



Jewish Scouting Today

The Newsletter of the
National Jewish Committee on Scouting
Summer 2026

NJCOS President's Message

Khaveyrim (Friends),

During this challenging time for the Jewish people, I leapt at the opportunity three years ago to serve as your President and to lead Scouting's Jewish Community. The National Jewish Committee on Scouting (NJCOS) is truly an extraordinary institution.

We have seen a surge of interest in Jewish Scouting across the country, and the world. As President, I find an important way of meeting the moment is to remember, celebrate, showcase, and most importantly live a vibrant Jewish Scouting life by participating in the extraordinary programs of the NJCOS.

I have been fortunate to build on the leadership and incredible contributions of my predecessors and to have members of the NJCOS who have worked tirelessly to support our programs and me.

We are in our 100th Year of leadership in the Scouting Jewish Community and we recently returned from our 100th Anniversary Meeting and Scouting America's National Annual Meeting (NAM) in Dallas, TX. The new President of the Scouting America National Committee, Mr. Ricky Mason, sat with us at the Duty to God Breakfast and even presented Betsy Nagle with the Shofar Award. How cool is that!

We are now getting ready for two major events this summer: The 2026 National Scout Jamboree at the Summit Bechtel Reserve, WV, and The Jewish Focused Trek at Philmont Scout Ranch.

These are exciting events that will showcase Jewish Scouting. I urge you to make every effort to participate and let people in your local council know about these events.

Yours in Jewish Scouting,

Philip Steinberg
פיליפ שטיינברג

Newsletter Editor's Message

By Barry Hantman

Several years ago, the National Jewish Committee on Scouting published a newsletter to help keep the Jewish Scouting Community informed about events and activities. For a variety of reasons, the newsletter ceased publication approximately 20 years ago. Since that time, some of the NJCOS regions have instituted regional newsletters and occasional emails.

I'm pleased to announce that a National Newsletter has been reintroduced with this being the first edition. We expect to publish this newsletter quarterly. Each edition will include news of National Jewish Scouting interest along with subsections for each of the regions. Western Region news can be found on page 21, Southern Region on page 25, Central Region on page 26, and Northeast Region on page 29.

If you have any news or pictures associated with Jewish Scouting that you wish to contribute to future issues, please send them to me, Barry Hantman, at execvp@jewishscouting.org

I hope you enjoy the newsletter and I wish you a fantastic summer.

Scouting America National Annual Meeting – Duty to God Breakfast

At the Scouting America National Annual Meeting, the National Jewish Committee was recognized for their 100th Anniversary. As part of that recognition, Rabbi Joseph Prouser was selected to be the Keynote Speaker. Rabbi Prouser is the former National Chaplain of the National Jewish Committee on Scouting, the editor of *Masorti: The New Journal of Conservative Judaism* and the author of “Say Little, Do Much,” a weekly column for the *Crescent City Jewish News*. The following is Rabbi Prouser’s Keynote Address.



“A Diversity of Religious Opinions”

Keynote Address delivered by
Rabbi Joseph H. Prouser
Scouting America National Annual Meeting,
Duty to God Breakfast
Dallas, Texas
May 14, 2026

Good morning. Boker Tov! It is a joy to be among old friends, new friends, and – God willing – future friends!

Congratulations to all the scouts receiving religious awards and participating in this morning’s proceedings. We are proud of you! Mazel Tov!

I am honored to be here – invited to reflect upon our shared Duty to God and to celebrate the centennial, the 100th anniversary of the 1926 founding of the National Jewish Committee on Scouting.

For 100 years, the National Jewish Committee has urged Jewish youth to embrace Scouting, to grow as Jews and as Americans and as young people of good character. For 100 years, the Committee has produced educational material to foster that growth, has supported packs and

troops and leaders and chaplains devoted to that process, and has administered a program of religious awards and activities advancing the cause of Scouting -- and Jewish identity. The National Jewish Committee has drawn countless Jewish Scouts closer to Jewish piety and literacy and has provided a context for even the most devout and knowledgeable faithfully to fulfill their duty to God as scouts.

When – in 1926 – Scouting established a Jewish Committee, they performed a stunning, courageous, historic act of national and global moral leadership.

In 1921, Jews had been expelled from much of Central Asia, and massacred in Yafo – near what is now Tel Aviv. In 1924, the National Origins Quota and Immigration Act, fueled by junk science of racial superiority and suppurating xenophobia, largely halted immigration to the U.S. by Jews from Eastern Europe – on the very cusp of the Holocaust. In 1925 Adolf Hitler published *Mein Kampf* – the political manifesto inspiring the Nazi horror. On my lapel today I wear both the insignia of the National Eagle Scout Association and the insignia worn by Jewish Scouts in Lodz, Poland during that dark, doomed period of the ’20s and ’30s.

But, in 1926, the Boy Scouts of America (as we were then known) welcomed a National Jewish Committee to the table. If anyone here today thinks that was not a stunning, courageous, historic act of national and global leadership, I’d agree with you. But then we’d both be wrong! If anyone here today thinks for a moment that welcoming the Jewish Committee was no big deal, it is only because, for a full century, Scouting has done such a superb job of normalizing religious diversity.

Jewish communal leader Mortimer Schiff knew that when he became the BSA’s President in 1931. Ricky Mason – as he assumes the mantle as chairman of Scouting America’s Executive Board – knows that now. I suspect he sensed it when he became an Eagle Scout in 1975 at

Temple Beth-El in Richmond, Virginia. That was just a few months before I received my Eagle rank at Congregation B'nai Israel in Northampton, Massachusetts (though my troop was chartered to Northampton's First Congregational Church).

During my Eagle Court of Honor, at my Scoutmaster's invitation, my rabbi addressed me directly – charging me to lead a life of personal, spiritual, and moral responsibility. He did so entirely in Hebrew. It was at that moment, dressed in my finest Class-A uniform, that I first realized I had, at least to some modest extent, mastered Hebrew not merely as the language of prayer and prophets, of Psalms and Sages, but as the living language of the world-wide Jewish People and as the living language of the State of Israel. I would be remiss if I did not gratefully acknowledge the fact that Israel declared its independence 78 years ago today, on May 14, 1948. Thanks to my Scoutmaster and my rabbi, my Eagle Court of Honor stands out in my memory as one of my most formative Jewish experiences.

Another early such experience came at my council summer camp, Chesterfield Scout Reservation (of blessed memory!). At lunch one day, an unprecedented event unfolded: no-one had been assigned to offer words of prayer or grace. The camp director – a professional Scouter and devout Baptist – stepped unflinching into the breach. He pulled from his wallet a creased piece of paper he had been saving for just such a crisis, and read from it the Hebrew meal-time blessing Ha-Motzi – though I am fairly certain I was the only Jew present. Never before and rarely since have I felt so dramatically that I was in the right place, associating with the right people, part of the right organization: exactly where I belonged.

While these youthful experiences were telling, I truly came to understand the depth of our shared Duty to God as a Jamboree Chaplain.

At the 1997 National Jamboree (my first), I was assigned to the Western Region... where I was affectionately known as “Chief Rabbi of the Utah

Contingent.” (My mother would have been very proud!). Jews were far from a majority in that sector, but we managed to hold worship services daily. I was thrilled. The Sub-Camp 8 quartermaster – a faithful Latter-day Saint – approached me: “Rabbi, how are things going?” I said: “My cup runneth over. Couldn't be better! I have a chapel tent, I have prayerbooks, I have a Torah Scroll, and I have fellow Jews worshipping and learning together!” Then... with no intention to hint or importune, I jokingly, innocently added: “If I had an Ark, it would be just like my synagogue back home!” Sure enough, the next morning that Utahan scouter had built me a beautiful, sturdy, wooden Ark to house the Torah Scroll. That Ark accompanied me to five additional Jamborees. It was used by my congregation when the pandemic forced communal worship outdoors. It has served seminary students on religious retreat. It remains one of my most prized possessions. Each time it is used, I tell the story of its origins, and how that quartermaster's expansive understanding of Duty to God won his Church a new, life-long friend, and through me many others.

At a later Jamboree, I used that Ark at Sabbath morning services. When the crowd had dispersed and I was straightening up the area, a sizeable group of Catholic Priests (a number of dear friends among them) – entered the tent – where they were to coordinate logistics for the next morning's Sunday Mass with its many thousands of faithful. They turned to me and asked me to offer a blessing on their behalf. I am truly embarrassed to say that – at first – I just assumed they were kidding: engaging in some good-natured ministerial mockery. But it quickly became clear my colleagues were in earnest. So – deeply moved – I offered a few heartfelt (and I hope well-chosen) words of prayer and benediction. Following their collective and sonorous “Amen” – a familiar voice from among them called out: “Not bad, Prouser. now do it in Latin!” The entire assemblage broke into laughter. Now they were mocking me. Never one to be caught unprepared, I responded by quoting

Marcus Tullius Cicero – the Roman senator and farmer of the First Century BCE. I'm not sure whether it was farming or politics he had in mind when he said, "Quid de utilitate loquar stercorandi" – "What useful thing can I say about the spreading of... manure!"

Years later, I conducted Jamboree Sabbath Eve services on a stormy Friday night, perhaps two miles from my campsite. Methodist Chaplain Jason Fry knew that, in observance of the Sabbath, I would neither use a flashlight nor carry an umbrella nor travel by vehicle on the way back to my tent. I suspect he also had justifiable doubts about my sense of direction. So, he attended my Shabbat service and walked me home through a driving rain, amid violent thunder and lightning. As the storm raged, we found ourselves on that raised walkway overlooking the Summit's main swimming area. We realized that standing under his umbrella, its metal framework held aloft, on a raised platform, surrounded by water, during an electric storm... was a plan perhaps not perfectly conceived!! We briefly discussed the bad press that would ensue should two chaplains be struck by lightning walking home from Sabbath worship. Jason ditched the umbrella... and, a bit soggy, we picked up the pace considerably.

Finally, it was my privilege to serve as chaplain at the 2015 World Jamboree in Japan. If I am not mistaken, all but one American chaplain stayed at a 5-star hotel not far from the Jamboree site... and (domo arigato!) commuted via air-conditioned chartered bus. My assigned roommate was Muslim chaplain Sayed Naqbi – by then already an old friend. [I know: it sounds like a joke – "So a rabbi and a Muslim walk into a Japanese hotel..." but this story is true in every detail: no "stercorandi"!

Chaplains were given days off in rotation, so I and the one chaplain staying in camp – Archpriest Eric Tosi of the Orthodox Church of America – planned to travel together to Hiroshima. Father Tosi stayed over in our hotel room and slept on

the floor to facilitate an early departure the next morning. Morning came, and Father Eric courteously asked how I had slept. I had had a good, refreshing night's sleep. "Sayed, how did you sleep?" "Oh! Not at all well," Sayed told Father Eric. "My bed was shaking the whole night," he explained. "I think there might have been (and here I paraphrase) a malevolent supernatural force in the room," he said. So, Sayed told us, he got up during the night, and read aloud verses from the Holy Koran – invoking divine protection upon all of us in the room.

