



Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting

March 2026 Newsletter

NER JCOS Chairman's Message

By Mark Brody

Like many of you, I have been involved with Scouting more on than off since the age of 8. I grew up in a kosher home. At 13, I was Bar Mitzvah in a Conservative Synagogue. I earned the rank of Eagle Scout at 15 and was confirmed in a Reform Temple (of which my parents were founding members) at 16; spending that summer in Israel with a combined confirmation group from several area temples. I am blessed to have a strong Jewish heritage through both sets of Ashkenazi grandparents and their extended families (~20 brothers and sisters), with whom I was very close. I have fond memories of joining my grandparents during the Yom Kippur services at their Orthodox congregation in NYC.



When providing leadership training, I am quick to share that I can concisely describe my personal value set in 22 well defined terms: the Ten Commandments of Judaism and the Scout Law. Through Scouting, I have had wonderful opportunities to learn more about my Jewish identity at local, regional, and national events conducted by Jewish Scout Leaders I admire. I am honored to now take on the role of Chairman of the Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting (NER JCOS). I look forward to working with all of you to provide programming that enables Scouts to develop their moral and ethical code aligned with Jewish values.

Once we were slaves in Egypt. Now we are free to go camping in the wilderness. Happy Passover.

Outgoing Chairman's Message

By Barry Hantman

It is with great excitement and enthusiasm that I turn the reins of the Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting over to Mark Brody. I have known and worked with Mark for several years and am certain that he will continue to grow and improve the Jewish Scouting experience here in the Northeast Region.

Mark, an Eagle Scout, is a longtime Member of Garden State Council and a Member of the Council's Religious Relationships Committee. He also serves as the Chairman of the Council's Jewish Committee on Scouting. He has served as the Northeast Region JCOS Program Chair helping to coordinate and operate our annual conferences as well as the National JCOS Training Chairman coordinating the quarterly JCOS Virtual Training Seminars. He has received the Bronze, Gold and Silver Chai Awards as well as the Shofar Award. He is a Silver Beaver recipient and a Wood Badge Chaplain.

I am confident that I have left the Northeast Region in good hands.

What's next for me? As many of you know, I was elected Vice President of the National Jewish Committee on Scouting. I will now be devoting more of my time to that position to help promote Jewish Scouting nationwide. But, be assured, I'm not going anywhere. I still live in the Northeast Region and will always be around to assist. My new email is execvp@jewishscouting.org

Have a great Passover. I wish you the very best.

NJCOS 100th Anniversary B'Yachad Camporee

The National Jewish Committee on Scouting Is Celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2026 and is hosting a nationwide camporee to celebrate! The Camporee will be held at Camp Aquahonga, Ten Mile River Scout Camps in Narrowsburg, NY on August 9th-12th, 2026 (these dates do not interfere with the National Jamboree nor the NJCOS Philmont Trek).

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

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



The camporee is open to Jewish Scouts and Scouters. Come as a unit or register as an individual. Enjoy a camporee filled with fun activities, fellowship, and the opportunity to learn leadership skills together with Jewish Scouts from across the country. Please see the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

New Southern Region Chairman

Please Congratulate Paul Driesezun of Waco, TX who has been named as the new Chairman of the Southern Region Jewish Committee on Scouting.

Mr Driesezun has been a member of the NJCOS since 2023 and is a Shofar Award Recipient. He has also earned the District Committee Key, Doctorate of Commissioner Science, Philmont Training Center Masters Track Award, Scouter's Training Award for District Committee, Silver Beaver, and Distinguished Commissioner Service Award

High Adventure Opportunity for Jewish Scouts in 2026

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

Why a Jewish Trek? What better place can there be to ask the BIG questions? If this is "God's country," how does my Judaism fit in? When seeing a million stars before my eyes, how does that link me to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as they shepherded their flocks? When my friends and I observe Shabbat on the trail, how do I feel about my relationship with Judaism?

