This session will highlight some of the NJCOS Leadership over the past years
- 10:30am - Nusach – Nusachs are the style of prayer, the chosen hymns, the way the tunes sound. This session will provide an introduction to the Nusach in Jewish Worship

10:50 am NJCOS Initiatives and Q&A with the NJCOS President –This session will provide an overview of some of the new initiatives at the National level

11:15 am Breakout Sessions

- Year-round Jewish activities for Troops – Although the Western New York Council has no Jewish-sponsored units, the

Council JCOS has developed a program to ensure that Jewish-focused opportunities are available to Scouts throughout the Council. This session will describe the program of Jewish-focus activities that the local JCOS conducts to instill Judaism into the Scouts BSA program.

- Shomer Shabbat Sea Scouts – This session will discuss Scouting America’s first (and only) Shomer Shabbat Sea Scout unit which was recently organized. The session will provide an overview of the unit activities and the operation of the growing unit as well as the challenges getting the unit organized using an inter-council model.
- Guided Tour of the TMR Museum – This session will provide a guided tour of the TMR Museum. Your Tour Guide will provide an overview of the museum exhibits, including the exhibits related to Jewish Scouting

12:00 pm Lunch Program

- D'Var Torah
- Buffet Lunch
- NJCOS 100th Anniversary Celebration
- Birkat haMazon (bentching)

12:50 pm B’Yachad Camporee Overview

1:00 pm Group Photo

1:30 pm Breakout Sessions

- Kosher Menus for Campouts – This session will provide easy-to-prepare Kosher menu ideas for Camping Trips.
- JCOS High Adventure Activities – For several years, the NJCOS has sponsored treks to Philmont and SeaBase. This session will describe the high adventure treks planned for 2026 at Philmont Scout Reservation. It will also provide information about the NJCOS plans for 2026 the National Jamboree, and 2027 World Jamboree

- Guided Tour of the TMR Museum – This session will provide a guided tour of the TMR Museum. Your Tour Guide will provide an overview of the museum exhibits, including the exhibits related to Jewish Scouting

2:20 pm Breakout Sessions

- Teaching Leadership Skills using Jewish Examples – This session will consist of two parts. The first part will cover the relationship between Scouting’s values and Jewish values outlining the commonality between the two. The second part will cover the use of Jewish stories and Jewish historical characters when teaching Leadership skills.
- Council Events on Shabbat Roundtable Discussion – Most councils hold their camporees and other events on Saturdays which make them inaccessible to Shomer Shabbat units. This is an issue of concern without any easy solutions. This roundtable will provide an opportunity to discuss the issue and brainstorm possible ways to address the concern.
- The History of Jewish Scouting in New York – This session will provide a historical overview of Jewish Scouting in the New York City area, including Jewish summer camping at TMR

3:15 pm Break & Mincha

3:20 pm Silent Auction Ends

3:45 pm Silent Auction Results Announced

3:55 pm Awards and Presentations

- Chai Awards
- Shofar Awards
- Yad Awards
- Special Recognitions

4:10 Naming of the Next NERJCOS Chairman

4:15 pm Closing Ceremony

4:30 pm Closing Prayer for Safe Travel

24th. Annual Kosher Klondike Derby - Presidents Day Weekend Friday February 13th, 2026 through Monday February 16th 2026

Come and enjoy a weekend of fun, outdoor winter camping activities at Aishel Talmudic University (formerly Carson Long Military Academy) in New Bloomfield PA.

What is a Klondike Derby? A Klondike Derby is a competitive way for Scouts to use their skills in fun-filled way. In addition to these skills, they will need to use teamwork and communication skills in order to excel at the various events. Scouts will travel in a patrol. When they leave basecamp, they should have everything they will need for the various stations. This includes 10 feet of rope per patrol (supplied), at least one personal first aid kit per patrol, a compass, matches, tinder (no fire starters). The planned stations are expected to be as follows: (Subject to change)

- Cooktown
- Blindfold Carry
- Orienteering/Treasure hunt
- Emergency Shelter
- Ravine Crossing
- Knot tying derby
- Susquehanna relay

Merit badges and core advancement skills will also be offered throughout the weekend.

Heated dorms will serve as sleeping accommodations, while the dining hall will serve as base camp and kosher meal service.

“A scout is Reverent” states the 12th Point of the Scout Law. Therefore, we pause from our daily activities for Grace before and after meals and for daily services (Shacharit, Mincha and Maariv).

Please see the registration form and information flyer at the end of this newsletter for more information. Registration closes on Sunday, February 11, 2026

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 Camp Aquahonga, 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).

The Camporee, named B'Yachad (which means together), will feature the best of Jewish Scouting in a summer camp setting with aquatics, conservation, handicrafts, scoutcraft and shooting range along with high adventure

- Jewish themes, exhibits, activities, Kosher food
- Leadership, adventure, entertainment, friendship, Jewish Emblems
- Religious Emblems Workshops and Merit Badges

The camporee is open to Jewish Scouts and Scouters from 8-18. 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. Please see the flyer and registration form at the end of this newsletter.

New Jewish-Sponsored Cub Scout Pack in Albany, NY

Please welcome the Northeast Region's newest Jewish Sponsored unit, Cub Scout Pack 1012 in Albany, NY. This new Cub Pack is sponsored by the Sidney Albert Albany Jewish Community Center, located at 340 Whitehall Road in Albany and is led by Cubmaster is Myles Melnicoff (myles.melnicoff@gmail).

Pack Meetings are tentatively set for Monday Evenings @ 6:30.

This is the first and only Jewish Sponsored unit in Twin Rivers Council.