Father Eric protested: "Sayed! There was no 'malevolent supernatural force!' You were snoring and I couldn't sleep, so I reached over, grabbed the leg of your bed and gave it a good shake. You rolled over and stopped snoring. When you started up again, I reached over, grabbed the leg of the bed and shook it...." This apparently went on for hours.

Sayed looked genuinely puzzled. He thought about it for a long moment. Then he announced: [and I quote!] "I don't snore. It must have been Joe!!"

It was precisely the response I would have expected. It was precisely the response I would have expected from my own brother!! "Wasn't me. Must have been Joe!!"

Sayed, my brother, when 3000 years ago the Psalmist wrote *Hinei ma tov u-ma na'im* – "How good it is for brothers to dwell together in peace" – he was talking about you and me. He was talking about all of us in this room celebrating our various faiths and re-affirming the principled, expansive understanding of Duty to God which we share as Scouts.

Thomas Paine led the way 250 years ago – in 1776 – when he wrote, "It is the will of the Almighty that there should be a diversity of religious opinions among us."

Scouting's original 1911 Handbook continued Paine's visionary work when it insisted on faith in the life of the scout, and stated the principled

non-sectarianism of the American scouting movement, in no uncertain terms. It read: “No (scout) can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing (an) obligation to God... If he be a Catholic scout, the Catholic Church... is the best channel for his training. If he be a Hebrew... then the synagogue will train him in the faith of his fathers. If he be a Protestant, no matter to what denomination of Protestantism he may belong, the church of which he is an adherent... should be the proper organization to give him an education in the things that pertain to his allegiance to God.”

And so, in 1926, the National Jewish Committee on Scouting was welcomed to the table. Stunning. Courageous. Historic. Moral. Leadership.

With gratitude for what Scouting did 100 years ago, and in the express spirit of my fellow chaplains – with whom and from whom I have learned so very much – let us pray:

May we continue to build together, even when we are tempted to complacency and begin to think we have already accomplished all that is required.

May we continue to be a blessing to each other, listening closely to each other, translating our respective creeds into meaningful action, and sharing sacred space and our sacred mission with good humor.

May we continue to walk together, even when the times are dark and the elements are uncongenial or threatening.

And Hinei ma tov u-ma na'im shevet achim gam yachad – May we continue to dwell together in peace, protecting and looking out for each other like the true brothers and sisters we are meant to be -- even when we are thoroughly shaken by divergent perspectives, contentious spirits, and divisive current events and conflicts.

May God speed His angels – many of whom are already in this room – to watch over the young people entrusted to our care.

My fellow Scouts and Scouters, may it be “the Will of the Almighty that there be a diversity of religious opinions among us” and may we continue to take a principled, courageous stand against bigotries – old and new – for another 100 years at the very least. Perhaps – with God’s help – another 250.

She-nelech mi-chayil el chayil – May we go from strength to strength. Thank you all so very much. God bless you.

Mr. Ricky Mason Appointed as Chairman of the Board for Scouting America

Ricky Mason, was recently selected as Chairman of the Board of Scouting America. Ricky is the third person of the Jewish faith to hold a National Scouting America (formerly the Boy Scouts of America) senior leadership position following in the footsteps of Mortimer Schiff and Irving Feist.



Ricky believes passionately in the power of Scouting to help our kids become the best version of themselves, through learning, achieving, and respecting and working with others, all while having fun.

Ricky grew up in Richmond, Virginia, where he became an Eagle Scout in the troop sponsored by his synagogue. At age 14, he trekked over 100 miles through the New Mexico Rockies in the iconic Philmont Scout Ranch, an unforgettable experience from which, like so many youth over its history, he came out much more confident and mature than he went in.

Previously, Ricky chaired the Greater New York Councils, which serves thousands of youths in New York City. At Scouting's request, he gathered and led the over 240 local councils through the national organization's bankruptcy settlement and emergence.

Recognized internationally as one of the leading restructuring professionals, Ricky recently retired as a senior partner in Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, where he drove business and government turnarounds across the globe over a nearly four-decade career.

A Silver Buffalo and Distinguished Eagle Scout, Ricky is a recipient of the American Jewish Committee's National Human Relations Award. He and his wife Beth raised two children and are proud residents of Hoboken, New Jersey.

Ricky is committed to Scouting's mission of bringing together families and communities from every part of our great nation. He is thrilled to dedicate his time to this cause.

The Jewish Committee on Scouting recently had the pleasure of hosting Rick Mason as the Keynote Speaker at the Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting Conference. The following is his keynote address.

Ricky Mason Remarks

National Jewish Committee on Scouting
Ten Mile River Scout Camp
March 15, 2026

Good morning everyone. Boker Tov.

I'm going to talk for a bit. Not a D'var Torah, but I will weave together my Scouting and Jewish experiences, and show you a slide or two about Scouting and the Jewish community at the end.

And then hopefully get your feedback and questions, so please try to think of them while I talk.

It is a great pleasure to be here with you at Ten Mile River Scout Camp.

I am very familiar with the Camp's storied history.

It was assembled by a slightly more famous predecessor of mine as Chair of the Greater New York Councils by the name of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

You might have heard of him: he ended the Great Depression, restored confidence in the country and defeated the Nazis.

But his real achievement was this Scout camp, assembled in the 1920s, the size of Manhattan (originally, before a GNYC conservation deal).

It has served hundreds of thousands of kids from New York City and elsewhere over the years, many of whom don't see grass and trees except here.

I am very happy to be here this morning to describe my Jewish journey and my Scouting journey, which are intertwined.

First, some background on my family.

Like most or all of you, I come from immigrants on both sides. My father's parents arrived from Ukraine and Lithuania. They settled in Roxbury Massachusetts. English was their third language, after Yiddish and Russian. I knew them well growing up; they were short tough people who were poor but had a big heart for their young American grandson.

My mom Pearl and my dad Joe met at a USO dance in Baltimore Maryland in 1942, before my dad shipped out to war. Growing up poor in Roxbury meant that my dad probably didn't own a car or maybe even know how to drive. Nevertheless, the Army in its infinite wisdom made him a repairman and then a driver for its most complicated vehicle, the Sherman tank.

My dad fought across North Africa, up the spine of Italy, through France and into Germany.

He was in the contingent that liberated Rome. He attended Pope Pius XII's blessing of Allied troops in the Vatican. I have a picture he took of the pope being carried on a litter through St Peter's Basilica, with the Swiss Guard in front. Based on

that photo and War Department newsreels, I can tell exactly where my father was that day. I am sure he did not show the photo to my Orthodox Jewish grandparents.

I have begun to retrace my father's wartime path, starting with Heidelberg, Germany where he fought in early 1945 and where I attended a Transatlantic Council event in November. It has brought me closer to him.

After the war, my Mom and Dad married and moved South. He changed his name from Nathanson to Mason ("easier to pronounce," he said) and became a sportscaster in Richmond Virginia, where I grew up.

Richmond's minor league baseball team was affiliated with the Atlanta Braves. At our synagogue, Temple Beth El, the hierarchy of holidays was lowest, Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year of course, and then a little higher Yom Kippur the Day of Atonement, and finally the pinnacle, "Joe Mason's Atlanta Braves Night", to a packed house.

My Scouting journey began when I was seven years old.

My mom sat me down in the study of our house, which was the place for our **career discussions**.

She said "You're a nice Jewish Boy", which is how she began the discussions. "When you're eleven, you'll join the troop sponsored by Temple Beth El, and you'll become an Eagle Scout like your older brother."

And then she got up and left, which is how she **ended** the career discussions.

And so I joined Troop 417 of the Boy Scouts of America at 11, because doing what Pearl Strauss Mason said, was always the safest thing.

Despite my initial trepidation, I loved it. There was no reason for anyone to think I would succeed. My fellow Scouts thought so little of me that on my first trip down the Rapidan River in the majestic Blue Ridge Mountains, they put me

in the middle of the canoe and wouldn't even give me an oar because they were afraid I would drop it.

But through all the troop meetings, overnight hikes in the mountains, and camporees, rain or shine (mostly rain), I **learned** from Scouting.

And as I prepared for my bar mitzvah, the connections between Scouting and my Jewish experience became obvious.

My Scoutmaster Malcolm Kalman taught me leadership and perseverance. Our commissioner, who bore a concentration camp tattoo on his arm, was the epitome of grit. These were qualities my parents prioritized for a skinny Jewish kid born just 15 years after the Holocaust ended, with the young State of Israel surrounded by hostile neighbors.

Scouting taught me how to work with a team, which we do in synagogue all the time, from the simplest minyan to Kol Nidre, the highest of high holiday services.

Like the edict from Leviticus to "Love Thy Neighbor as Thyself", the Scout Law says we must be kind.

And of course, we are reverent, and in the Scout Oath we pledge a duty to G-d.

I learned respect for the environment at summer camp and on a 110-mile trek through the New Mexico Rockies at Philmont, a secular holy ground if there ever was one. These Scouting experiences put the "environmentalist" holiday of **Tu BiShvat**, the New Year of the Trees, into action.

Our Eagle projects are the epitome of **tikkun olam**, repairing the world.

My project directly helped the shul; after classes, I organized the office of our new educational director, a wonderful but maniacal Iranian Jew named Mansoor Alyeshmerani. Without me, I'm sure no one would have graduated, because he never would have found the records.

Years later, when I joined the Greater New York Councils, we focused on being welcoming, a core Jewish tenet. The board appointed me our spokesperson for making Scouting available to gay adult volunteers and staffers. I put my name and face out there in over 20 radio, TV and newspaper interviews, with a simple, non-political message: "Scouting made such a critical difference in my life. Why can't it be open to everyone?"

When the National organization decided to file for bankruptcy, they came to me with a pitch: "You're an Eagle Scout, you're the volunteer chair of one of our largest Councils, and you're a senior restructuring professional with a nationwide reputation. G-d put you on this Earth for a reason. We need you to create and chair an Ad Hoc Committee of the Local Councils. The Local Councils won't file for bankruptcy themselves, but they'll need to be part of the solution."

Some people saw me as a Charlton Heston figure leading Scouting across the Sea of Reeds to the Promised Land. I heard this more than once. That image evoked the old **Haggadahs** we used at Passover **Seder**, the kind that gave me nightmares with dark swirling clouds above the Israelites. Definitely not the **Family Haggadah** that we use at our table today.

But it was the reluctant leadership of Moses, who felt unequal to the task and tried to turn G-d away many times, that resonated with me, since this was not a job that I felt keen to do. But nevertheless, I agreed "on my honor to do my best to do my duty."

And now, after the successful conclusion of the bankruptcy thanks to the great teamwork of the National organization and the Local Councils, I am soon to become the next National Chair of Scouting America.

I am not the first Jewish national chair.

In May 1931, at a time of rising anti-Semitism here and abroad, with Hitler poised to take

control of Germany, the Boy Scouts of America elected Mortimer Schiff, a Jewish banker, the **epitome** of evil in the Nazi's eyes, to be their chair. That was **quite** a statement, intended or not.