What is a Jewish trek? The JCOS treks include Shabbat observance, kosher food, daily prayer/reflection and on-going Jewish learning. As part of this unique experience, participants will grow physically, mentally and emotionally and most importantly, participants will experience a deeper insight into what it means to be a Jewish Scout.



For questions, please contact Dr. Robert Weber at 1topgum@gmail.com.

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

Additional treks are currently being planned for 2027. Stay tuned for additional information.

Scholarships for Jewish Eagle Scouts – Application Deadline Approaching

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

Applications are due on March 31, 2026.

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

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



Many other organizations have scholarships available to Jewish Youth including the National Jewish Committee on Girl Scouting (<https://www.njcgsc.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/>)

Longhouse and Baden Powell Councils 100th Anniversary Celebration

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

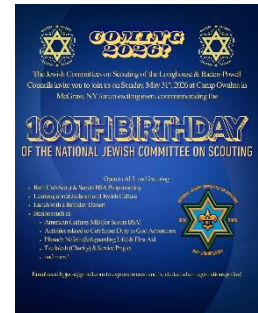
The event will be held in at Camp Owahta in McGraw, NY (Camp Owahta is approximately 1 hours south of Syracuse).

This event will feature:

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

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

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



100th Anniversary Celebration
Cake at the NER JCOS Annual
Conference

Shabbat Friendly Wood Badge Course

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

We are pleased to announce one planned for May and June 2026 in the Baltimore area. This training is open to Scouters from all councils. The orientation will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at the Schapiro Scout Service Center and the course itself will be held on Monday, June 15 to Friday, June 19, 2026, at Camp Spencer. For information and registration, please see the flyer later in this newsletter or visit the registration website at: <https://scoutingevent.com/220-WB261>



Silver Antelope & Silver Buffalo Awards

The Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting congratulates Jane Grossman on receiving the Silver Buffalo Award.

The Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting also congratulates Alan Grossman and Bruce Levitt on receiving the Scouting America Silver Antelope award.

All three have been strong supporters of Jewish Scouting and the NJCOS.



The Silver Antelope Award is a distinguished Scouting America honor created in 1942 to recognize registered volunteers for exceptional service to youth at the territory/regional level.

The Silver Buffalo Award, created in 1925, is Scouting's highest honor for adults.

Jewish Scouting at the 2026 National Jamboree

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

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



The National Jewish Committee on Scouting, NJCOS, will have a large booth at the Jamboree to celebrate its 100th Anniversary in Scouting, and, additionally, the Friends of Shomer Shabbat Scouting will have a contingent at the Jamboree for adults and youth who want to have an observant Jewish experience.

Start by visiting <https://jamboree.scouting.org/> to get a good look at what the Jamboree is all about. Next decide on how you want to participate. Your options include:

- Attend as part of your local council contingent. Check with your local council about registering.
- Attend as part of the Shomer Shabbat Contingent. There's a special \$100 credit if you sign up by November 2nd. See the flyer at the end of this newsletter.
- Work on staff as an adult or youth (16-29). Submit your registration online from the Jamboree website. The NJCOS is looking for Adults and Senior Scouts (ages 16+) who are interested in working at the NJCOS National Jewish Committee's booth at the 2026 National Jamboree! If interested, contact the NJCOS President, Phil Sternberg, at phil.sternberg@gmail.com

Scouting America National Annual Meeting

The next Scouting America National Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 11-15, 2026 in Dallas, TX. While there are many sessions at this meeting that are of interest, there are two events scheduled that are of particular interest to Jewish Scouters.

- The National Religious Relationships Committee (NRRC) will be meeting on Wednesday morning, May 12th. All of the Religious Committees, including the NJCOS, will be giving presentations. Our NJCOS President, Mr. Phil Sternberg, will be representing the Jewish Committee.
- The Annual Duty to God Breakfast will be held on Thursday morning, May 14th. At this breakfast, several youth recipients of religious emblems will be recognized and the National Duty to God Award recipients will be announced. However, the highlight of the Duty to God Breakfast will be the keynote speaker, our very own Rabbi Joseph Prouser. Rabbi Prouser is a long-time member of the Northeast Region Jewish Committees on Scouting, has led many Scout Shabbat & Havdalah service, and has worked with the inter-faith chaplaincy team at a series of National Jamborees as well as at the 2015 World Scout Jamboree in Japan. Rabbi Prouser has served as the NJCOS National Chaplain, and has edited a Sabbath Eve prayerbook, *Siddur Tzofeh V'Yodeya*, for use at scouting events.