Women of Achievement Awards

Maya Serotta of Crew 3065 and Troop 2026 inspired leaders at the Women of Achievement Awards this year, sharing stories from her Scouting Journey, including giving emergency first aid to a boy hit by a car. Her story how Scouting empowers youth to face challenges and step up when it matters most. Congratulation's Maya!



A Leader's Guide to Reverence in Cub Scouting

Helping Scouts talk about what they believe and how they show respect for what others believe is a meaningful part of the Cub Scout program.

Gina Circelli recently published an article in Arron on Scouting to discuss the topic. In the article, Cub Scout Committee Chair Tamara Christensen and Committee Member Nilesh Shah broke down why the Reverence Adventures may feel challenging for packs and what new tools the team has introduced to make them better and easier for Scouts and leaders.

I encourage you to read the complete article at <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2025/12/29/a-leaders-guide-to-reverence-in-cub-scouting/>

New Jewish Committee on Scouting in Twin Rivers Council

I am pleased to announce the formation of a new Council-level Jewish Committee on Scouting Twin Rivers Council in NY. Mr Elon Weintraub (elon@weintraubworld.net), den leader and founder of Jewish-Sponsored Pack 1012, has accepted the role of JCOS Chairman.

Please join me in welcoming Mr. Weintraub and congratulating him on his new role at JCOS Chairman for the council.

Happy 100th Birthday National Jewish Committee on Scouting!

In 2026 the National Jewish Committee on Scouting celebrates 100 years since it was organized by Harry L. Glucksman of the Jewish Welfare Board with Dr. Cyrus Adler of Dropsie College in Philadelphia elected its first Chairman.

This Anniversary is an opportunity for Regions, local Jewish Committees, even individual Scouts & Scouters to celebrate the NJCOS centennial. Everyone will benefit from the heightened public awareness of Jewish Scouting.

To help publicize centennial events, the NJCOS 100th Anniversary Committee has established a detailed list on the NJCOS website: <https://www.jewishscouting.org/njcos-100th-anniversary-events/>. These events will also be publicized via Facebook posts, emails, and newsletters such as this one.

To add your centennial event to the list, simply fill out the form which can be found at: <https://www.jewishscouting.org/njcos-100th-anniversary-event-submit-form/>.

You can also email the details (including a flyer) to the 100th Anniversary Committee Chairman, David Malatzky, at dmalatzky@aol.com. Everyone should try to attend centennial events in their local area or travel to other areas or states. Make new friends!

Send your centennial event reports, photos and videos. These will be publicized via the NJCOS website, Facebook Page and YouTube Channel.

For some ideas on celebrating the NJCOS centennial, a detailed proposal with event ideas, sample press releases and remarks can be found on the NJCOS website at the following link: <https://www.jewishscouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Recognizing-NJCOS-100th-Anniversary.pdf>

Longhouse and Baden Powell Councils 100th Anniversary Celebration

The Longhouse and Baden Powell Councils invite everyone to join them on Sunday, May 31, 2026 to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Jewish Committee on Scouting. Regardless of what Council you are a member of, feel free to join in the fun.

The event will be held in at Camp Owahta in McGraw, NY (Camp Owahta is approximately 1 hours south of Syracuse).

This event will feature:

- Cub Scout & Scouts BSA Programming
- Opportunities to learn about Judaism & Jewish Culture
- Lunch with a Birthday Dessert
- Stations for:
 - American Cultures Merit Badge
 - Activities related to Cub Scout Duty to God Adventures
 - Pikuach Nefesh (Safeguarding Life) & First Aid
 - Tzedakah (Charity) & Service Projects
- And much more

Please see the flyer at the end of this newsletter for more details. For questions, please send email to bjpcos@gmail.com.

This is just one of the events being held in the region to celebrate our 100th Anniversary. Stay tuned for other upcoming events and activities.



Bala Cynwyd Man Leads Cub Scout Pack for Sabbath-Keeping Kids¹

by Jarrad Saffren

Philadelphia Jewish Exponent, Dec. 8, 2025
(reprinted with permission of the author)



The Sabbath-observant Bala Cynwyd Cub Scout pack fixes up the hiking trail at the Kaiserman JCC. (Courtesy of Pack 18)

It's a simple problem: Many Cub Scout activities take place on Saturdays. Many Sabbath-observant Jewish kids want to participate in scout activities. But Sabbath-observant Jewish kids can't swim and hike and build fires on that day.

Michael Kopinsky, a Bala Cynwyd resident, had been hearing about this problem for years from Sabbath-observant friends. So finally, in 2024, the father of three sons set out to solve it.

In November of that year, Kopinsky launched a pack for kids in Bala Cynwyd, for members of his synagogue, Sha'arei Orah, and for anyone else in the area with interest. Thirty-eight kids showed up to the first activity. Throughout the year, 28 participated regularly in hikes, campfires and other adventures.

The pack was popular enough to return for a second year in 2025-26. Kopinsky's two older sons and 24 other kids are part of the group. A majority of them are Orthodox; most are Sabbath-observant, but some are not.

"It's great to get that time with them doing specific activities. This past Sunday, we went on a hike. We could have just gone on a hike as a family. But if we had just gone as a family, we wouldn't have made a fire, roasted marshmallows and drank hot cocoa at the end," Kopinsky said.

Kopinsky refers to himself as a nerd computer programmer who likes to "sit in a cave" and code all day. But as a kid in Denver, he joined the scouts, and it taught him to tie knots, do first aid and orient a compass, among other skills. More importantly, it pushed him to get in front of the group and lead an activity.