Mr. Schiff's portrait stares at me every morning on my way into the kitchen, asking whether I am a worthy successor. From his expression, I think he is unsure.

I will leave the parallels between era of his election and mine to you, but one parallel my wife Beth and I hope does **not** exist: Mortimer Schiff died of a heart attack a month after taking office.

And what do I think of the relationship between Judaism and Scouting today?

It is as important as ever, for three reasons:

First, the core values of Scouting that I learned years ago, and that associated so well with my Judaism, have not changed. Everything that Scouting taught me, related to my own faith but also irrespective of one's particular faith, is taught today.

Second, in the wake of October 7th, Jewish identity has strengthened. It certainly has for me. Recently I have been wearing a **Magen David** necklace made out of spent Hamas missiles by an Israeli artist, a sort of "take that" to the terrorists. Last Spring, I walked into Birkenau at the head of the train tracks that led to so much death, wearing an Israeli flag around my shoulders like a tallit, surrounded by IDF officers marching in formation. And then I flew with them to Jerusalem for the **Yom HaZikaron** memorial day ceremony at the Wall. Strengthened identity is important and understandable, particularly in light of events like this week's attack on a Michigan synagogue which could have killed a hundred kids; this shook me because my daughter teaches at a synagogue preschool.

But we are too few to go it alone, all the time. We must find common ground with our neighbors --

Christian, Muslim, Hindu and other faiths -- which Scouting enables us to do.

Third, Scouting gets kids off of their phones and out into the world, for achievement, leadership and fun. Synagogues with Scouting units, enjoy **engaged** families, and thus happier members. To put it bluntly, it is in their self-interest to have Scouting units.

Scouting America has a new membership engagement team. One of their goals is to grow the number of units sponsored by synagogues and other Jewish groups. We have success stories, like in my hometown of Richmond, where the Reform shul has started a pack and is considering a troop.

But we need more, and we need your help.

How else can you help with Judaism in Scouting, beyond what you are already doing?

Two thoughts come to mind.

First, if you have not already done so, set a goal for Jewish units and develop a plan to achieve it. There are ~80 Jewish units around the country now. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have 100 Jewish units in 2026, in honor of the 100th anniversary of the National Jewish Committee on Scouting?

Second, connect me with Jewish media, for interviews and op-ed pieces, so that I can tell my story as the first Jewish national chair in at least a half century and try to boost Jewish participation. I have started with the Jewish Standard and would like to do more.

And connect me with synagogue groups or any other Jewish organizations with which you have a relationship. With your help (but really only with your help), I can spread the word.

That's it for my remarks. Please, please, please, give me any feedback or ask any questions. I will only be the best chair I can be, if I hear from you. Thank you.

National Annual Meeting Duty to God Breakfast

At the 2026 Scouting America National Annual Meeting Duty to God Breakfast, the Jewish Committee's 100th Anniversary was recognized and celebrated. In addition to selecting Rabbi Joseph Prouser as the Keynote Speaker (see separate article) and the selection of the Temple Emanu-El (Dallas, TX) Choir for musical entertainment, the breakfast included a video highlighting our anniversary as well as recognition of several Jewish Scouts and Scouters who received awards and emblems.

I encourage you to watch the video and use it to promote Jewish Scouting. It can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KxBARs7YvNO>

The following Scouts and Scouters were recognized for their accomplishments:

Sisters Clair Samantha & Hannah Shoshana Massimini were recognized for earning the Aryeh Emblem. Both are members of Pack 4321 in Circle Ten Council. While earning their emblems, Claire loved deepening her understanding of her Jewish faith, while Hannah particularly enjoyed practicing her Hebrew writing.

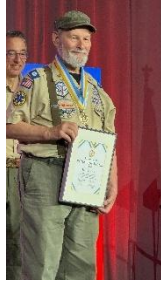


Rebecca & Guy Bradley were recognized for earning their Shofar Emblem. Both exemplify the spirit of servant leadership within the Circle Ten Council and have dedicated countless hours ensuring that Scouting



opportunities, particularly within the Dallas Jewish Scouting community, are vibrant, inclusive, and formative for local youth.

NJCOS President Philip Sternberg was recognized with the National Dutt to God Award. Phil's impact is defined by his commitment to interfaith harmony and youth well-being and models the principles of Chesed (loving kindness) and Kavod Habriyot (human dignity).



Scholarships for Jewish Eagle Scouts

In 2026, the National Jewish Committee on Scouting awarded \$20,000 in College Scholarships to four outstanding Jewish Scouts. The four recipients are:

- Brandon Balfe**
 Ramsey, NJ,
 Northern New
 Jersey Council
 Chester M.
 Vernon Memorial
 Eagle Scout



Brandon's Scouting journey began as a Tiger Cub in Ramsey Pack 306. He followed the scout promise as he advanced through the ranks and successfully reached the rank of Webelos Scout, earning his Arrow of Light, the highest award in Cub Scouting. He earned all of the emblems in the Jewish Religious Emblems program; Maccabee, Aleph, Ner Tamid, and Etz Chaim. In 2019, Brandon crossed over to Scouts BSA into Troop 31. Brandon progressed through Scouting, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, and Life through dedication and hard work. He completed 62 merit badges. He became an Ordeal member in the Order of the Arrow in 2021. Later, he became a Brotherhood member in the Order of the Arrow. For his Eagle Scout Service Project, Brandon created a pollinator and remembrance garden to

help with the pollination and beautification of the outdoor space at Temple Emeth. Another part of Brandon's vision for the garden was to create an outdoor space, of not only worship but community. Brandon has been very active in his congregation, Temple Emeth. He has participated in the religious school, junior choir (Etz Chaim), middle school/high school youth programming (Emeth Teen Community), attended the Union for Reform Judaism – Religious Action Center, and URJ Camp Eisner. Brandon has completed the Ramsey CERT program and hopes to be of help to the Ramsey community. In October 2025, after years of hard work, commitment, and perseverance, Brandon earned the rank of Eagle Scout. The achievement marked not only the culmination of this part of his Scouting journey. Brandon continues to be an active part of Scouting America through Venturing Crew 1204. Looking towards the future, Brandon has been accepted to Pennsylvania College of Technology to major in Automotive technology.

- Richard Davidoff**
 Louisville, KY,
 Lincoln Heritage
 Council
 Frank L. Weil
 Memorial Eagle
 Scout Scholarship (\$5,000.00)



Richard started Scouting as a Cub Scout in Louisville, Kentucky, earning the Arrow of Light and Aleph awards. He then earned 40 merit badges and the Ner Tamid award on the way to becoming an Eagle Scout. He has served in many leadership positions in his troop, and is currently the Order of the Arrow (OA) Representative. For his Eagle Project, he organized the construction of a storage shed for an organization

providing support and activities to adults with developmental disabilities. Through this project, 32 volunteers provided 222 service hours. Richard is an OA Vigil Honor Member, and he received the Arrowman of the Year and Time awards during two terms as Lodge Secretary. He has served on Lodge committees including Events, Parliamentary Procedure, Digital Media, Vigil Selection, and Inductions, and led the 2026 Spring Fellowship Committee. For his synagogue, Richard has served as a Volunteer Technical Assistant, where he redesigned the website and helped stream community services. He also served as Vice President of his High School's Jewish Student Union and as an assistant teacher in a community religious school. This summer he will be a troop guide for his council's NYLT course, a member of the Operation Arrow Service Corps at the National Jamboree, and a lifeguard at Camp Livingston, a Jewish sleepaway camp. After this summer, he will attend the University of Kentucky to study Computer Engineering.

- Rebecca Sult
Valley Stream, NY,
Long Island Council
(former Theodore
Roosevelt Council) |
Frank L. Weil
Memorial Eagle Scout
Scholarship (\$5,000.00)



Rebecca has earned all of the Jewish religious emblems for which she was eligible (Aleph, Ner Tamid, Etz Chaim) and two All Faith Awards for Cub Scouts and Scouting America from her local Council. Most recently, she received the Talmud Torah Award from NJCOS. Rebecca is an Eagle Scout and has earned 55 merit badges and 6 Eagle

Palms. In addition to serving as Senior Patrol Leader and various leadership positions in her scout troop, she has been a leader in her Venturing Crew in East Rockaway and her Sea Scout Ship in Freeport. Extremely active in the Order of the Arrow, she was the first female youth in her Lodge to attain the Vigil Honor where she served as Lodge Secretary and Chapter Chief. She was also the first female member of the Lodge Ceremonial Team. On the national level, Rebecca has been a member of the BSA Youth Council and a staff member of the NYLT Leadership Academy in Washington, DC. Some of her training includes LLD, NLS, ILSS at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and NAYLE at Summit Bechtel. She is a two-time NOAC delegate and National Jamboree staff member and contingent participant. Next year, she will be a staff member at the World Scout Jamboree in Poland. Rebecca has earned both the High Adventure Grand Slam and the OA High Adventure Triple Crown, having been to all four bases (Philmont, Northern Tier, Summit, Florida Sea Base) at least twice. Outside of scouting, she is a member of USY and was a three-sport athlete (soccer, fencing, lacrosse) in high school, as well as Drum Major of the marching band. With the goal of becoming a doctor, Rebecca will attend Vassar College, majoring in Biology and Economics. She will also be on the Vassar varsity fencing team.

- Westen Schabler
Indianapolis, IN
Crossroads of America Council
Rick Arkans Memorial Eagle Scout
Scholarship (\$5,000.00)

Westen's Scouting journey began as a Cub Scout, joining because his grandfather was an Eagle Scout. After

crossing over into Troop 112, Westen took on various leadership positions and eventually earned the rank of Eagle Scout. His leadership roles included Troop Instructor, Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. Westen is involved in multiple community service organizations including Popsie's Food Pantry, the Lions Club, Gleaners Food Pantry, the Humane Society, Children's Hospital, Boone County Animal Shelter, and Cool Creek park. He is involved in his local temple, Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, where he completed the Derech Torah Confirmation Program, assisted with the Purim carnival, and is a member of NFTY (North American Federation of Temple Youth).

If you'll be a High School Senior this fall, it's not too early to begin thinking about the 2027 NJCOS Scholarships. For details and application forms, please visit <https://www.jewishscouting.org/eagle-scout-scholarships/>.

Applications are due on March 31, 2027.

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 Eitz 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.njcgcs.org/NJCGS-Scholarship-Application-Form.pdf>) and the Sandy and Jack Cohen Scholarship through Hillel International (<https://www.hillel.org/sandy-and-jack-cohen-scholarship/>)

Scouts Read Sacred Texts

The Third Annual Scouts Read Sacred Texts Event was held on May 7, 2026.

This year, more than 15,000 youth and adults from 43 states, 27 countries, and over 24 faith traditions (including Judaism)



participated by spending time reading the Bible or their faith's sacred texts and reflecting on their faith. What began as a small pilot effort has become a growing international movement encouraging young people and families to engage with their sacred texts and strengthen their faith.