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

Scouts Read Sacred Texts

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



Chocolate Seder

Looking for a Jewish Scouting event that's a little different? How about a Chocolate Seder sponsored by the Northern New Jersey Council Jewish Committee on Scouting on March 29th. See the flyer below.



Talmud Torah Award

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

The name “Talmud Torah” was developed from the following meanings:



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

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

Kosher Summer Camp Opportunities

Once again, A Shomer Shabbat, Kosher summer camp opportunity is being offered at Forrestburg 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>

Scout Shabbat

While many Scout Shabbat services have already been held, there's still time to join one of the upcoming services. If there isn't a Scout Shabbat in your area, there are some that are available to you via Zoom.

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



If you wish to order JCOS patches for your Scout Shabbat service, they are available on the NJCOS website at www.jewishscouting.org

NJCOS 100th Anniversary Exhibit TMR

In honor of the 100th Anniversary of the NJCOS, an extensive Jewish Scouting exhibit has been established at Ten Mile River Scout Museum. Filling twelve 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. In addition, for historic NJCOS publications, check out the NJCOS website at <https://www.jewishscouting.org/>.

NER JCOS Award Recipients

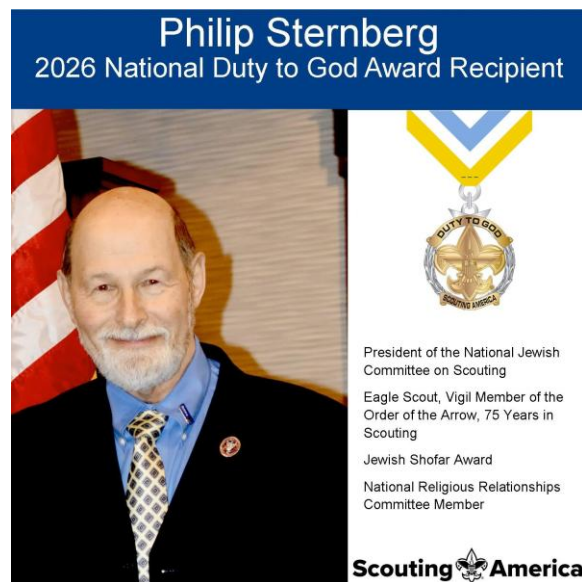
The Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting presented several awards at the 2026 NER JCOS Annual Conference. Please congratulate all of the award Recipients.

- Bronze Chai Award – The 2026 Recipients are:
 - Michael Churgel - Suffolk County Council
 - Chiam Edelstein - Monmouth
 - Daniel Fein - Cradle of Liberty
 - Susan Hantman - Scouting America NH
 - Charles Kaplan - Greater NY Council
 - Howard Prager - Northeast Illinois Council
 - Leah Romeo - Western NY Council
- Gold Chai Award - The 2026 Recipients are:
 - Todd Bakal – Northern NJ Council
 - Shalinda Dee Young – Longhouse Council
- The Shofar Award recognizes outstanding service by adults in the promotion of Scouting among Jewish youth. The 2026 Recipients are:
 - Malcolm Rosenthal
 - Thomas Maher
- The National Jewish Committee on Scouting established the Yad Award to recognize outstanding service by adult leaders who have served as Jewish Committee on Scouting Chairs. The 2026 Recipients are:
 - Barry Kopeloff
 - Len Brownstein
 - Alan Grossman
 - Jeff Goldsmith
 - Jerry Katz
 - Al Yanofsky
- Special Recognition for long-term, ongoing support to the NER JCOS
 - Pinky Severe
 - Ted Severe



National Duty to God Award

Congratulations to NJCOS President Phil Sternberg on Receiving the 2036 National Duty to God Award.