Today, the reclusive coder is comfortable stepping up to lead teams at work. He wants his kids to gain the same confidence.

"It was always sort of a given that, when my kids are old enough, I'll put them in Scouts," Kopinsky said.



The Sabbath-observant Bala Cynwyd Cub Scout pack closes out a camping trip with a final campfire. (Courtesy of Pack 18)

Yet when his boys grew old enough to join, dad needed a reminder. One day, his wife came home from a thrift store with a Scout handbook.

Kopinsky realized that his oldest son was 8 years old. It was time. There was just nothing like that around, at least not for Sabbath-observant families. The closest such pack was in Blue Bell, about a 40-minute drive from Bala Cynwyd.

"OK, I guess someone has to start it," Kopinsky recalled thinking at the time.

The Sha'arei Orah member made a spreadsheet of the families who had said they were

¹ Bala Cynwyd is in Pennsylvania's Cradle of Liberty Council

interested; he sent out messages to local WhatsApp groups; he also started “marketing it heavily” on social media and in shul.

More than 50 families expressed interest, so Kopinsky started filing the paperwork. The group held steady all year. Meetings and activities typically took place on Sundays, though camping trips could actually take place during Shabbat, as long as troop leaders and members arrived before sundown to cook the food.

The group was even able to participate in wider Scout and community events. Kopinsky talked to the organizer of the district Pinewood Derby, an event in which packs build and race wooden toy cars, and convinced him to move the event to a Sunday. During the Cradle of Liberty Council’s Fall Fest, Kopinsky asked if kosher food could be prepared and served as an option; the organizer obliged.

“It was great,” Kopinsky said of the first year.



The Sabbath-observant Bala Cynwyd Cub Scout pack frolics in Darby Creek. (Courtesy of Pack 18)

Breanne Pesis, a Bala Cynwyd resident and Sha’arei Orah member, was part of the group of families who had been discussing a Scout pack. Two of her sons participated during the first year, and while one aged out, the other remains involved.

The mom said her kids enjoy sports, but the timing rarely works. Even if local leagues form a Sabbath-observant team, it often ends up including kids from multiple age groups. There just aren’t enough players to form a fully Sabbath-observant league.

This pack solved that problem.

“Everyone joining this is either going to be Jewish or embracing the way we have things set up,” Pesis said. “There’s never going to be a time where you’re the odd one, or you get put on a team with a different age group.”

Rachel Frankford, a Wynnewood resident, has a son who’s involved in the pack. The family is Jewish but not “Shomer Shabbos,” as Frankford put it, though they try to keep Shabbat as best they can.

The troop was a way to get the benefits of the scouts, but also to connect with other Jews in the area.

“It’s about the traits that the Cub Scouts encourage in the kids: thinking about other people, doing community service, doing things that are part of a group, being outdoors, gaining skills related to different outdoor activities. There’s also a focus on safety, which I really like,” she said. “I like that it’s cooperative but not competitive. My kids also do sports, but this is a part of what we do.”

Shabbat Friendly Wood Badge Course

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-WB261>

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.



Many other organizations have scholarships available to Jewish Youth including the National Jewish Committee on Girl Scouting (<https://www.njcgs.org/NJCOS-Scholarship-Application-Form.pdf>) and the Sandy and Jack Cohen Scholarship through Hillel International (<https://www.hillel.org/sandy-and-jack-cohen-scholarship/>)

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. There's a special \$100 credit if you sign up by November 2nd. 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 11-15, 2026 in Dallas, TX. While there are many sessions at this meeting that are of interest, 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. Our NJCOS President, Mr. Phil Sternberg, will be representing the Jewish Committee.
- The Annual Duty to God Breakfast will be held on Thursday morning, May 14th. 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 Joseph Prouser. Rabbi Prouser is a long-time member of the Northeast Region Jewish Committees on Scouting, has led many Scout Shabbat & Havdalah service, and has worked with the inter-faith chaplaincy team at a series of National Jamborees as well as at the 2015 World Scout Jamboree in Japan. Rabbi Prouser has served as the NJCOS National Chaplain, and has edited a Sabbath Eve prayerbook, *Siddur Tzofeh V'Yodeya*, for use at scouting events.

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.

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:



- March 1, 2026 – Interfaith Committees and their Relationship with Jewish Scouting
- May 2026 – NJCOS 100th Anniversary Celebration: 100 Years of Jewish Scouting
- September 2026 – TBD
- November 2026 – High Adventure Programs for Jewish Youth in 2027 (High Adventure Treks & World Jamboree)

You should have already received registration information via email. Please direct any questions or register information to Barry Hantman, at neregion@jewishscouting.org.

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!



Pack 209 Helps Address Community Hunger

Pack 209 of the Baden-Powell Council and Temple Concord of Binghamton, NY, joined forces to serve their community this autumn! Pack 209's Arrow of Light Den visited Temple Concord, where dedicated volunteers shared how the congregation supports the community through a partnership with the CHOW (Community Hunger Outreach Warehouse) program, providing bulk food distribution and homemade meals to those in need. Their Den also got a behind-the-scenes look at the "Whale of a Sale," a fundraising event that encourages reusing gently used items at affordable prices, protecting the environment by reducing landfill waste. The Scouts helped out by moving boxes, hanging clothes, and organizing items--lending helping hands while learning about community service, sustainability, and teamwork. It was a wonderful service-learning experience for the Arrow of Light Den, and helped bring Scouting and a local synagogue together to serve our community!



Baden Powell Council Ten Commandments Hike

On November 28, Scouts and Scouters of the Baden-Powell Council braved the cold and snow for their annual Ten Commandments Hike. Along the way, they visited various houses of worship including Congregation Tikun v'Or. At each stop, scouts learned about the faith and also heard a presentation on one of the Commandment.



