



Jewish Scouting Today

The Newsletter of the
National Jewish Committee on Scouting
Fall 2026

NJCOS President's Message

Khaveyrim (Friends),

Thank you for re-electing me President of the NJCOS for another three-year term. It is an honor to continue working alongside you to bring Scouting to as many Jewish youth as possible. Our future is bright, and together we will build on our many accomplishments as the National Jewish Committee on Scouting.



As we move past the election season, my focus remains fully on unity and our shared mission of serving Jewish youth through Scouting. I am always open to constructive dialogue and welcome direct, personal conversations with anyone wishing to connect.

This summer, your efforts supporting our Committee's 100th Anniversary were extraordinary. We touched the lives of thousands of Jewish Scouts and leaders through a remarkable Jewish-focused trek at Philmont Scout Ranch, our largest and best National Jamboree booth to date, and multiple Jewish Jamboree events, including both egalitarian and traditional religious services. Programs like Jewish summer camps, Kinusim, conclaves, and kosher training events took place all across America. Additionally, more Scouts earned Jewish Emblems this year than ever before, and four Jewish Eagle Scouts each received a \$5,000 scholarship for college their freshman year this

fall. Our Oral History YouTube channel has expanded rapidly with interviews featuring our dedicated leaders, and our website and Facebook page are stronger than ever.

Many of you have worked tirelessly behind the scenes, and I deeply appreciate your efforts. Your hard work has clearly paid off.

Finally, I would like to share an excerpt from a report sent to us by Dale Copeland, Head of Chaplains at Philmont Scout Ranch:

"I commend Chaplain [Rabbi Rochmiel] Tobesman for his service for the entire summer season. He proved to be knowledgeable, dedicated, and flexible. His daily presence and heartening words across base camp were evident and strengthened old friendships while forging new ones."

After having no Jewish chaplain in 2025, it was wonderful to see a total Jewish chapel attendance of 1,048 in 2026. The best part for me was observing Rock's connection with young people in extended conversations. I understood they saw him as a teacher and mentor, not a performer. His efforts were never limited to only those of his faith, especially for those still seeking spiritual understanding. The NJCOS is to be commended for recommending him."

Thank you again for everything you do for Jewish youth in Scouting.

Yours in Jewish Scouting,

Philip Steinberg
ש"ס ש"ו

Newsletter Editor's Message

By Barry Hantman

Welcome to the Fall edition of the NJCOS Newsletter. This newsletter includes news of National Jewish Scouting interest along with subsections for each of the regions (click for quick access).

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- [Southern](#) Region news: [page 26](#)
- [Central](#) Region news: [page 28](#)
- [Northeast](#) Region news: [page 31](#)

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 Happy New Year. May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year. *L'shanah tovah tikateivu v'teichateimu*

NJCOS at the National Jamboree

By Bruce Streger

The 2026 National Jamboree is in the history books. After over two years of planning, lots of decisions and meetings, we had a huge success. We celebrated our 100th Anniversary. What an Accomplishment.

We arrived on July 19th, checked in, received our credentials, and drove to The Camp Echo dining facility to store the kosher food in the refrigerator. Then we drove over gravel roads, pulling the trailer, to our booth on the other end of the Jamboree site to have a look.



After unloading our steel wire mesh display walls, we did some on the fly planning and reshaping, we developed and created a productive and informative National Jewish Committee on Scouting booth.



I would like to thank everyone who helped, in some way or another, achieving the highest level of program for the Scouts who attended.

We paid for a 20 x 20 booth that was prominently positioned in the Duty to God Program Area. We bought another 10 x 10 area which we used as an office and supply room.



We purchased wire mesh display walls and tri-fold display boards that allowed information to be seen from outside and inside the booth. Aisles were left open for easy access. When attendees approached our booth, information could be seen that aroused their curiosity further.



Displays included our religious emblems and awards; the history of our leadership (27 Chairmen and Presidents); the history of patches and other items we've produced; The dreidel spin record; what Kosher means; and much more. We also had a "Kim's game", where mostly Jewish related items were placed on a table and the Scouts were given 30 seconds. Then the items were covered and the Scouts had to try and remember as many items as possible. The items were discussed with the Scouts to learn what they were and what they stood for.

A huge highlight were the Torahs, displaying only one at a time, brought huge crowds to see our Holy Scriptures and learn more about them. Syed Naqvi, chair of the Islamic Committee was amazed and thanked us for the chance to see the Torah up close. Baruch Hashem was watching over us.



We had Tefillin that Scouts and leaders would wear, recite the prayers and dance around; even some mini Bar Mitzvahs were performed by our Rabbis.

Our staff took groups around the booth to explain and discuss the items displayed.



We also had a front table to greet people. At the table, we gave away some 1500 patches; made over 800 various buttons; supplied sheets for our Ner Tamid and Etz Chaim emblems, other Scout

related sheet games; Copies of our prayer books created for the Jamboree; many other "chachculahs" as well. We had playing cards of our past and present Presidents; notebooks, Dreidels; Kippahs; and more. Some Scouts came back a few times.

We also had an Achievement Award. There were two levels that the Scouts could earn netting them two different bordered patches.

One morning, everyone had to take cover from a drenching rain storm with lightning and thunder. We ended up with about 40-50 people taking cover in our booth. After a while, Bruce Streger put up the Scout sign; everyone got very quiet, he thanked everyone for coming into our booth to help celebrate our 100th anniversary. Then he offered a prayer in Hebrew and English that everyone repeated after him. The last word was "sunshine", and about 30 seconds later, the rain stopped and the sun came out. It was a miracle. Everyone roared with happiness.

We also had services, starting with Tisha B'Av on the first Thursday, followed by Shabbat services on Friday evening and Saturday morning.



On Friday, we gathered at 6:30 pm at the Sub Camp C2 area pavilion where our staff, the Shomer Shabbat contingent, and Jamboree Scouts and staff got together, sang, danced, lit Shabbat candles and enjoyed a kosher meal provided by the NJCOS. Thanks goes to Ted and Pinky Severe, Mark Brody, and others for serving. The event was led by Rabbis Dovid and Shmuly Gutnick. Howard Spielman, long-time leader of the Shomer Shabbat contingent, said the blessing over the challah. At about 7:30PM, the Shomer Shabbat contingent returned to their tent for a traditional Friday evening service led by

the Scouts, and the remaining group had an egalitarian service lead by Cantor Neil Schwartz. This was his first Jamboree. Each group had about 100 people in attendance. It was fantastic. There were special kippahs given out at all the services commemorating the Jamboree and our 100th anniversary.



On Saturday morning, the NJCOS had an egalitarian service once again led by Cantor Neil Schwartz. The highlight was reading from the Torah and calling Ricky Mason up for an Aliyah. Alan Smason acted a Gabi and Bruce Streger was the Torah follower. Ricky Mason was presented with the NJCOS Shofar Award by President Philip Sternberg and Vice President Bruce Streger.



The highlight of the activities happened on Sunday morning at the Shomer Shabbat tent. Rabbis Dovid and Shmuly Gutnick, "Jambo Jews", presented the Shofar Factory, teaching everyone all about the Shofar, from animal to blowing. Over 150 Shofars were made and tested. The Rabbis also performed juggling (even with fire) and gave out Jambo Jew Patches. A fantastic time was had by all.



These are some of the highlights. You really have to be there to experience the entire Jamboree and everything that happened. Next Jamboree is scheduled for 2030 back at the Summit.

Was our Jamboree presence a success? Here's a quote from one of the Jamboree participant's relatives after the Scout returned home and told them about the experience: *"Just wanted to let you know how VERY MUCH all your hard work paid off. My nephew (from the Boston area, in the Shomer Shabbos Jamboree Contingent) shared with me that he had the most amazing time at the JCOS tent and the events that you hosted for all of the scouts (and specifically for the Jewish scouts) was simply wonderful! He enjoyed the shofar factory (and was proud to bring it home, where he and his family will be using it soon), the singing and dancing at the dinner, and just the opportunities that you crafted and created for him and all the others."*

The following people are to be thanked for helping out. Philip Sternberg, Barry Hantman, Bruce Streger, Seth Rosenberg, Alan Smason, Marty Eisenberg, Betsy Nagel, Steven Plumb, Ted and Pinky Severe, Mark Brody, Cantor Neil Schwartz, Rabbi Chaim Edelstein, Rabbi Dovid Gutnick, Rabbi Shmuly Gutnick. Thank you to all the other NJCOS members and family that stopped by and said hello.

An extra thank you to Rabbi Edelstein for caring for our Torah; Barry Hantman for bringing it to the Jamboree, and Alan Smason for bringing

another Torah; for Philip Sternberg and his Troop allowing us to use their trailer and towing it to the Jamboree, and to Bruce Streger for bringing a car load of activities and supplies.

We all made new friends and met some old ones. We put on a quality booth praised by all, especially the Duty to God and Country staff. Thank you to all.

