

Scouting Enhances Youth Development

For 100 years Scouting has developed strong values in each of its youth members and adult volunteers. Scouting honors the synagogue, Jewish community center, or other Jewish organizations, as well as the home and school, as launching pads for our young people's values. With time-tested programs, Scouting provides your organization with a foundation upon which you can help your members become better American citizens and better Jews.

Through the Scout Oath and Scout Law, Scouting nurtures the values in each of us and our families. Through such programs as camping and hiking, Scouting teaches young people basic self assurance, teamwork, and leadership—life skills they will take with them well into adulthood. Hands-on teaching programs help young people realize their own potential for developing and mastering new skills. Teamwork, fun, self-reliance, and knowledge learned in Scouting help young people develop strong values and demonstrate how character really counts.

Men who were Scouts agree that Scouting has had a positive influence in every aspect of their lives, from character development and self-confidence to interpersonal skills, and it has also provided benefits to their entire families.

Scouting alumni agree that the program has:

- Improved their family life;
- Had a positive effect on their school life in later years; and
- Enhanced their career development and advancement as an adult.

The Boy Scouts of America is the nation's foremost youth program for character development and values-based leadership training.

In the future, Scouting will continue to:

- Offer responsible fun and adventure;
- Instill lifetime values and develop ethical character as expressed in the Scout Oath and Scout Law;
- Train young people in citizenship, service, and leadership; and
- Serve America's communities and families with its quality, values-based program.



The Scout Oath:

On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

The Scout Law:

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

For more information on Jewish Scouting, how to start a unit, or to join an existing one, visit the National Jewish Committee on Scouting's web site at www.JewishScouting.org.



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Scouting Serves the Jewish Community

**A Century of Bonding
Through Tradition,
Service, Leadership
Development, Fun**



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
COMMUNITY ALLIANCES

Scouting’s Programs are Safe

Scouting provides for the safety of its youth members, adult leaders, and families through:

- Outstanding youth education and protection at all levels of the program, creating a safe haven for every youth, and
- Background checks and leadership approval from local chartered partners like you to ensure quality leadership.



Scouting is Tradition–L'Dor V'Dor

Jewish participation and leadership has been an integral part of Scouting and in the lives of thousands of Jewish Scouts from the very beginning of Scouting. Mortimer L. Schiff was one of the first leaders of Scouting in America in 1910, and the first Jewish troop was formed in 1913 in New York City. The principles of Scouting were formed with the assistance of prominent Jewish leaders of the time. Even the first Scout uniforms were manufactured by a Jewish firm (Sigmund Eisner & Co.). The National Jewish Committee on Scouting was formed in 1926. Scouting is an official youth program of the Jewish War Veterans and other Jewish organizations.

Jewish Scouts learn tradition, from the making of a Torah to its meaning. They learn holidays and observances, the history of our people and modern Jewish issues. They serve the community through unit service projects and Good Turns.

Israel is a central focus of Jewish life in America. Enhancing the understanding of Israel brings our young people closer to Judaism and makes it more likely that our future will remain bright and secure. Jewish Scouting’s relationship with the Israeli Scouts provides a great opportunity to increase solidarity with our homeland in a way that young people can relate to. Further contact with Jewish Scouts in other countries is fostered through the International Forum of Jewish Scouts, which currently includes as charter members the Boy Scouts of America, the Scouts of France, Israel, and the United Kingdom.

Scouting is Service–Tikkun Olam

Do a Good Turn Daily—Jewish Scouts have the opportunity to learn the principles of Tzdachah by helping to provide food, shelter, and healthy living experiences for those who are less fortunate. Your new Jewish Scout unit can lead service projects for your organization to improve the lives and relationships of the Scouts and all the members of the organization.

Scouting is Leadership Development

Participating in Scouting over several years can help families in your organization develop strong core values unlike any other youth program. Scouting does require a greater investment of time and effort from your members than other activities like sports and extracurriculars, but this investment pays rich dividends in education, leadership, and family relationships, and strengthens fundamental character and ethical values.

“Scouting encouraged me to learn and practice leadership skills, and to observe Judaism through its Religious Awards programs ... and I always thought I was just having fun.”—*Rabbi Art Vernon*

“My Scouting experience had a decisive impact on my growth as a believing, observant, proud Jew. I cherish the education and friendships Scouting provided ... and the experience of living as a serious Jew in a diverse American community.”—*Rabbi Joseph Prouser*

A teacher states: “I look at the advantages of the Scouting program from a unique perspective. One of the most important things teachers and families can do is get young people engaged and interested in the world around them. Scouting provides an avenue for that to happen.”