Jewish Eagle Scout Visits with Members of the Boy Scouts of Israel

Eagle Scout Zachary Weber, son of NJCOS High Adventure Committee Chair Rob Weber and NJCOS Chaplain Lori Weber, travelled to Efrat in Judea Samarea to meet with members of the Boy Scouts of Israel (BSI), including BSA founder Erik Cluster. Zachary has participated in several of the High Adventure Treks sponsored by the NJCOS. Zachary discussed reintegrating the BSA into the NJCOS high adventure and shomer shabbat jamboree program. Due to the war, the BSI has not been able to participate in recent Jewish Scouting activities but is now looking to restart their participation, including possibly attending the 2026 Scouting America National Jamboree.



Talmud Torah Award

The National Jewish Committee on Scouting has an award to honor Scouts who have earned all the religious emblems they can earn during their tenure in Scouting.

The name "Talmud Torah" was developed from the following meanings:



- Talmud = discussions by rabbis over the millennia on what the scriptures mean and how to carry it out in day-to-day life.
- Torah = the holiest part (most direct from G_d) of our holy scriptures.

For information and the application form, visit: <https://www.jewishscouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Talmud-Torah-Award-Updated-01-08-25.pdf>

Scout Shabbat

Several Scout Shabbat services have been scheduled across the region. If there isn't a Scout Shabbat in your area, there are some that are available to you via Zoom.

- Suffolk County Council Scout Shabbat on January 9, 2026 at the Dix Hills Jewish Center
- National Capital Area Scout Shabbat at Temple B.nai Shalom in Fairfax Station, VA on February 6, 2026. For information, visit the Temple website at: <https://www.tbs-online.org/event/family-scout-shabbat-worship-service.html>
- Staten Island Scout Shabbat on February 6, 2026. For information visit: <https://scoutingevent.com/?OrgKey=BSA640&calendarID=606568>
- Suffolk County Council Scout Shabbat on February 6, 2026 at Temple Beth Chai of Hauppauge. This service is also available via Zoom.
- Heart of New England Council Scout Shabbat at Beth Tikvah Synagogue in Grafton, MA on February 7th, 2026. For information, visit the Temple website at: <https://www.bethtikvahsynagogue.org/event/shabbat-morning---scout-shabbat-service1.html>
- Monmouth Council Scout Shabbat at Temple Beth Ahm in Aberdeen Township, NJ on February 13th. For information visit: www.monmouthcouncilscouting.org/scouts_habbath
- Laurel Highlands Council Scout Shabbat at either Temple Sinai or Rodef Shalom on February 13, 2026. For information, visit: <https://scoutingevent.com/?OrgKey=BSA527&calendarID=595170>
- Baltimore Area Council Scout Shabbat at Temple Isaiah in Fulton, MA on February 20, 2026. For information, visit: <https://scoutingevent.com/?OrgKey=BSA220&calendarID=623309>
- Narragansett Council Scout Shabbat at Temple Habonim in Barrington, RI on

February 27, 2026. No registration required - Scouts interested in roles during the service should contact Curt Abbott at ncjcos@gmail.com

- Suffolk County Council Scout Shabbat on February 27, 2026 at the East Northport Jewish Center in East Northport, NY
- Greater Hudson Valley Council Scout Shabbat at Congregation Shir Shalom in New City, NY on March 13, 2026. For information visit the council website at <https://mycouncil.ghvscouting.org/Event/9389>
- Massachusetts / New Hampshire Scout Shabbat at Temple Emanuel in Andover, MA and remotely via Zoom on March 20, 2026. For information, visit the Council website at: <https://scoutingevent.com/?OrgKey=BSA330&calendarID=605782>
- Suffolk County Council Scout Shabbat on March 20, 2026 at B'nai Israel Reform Temple in Oakdale, NY
- GNYC Big Apple Scout Shabbat on March 28, 2026.
- Cradle of Liberty Council Scout Shabbat on March 28, 2026.
- Baltimore Area Council Scout Shabbat service on Friday evening April 4 at the Har Sinai - Oheb Shalom Congregation synagogue in Baltimore, MD. For information, send email to Charles Jay at jayfamcs@comcast.net

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).
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). The patches are \$7 each plus shipping.



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

Scouting 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.

Scouting 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.



Jewish Religious Emblems

The National Jewish Committee on Scouting offers Religious Emblems for Scouts of all ages.

- 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; or 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 in October to December, 2025.

Baltimore Area Council

- Jack Bartkowski
- Aaron Janet
- Avery Nussbaum
- Hailey Nussbaum

Connecticut Rivers Council

- Carter Ragaini

Cradle of Liberty Council

- David Vaks

Greater New York Council

- Mordechai Salzman

Northern New Jersey Council

- Ethan Haney

Patriots Path Council

- Chaim Grieco

Spirit of Adventure Council

- Eitan Denton



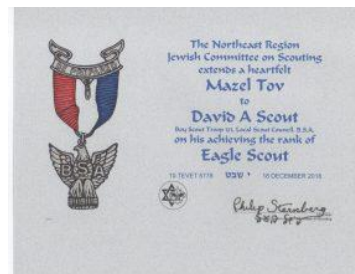
Do you have a Scout that wants to earn an emblem but doesn't know where to find a counselor to work with? The NJCOS has you covered. The NJCOS Chaplain, Rabbi Art Vernon (shaarayrabbi@gmail.com) will help you connect with a Rabbi or Counselor via Zoom! This is particularly important for the Ner Tamid 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 "Religious Emblems" in the menu on the top righthand side of the page.