Jamboree Shomer Shabbat Contingent

The National Scout Jamboree included a Shomer Shabbat Contingent comprised of Jewish Scouts from across the United States (and some from Israel; see article below).

These Scouts came to the together as a single Jamboree Troop and were able to participate in the Jamboree with kosher meals, daily minyan, an eruv around the campsite, traditional Shabbat and Tisha B'Av services in their own Synagogue Tent (with a Torah), Shabbat observance, and Jewish Leadership.



The Jewish Insider news magazine published an article about the experience.

Clad in khaki uniforms and merit badges, hundreds of Scouts gathered on a Saturday morning for a sight that has become increasingly rare in America: a Jewish prayer service without security and where nobody felt the need to look over their shoulder.

At a moment when Jewish students contemplating the upcoming school year are weighing whether to wear or hide their Star of

David necklaces as they return to the classroom, this summer's Scouting America national jamboree in West Virginia offered a different message — holding a full, public Shabbat service for its Jewish scouts as part of an event organizers describe as one of the last unapologetically inclusive spaces for religious minorities in youth culture.

"I've had the privilege of going to synagogue services around the world for the past 20 years. [The jamboree] was the only one I've been to, other than in Israel, where there was no need for security around the service," Ricky Mason, chair of Scouting America's national executive board, told Jewish Insider.

You can read the complete article at <https://ji.news/5en3s>

While at the Jamboree, Scouts from the Shomer Shabbat Contingent had an opportunity to meet Lord David Baden- Powell (great grandson of Scouting's founder) and discussed Scouting around the world.



On the way to the Jamboree, the Shomer Shabbat Contingent made a stop at Valley Forge (see photo below).



Israeli Scouts at the National Scout Jamboree

The National Scout Jamboree included a contingent from Israel. The BSI, Boy Scouts of Israel, sent several Scouts who camped with the American Shomer Shabbat Jamboree Contingent and was able to enjoy and participate in all of the Jamboree activities.



Jamboree Shofar Factory

One of the highlights of the National Scout Jamboree for Jewish Scouts was the Sunday morning Shofar Factory. While many non-Jewish Scouts attended church services, Jewish Scouts had the opportunity to make their own Shofar.

Using the Shomer Shabbat Contingent's Synagogue Tent as the setting, Rabbis Shmuly & Dovid Gutnick put on a great "Jambo Jew" show explaining what makes a Shofar kosher and how one is constructed. The Scouts were then given a ram's horn, at no cost, the appropriate tools and safety equipment, and the instructions on how to construct their very own fully-kosher Shofar to bring home with them.

As each Scout completed their Shofar, they gave it a mighty blast to signify completion. The joy on the Scouts faces as they sounded their new Shofar was a sight to behold. Over 150 Scouts went home with Shofars.

The NJCOS provided the funding to bring the Shofar Factory, including the purchase of the rams' horns and supplies, to the Jamboree.



NJCOS Philmont Trek

During this past summer, the National Jewish Committee on Scouting sponsored 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.



Why do we sponsor 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.



(Trek Scouts celebrating the NJCOS 100th Anniversary)

In 2026, the trek included two Crews. The male and female scouts spent a week in the challenging Philmont mountains hiking, camping, praying, and enjoying all that Philmont has to offer.

The following email was sent by the Rabbi that accompanied the trek.

Dear NJCOS,

I want to express my deepest gratitude for blessing me with the opportunity to serve as the Trek Rabbi for two Jewish crews at Philmont Scout Ranch this summer. It was one of the greatest honors of my life and an experience that I will carry with me for many years to come.

For the past several years, my family and I have lived in Tzfat, in northern Israel, where we have experienced the realities of war, hundreds of rocket attacks, and the uncertainty that has become part of daily life since October 7. Like so many of our brothers and sisters, we have known fear, loss, and the emotional weight of living through one of the most difficult periods in modern Jewish history.

Because of that, arriving at Philmont felt like taking a deep breath.

To walk through Hashem's magnificent creation surrounded by Jewish Scouts, to hear their laughter echo through the mountains, to daven together beneath an endless sky, and to watch them discover strengths they never knew they possessed, was a reminder of the resilience of the Jewish people. Even in times of darkness, we continue to build, to teach, to lead, and to hope.

Watching our Scouts succeed was one of the greatest joys of the trek. We climbed mountains, encouraged one another when the trail became difficult, and celebrated every hard-earned victory

together. By the end of the trek, we accomplished far more than completing miles on a map. Each Scout grew in confidence, leadership, friendship, and Jewish identity. Seeing that transformation unfold each day reminded me why Jewish Scouting matters so deeply.

One of my greatest privileges was mentoring the Chaplain Aides. Watching them embrace their roles as spiritual leaders, care for their fellow Scouts, lead tefillah and moments of reflection, and discover their own voices gave me tremendous hope for the future of Jewish leadership. Our movement is in good hands because of young people like them.

As both a rabbi and a U.S. Army Chaplain, I often think about resilience. Philmont reminded me that resilience is about choosing to move forward together with faith, purpose, hope, and endurance. That is exactly what I witnessed in these Scouts.

This experience has strengthened my commitment to Jewish Scouting. I return home inspired, energized, and eager to serve even more. Whether mentoring future Chaplain Aides, serving on future treks, supporting units, or helping Jewish youth discover the beauty of our traditions in the outdoors, I would be honored to continue giving back to a movement that has already given me so much.

Thank you for your trust, your encouragement, and your unwavering commitment to ensuring that Jewish Scouts have opportunities like this. Your work is shaping not only great Scouts, but future Jewish leaders whose lives will be forever enriched by experiences like Philmont.

May the Holy One continue to bless the National Jewish Committee on Scouting, its Scouts and Scouters, and May Hashem bless the State of Israel and the United States, and all who watch over and defend them, protect the Jewish people wherever they may be, and grant us the blessing of peace.

Thank you again for this extraordinary opportunity. I look forward to serving Jewish Scouting for many years to come.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Many Blessings,

Jesse (Yishai) Paquin

Rabbi

Eco-Adventure Guide

US Army Chaplain Candidate

*Chaplain, 802 Scouting America Units,
Transatlantic Council*

Enjoy these Photos from the Philmont Trek. And, be sure to keep your eyes open for information about the 2027 NJCOS High Adventure activities.





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 photo below is of NJSA member Elliott Weisberger who was rocking his NJSA Pocket Patch, NJCOS Epaulets, and NJCOS World Crest Ring.



New Members of the NJCOS

The National Jewish Committee on Scouting is pleased to welcome four new members. All have been very active in Scouting and bring fresh ideas as well as a wealth of skills, knowledge and enthusiasm to the NJCOS.

Please welcome our new members:

Betsy Nagel



Betsy has been involved in Scouting for many years. She joined scouting in 2017 and was appointed as the Chairperson of the Sequoia Council Jewish Committee on Scouting in 2026.

Betsy has served as a Den leader in Pack 59 from 2017 to 2021. She then joined Troop 301 in Fresno, CA serving as Secretary from 2021 to 2024, Popcorn Chair in 2024, Outdoor Chair from 2024 to 2026, Service Chair from 2024 to 2026 and is currently a Merit Badge Counselor For 12 Merit Badges.

Betsy is Woodbadge trained and has received the Scouting America James E. West Award.

In 2025, Betsy was a founder for a Jewish Sponsored Pack, Pack 613, in Fresno, CA and currently serves as a Den Leader.

Betsy served as a member of the 2026 NJCOS National Scout Jamboree Staff. She received the NJCOS Shofar Award in 2026.

Betsy is a member of a Conservative Synagogue

and has been assigned as the NJCOS Development Committee Chairperson.

Lilly Matthews



Lily has been involved with Scouting since 2018 as a member of the Great Trails Council in Ohio. She is an Eagle Scout, Order of the Arrow (OA) Vigil Member, Past OA Lodge Communications Chair, and current OA Lodge Chief. In addition, she served on staff for the National Order of the Arrow Conference in 2024.

Lily has attended National Leadership Seminar (NLS) Training and served on NLS staff in 2025. She has also received the Scouting America James E. West Award.

Lily has also been very involved with her Council Scout Camp working in the nature area, service society, handicraft, at the pool and, most recently, serving as the Assistant Program Director where she developed the program for the 2026 summer camp including re designing the first-year camper program.

Lily previously worked at the Kent State University Adventure Center where she worked on designing high ropes, low ropes, climbing, and team building courses. She also worked for the National Park Service in the Environmental Education Center to facilitate school programs.

Lily is a member of a Reform Synagogue and has been assigned as the NJCOS Youth Engagement Initiative Subcommittee Chairperson.

Doug Schwab



Doug has been involved with Scouting for many years having started as a Cub Scout and earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 1969.

Doug started a Troop of scouts with special needs while in high school and still work with it to this day.

Doug has served as president of Potomac Council in western Maryland from 2010 to 2013 and is currently a board member of Pittsburgh-based Laurel Highlands Council.

