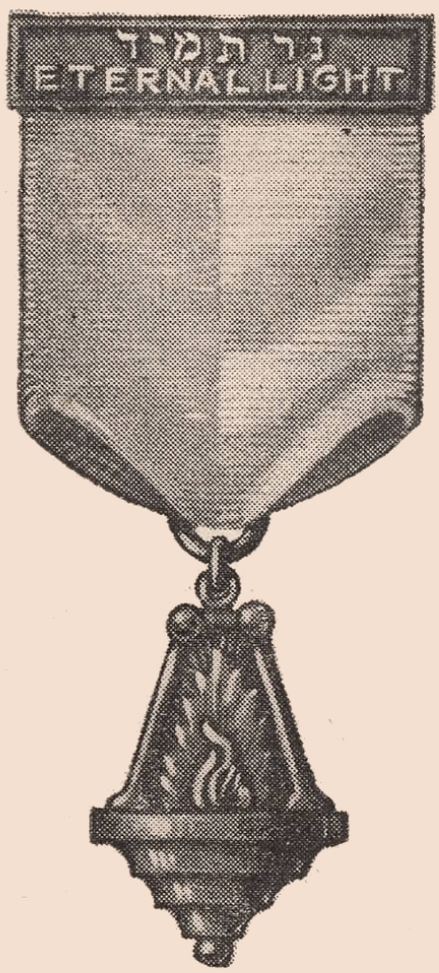
NER TAMID SCOUT AWARD

A Guide For Rabbis, Counselors, and Scout Leaders



Issued by

JEWISH COMMITTEE on SCOUTING

2 Park Avenue • New York 16, N. Y.

FOREWORD

The Twelfth Scout Law states, "A Scout is Reverent. He is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties, and respects the convictions of others in matters of custom and religion." This Scout Law indicates the importance which the Boy Scout movement places upon the Scouts' religious training in the building of character. The Boy Scout movement recognizes, however, that this training is the responsibility of the Synagogue, the Church, the home, and other agencies concerned with religious education.

The Jewish Committee on Scouting, therefore, in cooperation with the Synagogue Council of America, and in response to many requests from Synagogues and other Jewish organizations, has developed the Ner Tamid Scout Award to help Jewish boys who are Scouts to live up to the Twelfth Scout Law. Similar awards have been developed by the Catholic and Protestant Committees on Scouting.

On behalf of the Jewish Committee on Scouting, I extend thanks to Ben M. Edidin of the Jewish Education Committee of New York, and to Harry Lasker of the Boy Scouts of America, for developing the requirements for the Award and its administration. Thanks are also expressed to Rabbis Samuel Berliant, William S. Malev, and Samson A. Shain of Queens, and to Edward B. Schifreen for their contribution in experimenting with the Award in Queens, New York City; and also to the members of the National Ner Tamid Committee, and to many rabbis and educators throughout the country for their very helpful comments and suggestions.

FRANK L. WEIL, *National Chairman,*
Jewish Committee on Scouting

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Ner Tamid Award is designed to help Jewish boys who are Scouts, observe the Twelfth Scout Law, "A Scout is Reverent." It is presented to the Scout upon the fulfillment of the requirements which appear in another section of this pamphlet. These religious standards represent the Jewish interpretation of the Scout requirement for advancement, that a boy must "furnish satisfactory evidence that he has put into practice in his daily life the principles of the Scout Oath and Law."

All Jewish agencies—Synagogues, Centers, Schools, and other organizations—may use this Ner Tamid Program for Scouts in their own Troops, or for Scouts who are members of Troops in other sponsoring institutions. The Scout carries on his regular Scouting program in his own Troop, while he carries on the Ner Tamid Award Program under the guidance of his Rabbi or his Counselor.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NER TAMID AWARD

The Ner Tamid Award is a medal representing the Eternal Light which hangs in front of the Holy Ark in the Synagogue. It is attached to a blue and white ribbon and a bronze bar pin which carries the inscription in Hebrew letters, "Ner Tamid," and in English, "Eternal Light." The Ner Tamid in the Synagogue of our own day goes back to the seven-branched Menorah (candle-holder) of the ancient Temple of Solomon. By day and by night the seven flames of the Menorah burned unceasingly before the Altar, symbolizing the Eternal presence of God.

WEARING OF THE AWARD

The Boy Scouts of America have authorized the Ner Tamid Award to be worn over the left breast pocket at the left of the Eagle Scout Badge, or, when the Eagle Badge is not worn, centered above the flap of the left breast pocket.