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/>

Remembering Pogromnacht

Each November, Berlin pauses to reflect on one of the darkest chapters of its history. The Pogromnacht of November 9, 1938 marked a violent escalation of antisemitic persecution in Nazi Germany. Synagogues were burned, Jewish-owned homes and businesses were destroyed, and thousands of Jewish people were arrested, attacked, or killed. In Berlin and across Germany, the night stands as a stark reminder of the dangers of hatred, intolerance, and indifference.



For Troop 46 of the Transatlantic Council in Berlin, remembrance is a meaningful act of service, reflection, and education. Continuing a tradition of honor and responsibility, the troop held their annual Pogromnacht memorial and service event in November 2025, dedicated to remembering victims of the Holocaust and reinforcing lessons of empathy and moral courage.



The event began at the Mirrored Wall Memorial in Berlin-Steglitz. This striking memorial stands in place of a synagogue that once served the local Jewish community, its absence a painful symbol of what was lost. The Mirrored Wall also commemorates the deportation of Berlin's Jewish residents during the Holocaust, reflecting both past and present, and inviting visitors to see themselves in the story of remembrance.

Gathered here, Scouts and Scouters shared a moment of silence before beginning their walk of reflection through the community.

Troop 46 then visited a number of Stolpersteine, small brass memorial plaques installed in the pavement in front of the last freely chosen residences of individuals persecuted or murdered by the Nazis. Each Stolperstein represents a name, a life, and a story.



In preparation for the event, Scouts volunteered to research the history of the individuals commemorated by the Stolpersteine they visited. This research turned the experience into more than a ceremony. It became personal learning and an act of restoring dignity to names nearly erased by history.

At each location, a Scout or Scouter shared researched stories about the person or family remembered there. They respectfully cleaned and polished the plaque, lit candles, and paused to pay their respects.



By honoring those who suffered and perished, these Scouts help cultivate a culture of awareness, compassion, and responsibility. Troop 46 demonstrated that remembrance is not passive; it is an active choice to learn, to care, and to share stories that must never be forgotten. Through their service, these Scouts become stewards of history, carrying forward the voices of those who can no longer speak for themselves.



Tu Bishvat

In 2026, Tu BiShvat, the Jewish New Year for Trees, begins at sundown on Sunday, February 1st. Please enjoy a Tu Bishvat story written by NER JCOS Chaplain, Rabbi Rachmiel Tobesman

Why Do the Trees Whistle?

Tu biShvat – The new Years of the Trees is a holiday that is often minimalized. It is much more than merely the “Jewish Arbor Day” as it is frequently referred to by modern thinkers. It is a celebration of trees. It is hard from many to understand that trees

are central in Jewish thought, which closely relates to man’s relationship with the natural environment, the understanding of Torah (Scriptures), Jewish ethics and the Jewish lifestyle and life cycle.



There are two kinds of trees. One kind of tree bears fruit that is good to eat, whereas the other, the pine trees, grow fruit that can’t be eaten.

When the wind blows and passes among the trees the pine trees whistle in a loud voice. However, the fruit trees are quiet and can hardly be heard.

The fruit trees were asked: “Why don’t you make a noise when wind blows? Why don’t you whistle like the pine trees?”

The fruit trees answered: “We have heavy and tasty fruit. We can’t sway in the wind, for we might damage our fruit. We don’t have to make a noise because even when we are quiet, people come to us to enjoy our fruit”.

The pine trees were asked: “Why do you whistle and make a noise when the wind blows? Why aren’t you quite like the fruit trees?”

The pine trees answered: “We have light fruit that can’t be eaten. We sway with every little breeze. If we did not whistle and make a noise –

no one would pay attention to us or see us...”

People are like that too. Those who are good and wise, and are liked by all, are quiet and modest. They voice their opinions quietly and peacefully. But, people who are empty and foolish, and have nothing to offer – they shout and speak in the loudest of voices so that all will pay attention to them. If they did not scream – they would not be seen.

Looking For Items for The National Jamboree

The National Jewish Committee on Scouting is planning to have a large presence at the National Jamboree to celebrate our 100th Anniversary.

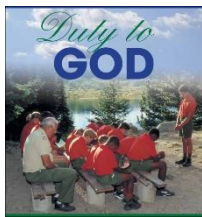
As part of our display in the Duty to God and Country area, we want to be able to give Scouts that visit our booth free scouting items, such as patches, carabiners, knives, survival bracelets, or some other small tchotchke. If you have any such items that you’d be willing to donate, we would gladly appreciate receiving them. We would especially appreciate suede Kippahs with no writing on the outside. If you have any of these items to donate, please email the NJCOS Jamboree Committee Chair, Bruce Streger, at soregion@jewishScouting.org.

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 Council level. It acknowledges the unwavering dedication to faith, fellowship, and service of those whose character embodies the moral principles and shared ideals of Scouting America. The award distinguishes Scouters who selflessly work to prepare youth for life by perpetuating the merit & legacy of a Scout’s duty to their Creator. If you know someone deserving of the award, the nomination form is at <https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Scouting-Americas-Council-Duty-to-God-Nomination.pdf>

Religious Emblems Promotion Night

Join the Scouting America National Religious Relationships Committee (NRRC) on Thursday, February 26th, 2026 from 8pm-9pm (Eastern Time) via Zoom to get all of your questions answered about religious emblems. This event is appropriate for unit leaders, youth, faith leaders, and BSA professionals. The NRRC will spend the first 10 minutes in a quick overview of what religious emblems are, and how to find more information about them. Then participants will go into a Breakout Room for the faith group of your choice, including on led by the NJCOS regarding the Jewish Religious Emblems.