Doug was awarded the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award as well as the Silver Beaver, NJCOS Shofar Award, and the Woods Award (for service to Special Needs Scouting nationally).

Doug has staffed the 1985, 2013, 2017, 2023, 2026 National Scout Jamborees and the 1995, 1998-99, 2002-03, 2007, 2011, 2019 World Jamborees. He has published books on the 2019 and 2023 World Jamborees. In 2013 he developed the "Jamboreum", a museum of scouting history at National and World jamborees at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia.

Doug is currently President of B'er Chayim Reform Temple for the second time and a member of the Mountain Maryland Trails board.

Doug has been assigned as a member of the NJCOS Marketing Committee.

Joel Salinger



Joel has been involved with Scouting for many years having started as a Cub Scout and earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 1981.

Joel has held almost every position available in Scouting including Assistant Scoutmaster, District Committee Member, Council Program Committee Member and Activities Chair, Unit Commissioner, Assistant District Commissioner, District Advancement Committee Member, District Advancement Committee Member, Venture Crew Assistant Advisor, Troop Committee Chair, Council Strategic Planning Committee Member, Suffolk County Council Chairman, Jamboree and Assistant Scoutmaster. In addition, Joel served on Woodbadge Staff and on staff for the 2023 and 2026 National Scout Jamborees.

Joel has been a member of the Suffolk County Council (now Long Island Council) Jewish Committee on Scouting and previously served as both Vice-Chairman & Chairman. He received the NJCOS Shofar Award in 1987 and is also the recipient of the Scouting America Training Award, Commissioner Arrowhead, District Committee Key, Commissioner's Key, and District Award of Merit.

Joel is a member of a Conservative Synagogue and has been assigned to the NJCOS Legal Advisory Committee.

Scouts Read Sacred Texts

The Third Annual Scouts Read Sacred Texts Event was held on May 7, 2026. 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. Let's make next year's event, scheduled for May 6th, 2027, even better!



Scouts Read Sacred Texts is 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 to participate and support 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.

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.

NJCOS Virtual Seminar Series

The NJCOS is continuing its popular online virtual seminars. The next session, scheduled for October 18, 2026, will be a celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the National Jewish Committee on Scouting. The session will be conducted via zoom at 8:00 pm Eastern time, 7:00 pm Central time, 6:00 pm Mountain time and 5:00 pm Pacific Time.

Join this one-hour virtual seminar to learn more about the history of the NJCOS itself as we recall our formation 100 years ago. Hear from some of our past Chairmen as they share their memories and tell us their hopes and vision for the next 100 years of Jewish Scouting. Gain an understanding of how the NJCOS fits into the National Religious Relationships Committee (NRRC) and the overall Scouting America Duty to God program.

As this is a celebration, attendees are asked to have a festive "nosh" available for themselves to share in the jubilation from their home.

Register for this event by sending email to neregion@jewishscouting.org. The Zoom link will be sent to you as the date approaches.

New NJCOS National Chaplain

In August, the NJCOS named R Rabbi Chaim Eliezer Edelstein as National Jewish Committee Chaplain and Rabbi Michael Churgel Assistant National Chaplain.

Rabbi Edelstein brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position having previously served as the NJCOS Chaplain at Philmont Scout Reservation and at the NJCOS exhibit area at the 2026 National Scout Jamboree.



Rabbi Edelstein is a proud graduate of the 2021 class of JTS Rabbinical school, and Senior Rabbi at Temple Beth Ahm in Aberdeen, NJ. In tandem with his rabbinic ordination, Rabbi Edelstein completed a master's degree in Jewish Thought, concentrating in Kabbalah and Hasidic literature, and wrote his thesis on the mystical connection between ethics and cosmogony in early Hasidic commentaries on *Parshat Bereishit*.

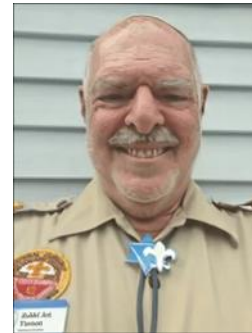
Rabbi Churgel also brings a wealth of knowledge and experience having served as the Suffolk County Council (now Log Island Council) Jewish Committee on Scouting.



With over 30 years of congregational experience, having served synagogue communities from Southern California to the Gulf Coast of Florida, Rabbi Churgel is currently the Rabbi at North

Country Reform Temple – Ner Tamid in Glen Cove, NY. Following his undergraduate education at UCLA, Rabbi Churgel received Rabbinic S'micah from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. In addition to his Master of Arts in Jewish Education, Rabbi Churgel earned the title "Reform Jewish Educator" from the Association of Reform Jewish Educators has also served as a part of its national board.

The NJCOS also wishes to thank outgoing NJCOS Chaplain, Rabbi Art Vernon, for his many years of service to the committee. Rabbi Vernon is well known for his participation at Philmont, at Jamborees, and at many activities throughout the Northeast Region. Rabbi Vernon will continue to be active in the NJCOS and we thank him for his many years of dedication and service as NJCOS Chaplain.



2026 USPS Hanukkah Stamp

The United States Postal Service has released the design for the 2026 Hanukkah postage stamp. These stamps will soon be available at your local post office.



NRRC Virtual Religious Relationships Week

Join us for the Virtual Religious Relationships Week via Zoom on September 28th-October 1st, 2026. Hosted by the Scouting America National Religious Relationships Committee, two class will be held per sessions each night, at 7pm & 8pm (central time). Each time block will offer multiple class options.



This invitation extends to Scouting America Professionals, Volunteers (Scouting America, faith organizations including the NJCOS, etc.), Clergy & Faith Leaders, and of course Family Members. Classes will NOT be recorded as youth under 18 may be present.

There is no cost for this event. Register at:
<https://forms.gle/6LZKNFhvJny1tARu7>

When you register above, we are simply asking you to register your device for each evening of the week you plan on joining us. That way we know there is a high enough capacity. As to what class you attend, feel free to decide that day, or even jump between sessions. We ask that all youth leave their cameras off for safeguarding youth.

The event flyer can be found at:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Q7g9AxYQeQ6bygTyak6Kr83SZx63Z2hn/view?usp=sharing>

As a part of these event, Monday, September 28th will focus on Religious Emblems and Faith Activities.

Current Class List: (sessions in **bold** are being led by NJCOS members)

Monday, September 28th: 7pm Central
(Religious Emblems Night)

- Christian Science Faith Group
- P.R.A.Y.- Running a Local Class (Protestant)
- P.R.A.Y.- Virtual Fall Classes (Protestant)
- Orthodox Churches- Coptic & Armenian
- Saints in Scouting (The Church of Jesus Christ for Latter-day Saints)
- Members of Churches of Christ for Scouting (Churches of Christ)
- Dharmic & Eastern Traditions (Buddhist, Hindu, Jain, Sikh)

Monday, September 28th: 8pm Central

- Bible Basic Patch Series
- MCCS Kinder Activity Patch. "Code Name: Jesus" (explanation, lessons & activity samples)

Tuesday, September 29th: 7pm Central

- Program- Putting the Wow into Your Program
- This is Peace Light
- Marketing- Social Media for Scouting

Tuesday, September 29th: 8pm Central

- Marketing- Storytelling Through Photography
- Zoroastrian Faith: Overview Session
- Baptist Faith: Overview Session of Resources for Scouters
- What is Members of Churches of Christ for Scouting? (History, mission, events, scholarships, Who is MCCS)

Wednesday, September 30th: 7pm Central

- **Jewish: Ten Questions My non-Jewish Friends Ask Me about Judaism**
- Advancement- Cub Scout Duty to God Requirements

Wednesday, September 30th: 8pm Central

- **Jewish Antisemitism**
- Advancement- Scouts BSA Duty to God Requirements

Thursday, October 1st: 7pm Central

- **Program- Faith Hikes**
 - Advancement- Venturing/Sea Scouting Duty to God Requirements
 - Scouting for Home School. (Scouting methodology for home school, Enlarge your unit through home school outreach)
- Thursday, October 1st: 8pm Central
- Services- More Than the Big Three

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.

Scholarships for Jewish Eagle Scouts

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. Please note that the application window for 2027 will open in January 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 Etz Chaim religious emblem.
- Have demonstrated practical citizenship in your synagogue, school, Scouting unit, and community.
- Be enrolled in an accredited high school and in your final year at the time of selection. Exception: Scouts whose Eagle Scout boards of review are held the same year of their high school graduation may apply in that calendar year.



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

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



Please refer to the Religious Emblems trifold contained at the end of this newsletter for more details regarding the available emblems.

The National Jewish Committee on Scouting commends and recognizes all Scouts and Scouters who have earned Jewish Religious Emblems between June and August 2026.