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.

Jewish Religious Emblems

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

- Aryeh - Lions and Cubs through grade 1
- Maccabee - Lions & Cubs through grade 3
- Aleph - Cubs & Webelos through age 11
- Ner Tamid – Scouts BSA through age 14 or through 9th grade, whichever is later; or Scouts BSA through age 20 if they also obtain the Etz Chaim and it is presented at the same time.
- Etz Chaim - Scouts BSA aged 14 to 20

The Northeast Region Jewish Committee wishes to commend all who have earned a Jewish religious emblem in January and February, 2026.

Baltimore Area Council

- Ryan Casser

Cradle of Liberty Council

- Ed Cohen

Garden State Council

- Levi Wyner

Greater New York Council

- Steven Newfeld
- Hannah Salzman
- Matthew Kwait

Jersey Shore Council

- Malcolm Rosenthal
- Braden Weiss

Monmouth Council

- Xavier Zeller

National Capital Area Council

- Luke Yergin-Doniger
- Allegra LaLonde

Northern New Jersey Council

- Jack Goodman

Suffolk County Council

Jason Churgel
Aaron Meer

Transatlantic Council

- Yanai Paquin

Washington Crossing Council

- Noah Haaz



Do you have a Scout that wants to earn an emblem but doesn't know where to find a counselor to work with? The NJCOS has you covered. The NJCOS Chaplain, Rabbi Art Vernon (shaarayrabbi@gmail.com) will help you connect with a Rabbi or Counselor via Zoom! This is particularly important for the Ner Tamid and Etz Chaim medals which require a knowledgeable

person to guide and assist. In the age of technology, distance is no longer an issue.

Attached to this newsletter is a document describing the Jewish Religious Emblems. For detailed requirements for the emblems and an application form, you can visit the NJCOS website at <https://www.jewishscouting.org/> and click on "Religious Emblems" in the menu on the top righthand side of the page.

Certificates For Eagle Scouts

The Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting provides certificates for presentation to those who earn the rank of Eagle Scout. These certificates are excellent for presentation at Eagle Courts of Honor. If you need a certificate for someone who is earning their Eagle rank, please send a letter to our NER JCOS Scribe, Ted Severe via US Mail (NERJCOS, Eagle Recognition Certificate, c/o Mr. Theodore E. Severe, 3218 McElderry Street, Baltimore. MD 21205-2819). Please send:

- 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 Northeast Region will honor ALL Eagle Scouts at a single Eagle Court of Honor regardless of their individual religious faiths).

In addition, the National Jewish Committee on Scouting (NJCOS) provides an Eagle Kit, consisting of a letter & certificate, for Jewish Eagle Scouts. Details and the application form can be found on the NJCOS website at <https://www.jewishscouting.org/eagle-scouts/>

National Jewish Scout Association

We are pleased to announce the activation of the National Jewish Scout Association.

The National Jewish Scout Association, or NJSA, is a tax-exempt nonprofit that will bring together young Jewish members of Scouting America, Scouts, adult Jewish leaders of Scouting America, Scouters, and supporters of Scouting for Jewish Youth in one organization. The NJSA was formed as a supporter of the National Jewish Committee on Scouting, NJCOS, and as a vehicle to unite adult Scouters, leaders and alumni. Members will be able to give back to the organization that helped to shape their lives.

Bruce Chudacoff, President of the NJSA, said, "We are thrilled to get off the ground running with our support for Scouting for Jewish Youth. We plan to raise money for Jewish Scouting programs through our membership program and other fundraising activities. Our membership campaign will also bring Scout leaders from all over the country together to support each other and the future leaders of tomorrow."



Phil Sternberg, President of the National Jewish Committee on Scouting, welcomed the activation of the NJSA, "We have waited a long time for an organization designed to help our programs which instill the values of patriotism, leadership and loyalty in our nation's youth in these troubled times."