Sign-Ups will open in December. A Save the Date Flyer is available at

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YuCAslmhVf_8Kw7G8QwTg1OjuvFQSHn_/view?usp=sharing

2026 Virtual Religious Relationships Week

Plans are underway for a Virtual Religious Relationships Week hosted by the Scouting America National Religious Relationships Committee (NRRC) via Zoom on February 22nd-27th, 2026.

This weeklong virtual conference will feature Over 40 classes to choose from including faith-specific sessions, session regarding religious emblems, and sessions for program coordinators, council / district professionals, chaplains & worship leaders, membership coordinators, marketing specialists, religious

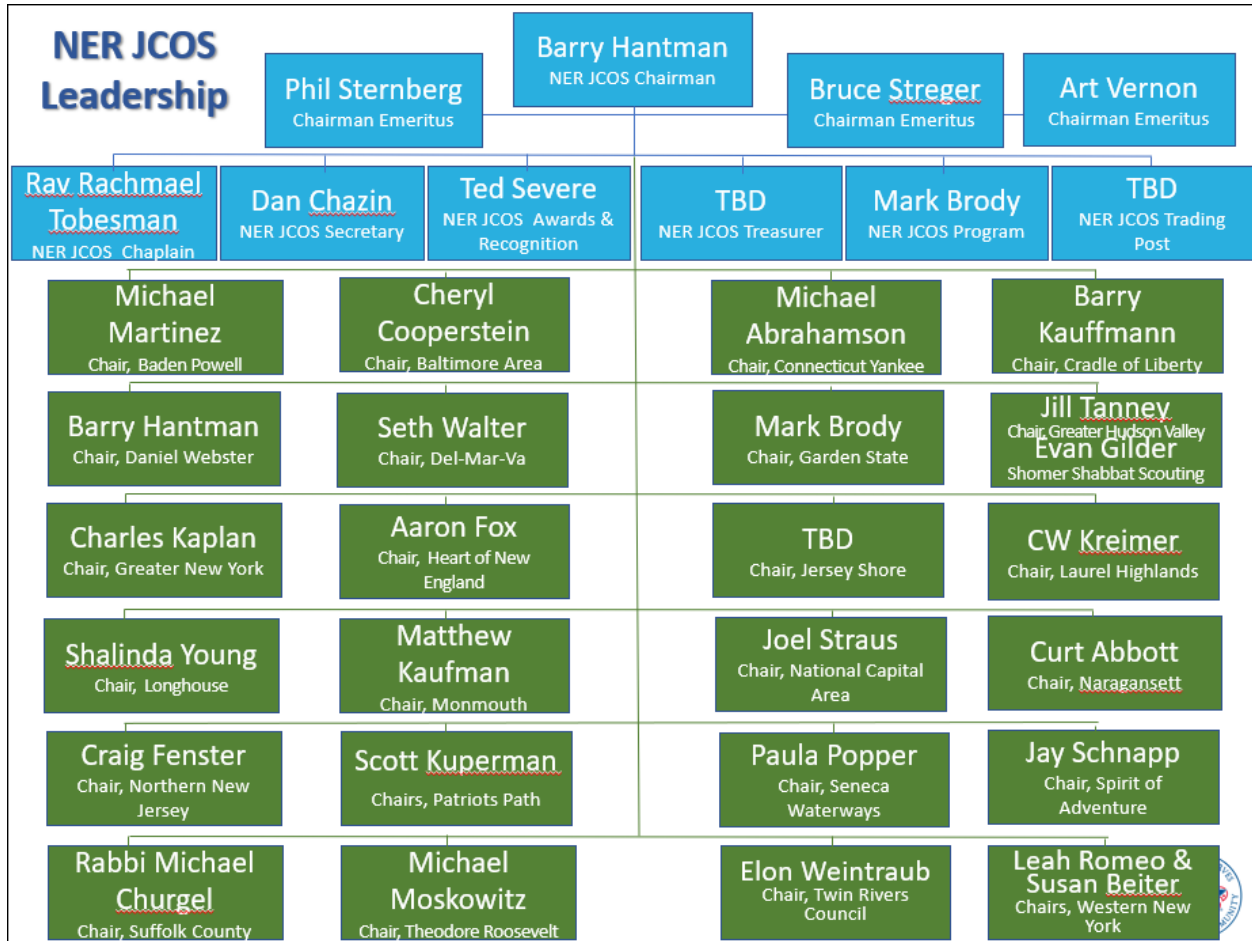


Registration will open at the beginning of December. A Save the Date Flyer is available at https://drive.google.com/file/d/16_VqpOCvneVYs4mTjnbukBRMyHspkYIJ/view?usp=sharing