Scouts Read Sacred Texts is the Scouting component of Youth Read Sacred Texts Worldwide, an international initiative that encourages youth and adults to spend time reading the Torah or their faith's sacred texts and reflecting on their faith.

Youth Read Sacred Texts Worldwide works with faith communities, families, congregations, youth groups, and youth-serving organizations. It provides a way for Scouts and Scouters to participate while supporting Scouting's commitment to Duty to God.

The mission is simple: encourage young people and families to develop the lifelong habit of reading sacred texts and strengthening their relationship with God.

Let's make next year's event, scheduled for May 6th, 2027, even better!

This event has received the endorsement of the National Jewish Scout Association.



The National Jewish Scout Association is pleased to endorse Scouts Read Sacred Texts Worldwide.

Scouting and Judaism both encourage young people to develop strong moral character, a commitment to service, and a lifelong pursuit of learning. Central to Jewish tradition is the study of Torah and sacred writings, which help guide individuals in living lives of faith, responsibility, and ethical conduct.

Scouts Read Sacred Texts Worldwide encourages Scouts and their families to spend time reading and reflecting upon the sacred writings of their faith traditions. This initiative complements Scouting's commitment to Duty to God and provides an opportunity for Scouts to strengthen their faith while developing habits of thoughtful reflection and spiritual growth.

The National Jewish Scout Association applauds this effort to encourage youth to engage with sacred texts and explore the values, teachings, and traditions that shape their lives. Through the study of Torah and other sacred writings, Jewish Scouts can deepen their understanding of their heritage while strengthening their commitment to serving God, their communities, and the world.

We encourage Jewish Scouts, Scouting families, congregations, and Jewish community organizations to participate in Scouts Read Sacred Texts Worldwide 2027.

May this initiative inspire young people to grow in wisdom, faith, understanding, and service.

Jewish Scouting at the 2026 National Jamboree

Are you attending the 2026 National Jamboree at the Summit in July?

There will be a large Jewish Scouting presence at the upcoming National Jamboree.



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. Please stop by, say hello, participate in our activities, and see the various displays and exhibits (and get some NJCOS swag in the process).

Also, please join us for Jewish religious services while at the Jamboree:

- Thursday July 23rd - Tisha B'av service from 9:00-10:00 am in the Worship Tent at the Duty to God and Country exhibit area
- Friday July 24th – Shabbat Service from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Pavilion in Sub Camp Charlie Two (C-2)
- Saturday July 25th -Shabbat Service from 9:00-10:00 am in the Worship Tent at the Duty to God and Country exhibit area

In addition, be sure to join us on Sunday, 26 July 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, we are planning Jewish activities in the Shomer Shabbat Contingent Tent (subcamp C-2). Scouts will have tables set up with displays and Rabbi Shmuly Gutnick is organizing a "Shofar Factory" and other Jewish crafts.

NJCOS 100th Anniversary Exhibit

By David M. Malatzky

In honor of the 100th Anniversary of the NJCOS, an extensive Jewish Scouting exhibit has been established at Ten Mile River Scout Museum. Filling six display cases, the exhibit provides memorabilia documenting our history. Visit the museum and see the various artifacts from our past. An exhibit guidebook is available from the NER JCOS trading post for \$15 plus shipping. To order a copy, please send an email to execvp@jewishscouting.org.



The National Jewish Committee on Scouting is hosting an exhibit at the Ten Mile River Scout Museum this summer, commemorating its 100th anniversary. The museum is in the Ten Mile River Scout Camps, about a two-hour drive from New York City, near Narrowsburg, New York.

Mark Kaye, the foremost collector of Jewish Scouting Memorabilia, has provided a substantial exhibit. It includes national issues, including Philmont items, National Jamboree items, regional items, local scouting, Shabbat patches, and awards and emblems.



Here is a photo of Scouting America Chairman Ricky Mason, pointing at an item of interest in the exhibit.

Besides the Scout stuff, the museum has exhibits on local history, wildlife, geology, and archaeology, including Native American arrowheads. It also has a large scouting memorabilia store.

The Ten Mile River Scout Museum will be open this summer from the beginning of July to the third week of August.

For directions and operating schedule: <https://www.tmr museum.org/>

To see a promotional video of the exhibit, visit: <https://youtu.be/8sbKgsiH0oQ>

In addition, for historic NJCOS publications, check out the NJCOS website at <https://www.jewishscouting.org/>.

Recent changes to the NJCOS Website

By David M. Malatzky

There have been multiple updates to the NJCOS website, <https://www.jewishscouting.org/>:

NJSA Membership Promotion

<https://www.jewishscouting.org/shop/>

The link brings you to the website shop, where you can click on one of the three membership options: Annual Youth Membership at \$15.00, Annual Adult Membership at \$50, or Lifetime Membership at \$500. Purchasing the item in the website shop gives you both the member's patch and pin and membership in the N.J.S.A.



100th Anniversary Section

<https://www.jewishscouting.org/100th-anniversary/>

- Information on how you can participate in and promote the 100th Anniversary.
- The 100th anniversary event list has detailed info on anniversary events: <https://www.jewishscouting.org/njcos-100th-anniversary-events/>
We want to promote your 100th anniversary event via the event list. Please send details of any events when available.
- Detailed guide on how you can celebrate and promote the 100th anniversary: <https://www.jewishscouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Recognizing-NJCOS-100th-Anniversary.pdf>

Additional Resources section

<https://www.jewishscouting.org/additional-resources/>

- A variety of resources that might be useful to Jewish Scouts and Scouters.
- This includes various NJCOS logos that you can download and use on your website and flyers.
- The digital artwork for the 24 in. by 36 in. posters that the N.J.C.O.S. will use at the 2026 National Scout Jamboree. You can download the digital files, send them to your local Staples, and print out paper versions to post at your meeting place or even on your own bedroom wall.

Jewish Memorabilia Website

<https://dmalatzky.wixsite.com/jewish-scouting-memo>

- This is a new website created to document Jewish Scouting memorabilia, with the goal to eventually issue some kind of guidebook. The digital images largely came from the collections of Mark Kay and Paul Kramer, major collectors. Most of the website consists of patches from local Jewish Committees. We have all the Scout Shabbat patches issued by the NJCOS, Northeast Region Conference patches, National and World Jamboree items.
- You can support this project by comparing your own collections to the website and sending pictures of anything that we are missing. You will receive credit on the website and guidebook.

Jewish Scouting History

<https://www.jewishscouting.org/jewish-scouting-history/>

This has a very nice Jewish Scouting memorabilia poster and links to some additional content. We have pictures of Paul Kramer's huge Jewish Scouting memorabilia collection. We also have a document with detailed biographies of the heads of the National Jewish Committee on Scouting since 1926.

Website shop

<https://www.jewishscouting.org/shop/>

We are now selling digital versions of important Jewish Scouting literature. You purchase the item and receive a link to download the digital document.

Events Calendar

<https://www.jewishscouting.org/events-calendar/>

Our events calendar can be used to publicize your local Jewish Scouting event or activity. Send me the details, and I will be glad to post them to the list.

Photos Page

<https://www.jewishscouting.org/photos/>

We are now posting photos and videos of local Jewish Scouting events. This is a great way to publicize what you are doing locally. Send me pictures, and I will be glad to post them.

National Jewish Scout Association

<https://www.jewishscouting.org/national-jewish-scout-association/>

We have a page dedicated to the National Jewish Scout Association with copies of the N.J.S.A. newsletters.

Social Media Links

<https://www.facebook.com/ScoutingforJewishYouth>

<https://www.youtube.com/@NationalJewishCommitteeonScout>

Links to the NJCOS Facebook page and YouTube channel. The YouTube channel has a variety of webinars, living history interviews, Jewish Scouting history videos, 2017 National Scout Jamboree videos, and training videos.

To see a promotional video with these website changes, visit: <https://youtu.be/ug7Up2Lxxg0>

We are always looking for additional content for the website. Email David Malatzky at dmalatzky@aol.com if you have any questions.

NJCOS Religious Emblem Recipients

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 National Jewish Committee on Scouting commends and recognizes all Scouts and Scouters who have earned Jewish Religious Emblems between January and May 2026.

The recipients are:

January

Name	Region	Council
Yanai Paquin	Israel	
Luke Yergin-Doniger	SO	National Capital Area
Allegra LaLonde	NE	National Capital Area
Hannah Salzman	NE	Greater NY
Jerome Lieber	SO	Greater Tampa Bay Area
Ryan Casser	NE	Baltimore Area
Kent Brein	SO	Longhorn
Kenneth Etter	CE	Greater St Louis Area
Violeta Flemenbaum	CE	Pathway to Adventure
Arieh Flemenbaum	CE	Pathway to Adventure
Matthew Kwait	NE	Greater NY
Reuben Waxman	SO	Indian Nations
Malcolm Rosenthal	NE	Jersey Shore
Jason Churgel	NE	Suffolk County
Aaron Meer	NE	Greater NY
Braden Weiss	NE	Jersey Shore
Zev Friedman	CE	Pathway to Adventure
Ori Goldman	CE	Northeast Illinois
Blake Mariam	CE	Northeast Illinois
Mayer Channon	CE	Northeast Illinois
Asher Wasserman	SO	Southwest Florida
Nils Lapointe Mder	SO	Evangeline Area

February

Name	Region	Council
Yehuda Siegelman	SO	Atlanta Area
Noah Haaz	NE	Washington crossing
Xavier Zeller	NE	Monmouth
Jasper Kauffman	SO	Central Florida
Declan Goldman	WE	Golden Gate Area
Czarina Van Vechten	WE	Pacific Harbors
Ed Cohen	NE	Cradle of Liberty
Barry Stiefel	SO	Coastal Carolina
Levi Wyner	NE	Greater New York
James Pace	CE	Heart of America
Joshua Singer	WE	Silicon Valley Monterey Bay
Gavin Schwartz	WE	Grand Canyon
Daniel Grinberg	WE	Pacific Skyline
Jack Goodman	NE	Monmouth
Steven Newfeld	NE	Greater New York
Colton Amram	SO	Atlanta Area
Colton Amram	SO	Atlanta Area
Xander Baggenstos	SO	Circle Ten
David Miller	WE	Orange County
Adam Susman	CE	Heart of America
Benjamin Fries	WE	Silicon Valley Monterey Bay

March

Name	Region	Council
Adam Susman	CE	Heart of America
Benjamin Fries	WE	Silicon Valley Monterey Bay
Al Yanofsky	NE	TR
Hannah Massimini	SO	Circle Ten
Micah Infeld	NE	National Capital Area
Daniel Morchy	WE	Western Los Angeles County
Rabbi Michael Churgel	NE	Suffolk County
Rabbi Chiam Edelstein	NE	Monmouth
Daniel Fein	NE	Cradle Of Liberty
Susan Hantman	NE	Scouting America NH
Charles Kaplan	NE	GNYS
Howard Prager	CE	Northeast Illinois
Leah Romeo	NE	Freat Falls
Todd Bakal	NE	Northern New Jersey
Shalinda Dee Young	NE	Longhouse
Benjamin Veksler	NE	Cradle Of Liberty
Shoshanah Tobesman	NE	Baltimore Area
Nate Kaufman	SO	Daniel Boone
Jayden Abramson	CE	Northern Star
Francesca Tracy	SO	Occeoneechee
Elijah Rubin	CE	Glacier's Edge
Brian Block	SO	Sam Houston Area
David Cohen	SO	Sam Houston Area
Jack Yormack	SO	South Florida
Jaylah Yormack	SO	South Florida
James Yormack	SO	South Florida