The recipients are:

June

Name	Region	Council
Ridley Bolick	SO	NCAC
Eli Zipser	WE	Western Los Angeles County
Natan Berkovits	NE	Patriots Patch
Griffin Bateman	WE	Pacific Skyline
Genevieve Bateman	WE	Pacific Skyline
Evelyn Kerr	SO	Coastal GA
Sheldon Wright	SO	NCAC
Jeremy Fleiss	NE	Greater Hudson Valley
Rafi Bryant-Strauss	CE	Northern Star
Benjamin Kane	NE	Green Mountain
Theodore Kane	NE	Green Mountain
Travis Gordesky	NE	Patriots Patch
Lior Welt	NE	Greater Hudson Valley

July

Name	Region	Council
Dawn Haaz	NE	Washington Crossing
Nora Dembitz	Far East	Far East
Nathan Anton	SO	Greater Tampa Bay

August

Name	Region	Council
Lucy Greenberg	SO	Occoneechee
Daniel Gale	WE	Golden Gate Area
Elan Berk	CE	Northern Star
Jonathan Rosensw	CE	Dan Beard
Scott Joseph	CE	Dan Beard
Bram Franklin	SO	Circle 10
Nathan Dankberg	WE	Ventura County
Rosalind Reber	WE	Golden Gate
Josh Penzerlle	WE	Chief Seattle
Alex Shapira	SO	Atlanta Area
Ezri Bluth	SO	Atlanta Area
Michael Abrahams	NE	Monmouth

NJCOS Event Dates of National Interest

- Sep. 28th-Oct. 1, 2026 – NRRC Virtual Religious Relationships Week
- Oct 19, 2026 – NJCOS Executive Board Meeting
- Oct. 26, 2026 – NJCOS Full Membership Meeting
- December 10-14, 2026 NJCOS Booth at the 2026 URJ Conference
- Feb 21, 2026 – NJCOS Executive Board Meeting
- Feb. 28, 2026 – NJCOS Full Membership Meeting
- May 7, 2027 – Scouts Read Sacred Texts
- May 9-10, 2027 - NJCOS Annual Meeting
- May 10-14, - 2027 Scouting America National Annual Meeting
- May 12, 2027 - Scouting America NRRC Meeting
- May 13, 2027 - Scouting America Duty to God Breakfast
- July 29, 2027 – Jewish Religious Services at the National Order of the Arrow Conference

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).

2027 Scout Shabbat Patch Contest

Scouts can help the NJCOS design the 2027 Scout Shabbat Patch and earn prizes! The rules are simple:

- Design a patch that represents Scout Shabbat - Think outside the box.
- The patch should be 3-4 inch shape. Be creative and different!
- Design required by October 14, 2026
- Make sure to include text "Scout Shabbat" and "National Jewish Committee on Scouting (NJCOS)"
- Email your design to Bruce Streger at wb2adf@gmail.com

Here are a few examples of prior year's patches as examples:



This year we will have 1st and 2nd place winners.

The Winner will:

- Receive a framed patch with certificate
- Be publicized on the National Jewish Committee Website
- Receive 5 additional Shabbat patches
- Receive a \$36 (2nd place) or \$54 (1st place) Prize

A New Years Story

As we observe the High Holy Days, I'd like to share with you a story written by the Northeast Region JCOS Chaplain, Rabbi Rachmiel Tobesman

Hineni – Different Kinds of Prayer

*by Rabbi Rachmiel Tobesman
Northeast Region JCOS Chaplain*

During the High Holy Days, the chazzan (cantor) begins the Musaf service with the Hineni prayer (here I am). This prayer is moving and deeply personal. Serving as the Shaliach Tzibbur (emissary of the congregation), the chazzan, a man of great humility, pleads with the Almighty that he be worthy to represent the people of his congregation. He also asks to represent all the people of Israel.



Shaliach Tzibbur literally means the messenger of a congregation in public prayer. It is a Jewish prayer leader in the Synagogue, also known as a Chazzan (Cantor). This is a weighty responsibility. Not everyone is suited to the position.

In a village, a very wealthy man believed he should lead the congregation in prayer because of his importance to everyone in the village. No one in the village liked the idea. However, they feared what might happen if they challenged the powerful, wealthy man. So, they put their troubled heads together and decided to send a delegation to ask the holy rabbi in a nearby town for advice. The holy rabbi suggested that the wealthy man, the self-appointed prayer leader, should come to him for a blessing.

When, in due course, the self-appointed baal tefillah (prayer leader) of the village came to the holy rabbi to receive his blessing before undertaking the weighty responsibility of leading his community in prayer, the holy rabbi asked him, "Why should you lead the community in prayer?" The wealthy man took a deep breath and explained that he gave a lot of tzedakah

(charity), built many homes in the village, and employed most of the villagers.

The holy rabbi listened and then explained, "As you know, the Torah speaks of three kinds of prayer.

There is

תַּפִּלַּת לְמֹשֶׁה

'the prayer of Moshe Rabbeinu' (Moses our Teacher);

There is

תַּפִּלַּת לְדָוִד

'the prayer of King David'; and

There is

תַּפִּלַּת לְעָנִי

'the prayer of a poor man.'

Now Moshe Rabbeinu was indeed 'slow of speech and slow of tongue.' (Exodus 4: 10) — but he was the father of the prophets and the teacher of all Israel. King David — why, he is called 'the sweet singer of Israel.' (2 Samuel 23:1) And as for the poor man, his heart is humble, and we know from Psalms that 'a broken and contrite heart, O G-d, You will not despise.' (Psalm 51:17)

"Now the baalei tefillah of our days who lead their congregations in prayer likewise fall into these same three categories. There are those who are not very musical, but they are righteous — so their prayers are accepted like 'the prayer of Moshe.' Then there are those who are perhaps not quite so righteous, but in their melodiousness they 'exalt God with their throats' — so their prayers are accepted like 'the prayer of David.' Finally, there are those who are neither righteous nor musical, but since they are poor

and their hearts are humble, their prayers are accepted like 'the prayer of a poor man.'

"Now as for you," concluded the tzaddik, "we cannot say that you are especially righteous; nor can we say that you are musical; and neither (thank G-d) are you a poor man. So, if you want to lead your community in prayer. I will have to pray that you merit to fit into one of these three levels. There is no need for me to explain to you that to ask heaven to make you a tzaddik, a sweet singer, all of a sudden would be a vain prayer. The only way I can help you, therefore, is by asking heaven to make you poor. Then at least your prayer, 'the prayer of a poor man'..."

The wealthy man thought for some time about what the holy rabbi had said. He became intensely aware of his great pride in the many sins he had committed in his arrogance, caused by his great wealth. Therefore, he began to cry. He asked the holy rabbi how to do teshuvah to be forgiven. The wealthy man was at a loss as to what to do.

The holy rabbi sensed the wealthy man's sincerity and, in a gentle voice, asked, "Do you really want to pray on behalf of the community?"

The wealthy man, in a broken voice, answered, "I am not a particularly holy man like Moshe Rabbeinu (Moses our teacher), and I don't have an exceptionally good singing voice like Dovid haMelech (King David), but I am a man of a poor, broken spirit because of the many sins I have committed in my pride and arrogance. If I could, I still would like to lead the prayer on Rosh Hashanah so that I could be heard by the heavenly court."

The holy rabbi took the wealthy's man's hand and in a soothing voice said, "you have a gift that many people do not have is that you are very educated and cannot only say the words of the prayers of the holy and awesome Day of Judgment (Rosh Hashanah), but you can understand them also. Read for me the Hineni."

הִנֵּנִי הָעֲנִי מִמַּאֵס

The wealthy man took a deep breath and began, "hineni he'oni mimaas" and then he began to cry, "go on" encouraged the holy rabbi and slowly the words came from the wealthy man:



hineni he'oni mimaas – Here am I that am poor in meritorious deeds, trembling and in awe of the One who sits enthroned upon the praises of Israel, standing and pleading before Him on behalf of His people Israel who have sent me, though I am unworthy and unqualified for the task.

Therefore, I ask you G-d of Abraham, G-d of Isaac, and G-d of Jacob, L-rd, L-rd, benevolent G-d, compassionate and gracious, G-d of Israel, Omnipotent, fearful and awesome, grant success to the mission which I am undertaking. To stand and plead for mercy for myself and those who sent me.

Please do not hold them to blame for my sins and do not find them guilty of my iniquities, for I am a careless and willful sinner. Let them not feel humiliated by my willful sins. Let them not be ashamed of me and let me not be ashamed of them. Accept my prayer like the prayers of a man advanced in years and experienced in prayer, whose conduct in his youth was unblemished, whose beard is fully grown, whose voice is sweet, and who is friendly with other people.

May you denounce the Adversary, that he may not bring charges against me. They are congregation be cherished by you, and they you

cover our transgressions with love. Please transform all suffering and distress, for us and for all Israel, to gladness and joy, to life and peace (for the people who) love truth and peace. May there be no stumbling in my prayer.