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 9 – Suffolk County Council Scout Shabbat at the Dix Hills Jewish Center
- Feb. 6 - National Capital Area Council Scout Shabbat
- Feb. 6 - Staten Island Scout Shabbat
- Feb. 6 - Suffolk County Council Scout Shabbat at Temple Beth Chai of Hauppauge & via Zoom
- Feb. 7 - Heart of New England Council Scout Shabbat
- Feb. 13-16 – Kosher Klondike Derby
- Feb. 13 - Monmouth Council Scout Shabbat
- Feb. 13 - Laurel Highlands Council Scout Shabbat
- Feb. 7 - Baltimore Area Council Scout Shabbat
- Feb. 22-27 - Religious Relationships Week
- Feb. 26 - Religious Emblems Promotion Night
- Feb. 27 - Narragansett Council Scout Shabbat
- Feb. 27 - Suffolk County Council Scout Shabbat at East Northport Jewish Center
- Mar 1. – Virtual Training Seminar
- Mar. 13 - Greater Hudson Valley Council Scout Shabbat
- Mar. 15 – Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting Annual Conference
- Mar. 20 – Scouting America New Hampshire & Spirit of Adventure Councils Scout Shabbat
- Mar. 20 - Suffolk County Council Scout Shabbat at at B'nai Israel Reform Temple
- Mar. 28 – GNYC Big Apple Scout Shabbat
- Mar. 28 – Cradle of Liberty Council Scout Shabbat
- Apr. 14 - Baltimore Area Council Scout Shabbat
- May 7 – Scouts Read Sacred Texts
- May 10-11 – NJCOS Annual Meeting
- May 12-15 – Scouting America National Annual Meeting
- May 31 - Longhouse and Baden Powell Councils 100th Anniversary Celebration
- Jun. 15 - June 19, 2026 - Shabbat Friendly Wood Badge at Camp Spencer
- Jun. 25 - July NJCOS Philmont Trek
- Jul. 22 – 31 National Scout Jamboree
- Aug. 9- 12, 2026 B'Yachad Camporee

NER JCOS Leadership



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



NER JCOS Photo Gallery

Garden State Council (NJ) Board Meeting. Monday, November 24, 2025



▶ Scout Maya Serotta received the Scouting America Medal of Merit and was presented with a congratulatory certificate from Garden State Council JCOS Chairman, Mark Brody, on behalf of the NER JCOS.



▶ Congratulations to Tom Galvin of Suffolk County Council who achieved the rank of Eagle. He was presented with a certificate by JCOS member Phyllis Stein



▶ Scouts in Troop 226 in Teaneck, NJ placed flags on the gravestones of our veterans for Veterans Day



▶ Congratulations to Izzy Stiefel who was presented with the Etz Chaim and Talmud Torah Emblems by NJCOS President Phil Sternberg



▶ Scouts from Suffolk County Council helped to distribute the Peace Light which was used to light Advent Candles in local churches and Hanukkah Menorahs in Jewish homes

▶ Troop 416 in Endwell, NY learned about Hanukkah as part of their Around the World holiday event



Send us your event Photos!

▶ Scouts from across the region gathered in Pennsylvania for the Annual Shomer Shabbat Scout Conclave





Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting Trading Post



Your Source for Jewish Scouting Items!



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



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



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



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



Jewish Committee
Patches
\$5

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

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

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



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 Sessions¹
 - Shomer Shabbat Sea Scouts
 - Teaching Leadership Skills using Jewish Examples
 - Kosher Menus for Campouts
 - Year-round Jewish activities for Scouts
 - 100th 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 100th 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 1st (\$10 additional after 2/15/26)

Lodging available Friday & Saturday Night, March 13 & 14

on a space available basis

See attached registration form

¹ 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, 2026, 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 #: _____
 1st 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

Vermo & Paypal accepted. Please enquire for details.

Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting

CHAI  Award Application

(Bronze, Gold or Silver)

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

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

Person being nominated:

Nominee's Name: _____

Nominee's Mailing Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Nominee's Current Position in Scouting: _____

Nominee's Council Name: _____

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

Person making the nomination:

Nominator's Name: _____

Nominator's Mailing Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Nominator's Phone #: (_____) _____

Nominator's Email: _____

Approvals:

Scout Executive: _____ Date: _____

Council JCoS Chairman: _____ Date: _____

Member of Local JCoS: _____ Date: _____

100th Anniversary Jewish Camporee – B'yachad

B'YACHAD - THE GREAT JEWISH CAMPOREE!



SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL JEWISH COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

AUGUST 9 - 12, 2026 | TEN MILE RIVER SCOUT CAMPS | NARROWSBURG, NY



WHAT'S INCLUDED?

-  Full summer camp areas
-  Kosher meals
-  Jewish themes and activities
-  Emblem Awards and Exposition
-  Gala campfire/evening events
-  Optional NYC treks before/after
-  Early bird price \$175 pp through Mar 2026



REGISTER NOW! \$50 DEPOSIT

Contact CERegion@JewishScouting.org with questions.

For additional details and to secure your spot today!



<https://www.jewishscouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/100th-Anniversary-Camporee.pdf>

Kosher Klondike Derby



24th. Annual Kosher Klondike Derby

Hosted by

Jewish Scouting Programming Committee

Presidents Day Weekend
Friday February 13th, 2026 through
Monday February 16th 2026

NEW LOCATION!

AISHEL TALMUDIC UNIVERSITY
formerly
Carson Long Military Academy
New Bloomfield PA

Come prepared for outdoor winter camping activities.

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

What is a Klondike Derby:

A Klondike Derby is a competitive way for Scouts to use their skills in fun-filled way. In addition to these skills, they will need to use teamwork and communication skills in order to excel at the various events. Each Scout should bring a day pack. Scouts will travel in a patrol. When they leave basecamp, they should have everything they will need for the various stations. This includes 10 feet of rope per patrol (supplied), at least one personal first aid kit per patrol, a compass, matches, tinder (no fire starters).

The planned stations are expected to be as follows:

(Subject to change)

- Cooktown
- Blindfold Carry
- Orienteering/Treasure hunt
- Emergency Shelter
- Ravine Crossing
- Knot tying derby
- Susquehanna relay



* Additional recommended gear information will be sent to registered leaders.

Kosher Klondike Derby (continued)

WHO: Active Registered BSA and AOL Scouts & Adult Leaders in any Council are invited to attend.