Scouting is Fun

Jewish Scouting provides boys with rugged outdoor adventures—and much more—in a Torah atmosphere. Scouts have the opportunity to learn traditional skills like lifesaving, first aid, and CPR while having fun. Scouting advancement programs offer a ladder of skills for boys to climb at their own pace, and an opportunity to earn ranks and badges as their skills increase. The higher they climb, the more challenging are their experiences and the more rewarding the tasks. Jewish boys can learn Scouting and camping skills in a safe, kosher camping environment.



Jewish Religious Emblems

Scouting provides an excellent opportunity to carry on a continuing program of Jewish education in familiar surroundings for all the young people in your organization. The Jewish religious emblem program provides age-appropriate goals for young people to participate in the religious life of the community.

THE MACCABEE EMBLEM



The Maccabee emblem is intended to involve the families of Cub Scouts in grades one through three in the experiences related to the award. The requirements are subdivided into six categories: Jewish names; Jewish holidays; Jewish terms; Jewish community helpers; Jewish symbols, objects, and articles; and Jewish heroes.

THE ALEPH EMBLEM



The Aleph emblem is a home-centered set of activities for Cub Scouts in grades three through five and centers on the Torah, prayer, holidays, American-Jewish heritage, the synagogue, and Eretz Yisrael.

THE NER TAMID EMBLEM



The Ner Tamid emblem provides an opportunity for Boy Scouts and Venturers to enhance their knowledge of Judaism through advanced activities, including service projects that strengthen youths’ relationships with their synagogues and rabbis.

THE ETZ CHAIN EMBLEM



The Etz Chain (Tree of Life) emblem is designed for Boy Scouts in high school, ages 14 to 17, and registered Venturers, ages 14 to 20, or 13 and have completed the eighth grade. The purpose of the award is to encourage the young adult to explore adult Jewish roles in the context of family, community, and Jewish people.



Adult Recognition

The Shofar Award is granted by the local Jewish community and BSA council to adults in recognition for outstanding service in the promotion of Scouting among Jewish youth.

Scouting Helps You Build Your Own Group

Scouting is Your Program!

The Boy Scouts of America issues charters to organizations like yours to operate the Scouting program. You establish your own Scouting groups or strengthen your existing youth groups by using Scouting’s resources. You control your own unit program. You determine your own leadership and membership within the basic context of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. You decide how often your group meets.

Form Your Own Unit!



Cub Scouting—Form a Cub pack for boys from first grade to sixth grade. Millions of Cubs follow the Law of the Pack, learning through home-centered programs that teach life skills, habits, values, and attitudes consistent with Judaism. Your members run your pack and bring the boys, their families, and the whole organization together with character development, beginning camping activities, and fun! Members with young children become more involved in all your activities as they bring their children into the entry level Tiger Cub program and listen to Akela’s call!



Boy Scouting—Start a Scout troop where boys ages 11 to 18 begin to develop leadership skills, build meaningful personal standards to live by, and learn the fundamentals of self-sufficiency, hobby, and career skills with the support of your troop committee and the guidance of your Scoutmaster.



Venturing—Create a Venturing crew for young men and women ages 14 to 20, or 13 and have completed the eighth grade. Venturing can be your youth program, teaching leadership, citizenship, fitness, and service. Your young adults can focus on the outdoors, sports, arts, or general activities. Crews may or may not be coed, as you choose.

How Do You Go About It?

Forming a Scouting unit is easy and your local Scout Council will help. Just follow our time-tested checklist:

1. Your organization’s board meets and adopts Scouting.
2. The board appoints a chartered organization representative from the membership.
3. The chartered organization representative meets with parents and interested members of the community to form an organizing committee.
4. Members of the committee, the organization, and parents meet for an orientation on Scouting. Leaders can be adult men and women that you choose.
5. The group selects unit leaders and committee members to be approved by your leadership and the local Boy Scout Council.
6. Your new leaders are trained in program development.
7. Programs are planned for at least the first six months.
8. Young people are recruited to join.
9. Unit meetings begin.
10. Your new unit is installed and receives its charter from the Boy Scouts at a meeting at your organization, and you are ready to go.