THE LOCAL NER TAMID AWARD COMMITTEE

The plan is to form in each community a local Ner Tamid Committee, consisting of Rabbis, Teachers, Center Workers, and prominent Jewish laymen. It would be helpful to include Jewish laymen who have been active in Local Courts of Honor, or who have been related to the Scout Advancement Program; who would, therefore, appreciate the necessity of maintaining high standards. This Committee will serve as a Ner Tamid Board of Review to review the record of the candidate for the Award, and recommend to the National Ner Tamid Committee those who are worthy to receive it.

STEPS IN EARNING THE AWARD

1. A Scout who wishes to qualify for the Ner Tamid Award, secures an application blank from his Rabbi, or Scoutmaster, fills it out and returns it to his Rabbi or Counselor (these application blanks are available at the Local Scout Office).

2. The Scout gets a copy of the *Ner Tamid Guide for Scouts* and the small *Service Record Book* which contains the requirements for the Award as well as information to help him obtain it. The Scout then discusses the Award with his Rabbi, Hebrew Teacher, or other qualified Counselor, who will guide him in fulfilling the requirements. He proceeds to fulfill the requirements for the Aleph Award Certificate, which is preliminary to the Ner Tamid Award. The Scout keeps a record of all his work for the Award, in a special Ner Tamid Notebook for review with his Rabbi or Counselor.

3. When the requirements for the Aleph Award have been completed to the satisfaction of the Counselor, the Rabbi, (in a Hebrew School the Principal or Teacher; in a Jewish Community Center, the Executive Director or Group Work Supervisor) presents the Scout with the Certificate. The Scout then begins fulfilling the Ner Tamid requirements. Standards as fulfilled are entered in the *Service Record Book;* the Rabbi or Counselor checks the record periodically and initials the completed projects. (*Ner Tamid Guide for Scouts,* Aleph Award Certificates, and *Service Record Books* are available at the Local Scout Office.)

4. When the Scout has completed all the requirements, his Scoutmaster endorses the *Service Record Book* and presents it to the Rabbi or Counselor who examines the Scout. If he finds that the Scout has met all the requirements—has attained First Class Scout Rank, has completed 150 credit hours of service to the Synagogue, Scout Unit and the Community, and has fulfilled all the religious requirements—the Rabbi or Counselor signs the *Service Record Book* and submits it to the Local Ner Tamid Committee. If the Committee finds everything in order, and is satisfied that standards have been maintained, it certifies the *Record Book,* returns it to the Rabbi or Counselor who forwards it to the Jewish Committee on Scouting at 2 Park Avenue, New York 16, N. Y., enclosing a check or money order for $1.25. On approval by the National Ner Tamid Committee, the Ner Tamid Medal is forwarded to the Rabbi or Counselor. The Award should be presented at an appropriate public ceremony, preferably during Boy Scout Anniversary Week in February. Ordinarily, the local Synagogue, Center, or School, buys the Award and presents it to the Scout.

ACCEPTABLE SERVICE PROJECTS

1. Serving as usher in Synagogue—at religious services, forums, celebrations, etc.
2. Serving as leader or assistant in any Synagogue or Scouting activity.
3. Acting as monitor or as leader of club in Religious School.
4. Helping in office of Synagogue, Center, School, Social Service Agency, or Jewish organization.
5. Serving as cantor, choir member, reader, or in some other active capacity in the Junior Congregation.
6. Helping with the enrollment of pupils in Religious School—distributing letters and leaflets, bringing friends to the school, etc.
7. Decorating the Synagogue, School, Center or home for the holidays and other special events.

8. Participating in the collection of clothing, food, books, etc., for charity.
9. Planting and care of shrubs, trees and flowers around the Synagogue, School or Center.
10. Assisting in library of Synagogue, School or Center.
11. Making and distributing posters and announcements for Synagogues, School, etc.
12. Helping with construction and painting of scenery for plays presented in the Synagogue, Religious School or Center.
13. Doing errands for the Synagogue, School, Social Service Agency.
14. Building and decorating a Succah for the home, Synagogue, Center or School.
15. Writing for or helping to get out paper for Religious School.
16. Repairing property or equipment of Synagogue, School or Center.
17. Other services of similar standard may be submitted for service credit if approved by the Rabbi or Counselor.