April

Name	Region	Council
Samuel McKiernan	SO	Lincoln Heritage
William McKiernan	SO	Lincoln Heritage
Austin Solomon	NE	Greater Hudson Valley
Joseph Swedlow	NE	Baltimore Area
Jonathan Popper	NE	Seneca Waterways
Jay Pass	SO	Indian Nations
Matthew Glaser	NE	Baltimore Area
Samuel Margulis	CE	Gateway Area
Allan Margulis	CE	Gateway Area
Lillian Margulis	CE	Gateway Area
Rebecca Sult	NE	Theodore Roosevelt
Samuel Sult	NE	Theodore Roosevelt
Juniper Kline	CE	Illowa
Sally Kline	CE	Illowa
Arthur Lacefield	SO	Lincoln Heritage
Ian Serban	SO	Gulf Stream
Jack Eckstrom	SO	Gulf Stream
Leo Goodman	NE	Cradle of Liberty
David Roth	SO	Coastal Carolina
Samuel Welt	NE	Theodore Roosevelt
Jade Tiemann	NE	National Capital Area
Benji Fleiss	SO	Circle Ten
Jason Nadell	NE	Greater Hudson Valley
Ezra Schulman	WE	California Inland Empire
Josiah Seeraty	WE	Orange County

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.

May

Name	Region	Council
Gabriel Decker	WE	Silicon Valley Monterey Bay
Isaac Siskind	SO	National Capital Area
Omri Aburakia-Einhorn	NE	National Capital Area
Yosef Silverstein	SO	Gulf Stream
Barry Hantman		Daniel Webster
Matthew Romeo	NE	Great Falls
Noah Tarle	WE	Golden Gate Area
Thomas Woods	CE	Northeast Illinois
Ari Cohen	NE	National Capital Area
Ethan Dvash-Banks	WE	Greater Los Angeles Area
Victor Wurtzel	NE	Theodore Roosevelt
Landon Rosen	SO	Gulf Stream
Navah Tarle	WE	Golden Gate Area
Isaac Bernstein	NE	Theodore Roosevelt
Freya Gans	SO	South Florida
Gabrielle Gans	SO	South Florida
Adi Zippin	SO	South Florida
Levi Khaimov	SO	South Florida
Shmuel Dahan	SO	South Florida
Raphael Dahan	SO	South Florida
Noach Toronczyk	SO	South Florida
Noah Reich	SO	South Florida
Rachel Jumiga	SO	South Florida
Samson Karp	SO	South Florida
Aviva Zippin	SO	South Florida
Naomi Jumiga	SO	South Florida
Logan Sharfman	SO	Sam Houston Area
Morris Penner	SO	Sam Houston Area
Caleb Gratvol	SO	Sam Houston Area
Daniel Goldsmith	NE	Monmouth
Fowler Wadsworth	SO	Coastal Carolina
Nathan Karpoff	NE	National Capital
Matthew Rosen	SO	Gulf Stream
Michael Churgel	NE	Theodore Roosevelt
Elizabeth Nagel	WE	Sequoia
Caleb Lai	SO	South Florida
Barry Lai	SO	South Florida
David Lai	SO	South Florida
Avery Harouni	CE	Greater St Louis
Alexander Opstal	SO	National Capital Area



Calendar of Religious Holidays

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.

NJCOS at the National Annual Meeting

The Jewish Committee on Scouting was well represented at the Scouting America National Annual Meeting Duty to God Breakfast to celebrate our 100th Anniversary.



Certificates For Eagle Scouts

The 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. Certificates are available at both the National level and the Regional level (be sure to request both).

For the National certificate, please fill out and submit the application found at:

https://www.jewishscouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Eagle-Scout-Recognition_2024.pdf

For the regional certificates, please contact the appropriate region point of contact.

- For the Northeast Region, please send a letter to the NER JCOS Scribe, Ted Severe via US Mail (NERJCOS, Eagle Recognition Certificate, c/o Mr. Theodore E. Severe, 3218 McElderry Street, Baltimore. MD 21205-2819).
- For the Western, Central and Southern Regions, please email Mr. Bruce Streger wb2adf@aol.com

Please provide:

- The full name of the new Eagle Scout
- Unit type (troop/crew/Ship) and its number
- The name of his/her Scout Council
- The date of his/her Eagle Court of Honor
- Mailing address for the certificate
- Contact information (phone number, email address) in case there are questions regarding the certificate request

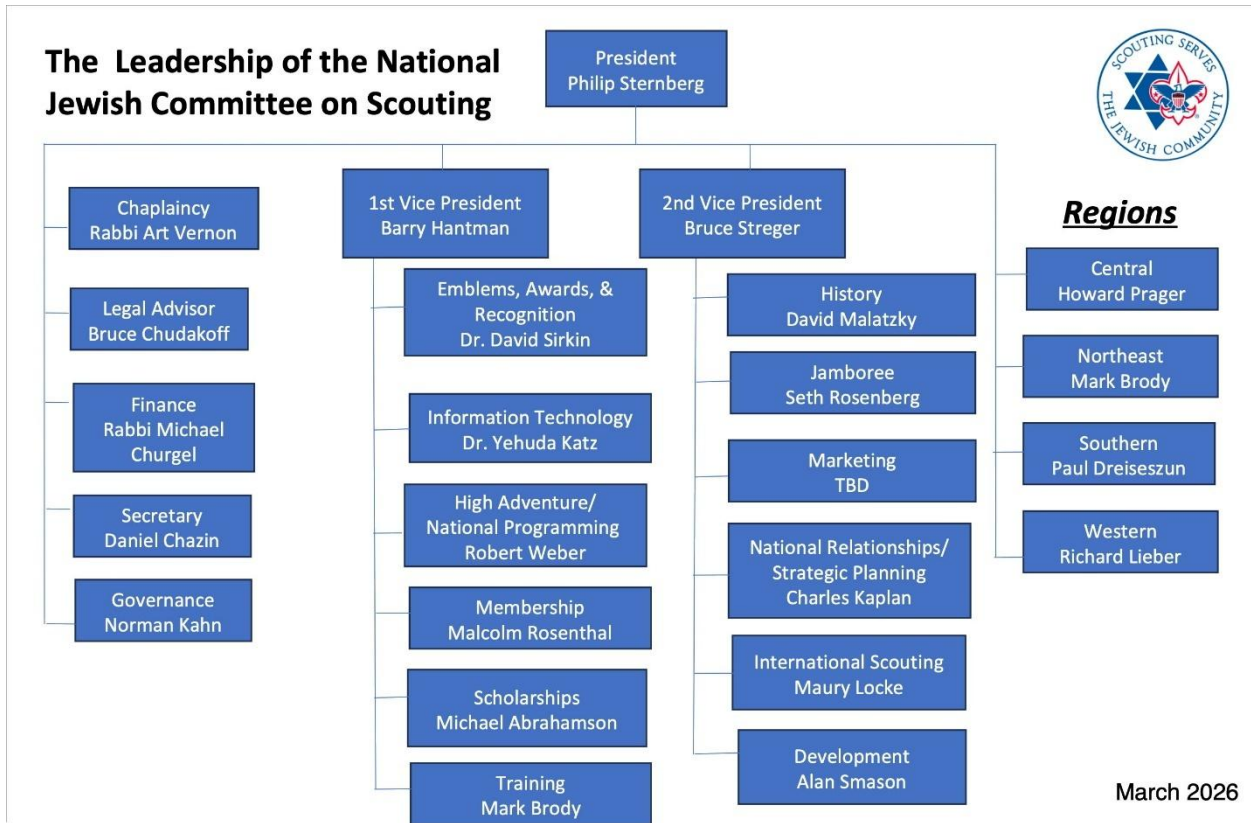
If more than one Eagle Scout is being honored at the same Eagle Court of Honor, please provide the same information as above for each additional new Eagle Scout (these additional Scouts may not be Jewish but, by tradition, the regions will honor ALL Eagle Scouts at a single Eagle Court of Honor regardless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

Jewish Sponsored Units Across the Country

Ever wondered if there was a Jewish Sponsored Scout Unit in your area? There are many such units across the country. Here is a list of Jewish Sponsored units (Know of a unit that's not listed? Please let us know; Send updates to: *Dan Chazin* <dchazin@aol.com>, *Malcolm Rosenthal* <malcolmgrosenthal@gmail.com>, and *Jeff Goldsmith* <jgoldsmithbsa@gmail.com>).