May be your will, L-rd, G-d of Abraham, G-d of Isaac and G-d of Jacob, the great, mighty and awesome G-d, exalted G-d, "I will be what I will be," that all the angels who occupy themselves with our prayers bring my prayer before the throne of your glory and spread it before you for the sake of all the righteous, the pious, the perfect and the upright, and for the sake of your glorious, great and awesome name; for you hear the prayer of your people Israel with mercy.

Blessed are you who hears prayer.

It took the wealthy man over an hour to say the prayer of the shliach tzibbur (leader of the prayers), but it seemed his heart had changed; his sins had been washed away by his tears. A very humble wealthy man turned to the holy rabbi and asked, "Rabbi, holy rabbi, can you bless me that when I pray with everyone else that I can truly not feel any urges to 'take revenge or bear a grudge against anyone, but love my neighbor as myself' (Leviticus 19:18), 'bless me that all of my prayers should come from the inside of me.'"

The wealthy man left the holy rabbi that day a different person. On the way back to his home, he gave away large amounts of coins to all who needed them and prepared to pray with the people, not in front of them, on Rosh Hashanah that year.

May all of your prayers and the prayers of all the people this Rosh Hashanah ascend to the very throne of mercy, and may Hashem shower the world with health, happiness, and peace. On Yom Kippur, may you be sealed for a year of plenty, sweetness, and love.

May all your tales end with Shalom (peace)

2027 Scout Shabbat Patch Orders

It's not too early to think about ordering Scout Shabbat patches. While the exact pricing and design has not been determined yet, you can reserve patches using the form below.

Organizations ordering 25 or more patches can have the patch customized to include your organization name, council name, JCOS committee name, unit number, or other similar text.



<https://www.jewishscouting.org>

The National Jewish Committee on Scouting
--Scout Shabbat Program for 2027--
 The patch design contest is Officially released

Let Us know if you are having a Scout Shabbat Program
 (Live or Zoom or Both to post on our website calendar)
 Our 2027 patch design will be released by the November
Send Us Your Order by November 15th or sooner

Contact: _____ Phone #: _____
 Address: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Number of Patches: _____ Organization Name: _____
 Email Address: _____

Ship Patches to: Same as above ☐

Name: _____ Phone #: _____
 Address: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Price for orders, with shipping, to follow.
 Patches will be in our Store. Early orders can pay by a donation.
 Prices To Be Determined.

By ordering 25 or more,
 Your JCOS or Organization Title can be on YOUR patches.
Please email Bruce Streger @ WB2ADF@GMAIL.COM

Pins for Religious Emblems

If you've earned your Religious Emblem, you're probably wearing the Square Knot on your uniform. But did you know device pins are available to show which emblem you earned? The pins can be found in the NJCOS store at:

<https://www.jewishscouting.org/product-category/emblem-pins/>



Jewish Sponsored Units Across the Country

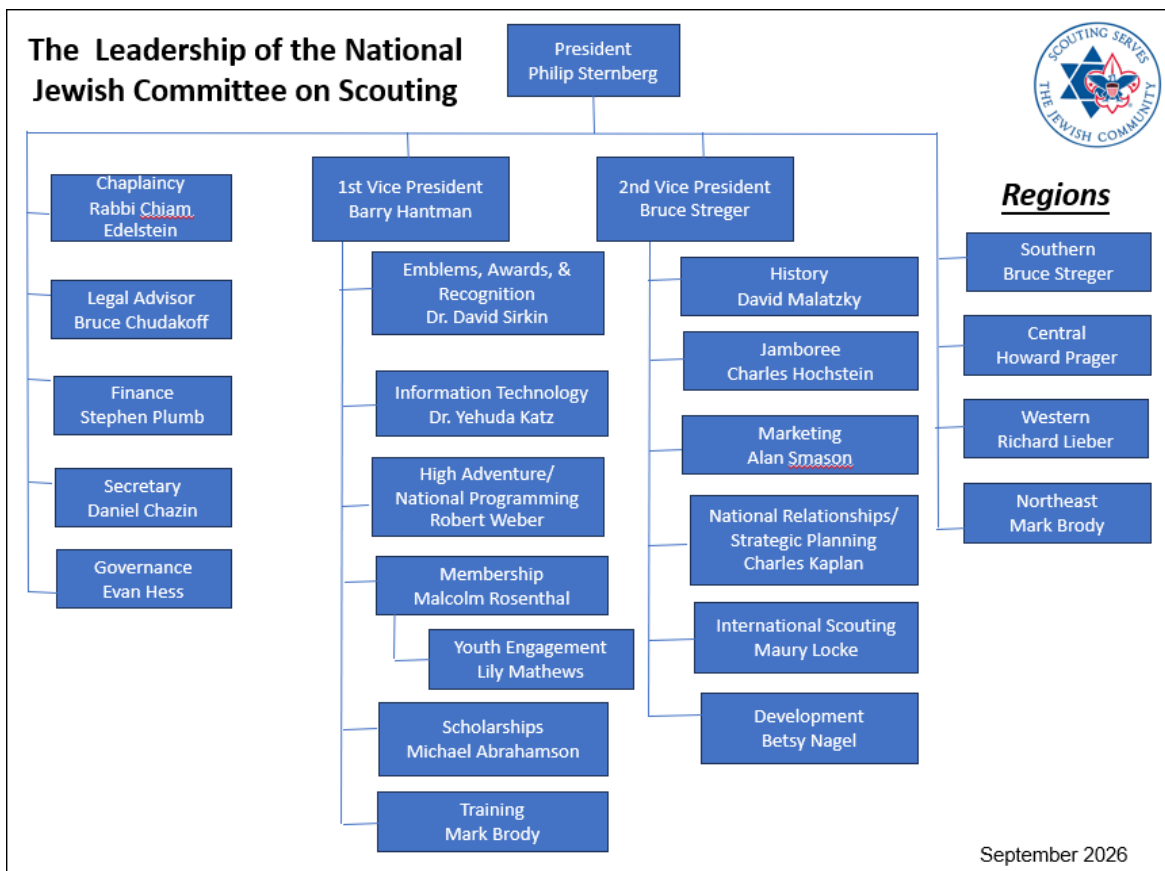
Ever wondered if there was a Jewish Sponsored Scout Unit in your area? There are many such units across the country. Here is a list of Jewish Sponsored units (Know of a unit that's not listed? Please let us know; Send updates to: *Dan Chazin* <dchazin@aol.com>, *Malcolm Rosenthal* <malcolmgrosenthal@gmail.com>, and *Jeff Goldsmith* <jgoldsmithbsa@gmail.com>). We have 86 Jewish-affiliated units.