HELPS AVAILABLE AT LOCAL SCOUT OFFICE

1. Application Blanks for the Ner Tamid Award.
2. *Ner Tamid Guide for Scouts* which includes instructions, procedures, and general information to assist the Scout in fulfilling the requirements. It is similar in function to a Merit Badge Pamphlet.
3. *Service Record Book* for Scouts.
4. Aleph Award Certificates to be presented to Tenderfoot and Second Class Scouts who have fulfilled the preliminary requirements for the Award.
5. *Ner Tamid Scout Award.* A guide for Rabbis, Counselors and Scout Leaders.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ALEPH AWARD CERTIFICATE

(*For boys who are Tenderfoot and Second Class Scouts*)

1. Recite in Hebrew or English the Ten Commandments, and explain their meaning.
2. Regular attendance at synagogue services on the Sabbath (Friday evening or Saturday morning) for at least one month.

3. Describe the work of at least one charitable organization to which the Scout has made a financial contribution.
4. Explain the meaning of the Twelfth Scout Law.
5. Name *six* Jewish holidays observed during the year and describe briefly how each is celebrated.
6. Read a book of Jewish biography or history and tell about its contents.
7. Make a drawing of, or describe, the Ner Tamid (Eternal Light) in your synagogue and tell what it means.
8. Present a notebook containing the materials for the Aleph Award standards and decorate the cover page.

REQUIREMENTS FOR NER TAMID AWARD

(*For boys who are First Class Scouts and Scouts of higher rank*)

A. Home *Observance*

Do the *first,* and choose any *one* of the other three.

1. Give the Hebrew dates of the Jewish holidays and festivals, and tell briefly why they are celebrated.

   Tell how the Scout observes the Sabbath and the Jewish Holidays at home, and the meaning to the Scout of this observance.

   Make or draw at least two ceremonial objects used in the observance of the Sabbath and holidays. Be able to explain the meaning and use of each object.

2. Give the titles of *ten* or more Jewish books which every Jewish home should have. Include books for study, prayer and reading.

   Tell briefly the contents of at least five of these books, and write a book review of *one* of the books.

   Sing or play at least *five* Jewish melodies.

3. Recite the names of the Hebrew months.

   Explain the main differences and similarities between the civil and Hebrew calendars.

   Make a wall calendar of the Jewish holidays for the current year. Show the dates and symbols of each holiday.

4. Observe the laws of Kashruth.

   Explain the meaning of the observance of Kashruth.

   Tell some rules for observing Kashruth while camping.

B. *Synagogue*

Do the *first,* and choose any *one* of the other three.

1. Participate regularly in Sabbath and Holiday services during the current year.

   Present a plan or description of the Scout's synagogue, showing the location of various sacred objects, and explain how they are used.

   Tell when the Scout's synagogue was established, and how it is governed and maintained.

2. Describe the prayerbooks used in the Scout's synagogue, and tell when each is used.

   Show that he can follow the Sabbath Service of his own synagogue.

   In the Scout's own prayerbook, show the morning prayers said upon waking, the benedictions or Birchoth Hanehenin, the Grace after meals, prayers at bedtime.

   Give the important ideas contained in the Kiddush, Shema, Adon Olam, En Kelohenu and two other prayers.

3. Show evidence of having been Bar Mitzvah and tell what Bar Mitzvah means to the Jewish boy.

   Chant the Haftorah for the Scout's Bar Mitzvah. Tell the contents of the Haftorah.

   Explain the meaning and contents of the Tefillin. Attend morning services at which the Tefillin are worn.

   Explain when the Tallis is worn and why.

4. Give evidence of having been confirmed.

   Write a summary of the course the Scout took in preparation for Confirmation.

   Describe the Confirmation ceremony.

C. *Jewish Study*

Do the *first,* and choose any *one* of the other three.

1. Be a regular pupil at a Hebrew School, or a student of Hebrew at a public High School for one year, or of a Sunday Religious School for two years, since becoming a Boy Scout.

   Have a statement from the teacher that the Scout's work has been satisfactory.

(Scouts who find it impossible to attend formal classes may substitute an equivalent course of private study under the supervision of a teacher or rabbi.)

Be prepared to discuss Bible Quotations and examples from Jewish history which explain the Scout Law.

2. Show in your own Bible, the books which make up the Torah, the Prophets, and the Writings.

   Explain the meaning of Sidrah and of Haftorah.

   What is the Talmud? What does it contain? Describe a book of the Talmud which the Scout has seen, or explain five sayings from the "Ethics of the Fathers."