Council	Organization	Unit
Atlanta Area Council 092	North Fulton Jewish Community	Pack 1818
Atlanta Area Council 092	North Fulton Jewish Community	Troop 1818
Baltimore Area Council 220	Har Sinai Oheb Shalom Congregation	Pack 0435
Baltimore Area Council 220	Har Sinai Oheb Shalom Congregation	Troop 0097
Baltimore Area Council 220	Jewish Community Center of Greater Baltimore	Troop 42
Baltimore Area Council 220	Shearith Israel Congregation	Pack 0611
Baltimore Area Council 220	Shearith Israel Congregation	Troop 0611
Catalina Council 011	Kol Ami	Troop 0613
Central Florida Council 083	Southwest Orlando Jewish Congregation	Pack 3084
Central Florida Council 083	Southwest Orlando Jewish Congregation	Troop 7084
Central Florida Council 083	Temple Beth-El	Crew 2468
Central Florida Council 083	Temple Beth-El	Pack 3327
Central Florida Council 083	Temple Beth-El	Troop 0468
Central Florida Council 083	The Traditional Congregation of Mount Dora	Troop 0018
Chickasaw Council 558	Temple Israel	Pack 0025
Chickasaw Council 558	Temple Israel	Troop 0025
Circle Ten Council 571	Dallas Jewish Committee on Scouting	Crew 0790
Circle Ten Council 571	Dallas Jewish Committee on Scouting	Pack 1818
Connecticut Yankee Council BSA 072	Congregation Bnai Jacob	Troop 0041
Connecticut Yankee Council BSA 072	Congregation Bnai Jacob	Troop 0410 (G)
Connecticut Yankee Council BSA 072	Jewish War Veterans Post 142	Pack 0015
Connecticut Yankee Council BSA 072	Jewish War Veterans Post 142	Troop 0015
Cradle Of Liberty Council 525	Kaiserman Jewish Community Center	Pack 0018
Cradle Of Liberty Council 525	Temple Sinai	Troop 0665
Cradle Of Liberty Council 525	Tiferet Bet Israel Synagogue	Pack 0498
Garden State Council 690	Temple Beth Shalom	Troop 3036
Grand Canyon Council 010	Jewish War Veterans Scottsdale Post 210	Troop 0210
Greater Colorado Council 061	Jewish Community Centers of Denver	Pack 0018
Greater Hudson Valley 388	Congregation Anshe Sholom of New Rochelle	Pack 0613
Greater Hudson Valley 388	Congregation Anshe Sholom of New Rochelle	Troop 0613
Greater Hudson Valley 388	Congregation Anshe Sholom of New Rochelle	Troop 5613 (G)
Greater New York Councils, BSA 640	Beth-El Jewish Center of Flatbush	Troop 0611
Greater New York Councils, BSA 640	Mazel Dav School	Troop 613 (B)
Greater New York Councils, BSA 640	Mazel Dav School	Troop 613 (G)
Green Mountain Council 592	Ohavi Zedek Synagogue	Pack 0118
Gulf Stream Council 085	Chabad of West Boca Raton	Troop 0018
Gulf Stream Council 085	Temple Beit Hayam	Pack 0832
Gulf Stream Council 085	Temple Beit Hayam	Troop 4832
Heart of America Council 307	Beth Shalom Synagogue	Troop 1061
Heart of America Council 307	Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy	Pack 3153
Heart of Virginia Council 602	Congregation Beth Ahabah	Pack 0437
Heart of Virginia Council 602	Congregation Beth Ahabah	Troop 0437
Lincoln Heritage Council 205	The Temple	Pack 0030
Lincoln Heritage Council 205	The Temple	Troop 0030
Lincoln Heritage Council 205	The Temple	Troop 0030 (G)
Long Beach Area Council 032	Temple Beth Shalom	Pack 0613
Long Beach Area Council 032	Temple Beth Shalom	Troop 0613
Mayflower Council 251	Temple Reyim	Pack 0247
Monmouth Council, BSA 347	Jewish War Veterans Post 609/395	Troop 0003
Monmouth Council, BSA 347	Jewish War Veterans Post 609/395	Troop 0073
National Capital Area Council 082	JCrafts Center for Jewish Life and Tradition	Pack 6134
National Capital Area Council 082	JCrafts Center for Jewish Life and Tradition	Troop 613 (B)
National Capital Area Council 082	JCrafts Center for Jewish Life and Tradition	Troop 613 (G)
National Capital Area Council 082	Ohev Shalom - The National Synagogue	Pack 5776
North Florida Council 087	Jacksonville Jewish Center	Pack 0014
Northeast Illinois Council 129	Jewish War Veterans Post 29	Pack 0062
Northern New Jersey Council, BSA	Congregation Beth Aaron	Pack 0226
Northern New Jersey Council, BSA	Jewish Center of Teaneck	Troop 0226
Northern New Jersey Council, BSA	United Synagogue of Hoboken	Troop 0018
Northern Star Council 250	Sabes Jewish Community Center of Mpls	Troop 3738
Northern Star Council 250	Sabes Jewish Community Center of Mpls	Troop 5738 (G)
Patriots' Path Council 358	Highland Park Conservative Temple	Pack 0005
Patriots' Path Council 358	Highland Park Conservative Temple	Troop 0055
Sam Houston Area Council 576	Brotherhood of Temple Beth Israel	Crew 806
Sam Houston Area Council 576	Brotherhood Of Temple Beth Israel	Pack 0806
Sam Houston Area Council 576	Brotherhood Of Temple Beth Israel	Troop 0806
Sam Houston Area Council 576	Brotherhood Of Temple Beth Israel	Troop 1806 (G)
Sequoia Council 027	Temple Beth Israel, Fresno	Pack 0613
South Florida Council 084	Young Israel of Hollywood-Ft Lauderdale	Pack 0018
South Florida Council 084	Young Israel of Hollywood-Ft Lauderdale	Troop 0018 (G)
South Florida Council 084	Young Israel of Hollywood-Ft Lauderdale	Troop 0018
Southwest Florida Council 088	Temple Shalom	Pack 0095
Southwest Florida Council 088	Temple Shalom	Troop 0095
Suffolk County Council	Suffolk Y-JCC	Troop 125
The Spirit of Adventure 227	Maimonides School	Troop 0054 (G)
The Spirit of Adventure 227	Maimonides School	Troop 0054
Theodore Roosevelt Council 386	Central Synagogue Beth Emeth	Pack 0031
Theodore Roosevelt Council 386	Central Synagogue Beth Emeth	Troop 0214
Theodore Roosevelt Council 386	Congregation Anshei Shalom	Pack 0613
Theodore Roosevelt Council 386	Congregation Anshei Shalom	Troop 0613
Theodore Roosevelt Council 386	Temple Beth Shalom	Troop 0267
Theodore Roosevelt Council 386	Temple BNai Torah	Troop 0186
Theodore Roosevelt Council 386	Temple BNai Torah	Troop 0189
Twin Rivers Council 364	Sidney Albert Albany Jewish Community	Pack 1012
Washington Crossing Council 777	Chabad of Hunterdon County NJ	Troop 0613
Western Los Angeles Council. 051	Temple Beth Hillel	Pack 0311
Western Los Angeles Council. 051	Temple Beth Hillel	Troop 0036 (G)
Western Los Angeles Council. 051	Temple Beth Hillel	Troop 0036
Western Massachusetts Council 234	Temple Beth El	Troop 0032

NJCOS Organization



Members of the National Jewish Committee on Scouting met at Camp Wisdom in Dallas, Texas for the Annual NJCOS Meeting. Guest speakers included Julie Seton (granddaughter of Scouting founder Earnest Seton), Michael Lugo (Field Director of Circle Ten Council. Nick Kinney (Camp Wisdom Ranger), Corilynn Bailey (Director, Scouting America Strategic Youth Partnerships), and Matt Marranto (National Jamboree Duty to God and Country Lead). Additional photos of the meeting can be found at: <https://www.jewishscouting.org/2026-njcos-annual-meeting/>



Western Region Jewish Committee on Scouting

Message from the Western Region Chair

Hello everyone and welcome to our first NJCOS national newsletter! I encourage you to forward this newsletter to any Jewish families in Scouting that you know of and let them know that this year is the 100th Anniversary of the National Jewish Committee on Scouting! That’s right – Jews have been Scouts for at least 100 years! Have Jewish families in Scouting notify us to get added to our Western Region google list so they will receive information directly. I will be creating an organizational chart for the Western Region that shows who the Jewish Committee on Scouting (JCOS) chair is for your Council or area. Our goal is to have a local JCOS near each Council to provide support to the Jewish families in Scouting America with that Council. If you would like to volunteer to be the contact in your Council or area for Jewish families, please call or email me at 719-659-8923 or rlieber1@comcast.net



Yours in Jewish Scouting,
Rich Lieber

Betsy Nagel Receives the Shofar Award

Scouting America National Chairman Ricky Mason, who is Jewish (pictured left), presented the Shofar Award to Betsy Nagel, Cubmaster and founder of Pack 613 in Fresno, California, at the Scouting America National Annual Meeting Duty to God Breakfast in Dallas, Texas on May 14, 2026. Pack 613 is in Sequoia Council and is sponsored by Temple Beth Israel synagogue. The Shofar Award is a religious adult award that recognizes outstanding service on behalf of Jewish youth in the Scouting America program. Betsy is the Central California Chair for the local Jewish Committee on Scouting and was recently elected as the newest member of the National Jewish Committee on Scouting (NJCOS). This year is also the 100th Anniversary of the National Jewish Committee on Scouting!



Watching the presentation in the photo is Julie Seton, granddaughter of Thomas Ernest Seton, one of the founders of the Boy Scouts of America in 1910, and Mark Brody, Northeast Regional Chair of the NJCOS.

Arizona Scouts Attend Camp in California

Troop 818 from Grand Canyon Council (Phoenix, AZ) out of Scottsdale, AZ attended Camp Emerald Bay summer camp in Catalina, CA. While chartered by a Catholic Church, several Jewish scouts are members in the troop. When asked to say grace before dinner, the Jewish scouts stepped up and repeated the Bracha before meals and the Shehecheyanu prayers in Hebrew and English.

A video of this can be found at:

<https://1drv.ms/v/c/94aabfc49e092c07/IQDAWoZvUElzS7ypZvx61TgOAcPfyGJ8uKFBpJoYnrqP-LE?e=rlf4V6>

Last summer Seth Rosenberg brought some scouts from Grand Canyon Council (Phoenix, AZ) to an Inland Empire Council, CA camp for a 2-week kosher summer camp. Seth brought everything needed to create a kosher kitchen during their stay. Cheryl Blessum, Inland Empire JCOS Chair, helped with the arrangements to coordinate the camp with Seth (see photo of the Scouts at camp).



Western Region Scout Shabbat Services

There were several Scout Shabbat events held in the Western Region.

- Cheryl Becker, Southern California JCOS Chair, arranged her 11th Scout Shabbat at Temple Beth Israel in Pomona, CA in Greater Los Angeles Area Council in February 2026.



- Betsy Nagel, Central California JCOS Chair, held a Scout Shabbat at Temple Beth Israel in Fresno, CA in March 2026.
- Jen Drake, Pacific Harbors Council JCOS Chair, held a Scout Shabbat at Temple Beth El in Tacoma, WA in February 2026. Her daughter, Webelos Scout Czarina Van Vechten, received her Aleph religious emblem during the event. This was the third Scout Shabbat held at Temple Beth El.



There may have been other Scout Shabbats in the Western Region that we'd love to hear about. We encourage all council Jewish Committees on Scouting to hold an annual Scout Shabbat recognizing the birthday of Scouting. This is an excellent time to present Jewish religious emblems. Information and requirements for earning Jewish religious emblems may be found on our website for Scouts BSA, Venture Scouts and Explorers at [Scouts BSA, Venturers and Explorers Emblems – NJCOS](#) and for Cub Scouts at [Cub Scout Religious Emblems – NJCOS](#).

Potential Future Events

Western Region Jewish Camporee? We are looking for interest in holding a kosher Jewish Camporee for scouts in the Western Region during the summer of 2027 and are looking for Jewish camps that might be open to it or summer camps where a kosher kitchen could be set up. Please email me at weregion@jewishscouting.org if you would like to help with planning or have an interest in attending an event like this.

Scout Shabbats - Now is a perfect time to start planning a Scout Shabbat, typically held on the Friday eve or Saturday morning aligning with the birthday of Scouting (February 8th, 2027 this coming year). However, a Scout Shabbat may be held any time during the year. Get it on your synagogue's calendar now.

NJCOS Western Region Territory

The Western Region encompasses Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Alaska and Hawaii.