The NJSA is a membership organization selling annual memberships to Scouts for \$15 and adults for \$50. Life memberships are available for \$500. All membership fees are tax deductible. Further information about the NJSA is available from Bruce Chudacoff, bchud1@outlook.com, 920-915-6317.

The NJCOS is a membership organization delivering program assistance to Scouting America on Jewish subjects and direct support to Jewish Scouts and Jewish Scout units throughout the country. Further information about the NJCOS is available from Phil Sternberg, phil.sternberg@gmail.com, 703-960-0205. You can also follow the NJSA Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/25730728169917820/>

Israel Day on the 5th Parade in New York City

Since 1965 hundreds of thousands of people have come together annually to march in New York's Celebrate Israel Parade (now named the Israel Day on the 5th parade) expressing their love and support for the State of Israel. In recent years, the Parade has featured over 40,000 marchers from many organizations. Hundreds of thousands of enthusiastic spectators watch American and Israeli community leaders and dignitaries, entertainers, artists, musicians, dancers, celebrities, floats and marching bands. Many more watch on the live broadcast via television or live-stream. Typically, the Celebrate Israel Parade includes the blowing of shofars to open the festivities, followed by colorful floats, marching bands, and, of course, the Scouts!

For over 30 years, Scouts have led off the Parade as the Color Guard. You can be part of this contingent of Scouts! The parade is on Sunday, May 31st, 2026. The parade proceeds down Fifth Avenue in New York City beginning at 11AM.

Traditionally, throngs of parade goers also attend a mid-afternoon Israel Day music concert, located at the Central Park Summerstage located near 5th Avenue & 72nd Street. Following the parade, the Empire State Building also becomes part of the festivities at sunset when it is bathed in blue and white, the colors of the Israeli flag.

If you wish to participate with the Scouts in this event, please contact Rob Weber (email: 1topgum@gmail.com).

Will I be Able to Ask the Mah Nishtanah?

A Passover Story

*by NER JCOS Chaplain,
Rabbi Rachmiel Tobesman*

The storm clouds spread across the skies as the bloodthirsty hordes burst into the city and surrounded the bishops tower. Standing above the barred door a strong voice was heard, "the people in this tower or under my protection. Go on and shed not innocent blood!"

The armed mob responded, "hand them over! They are cursed and deserve to die!"

The bishop's voice boomed, "what have they done, but practice their beliefs? All they ask is for peace."

"We shall give them the peace of the grave" came a response as a mailed fist urged the crowd forward.

In the lowest level of the tower there was a single cell, in it sat the last Jewish family of York, with one Jewish child. Until a time of peace comes there won't be another Seder such as this.



The young boy takes a deep breath and begins, "Taty, ich fregen..., Father I ask, why do we suffer so much more than everyone else in the world?" This question travels one into the world to the other that ascends to the very heavens. The lone child in the lowest level of the tower in York is asking the King of all Kings the deepest of all questions. His father slowly begins to answer, "Avadim hayinu, we were slaves....", Sadly the story is so long and has no end until the time of peace comes.

The young boy continues, "Taty, can I ask one more question of my own? Will you answer my questions at next year's Seder? Will I be alive to ask the Mah Nishtanah? Will any Jewish voice be heard anywhere in the world to ask the Mah Nishtanah?" Silence fell in the heavens as the

young boy asked Mah Nishtanah, but when he asked his own question, tears flowed freely throughout the heavens.

With a deep breath and a strong voice, the young boy's father answered, "Ki v'sheim kodshechah nishbato lo, by Your Holy Name You promised to him shelo yichbeh neuro l'olam va'ed, that his light would never go out.

The father spoke to his son, "I don't know if you will ask the Mah Nishtanah next year. I don't know if I will be here to answer your questions. There is one thing I am sure of the, there will always be at least one holy child to ask the Mah Nishtanah, because the Holy One. blessed be He promised us there would always be a young voice to be heard."