3. Translate one chapter of the Book of Genesis.

   Compose a Hebrew letter or story of at least 100 words.

4. Select three names from each group, and tell what made each of them famous.

I	II	III
Abraham	Yochanan Ben Zakkai	Bal Shem Tov
Moses	Akiba	Gaon of Wilna
Samuel	Judah Hanassi	Moses Mendelsohn
David	Saadyah Gaon	Isaac M. Wise
Solomon	Rashi	Solomon Schechter
Elijah	Judah Halevi	Theodore Herzl
Isaiah	Maimonides	Chayim Nachman Bialik
Judah Maccabee	Isaac Abarbanel	Louis D. Brandeis
Hillel	Joseph Karo	Henrietta Szold

D. *The American Jewish Community*

Do the *first,* and choose any one of the other three.

1. Present *Service Record Book* showing at least 150 hours of service to school, synagogue, Scout Unit and the community during the current year. (Ushering, helping in the synagogue office, building a Succah, etc. See list of things to do in *Service Record Book.*)

   Name at least three local Jewish organizations and two non-sectarian organizations to which the Scout has contributed during the past year. Tell the purpose of each of these organizations.

2. Tell the story of how the Scout's ancestors came to America and established themselves here.

   Tell what Jewish traditions have been cherished by the Scout's family.

   Give the Hebrew names of five members of your family, including your own, and be able to explain the meaning of each name.

3. List (or preferably show on a map) at least ten major Jewish agencies and institutions in the Scout's home city. (If the community does not have as many as ten agencies, locate *all* the Jewish institutions and agencies in the town.)

   List the ten largest cities in the United States, showing the total population and the Jewish population in each.

4. Give a brief account of how the Jews came to America. Select ten of the following great American Jews and describe their contribution to the building of America and to American Judaism:

Louis De Torres	Isaac M. Wise
Judah Touro	Emma Lazarus
Mordecai Manual Noah	Solomon Schechter
Hyam Solomon	Yehoash
Uriah Philips Levy	Louis Marshall
Rebecca Gratz	Louis D. Brandeis

Henrietta Szold

E. *World Jewry*

Do the *first,* and choose either number 2 or 3.

1. Tell what religious festivals, customs, books, ideals, needs, etc., which the Jews of America have in common with Jews in other countries of the world.

   Name at least *three* funds or agencies for Jews overseas to which the Scout has contributed recently. Describe the purposes and work of each.

2. On a map of Palestine show—

   The regions of the country
   Five bodies of water
   Five important cities
   At least ten Jewish farm settlements

   Tell what each of the following did for Palestine: Theodore Herzl, Henrietta Szold, Louis D. Brandeis, Chaim Weizmann.

   Tell briefly what three of the following are doing in the rebuilding of Palestine: Jewish National Fund, United Palestine Appeal, Hadassah, Halutzim, Hebrew University, Histadrut, Mizrachi, Z.O.A., Jewish Agency.

3. Make a scrapbook of Jewish current events, containing news items, pictures, cartoons, stories, articles, etc.

   List (or preferably show on a map) the Jewish population in 10 important countries.

   Tell how the Jews of America are helping Jews in Europe and other countries. Describe the work of the Joint Distribution Committee.

JEWISH COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

Advisory Committee of the Boy Scouts of America

FRANK L. WEIL, *National Chairman*
EDWARD S. SILVER, *Vice Chairman*
HARRY LASKER, *Executive Secretary*

A. Affiliated Religious Bodies

Synagogue Council of America

Rabbinical Council of America
Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations

Rabbinical Assembly of America
United Synagogue of America

Central Conference of American Rabbis
Union of American Hebrew Congregations

B. Affiliated National Jewish Organizations

National Jewish Welfare Board

B'nai B'rith—A.Z.A.

Jewish War Veterans of the United States

National Council of Young Israel

Jewish Education Committee of New York

Independent Order of B'rith Sholom

C. Members-at-Large

Representative community leaders throughout the country

NATIONAL NER TAMID COMMITTEE

Co-Chairmen

SAMUEL BERLIANT NORMAN SALIT AHRON OPHER

SAMUEL BLUMENFIELD
BEN M. EDIDIN
ROBERT GORDIS
HARRY HALPERN
STANLEY KATCHER
JOSEPH H. LOOKSTEIN
SAMUEL NIRENSTEIN
NATHAN A. PERILMAN
BERNARD POSTAL
HERBERT SCHWARZ