The Western Region JCOS Mourns the loss of Richard Evans

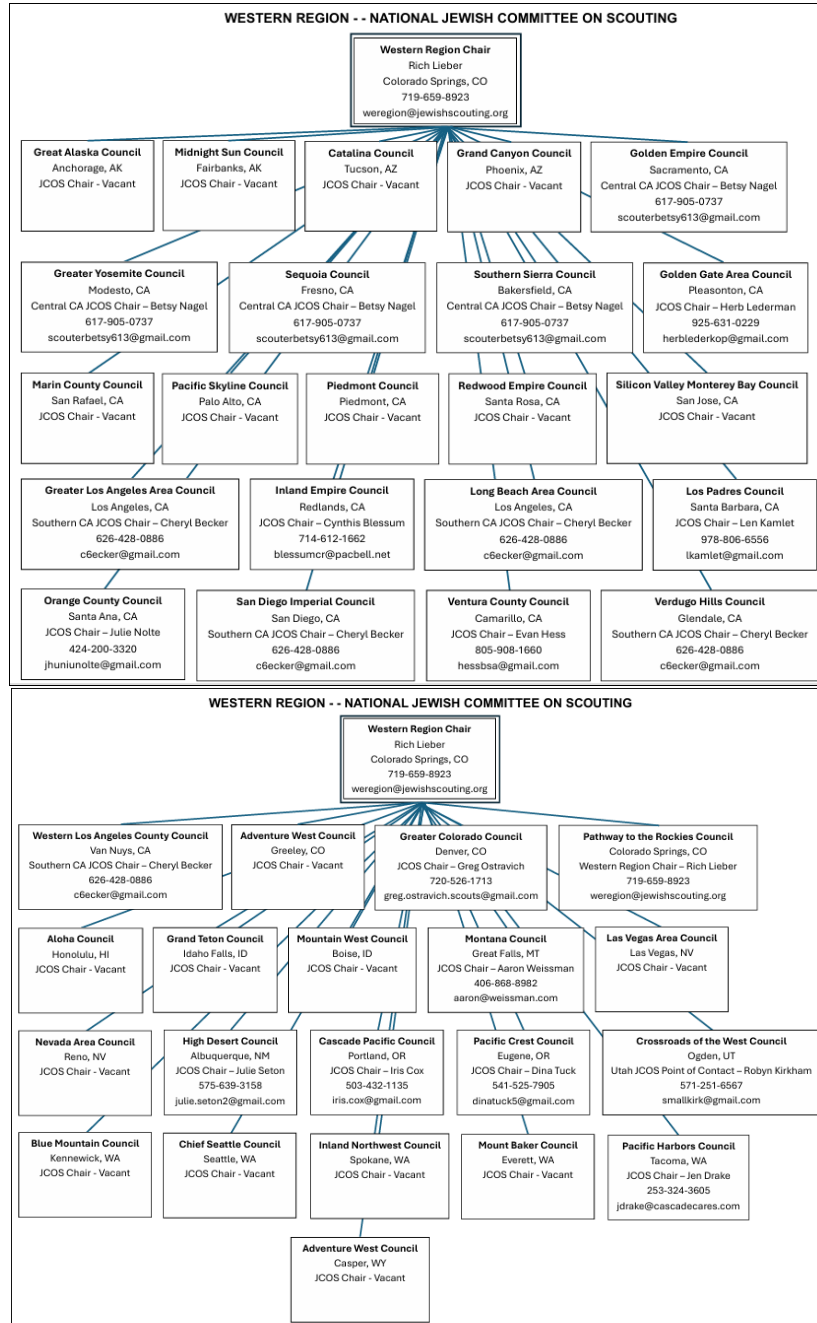
The Western Region Jewish Committee on Scouting expresses our deepest sympathies to the family of our dear friend and colleague, Richard Evans. Richard was the Utah State JCOS Coordinator and an Assistant Council Commissioner for the Crossroads of the West Council. Rich recently was awarded the Shofar Award.



Dr. Julie Seton, Earnest Seton's youngest granddaughter, was a guest speaker at the NJCOS Annual Meeting in Dallas. Dr Seton spoke about the need to keep the outdoors in the forefront of all that we do.

Local Jewish Committees on Scouting

Please let me know if you have a local Jewish Committee on Scouting (JCOS) in your council. The attached charts show the JCOS Chairs we know about. Find your Council and state and realize that the city and state shown is the location for the Council, but not necessarily the location of the JCOS Chair. If you would like to volunteer to be the point of contact for your Council or be part of the local JCOS Committee, please let me know. Our JCOS committees support Jewish families in Scouting by helping them with problems, informing them about Jewish religious emblems and planning Scout Shabbats as a minimum.





Southern Region Jewish Committee on Scouting

Message from the Southern Region Chair

The Southern Region is alive and well.

There have been at least eleven awards and emblems given since January 2026



The Southern Region along with the Dallas Jewish Committee on Scouting hosted the 100th NJCOS meeting at Camp Wisdom in May 2026 to coincide with the National Religious Relationships Committee and the Duty to God Breakfast both held at Scouting America's 2026 National Annual Meeting.

Pictures from the NJCOS Meeting at camp Wisdom can be found at: [2026 NJCOS Annual Meeting – The National Jewish Committee on Scouting](#)

Pictures from the Duty to God Breakfast can be found at: [2026 National Duty to God Breakfast – The National Jewish Committee on Scouting](#)

There were multiple successful Scout Shabbat services including:

- Tampa Bay Area Council with over 60 Scouts and Scouters in attendance. this was held on Jan. 30th at the Rodeph Shalom Synagogue in Tampa Bay.

- Cradle of Liberty Council Scout Sabbath 3-28-2026



- Dallas Jewish Committee on Scouting



- Atlanta Area Council Scout Shabbat



- There were at least three additional Scout Shabbat services in March and April.

Feedback from Bruce Streger (prior Southern Region Chairman) indicates that the Southern Region newsletter was well received and appreciated. If there is to be a national newsletter then the Southern Region newsletter will be discontinued.

Yours in Jewish Scouting,
Paul Dreiseszun
Chair, Southern Region

JCOS Committees in the Southern Region

The following councils have local Jewish Committees on Scouting to promote Jewish Scouting and assist with activities, religious emblems, and general questions.

- Central Florida Council, Bruce Streger Chair
- Circle Ten Council, Rachel Leventon, Chair
- Occoneechee Council Jewish Committee on Scouting
- Tampa Bay Area Council, Stan Weinstein Chair

If your council does not have a local JCOS and you'd like to help form one, please contact me and I'd be happy to assist.

NJCOS Southern Region Territory

The Southern Region encompasses Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia.

Jewish-Sponsored Units in the Southern Region

Organization	Unit
Atlanta Area Council 092	
NORTH FULTON JEWISH COMMUNITY	Pack 1818
NORTH FULTON JEWISH COMMUNITY	Troop 1818
Central Florida Council 083	
Southwest Orlando Jewish Congregation	Pack 3084
Southwest Orlando Jewish Congregation	Troop 7084
Temple Beth-El	Crew 2468
Temple Beth-El	Pack 3327
Temple Beth-El	Troop 0468
The Traditional Congregation of Mount Dora	Troop 0018
Chickasaw Council 558	
Temple Israel	Pack 0025
Temple Israel	Troop 0025
Circle Ten Council 571	
Dallas Jewish Committee on Scouting	Crew 0790
Dallas Jewish Committee on Scouting	Pack 1818
Gulf Stream Council 085	
Chabad of West Boca Raton	Troop 0018
Temple Beit Hayam	Pack 0832
Temple Beit Hayam	Troop 4832
Heart of Virginia Council 602	
Congregation Beth Ahabah	Pack 0437
Congregation Beth Ahabah	Troop 0437



Southern Region Chair, Paul Dreiseszun, conducts Jewish Services at the NJCOS Annual Meeting in Dallas



Scouts from Pack 806 in Houston, TX receive their Jewish Religious Emblems



Central Region Jewish Committee on Scouting

Message from the Central Region Chair

One of my Scouting roles is SM for my grandson's Troop, and last week we had our end of the year court of honor and barbecue. And I gave my first SM minute. Aim High.



In the long run, people hit what they aim at. Therefore, though they might fail immediately, they had better aim at something high to make it worthwhile." That quote is from Walden, by Henry David Thoreau. We all know that you won't hit a target on a rifle range, or an archery range, unless you aim at it. Well, Thoreau realized that this is true in life, also. Whatever your goals are, you won't achieve them unless you aim for them. You might completely miss the mark on your first few attempts but as you practice and gain knowledge, experience, and control, you'll hit your shots both on the range and in life.

Let's remember that. Daniel Burnham, one of the architects of Chicago said "Make no small plans." I agree. I thank all the volunteers and leaders in the Central Region for the plans you make and actions achieved. For the last several years, Dan Beard Council (Cincinnati and western Kentucky) has had a

huge gathering for Scout Shabbat. They now are wondering how to find resources to help pay for it. ALL ideas are most welcome. St. Louis has been very regular with theirs too. Kansas City continues to have two very active Jewish Units, one of which is over 100 years old. Northeast Illinois Council, my home, has celebrated the first full year of the reborn Jewish Cub Scout Pack, as well as experience with Interfaith Seders and events. If you're in the Central Region (Midwest) and are doing something great, please share it with me so I can pass it on. We will all benefit.

Yours in Jewish Scouting,
Howard Prager

Chair, NEIC JCOS, Central Region, NJCOS,
Pack 62 Northbrook, SM Troop 198
Mundelein

Congratulations to Tom Woods of the Northeast Illinois Council on receiving the Shofar Award



Scout Shabbat in Northeast Illinois Council

Scouts and families gathered Feb. 6 at Congregation Beth Shalom in Northbrook for Scout Shabbat, celebrating the connection between Scouting and the Jewish faith.

During the service, Ari and Violet Flemenbaum were presented the Shofar Award, the national Jewish religious emblem for adults in Scouting. Their leadership and service have strengthened local troops and packs, supported youth through boards of review and campouts, and helped grow Jewish Scouting in our community.

Even after their own children — including two Eagle Scouts and one candidate awaiting her board of review — advanced through the program, Ari and Violet continue to serve in key leadership roles and promote Scouting throughout the community.

Learn more about Ari and Violet here: <https://neic.org/the-heart-of-scouting-ari-and-violet...>

Mazel tov to Ari and Violet on this well-deserved recognition.



Scout Shabbat in Dan Beard Council

Leadership, service, and community are the values that can shape who we become. And last Friday, those core values felt alive in a room full of Scouts at Scout Shabbat, hosted by Cincinnati's Jewish Committee on Scouting, a volunteer group within the Dan Beard Council, Scouting America.

Nearly 70 Jewish and non-Jewish Scouts joined us with Girl Scouts of Western Ohio, and the Mayerson JCC for prayer, song, and a Scout-inspired D'Var Torah led by Rabbi Eric Slaton.

Community came together in the form of dinner. Unity came in the form of marshmallow towers. Creativity came in the form of painting rocks.

Scout Shabbat reminded us that when we gather, we don't just celebrate tradition; we celebrate the simple joy of being together.





Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting

Kosher Summer Camp Opportunities

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

The Forestburg Shomer Shabbat camping will be two weeks: July 5-15 and July 12-19. You can register for either or both weeks. For information and registration details, please visit <https://forms.gle/vGrDDo9y46ZgiDq49>. Please contact Uri Cohen at uricohen613@gmail.com if you have any questions.