Council	Unit	State	Organization
Atlanta Area Council 092	Troop 0613	GA	TORAH DAY SCHOOL OF ATLANTA
Atlanta Area Council 092	Pack 1818	GA	NORTH FULTON JEWISH COMMUNITY
Atlanta Area Council 092	Troop 1818	GA	NORTH FULTON JEWISH COMMUNITY
Baltimore Area Council 220	Pack 0435	MD	Har Sinai Oheb Shalom Congregation
Baltimore Area Council 220	Troop 0042	MD	Jewish Community Of Greater Baltimore
Baltimore Area Council 220	Troop 0097	MD	Har Sinai Oheb Shalom Congregation
Baltimore Area Council 220	Pack 0611	MD	Shearith Israel Congregation
Baltimore Area Council 220	Troop 0611	MD	Shearith Israel Congregation
Catalina Council 011	Troop 0613	AZ	Kol Ami
Central Florida Council 083	Pack 3084	FL	Southwest Orlando Jewish Congregation
Central Florida Council 083	Troop 7084	FL	Southwest Orlando Jewish Congregation
Central Florida Council 083	Troop 0018	FL	The Traditional Congregation of Mount Dora
Chickasaw Council 558	Pack 0025	TN	Temple Israel
Chickasaw Council 558	Troop 0025	TN	Temple Israel
Circle Ten Council 571	Crew 0790	TX	Dallas Jewish Committee on Scouting
Circle Ten Council 571	Pack 1818	TX	Dallas Jewish Committee on Scouting
Coastal Carolina Council 550	Ship 0613	SC	Rotary Club of Mount Pleasant
Connecticut Yankee Council BSA 072	Troop 0041	CT	Congregation Bnai Jacob
Connecticut Yankee Council BSA 072	Troop 0410	CT	Congregation Bnai Jacob
Connecticut Yankee Council BSA 072	Pack 0015	CT	Jewish War Veterans Post 142
Connecticut Yankee Council BSA 072	Troop 0015	CT	Jewish War Veterans Post 142
Cradle Of Liberty Council 525	Pack 0498	PA	Tiferet Bet Israel Synagogue
Cradle Of Liberty Council 525	Troop 0665	PA	Temple Sinai
Cradle Of Liberty Council 525	Pack 0018	PA	Kaiserman Jewish Community Center
Garden State Council 690	Troop 3036	NJ	Temple Beth Shalom
Greater Colorado Council 061	Pack 0018	CO	Jewish Community Centers of Denver
Greater Hudson Valley 388	Pack 0613	NY	Congregation Anshe Sholom of New Rochelle
Greater Hudson Valley 388	Troop 0613	NY	Congregation Anshe Sholom of New Rochelle
Greater Hudson Valley 388	Troop 5613	NY	Congregation Anshe Sholom of New Rochelle
Greater New York Councils, BSA 640	Troop 0611	NY	Beth-El Jewish Center of Flatbush
Greater New York Councils, BSA 640	Troop 0422	NY	Friends of Troop 422 Inc.
Green Mountain 592	Pack 0118	VT	Ohavi Zedek Synagogue
Gulf Stream Council 085	Troop 0018	FL	Chabad of West Boca Raton
Gulf Stream Council 085	Crew 2832	FL	Friends of TBH Youth LLC
Gulf Stream Council 085	Pack 0832	FL	Friends of TBH Youth LLC
Gulf Stream Council 085	Troop 4832	FL	Friends of TBH Youth LLC
Heart of America Council 307	Pack 3153	KS	Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy
Heart of America Council 307	Troop 1061	KS	Beth Shalom Synagogue
Heart of Virginia Council 602	Pack 0437	VA	Congregation Beth Ahabah
Heart of Virginia Council 602	Troop 0437	VA	Congregation Beth Ahabah
Lincoln Heritage Council 205	Pack 0030	KY	The Temple
Lincoln Heritage Council 205	Troop 0030	KY	The Temple
Lincoln Heritage Council 205	Troop 0030	KY	The Temple
Long Beach Area Council 032	Pack 0613	CA	Temple Beth Shalom
Long Beach Area Council 032	Troop 0613	CA	Temple Beth Shalom
Mayflower Council 251	Pack 0247	MA	Temple Reyim
Monmouth Council, BSA 347	Troop 0003	NJ	Jewish War Veterans Post 609/395
Monmouth Council, BSA 347	Troop 0073	NJ	Jewish War Veterans Post 609/395
National Capital Area Council 082	Pack 5776	DC	Ohev Shalom - The National Synagogue
National Capital Area Council 082	Pack 6134	MD	Jcrafts By Chabad
National Capital Area Council 082	Troop 0613	MD	Jcrafts By Chabad
National Capital Area Council 082	Troop 0614	MD	Jcrafts By Chabad
North Florida Council 087	Pack 0014	FL	Jacksonville Jewish Center
Northeast Illinois 129	Pack 0062	IL	Jewish War Veterans Post 29
Northern New Jersey Council, BSA 333	Pack 0018	NJ	United Synagogue of Hoboken
Northern New Jersey Council, BSA 333	Pack 0226	NJ	Congregation Beth Aaron
Northern New Jersey Council, BSA 333	Troop 0226	NJ	Jewish Center of Teaneck

Continued on Next Page

Northern Star Council 250	Troop 3738	MN	Sabes Jewish Community Center of Mpls
Northern Star Council 250	Troop 5738	MN	Sabes Jewish Community Center of Mpls
Patriots' Path Council 358	Pack 0005	NJ	Highland Park Conservative Temple
Patriots' Path Council 358	Troop 0055	NJ	Highland Park Conservative Temple
Sam Houston Area Council 576	Crew 0806	TX	Brotherhood of Temple Beth Isreal
Sam Houston Area Council 576	Pack 0806	TX	Brotherhood Of Temple Beth Israel
Sam Houston Area Council 576	Troop 0806	TX	Brotherhood Of Temple Beth Israel
Sam Houston Area Council 576	Troop 1806	TX	Brotherhood Of Temple Beth Israel
Sequoia Council 027	Pack 0613	CA	Temple Beth Israel, Fresno
South Florida Council 084	Pack 0018	FL	Young Israel of Hollywood-Ft Lauderdale
South Florida Council 084	Troop 0018	FL	Young Israel of Hollywood-Ft Lauderdale
Southwest Florida Council 088	Pack 0095	FL	Temple Shalom
Southwest Florida Council 088	Troop 0095	FL	Temple Shalom
The Spirit of Adventure 227	Troop 0054	MA	Maimonides School
The Spirit of Adventure 227	Troop 0054	MA	Maimonides School
Theodore Roosevelt Council 386	Troop 0186	NY	Temple BNai Torah
Theodore Roosevelt Council 386	Troop 0189	NY	Temple BNai Torah
Theodore Roosevelt Council 386	Troop 0125	NY	torah
Theodore Roosevelt Council 386	Pack 0031	NY	Central Synagogue Beth Emeth
Theodore Roosevelt Council 386	Troop 0214	NY	Central Synagogue Beth Emeth
Theodore Roosevelt Council 386	Pack 0613	NY	Congregation Anshei Shalom
Theodore Roosevelt Council 386	Troop 0613	NY	Congregation Anshei Shalom
Theodore Roosevelt Council 386	Troop 0267	NY	Temple Beth Sholom
Twin Rivers Council 364	Pack 1012	NY	Sidney Albert Albany Jewish Community Center
Twin Rivers Council 364	Troop 1120	NY	Sidney Albert Albany JOC
W.L.A.C.C. 051	Pack 0311	CA	Temple Beth Hillel
W.L.A.C.C. 051	Troop 0036	CA	Temple Beth Hillel
Washington Crossing Council 777	Troop 0613	NJ	Chabad of Hunterdon County NJ
Western Massachusetts Council 234	Troop 0032	MA	Temple Beth El

NJCOS Organization





Western Region Jewish Committee on Scouting

Message from the Western Region Chair

First, I'd like to thank two of our Western Region JCOS Chairs for volunteering at the recent very successful National Scout Jamboree: Betsy Nagel, Central California Jewish Committee on Scouting (JCOS) Chair, and Julie Seton, High Desert Council JCOS Chair.



If anyone else attended National Jamboree and you have pictures, please let me know so I can share.

If you don't know the name of your Council, the attached chart shows the Councils and their location in the Western Region and our local JCOS Committee Chairs. You'll see there are still many vacant slots. If you know of any

Jewish families in Scouting (especially in the locations without an active JCOS), please let me know so we can get them added to our database to get them information on Jewish scouting.

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

Now is also a good time to get a Scout Shabbat on your synagogue calendar for February 5th and 6th, 2027. February 8th, 2027 will be the 117th anniversary of the founding of our scouting program.

With our High Holidays approaching, please remind your Councils NOT to schedule activities during those important days.

Wishing all of you a Shanah Tovah U'metuka (A Good & Sweet Year) and may you all be inscribed and sealed for good in the Book of Life (Ketiva v'chatima tovah)!

Yours in Jewish Scouting,
Rich Lieber



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 Shabbat Services - The fall is a great time to plan your 2027 Scout Shabbat services. In 2026, Scout Shabbat Services were held in Pomona, CA in (Greater Los Angeles Area Council, Fresno, CA (Sequoia Council), and Tacoma, WA (Pacific Harbors Council). We'd like to have even more Scout Shabbat Services in 2027.

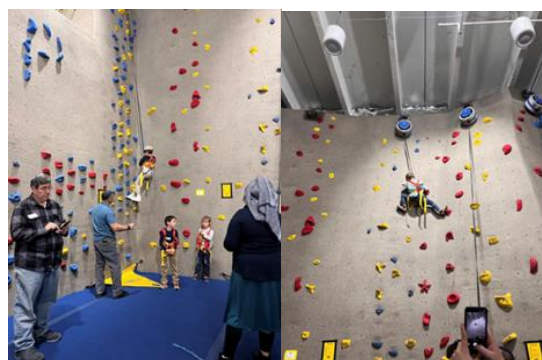
We encourage all council Jewish Committees on Scouting to hold an annual Scout Shabbat recognizing the birthday of Scouting. This is an excellent time to present Jewish religious emblems. Information and requirements for earning Jewish religious emblems may be found on our website for Scouts BSA, Venture Scouts and Explorers at [Scouts BSA, Venturers and Explorers Emblems – NJCOS](#) and for Cub Scouts at [Cub Scout Religious Emblems – NJCOS](#).

Scout Shabbat is 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.

Pack 18 in Colorado

Shomer Shabbat Cub Scout Pack 18 in Denver, Colorado has been very active this year. In August, the Pack held a Stargazing Camping Adventure timed to coincide with the Perseid Meteor Shower.

Below are pictures from the Pack's kickoff event this past year.