WHAT: The 24th Kosher Klondike Derby

A weekend for scouts to display their basic scout skills in a fun, energized competitive atmosphere.

WHEN: Friday February 13th 2026
to Monday February 16th 2026

WHERE: Aishel Talmudic Academy
Nestled in the beautiful rural wooded hills of New Bloomfield Pennsylvania.

HOW: Heated dorms will serve as sleeping accommodations, while the dining hall will serve as base camp and meal service.

“A scout is Reverent” states the 12th Point of the Scout Law. Therefore, we pause from our daily activities for Grace before and after meals and for daily services (Shacharit, Mincha and Maariv).

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

Prizes will be awarded.

Merit badges and core advancement skills will also be offered throughout the weekend.

REGISTRATION & COST

To Register: Unit Leaders or Provisional Scout parents should include any special allergies or dietary needs in advance in the following Klondike registration link:

<https://jspc.events/Camp/>

Early Bird Registration thru January 25:
COST: \$150 per person

Registration January 26 thru February 11:
COST: \$180 per person

For every 10 paid attendees from the same unit, the 11th attendee goes Free

Registration closes on Sunday, February 11, 2026

For more information, contact:

- Mr. Ben Altman, Asst. Scoutmaster-Troop 613
717-599-4407 – Ben@Altman.Blue
- Mr. Joel Straus – Unit Commissioner NCAC -
202-441-0771 – joel.straus1@gmail.com
- Mr. Jeffrey Cohen – Scoutmaster – Troop 614 -
301-775-7173

All attending adults must have completed Youth Protection training.

2026 Philmont Trek



Spring – June 15-19 at Camp Spencer

Sabbath Friendly

Course Director: Gabe Hare

Gabe.harewb26.1@gmail.com

<https://scoutingevent.com/220-WB261>

Longhouse Council & Baden Powell NJCOS 100th Anniversary Celebration



COMING 2026!



The Jewish Committees on Scouting of the Longhouse & Baden-Powell Councils invite you to join us on Sunday, May 31st, 2026 at Camp Owahta in McGraw, NY for an exciting event commemorating the

100TH BIRTHDAY OF THE NATIONAL JEWISH COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

Open to ALL and featuring:

- Both Cub Scout & Scouts BSA Programming
- Learning about Judaism and Jewish Culture
- Lunch with a Birthday Dessert
- Stations such as:
 - American Cultures MB (for Scouts BSA)
 - Activities related to Cub Scout Duty to God Adventures
 - Pikuach Nefesh (Safeguarding Life) & First Aid
 - Tzedakah (Charity) & Service Project
 - and more!



Email us at bpjcos@gmail.com to express interest and be alerted when registrations go live!

National Jamboree



SHOMER SHABBAT CONTINGENT TO THE 2026 NATIONAL JAMBOREE JUL 12-AUG 2



בס"ד
V2.2

ATTEND THE 2026 NATIONAL SCOUT JAMBOREE

The *Shomer Shabbat* Contingent for the National Jamboree will gather for pre-Jamboree activities from July 12th – 19th at Forestburg Scout Reservation in NY and visit Washington DC July 19th – 21st. We then will join tens of thousands of Scouts at Summit Bechtel Reserve - a premier High Adventure Base in WV - for the Jamboree through July 31st. Our experience will conclude with Shabbat in Silver Spring, MD and Scouts will return home on August 2nd. Jamboree highlights include: one of the **longest zip lines in North America**, a worldclass **skate park**, **all-terrain vehicles**, **treetop canopy tours**, **rock climbing**, **mountain biking**, **patch trading**, **stadium shows**, and **much more!** Held every four years, the Jamboree is an amazing opportunity for everyone to experience the best of Scouting, all in one place.

Participant Registration Requirements:

- Youth: be at least 12 years old by July 22nd, 2026 and not yet 21 by July 31st, 2026
- Adult: be over 21 by July 22nd, 2026
- Be currently registered as a youth or adult program participant in a Scouts BSA, Venturing, or Sea Scout unit

Jewish Scouting Includes Commitment to:

- *Kashrut* – We observe Jewish dietary laws at all times
- *Shabbat* – We observe the Sabbath from sundown Friday to nightfall on Saturday
- *Tefilah* – We hold thrice-daily prayer services
- *Tzniut* – We strive for modesty in dress, behavior, speech, and thought, guided by Jewish law
- *Limudei Kodesh* – We provide opportunities for ongoing Jewish learning

Scan or Click to Apply (space is limited):

- <https://jamboree.scoutcamp.info>

Questions? Contact Us:

- Howard Spielman: Contingent Coordinator
781 439-5250 HASpielman1@gmail.com
- Uri Cohen: Jamboree Troop Scoutmaster
646 382-1500 UriCohen613@gmail.com
- Rabbi Avraham A. Witty: Rabbinic Advisor
416 986-9299 WittyAvrahamA@gmail.com

Organized by **Friends of Shomer Shabbat Scouting** —
a 501(c)(3) organization serving Jewish youth with Scouting



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

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: CeRegion@JewishScouting.Org
Northeast: NeRegion@JewishScouting.Org
Southern: SoRegion@JewishScouting.Org
Western: 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



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



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

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

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 Religious Emblems

Jewish Youth Religious Emblems For Jewish Youth Members in Scouting America

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

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



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

Ner Tamid Emblem - For
Jewish Scouts, Venturers,
Explorers, and Sea Scouts 6th
through 9th 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



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

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



**For Cub Scout
Emblems scan**



**For Older Scout
Emblems scan**



**Celebrating 100 Years
1926 - 2026**