For scouts who are not available those weeks in July or simply want an additional week of camp, considering joining the kosher contingent to Baiting Hollow Scout Camp in Long Island NY August 2-9, 2026. Scouts of all genders from any unit are welcome. Contact Dave Brumbaugh with any questions at 231-218-3880 or brumbaughdp@gmail.com. To register, please see the Baiting Hollow Kosher Contingent registration form which can be found at: <https://forms.gle/Aro1uBjxEBvenHZt6>



NJCOS President Phil Sternberg and Executive Vice President Barry Hantman, both past Chairmen of the Northeast Region, enjoy the vendor exhibits at the Scouting America National Annual Meeting.

Tikkun Olam in the Woods: Troop 226 and Teaneck Creek Conservancy

By Joseph Rosenfeld

Jewishlink, Apr. 30, 2026

(reprinted with permission of the author)



This past Sunday, the serene trails of the Teaneck Creek Conservancy were buzzing with a different kind of energy as the scouts of Troop 226 traded their sedentary weekend plans for work gloves, rakes and wheelbarrows. In a hands-on demonstration of community service and environmental stewardship, the troop performed vital maintenance to preserve one of Teaneck's most cherished natural resources. The project focused on two critical areas of conservation: protecting new growth and maintaining the accessibility of the trail system.

Protecting the Future Canopy

The Conservancy has recently undergone significant planting efforts to restore native flora. However, with a local deer population

that views new saplings as a buffet, the Scouts' first task was defense. Equipped with rolls of fencing and heavy-duty stakes, the Scouts worked in teams to erect protective barriers around the vulnerable young plants. Troop 226 thus helped to ensure that the next generation of trees and shrubs can grow undisturbed, eventually providing shade and habitat for local wildlife for decades to come.



Preserving the Paths

Next, the troop turned its attention to the trails themselves. Over time, heavy foot traffic and weather can erode established paths, making them muddy or difficult to navigate. The Scouts used wheelbarrows to transport heavy loads of wood chips from staging areas to the trails. They then carefully raked and leveled the wood chips, helping to prevent erosion and keeping the Conservancy accessible for all to enjoy.

A Tradition of Service

For Troop 226, events like these are more than just a way to satisfy service requirements; they serve as a practical application of the Scout Oath “to help other people at all times.” Seeing the Scouts—ranging from young newcomers to seasoned leaders—working side-by-side in the dirt

highlights the troop's commitment to building character through labor and leadership. “It's great to see the immediate result of our work,” noted one participant. “You look back and see a clear, fresh trail where there was mud, and you know the plants we fenced in actually have a chance to grow.” The Teaneck Creek Conservancy relies heavily on volunteer efforts to maintain its 46 acres of forested wetland. Thanks to the sweat equity of Troop 226, the park is better protected and more beautiful for the spring season.



Interested in Joining the Adventure?

Troop 226 meets every Wednesday night during the school year from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. It welcomes new Scouts interested in leadership, outdoor skills and community service. Boys ages 11 to 17 are invited to join. For more information, contact Scoutmaster Daniel Chazin, (201) 835-5338, dchazin@aol.com.

Baltimore Couple Raises Awareness About Judaism and Higher Education

Former NJCOS President Jay Lenrow and his wife Ruth Lenrow were recently highlighted in an article in the Baltimore Jewish Times. The article describes their efforts advocating for Jews on campus.

You can read the complete article at: <https://www.jewishtimes.com/baltimore-couple-raises-awareness-about-judaism-and-higher-education/>

Mid Atlantic Kinus

Formerly known as the NJ Kinus, this event is open to Scouts and Cubs and typically runs over Memorial Day weekend. Due to Shavuot occurring this year on Memorial Day weekend, the 2026 Kinus will be held at the Ockanickon Scout Reservation in Bucks County, PA over Labor Day weekend, in conjunction with the Kit Kat Camporee.



Kinus will be held at OSR (Ockanickon Scout Reservation, 5787 State Park Rd., Pipersville PA 18947) over Labor Day Weekend!

*Please note, Scouting America rules allow cubs to attend for no more than 2 consecutive nights.

- Price for those attending the full weekend (Scouts) \$120/person
- Price for those attending 3 days 2 nights (Cubs) \$90/person

Registration opening soon! – Stay tuned!

The NER JCOS Mourns the loss of Alan Grossman

The Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting expresses our deepest sympathies to the family of our dear friend and colleague, Allan Grossman.

Alan has a long history in Scouting starting with Pack 172 in Springfield, NJ, earning the rank of Eagle in 1975. He has held many different positions in Scouting including Assistant Scoutmaster, Merit Badge Counselor, Patriots Path Council Executive Board, Member & Vice-President, Council Nominating Committee Chairman, Council Awards Committee Chairman, Council Vice-President of Chartered Organization Relationships, Council Vice-

President for Governance, Central New Jersey Council Executive Board, Member, Jersey 360 Scout Museum Co-Director, Religious Relationships Chair, and Wood Badge Staff. He has served on Staff at the National Jamboree, NOAC and participated in the Religious Relationships Week at Philmont. He currently serves on the National Religious Relationships Committee. He was recently recognized with the Scouting America Silver Antelope Award.

From 2010-2013, Alan served as the Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting Annual Conference Chair and from 2013-2016 served as the Chairman of the Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting.

Alan Grossman lived an energetic and joyful life. He gave and soaked up joy in nearly equal measure, whether hosting family for holidays and celebrations, spending time with friends, or participating in Scouting activities — all pursuits made better by food.

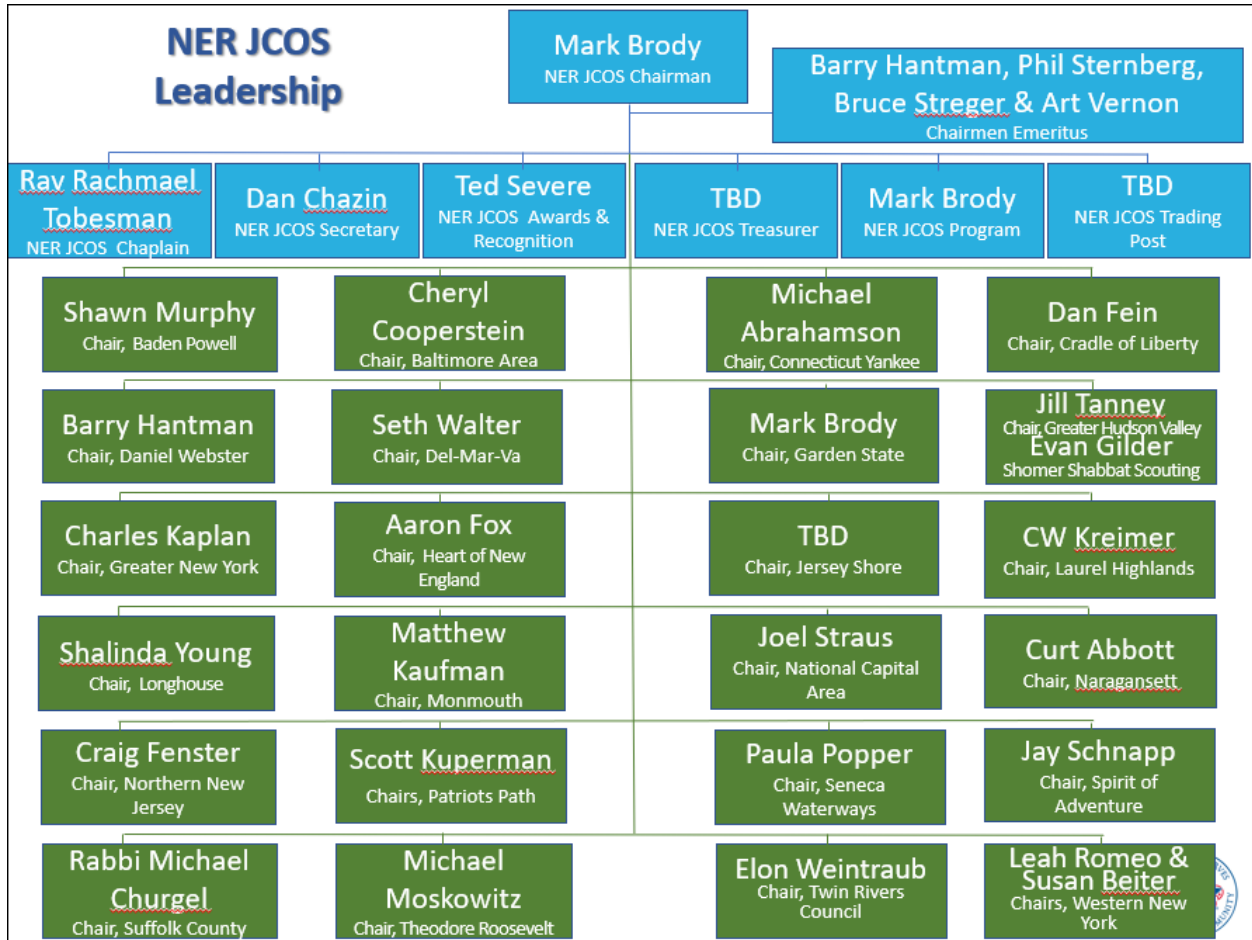
Growing up, Alan participated in wrestling, backyard football games, and many family camping trips. By the time he was 15, he had visited most of the United States and reached his lifelong goal of all 50 in 2024.

He attended Cook College at Rutgers University, the source of a core set of lifelong friends, followed by Master's programs at the Rochester Institute of Technology and Fairleigh Dickinson University.

As a community volunteer, Alan held leadership roles with the Metuchen Educational Foundation and the Metuchen Borough Improvement League, served two terms on Borough Council, and served on the Planning Board.

May his memory be a blessing.

NER JCOS Leadership



Please let provide any updates for this chart to Mark Brody, neregion@jewishscouting.org



NER JCOS Photo Gallery



Scouts from Great Falls Council celebrate Scout Shabbat



Heart of New England Council celebrates Scout Shabbat

NER JCOS Members Phyllis Stein, Jill Tanney, and Barry Kopeloff attended the Suffolk County Girl Scout Council's Gold Award presentation ceremony providing JCOS certificates to all of the Gold Award recipients.



Scouts and Scouters from the New York and New Jersey area lead off the Israel Day on 5th Parade in Manhattan, NY



Send us your event photos!



Scouts Hudson Valley Council carry the Colors and JCOS Member and Chazan Lori Weber sings the National Anthem for Westchester FC Soccer Jewish Heritage Night



NER JCOS Members Barry Hantman and Mark Brody attended the Scouting America National Annual Meeting



Scouts Read Sacred Texts in Great Falls Council, NY



Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting Trading Post

Your Source for Jewish Scouting Items!



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



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



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



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



Jewish Committee
Patches
\$5

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

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

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

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



The Yad Award

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