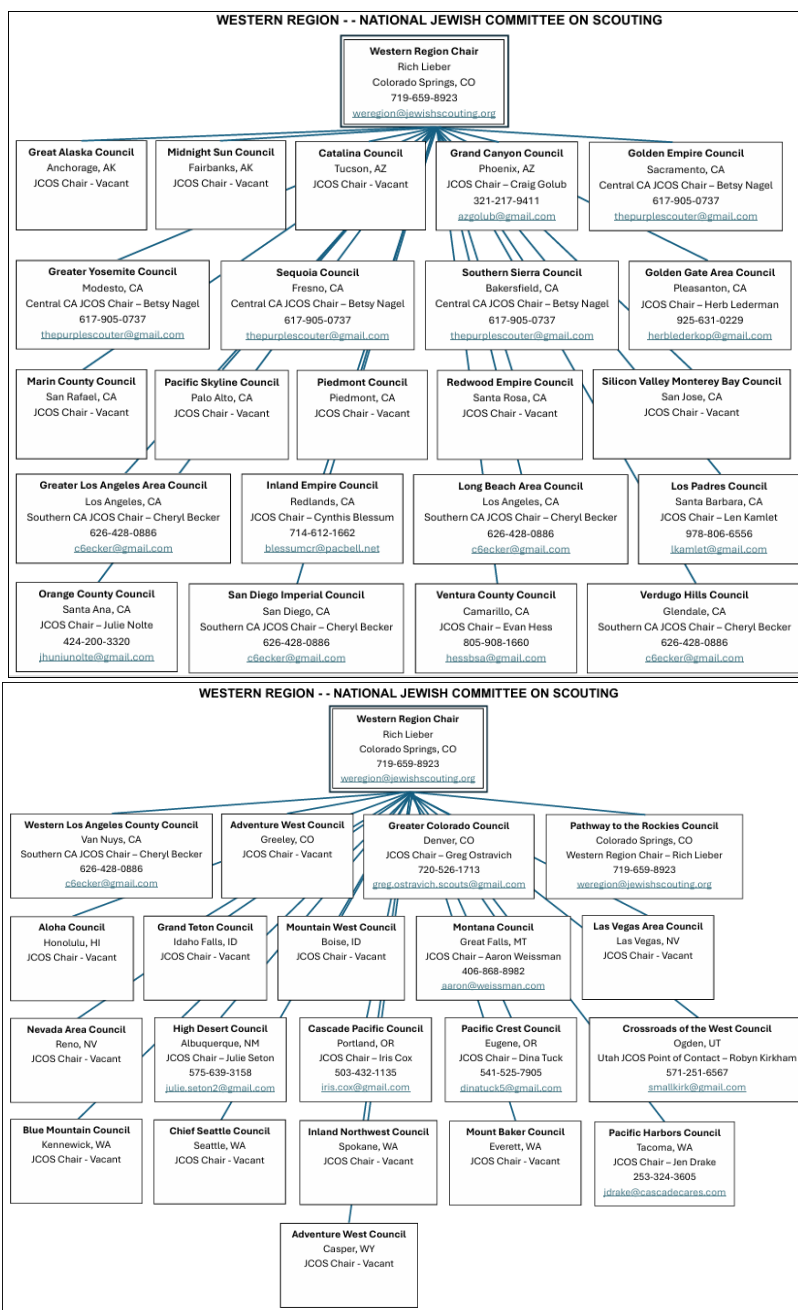


NJCOS Western Region Territory

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

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 keep in mind 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 62 religious emblems earned so far in 2026. See the list of recipients in May, June and July on page 16 of this newsletter.



We have many Jewish-Sponsored Units in the Southern Region. Please see the list on page 20 of this newsletter. We are currently working on establishing three new Jewish units.

We currently have 5 Council-level Jewish Committees in the Southern Region and are working on establishing two additional Jewish committees.

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.

The Southern Region newsletter has been discontinued in lieu of the national newsletter.

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
- Southeast Louisiana Council, Alan Smason Chair
- 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 the Region Chair, Paul Dreiseszun, and he'd be happy to assist.



Innovative Recruiting Ideas in the Southern Region

Scouting America Shomer Shabbat Ship 613 of Coastal Carolina Council came up with an innovative way to recruit new Scouts. Working together with the staff at Camp Ramah Darom in Georgia (a Jewish summer camp; not a Scout Camp), they organized a Scout Oneg for recruitment purposes.

They created a flyer to promote the event (see below).



Approximately 20 youth attended, including three Israeli Scouts.

Ship 13 Leadership provided a brochure to the curious with information on how to join. They also handed out a couple more brochures to staff parents unable to come

and were curious about scouting for their children. At the Oneg, they had card and board games to play, along with chocolate babka, pickles, and iced tea, which were all made from scratch in their outdoor cooking/camping classes earlier in the week (sort of a demonstration of look what you can learn to make if you join scouting).



Unfortunately, there are no photos as the event was held on Shabbat.

Recruiting for your unit can happen anywhere. You just need to think outside the box.

What is your unit doing to recruit new Scouts?

For information regarding Ship 613, please contact Stiefel Barry at bstiefel@yahoo.com. You do not need to live in Coastal Carolina Council to join their Ship.

NJCOS Southern Region Territory

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



Central Region Jewish Committee on Scouting

Message from the Central Region Chair

The Central Region has had a busy and exciting summer, with Tzofim performances, summer camps, JCOS meetings, and efforts to recruit new Scouts and grow existing units.



There are many encouraging signs. Cub Scout Pack 62 in Northbrook, Illinois, for example, is looking toward potentially doubling in size, with strong interest from new Cubs. Cincinnati JCOS continues to find creative ways to support the excellent participation at its Scout Shabbat. St. Louis, Kansas City, Chicago (NE Illinois), and other Committees continue to plan new and better events. Summer camps throughout the Midwest were filled with activity, adventure, and memories. And, of course, the Tzofim performed several times in Chicago and throughout the Central Region—always a highlight!

So, where do we go from here?

We need to find new ways to raise funds to support Scout Shabbat and other Jewish Scouting programs. We need more opportunities to interact with the Tzofim and build stronger connections with them and

their local coordinator. We need greater participation by Jewish Scouts, while continuing to grow our existing units and build new ones.

We also need to continue working with local councils to ensure that Scouting events are not scheduled on Jewish holidays. And, perhaps most importantly, we need to find ways to come together and support one another when antisemitism and hate crimes—including those in Detroit and elsewhere—continue to affect our communities.

I want to hear from you.

My goal is to talk with—and, when possible, visit—every JCOS and Jewish Scouting unit in the Central Region. Please let me know how I can connect with you.

I want to make sure that every Jewish Scout feels safe—not only in Scouting, but in their daily lives. Whether that means programming, counseling, outreach, education, or simply knowing that someone is there to listen and help, every Jewish Scout and every Jewish Scouter needs to know that **Scouting supports them.**

If you have ideas about how we can do that better, please reach out. Your ideas, experiences, and concerns can help shape what Jewish Scouting looks like across the Central Region.

In the NE Illinois Council, we are encouraging leaders to participate in Mental Health First Aid training. I completed the training a year ago and found it excellent. Giving our leaders the skills and confidence to recognize when someone may be struggling—and to know how to respond—can be another important way we support our Scouts.

As we enter 5787, I hope we can build on the tremendous energy of this past summer. Let's grow our units, strengthen our JCOSs, welcome more Jewish Scouts and families, deepen our partnerships, and stand together when our community needs us.

In the meantime, may hatred be abated, may we live in peace with our neighbors, and may this new year bring greater safety, strength, and hope to Jews everywhere.

L'Shana Tova!

Howard Prager

CERegion@jewishscouting.org

Triplets Earn Eagle Scout Award

Congratulations to 18-year-old triplets Caleb, Aiden and Noah Kornblum on earning the rank of Eagle Scout after an 11-year journey defined by perseverance, leadership and service.

Their achievement was far from easy. While attending Missouri Torah Institute, the brothers balanced demanding academic schedules with their Scouting responsibilities.

As observant Jews, they also faced unique challenges. As we all know, many scouting campouts take place over Shabbat, requiring careful planning and determination to complete the required camping nights while

remaining true to their Jewish faith. Rather than viewing these obstacles as setbacks, they found ways to honor both their religious commitments and their Scouting goals.

Each brother chose an Eagle service project that reflect his interests and community connections. Caleb built new garden planters for the Green Center in University City. Noah constructed a boardwalk connecting Missouri Torah Institute to a neighboring community, creating a safer and more accessible pathway for families. Aiden enhanced Faust Park's Historic Village by building a brick pathway and a firewood rack, preserving an important piece of local history.

"The lesson I will take from my scouting experience is the lesson of grit – not to give up when my plans fall through, not to stop trying when the going gets tough and to never abandon my responsibilities because it is stressful," Caleb said during the Eagle ceremony. "It is these moments that make me proud to call myself an Eagle Scout".

The NJCOS congratulated Caleb, Aiden and Noah on this remarkable milestone and offers our best wishes as they begin the next chapter of their education.



Read more at

<https://stljewishlight.org/news/news-local/three-jewish-triplets-three-eagle-scouts-one-remarkable-journey/>

Tzofim Visit the Central Region

One of the highlights this summer was a visit to the Central Region by the Tzofim Friendship Caravan.