When the rabbis of old originally asked Mah Nishtanah (Talmud Yerushalmi, Pesachim, 60b; Talmud Bavli, Pesachim, 116a) it was during the time of the Romans and their brutality, the Mah Nishtanah was asked and the



Jewish people patiently waited for Moshiach. As the armies marched across Europe during the Crusades and countless thousands of people suffered terribly the Mah Nishtanah was asked and the Jewish people patiently waited for Moshiach. When the Black Death swept through the land and the Jewish communities were blamed, the Mah Nishtanah was asked and the Jewish people patiently waited for Moshiach. When King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella signed the fateful papers authorizing the Inquisition and expulsion, the Mah Nishtanah was asked and the Jewish

people patiently waited for Moshiach. When Bogdan Chelminicki and his hordes massacred and destroyed whole Jewish communities, the

Mah Nishtanah was asked and the Jewish people patiently waited for Moshiach. In the hopeless ghettos of Lodz, Bialystok, Częstochowa and Warsaw where death and destruction were common, the Mah Nishtanah was asked and the Jewish people patiently waited for Moshiach.

The question is raised, "When will the Messiah come? Today, if you listen to his voice." (Sanhedrin 98a). The secret is hidden from man, but it is also revealed to him, because the coming of the Messiah depends not only on God's grace but also on man's deeds. Our task is to bend our will to God's will in order that we might heal those breaches that separate the man from his fellow man and that rammed a man within himself.

Until that day comes let us say with a full heart, "I believe with perfect faith in the coming of the Messiah (Moshiach), and though he may tarry, still I await him every day." (Maimonides, 13 principles of faith).

The Mah Nishtanah will be said at every Seder now and in the time of Moshiach – the Messiah.

May your Seder welcome Eliyahu haNovi (Elijah the Prophet) and may he bring us good tidings that we should be worthy of receiving the Messiah in our own lifetime.

May all your tales end with Shalom (peace)

The Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting wishes you and your family a Very Happy Passover.

Support Sea Scouting

Support Sea Scouting with this striking Ship 613 Leviathans patch! Featuring the ship's mascot, the Leviathan, this design draws inspiration from the Hebrew word commonly translated as "whale" or "sea monster," making it a perfect fit for a maritime scouting tradition. The patch is available on the NJCOS website, <http://jewishscouting.org>



Upcoming Events

- Mar. 20 – Scouting America New Hampshire & Spirit of Adventure Councils Scout Shabbat
- Mar. 20 - Suffolk County Council Scout Shabbat at at B'nai Israel Reform Temple
- Mar. 28 – GNYC Big Apple Scout Shabbat
- Mar. 28 – Cradle of Liberty Council Scout Shabbat
- Apr. 14 - Baltimore Area Council Scout Shabbat
- May 7 – Scouts Read Sacred Texts
- May 10-11 – NJCOS Annual Meeting
- May 12-15 – Scouting America National Annual Meeting
- May 31 - Longhouse and Baden Powell Councils 100th Anniversary Celebration
- Jun. 15 - June 19, 2026 - Shabbat Friendly Wood Badge at Camp Spencer
- Jun. 25 - July NJCOS Philmont Trek
- Jul. 22 – 31 National Scout Jamboree
- Aug. 9- 12 - B'Yachad Camporee
- Apr. 4, 2027 – NER KCOS Annual Conference, Temple Sinai, Dresher, PA



Ted and Pinky Severe were recognized at the NER JCOS Annual Conference for their service to Jewish Scouting