The Tzofim Friendship Caravan is a dynamic cultural exchange program, operated by Tzofim North America and supported by the Jewish National Fund (JNF-USA).

Since 1973, the Caravan has brought the spirit of Israel to life through music, dance, and personal connection, as groups of Israeli teens travel across North America each summer fostering meaningful bonds between Israeli and North American Jews.



More than just a performance, the Friendship Caravan spreads a message of hope, unity, and peace — building bridges through shared experiences and celebrating the vibrant culture and values of Israel.

Caravan participants come from Tzofim Scout chapters across Israel, representing the diversity of Israeli society.

All members are rising high school seniors who are members of the Israeli Hebrew Scouts Movement, Tzofim.

In 2026, the Tzofim Friendship Caravan visited Minnesota, Illinois, and several JCC Camps in the Central Region. In Minnesota, the event included a picnic and obstacle

course with Israeli Ninja Warrior Champ Yoni Haran. In both locations, members of the Caravan stayed with local host families to help spread the message of “hope”.

A video of the performance is on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1607513957755339> and on YouTube at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcw9hG0WCnU>



If you'd like to invite the friendship caravan to your community, visit:

<https://www.israelscouts.org/friendship-caravan>. In addition, the NJCOS has contacts with the Tzofim Caravan and can assist you.

Pack 62 Pinewood Derby

Pack 62 in Northeast Illinois Council, Chicagoland's only Jewish-focused Pack, held it's first Pinewood Derby recently. The Scouts had a great time racing their cars down the track. The Pack meets at Congregation Beth Shalom in Northbrook.





Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting

NER JCOS Chairman's Message

By Mark S. Brody

Shanah tovah u'metukah. May you have a good and sweet year.

Jewish Scouting in the Northeast Region continues to thrive. A large number of Scouts on the recent NJCOS High Adventure Trek at Philmont were from the Northeast Region as were a large number of Scouts in the Shomer Shabbat Contingent to the National Jamboree. And, the recent turnout at the mid-Atlantic Kinus at Ockanickon Scout Reservation in Pennsylvania, with over 140 attendees, as well as the recent attendance at Forrestburg (and elsewhere) for Jewish, Kosher Scout Summer Camp, shows that our Jewish Youth are heavily involved in the Scouting Program and are looking for events that combine the values of Judaism and Scouting.

Coming up, the Northeast Region will have the annual Jewish Scouting Conclave in December, the Kosher Klondike Derby in February, the Annual Northeast Region JCOS Conference in April, and the next Kinus in May and many other events. There's a lot happening for our Scouts (and Scouters) to experience. 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.

Yours in Jewish Scouting,
Mark S. Brody,
Chairman, Northeast Region



Mid Atlantic Kinus

The Mid-Atlantic Kinus, formerly known as the NJ Kinus, was held over the Labor Day weekend at Ockanickon Scout Reservation in Bucks County, PA. This is a yearly event organized by the Jewish Scouting Programming Committee.



The event attracted over 140 Scouts (both Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA) from across the region.

The Kinus is typically held over the Memorial Day weekend. However, due to Shavuot occurring this year on that weekend, the Kinus was held over Labor Day weekend.

The Kinus is a Kosher, Shabbat Observant weekend for Pack and Troops to learn new skills and earn badges for advancement.

Below are a few pictures from this year's Kinus.





Israel Day on 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 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., and this year was no different. Enjoy these pictures of our Scouts from the Northeast Region.



NJCOS at URJ Conference

In an effort to increase the number of Jewish Sponsored units, the NJCOS will have a booth in the Exhibit Hall at the Union for Reform Judaism Biennial Conference in Philadelphia in December. This will give the NJCOS the opportunity to speak with representatives of the Reform Movement and impress upon them the shared values of Scouting and Judaism.

Long Island Council Annual Jewish Awards Breakfast

Theodore Roosevelt Council & Suffolk County Council, who have now merged to form Long Island Council, held their annual Jewish Awards Breakfast in June. The breakfast, which included a performance by the Tzofim Friendship Caravan, recognized all who have earned Jewish Religious Emblems and other awards in the past year.

Award Recipients were as follows:

- Aryeh: Isaac Bernstein; Griffin Wegodsky
- Maccabee: Rory Wegodsky; Samuel Welt
- Ner Tamid: Jason Churgel
- Talmud Torah: Rebecca Sult (Also awarded one of this year's NJCOS Eagle Scholarships); Samuel Sult (one of last year's NJCOS Eagle Scholarships)
- Scout Mensch Award (a local TRC JCOS Award): Ethan Moskowitz; Madelyn Rothstein
- Shofar Award: Rabbi Michael Churgel; Victor Wurtzel
- YAD Award: Jerry Katz; Alan Yanofsky (Barry Koppelof who had received it at the regional meeting was acknowledged)
- Eagle Scouts honored: Emma Grauling; Brian Meister; Cole Madden, Kyle Madden, Ayden McNamarra, Robert McNamarra, Ethan Moskowitz, Madelyn Rothstein (she is also a GSA Gold Award)

Please enjoy a few pictures from this year's event.



Jewish Heritage Night at Westchester Soccer

Westchester Soccer Club is a new professional USL soccer team in Westchester, NY. In June, the team held a Jewish Heritage Night. Organized in partnership with the Westchester Jewish Council and community organizations like Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS), the night was structured as a cultural celebration. The pre-game featured a unique "Rabbi Starting Lineup" presentation alongside local Jewish leaders. In addition, the event included certified kosher food vendors, such as local community favorites like Falafel Taco.

Enjoy a few photos of our Jewish Scouts and Scouters at this event.



Captain Jacob Joseph Service at Ten Mile River

Back in 1994, at Camp Keowa at Ten Mile River Scout Reservation, a long time Scouter named Thomas Maher was hiking and looking to scrounge some wood. He came upon a decrepit building -- it was the "old" Jewish Chapel.

The Chapel was falling down and the woods around it had taken over.



He also saw a plaque with Hebrew on it -- and the Marine Corps emblem. As a former Marine and a man who values faith he wasn't going to let this go. Tom immediately recognized that he had come upon a building that should not be in disrepair.



He assembled a crew of Scouters and got to work. They renovated the chapel and did a lot of research on the Marine, Captain Jacob Joseph, in whose name the Chapel was dedicated.

It turns out that the Captain, who came from a very well-known Jewish family in Manhattan, made the ultimate sacrifice at Guadalcanal in October of 1942.

Tom and his crew assembled every other piece of Jewish ephemera they found at the many abandoned camps around Ten Mile River and brought everything to the Chapel. He then initiated an annual memorial service for the Captain. Below are a few of the pictures from the most recent memorial service in August 2026.



Annual Jewish Scout Conclave

Save the date. The Annual Jewish Scout Conclave is scheduled for December 23 to 27, 2026, potentially at Maimonides School in Brookline, MA. The Conclave is a gathering for Scouting advancement, fun, and fellowship, while living and learning in a traditional Jewish environment. It's a great event during school vacation.

New Jewish Unit in Albany, NY

Looking for a Jewish-sponsored Scout Troop in the Albany, NY area? Troop 1120 is now live and meets at the Sidney Albert JCC in Albany. For information, please contact Elon Weintraub at elon@weintraubworld.net

Kosher, Shabbat Observant Summer Camp at Forrestburg

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

Scouts from across the Northeast Region joined together for two weeks of fun and adventure. This year, they were also joined by the Shomer Shabbat Contingent to the National Jamboree who used Forestburg as an opportunity to acquaint themselves with each other prior to the Jamboree.

Enjoy a few pictures of our Jewish Scouts at Forestburg.



Northeast Region Annual Conference

Save the date. The Annual Northeast Region Jewish Committee on Scouting Annual Conference is scheduled Sunday, April 4, 2027 (Purim starts March 22, Passover starts April 21). It will be held at Temple Sinai in Dresher, PA.

The goal of the conference is to help you provide a vibrant and exciting program for our Jewish Scouts.

The conference is open to Scouters from across the country. Kosher Food is included in the conference fee.

If you would like to present at the conference, or have a topic that you'd like to see presented, please contact the NERJCOS Chairman, Mark Brody at mbrodycc@aol.com

Amazing Recruiting Video by Troop 226

Looking to attract Scouts to your unit? Shomer Shabbat Troop 226 in Teaneck, NJ held a recruiting night that attracted 17 prospective new Scouts. How did they have that level of success? They focused on the things that our youth are interested in. Check out their amazing and effective promotional video at:

<https://youtu.be/4MACr3axRIA?feature=shared>.

The video shows Scouts whitewater rafting, mountain climbing, canoeing, sailing, shooting, blacksmithing, rock climbing, and much more.

What is your unit doing to attract new Scouts?

Northeast Region Territory

The Northeast Region encompasses Washington, D.C., Maryland, Delaware, Maine, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont.

NER JCOS Leadership

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

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





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](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

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**