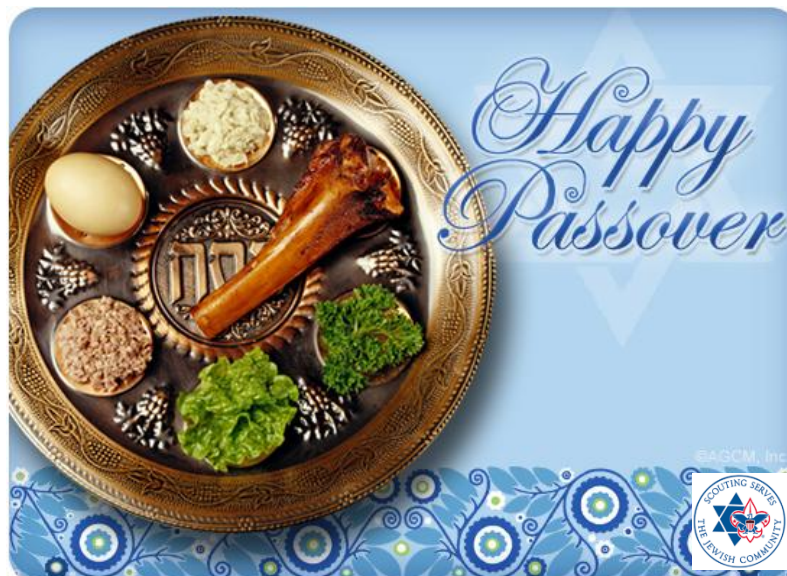


Thomas Maher was presented with the Shofar Award at the NER JCOS Annual Conference for his efforts to restore the Jewish Chapel at TMR and promote its use for services

NER JCOS Leadership

NER JCOS Leadership			Mark Brody NER JCOS Chairman			Barry Hantman, Phil Sternberg, Bruce Streger & Art Vernon Chairmen Emeritus		
<u>Rav Rachmael Tobesman</u> NER JCOS Chaplain	<u>Dan Chazin</u> NER JCOS Secretary	<u>Ted Severe</u> NER JCOS Awards & Recognition	TBD NER JCOS Treasurer	Mark Brody NER JCOS Program	TBD NER JCOS Trading Post			
<u>Michael Martinez</u> Chair, Baden Powell	<u>Cheryl Cooperstein</u> Chair, Baltimore Area		<u>Michael Abrahamson</u> Chair, Connecticut Yankee	<u>Dan Fein</u> Chair, Cradle of Liberty				
<u>Barry Hantman</u> Chair, Daniel Webster	<u>Seth Walter</u> Chair, Del-Mar-Va		<u>Mark Brody</u> Chair, Garden State	<u>Jill Tanney</u> Chair, Greater Hudson Valley <u>Evan Gilder</u> Shomer Shabbat Scouting				
<u>Charles Kaplan</u> Chair, Greater New York	<u>Aaron Fox</u> Chair, Heart of New England		TBD Chair, Jersey Shore	<u>CW Kreimer</u> Chair, Laurel Highlands				
<u>Shalinda Young</u> Chair, Longhouse	<u>Matthew Kaufman</u> Chair, Monmouth		<u>Joel Straus</u> Chair, National Capital Area	<u>Curt Abbott</u> Chair, <u>Naragansett</u>				
<u>Craig Fenster</u> Chair, Northern New Jersey	<u>Scott Kuperman</u> Chairs, Patriots Path		<u>Paula Popper</u> Chair, Seneca Waterways	<u>Jay Schnapp</u> Chair, Spirit of Adventure				
<u>Rabbi Michael Churgel</u> Chair, Suffolk County	<u>Michael Moskowitz</u> Chair, Theodore Roosevelt		<u>Elon Weintraub</u> Chair, Twin Rivers Council	<u>Leah Romeo & Susan Beiter</u> Chairs, Western New York				

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



NER JCOS Photo Gallery



NER JCOS Vice President, Barry Hantman, conducts the Interfaith Service during Okpik Training in Scouting America New Hampshire Council.



Heart of New England Council celebrates Scout Shabbat

T266 of Teaneck NJ Celebrated a Court of Honor with 11 Scouts advancing in rank



Send us your event Photos!

Suffolk County Council JCOS presents Kristopher Diaz of Ship 460 with a certificate to recognize his achieving the Quartermaster rank

Scouts from across the region participated in the Kosher Klondike in Pennsylvania



Great Falls Council celebrates Scout Shabbat



Suffolk County Council celebrates Scout Shabbat



Scouts from Troop 96b (Wantagh) and Troop 285 (Bellmore) helped Congregation Beth Ohr set up for their Purim Carnival



Connecticut Yankee Council celebrates Scout Shabbat



Ship 613 enjoys their Shabbaton Weekend



NER JCOS Photo Gallery (Continued)



Aaron Fox, JCOS Chair of Heart of New England Council provides a presentation on Jewish Scouting to



Send us your event Photos!

Baden Powell Council celebrates Scout Shabbat



Scouts in Baltimore Area Council conduct Scout Shabbat Services



100th Anniversary of Jewish Scouting Exhibit debuts at the Ten Mile River Scout Camp Museum

38th Annual Northeast Region Conference attracted attendees from across the country



Ricky Mason, incoming Chairman of the Scouting America Executive Board, addresses the attendees at the Northeast Region Annual Conference



Saroya Friedman-Gonzalez, President, Chief Executive Officer, and Chief Scout Executive for the Greater New York Councils, addresses the attendees at the Northeast Region Annual Conference

Spirit of Adventure Council and Scouting America New Hampshire Council celebrate Scout Shabbat



NER JCOS Photo Gallery (Continued)



▼
*Suffolk County Council JCOS
Member Phyllis Stein presents a
certificate to Ryan Garrity at his*



▼
*JCOS Members Michael Churge, Chiam
Edelstein, Daniel Fein, Susan Hantma, •
Charles Kaplan, Howard Prager, & Leah
Romeo received the Bronze Chai Award at at
the Northeast Region Annual Conference*



▼
*Suffolk County Council
celebrates Scout Shabbat*

▼
*NJCOS Member Jeff Goldsmith
receives the Yad Award at the
NER JCOS Annual Meeting*



▼
*Greater New York Council
celebrates Scout Shabbat*



▼
*JCOS Member Rabbi Tobesman
gives the invocation at the NER
JCOS Annual Meeting*



▼
*JCOS Members Shalinda Dee Young & Todd
Bakal were presented with the Gold Chai
Award by NER JCOS Chairman Barry
Hantman at at the Northeast Region Annual
Conference*

▼
*JCOS Member Rabbi Churhell gives the Dvar
Torah at the NER JCOS Annual Meeting*



*Send us your
event Photos!*



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)

100th Anniversary Jewish Camporee – B'yachad

B'YACHAD - THE GREAT JEWISH CAMPOREE!



SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL JEWISH COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

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



WHAT'S INCLUDED?

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

REGISTER NOW! \$50 DEPOSIT

Contact CERegion@JewishScouting.org with questions.

For additional details and to secure your spot today!



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



Spring – June 15-19 at Camp Spencer

Sabbath Friendly

Course Director: Gabe Hare

Gabe.harewb26.1@gmail.com

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

Longhouse Council & Baden Powell NJCOS 100th Anniversary Celebration



COMING 2026!



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

100TH BIRTHDAY OF THE NATIONAL JEWISH COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

Open to ALL and featuring:

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



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

National Jamboree



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



בס"ד
V2.2

ATTEND THE 2026 NATIONAL SCOUT JAMBOREE

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

Participant Registration Requirements:

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

Jewish Scouting Includes Commitment to:

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

Scan or Click to Apply (space is limited):

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

Questions? Contact Us:

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

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



Jewish Religious Emblems



THE NATIONAL JEWISH COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

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

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

For additional information contact the Regional or NJCOS: JewishScouting.Org

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

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

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

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

Central: CeRegion@JewishScouting.Org
Northeast: NeRegion@JewishScouting.Org
Southern: SoRegion@JewishScouting.Org
Western: [WeRegion@JewishScouting.Org](mailto>WeRegion@JewishScouting.Org)

Adult Awards

The Shofar Award

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



The Chai Award

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



The Yad Award

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



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](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.jewishscouting.org/Scouts-BSA-Emblems/#TalmudTorah)



**For Cub Scout
Emblems scan**



**For Older Scout
Emblems scan**



**Celebrating 100 Years
1926 - 2026**

