

Torch Awards Program 2021 Overview

The FJMC invites you to participate in the 2021 Torch Awards Program. The goal of issuing Torch Awards is to encourage the development of innovative programming. In addition, we recognize those clubs that develop quality programming, build community and support the growth and development of leadership teams.

Bring International recognition to your club today by creating and documenting your innovative programs now! You've got to be in it to win it!

Plan to attend the **2021 International Convention** and share your enthusiasm, achievements and commitment with fellow Men's Club leaders.



Program Definition, Submission Rules and Procedure

- Please read through the program definition and instructions carefully.
- *There is no need to recreate the wheel* - discover ideas from past Torch Award entries at www.fjmc.org/torch-award-listing. Create your unique and innovative programming either by significantly altering and enhancing a previous program idea, or by creating a novel program within the categories listed below.

A. Purpose

The purposes of the Torch Award Program are to:

1. Promote development of new, adapted or enhanced club programming and practices.
2. Reward programs and practices that achieve excellence. Gold, Silver and Bronze Torch Awards are presented across various categories based on the individual quality of programs.
3. Disseminate the best of club programming and practices. Entries will be accessible through the FJMC website for other clubs to read, view video, adopt or adapt.
4. Use Torch Awards as example programs to assist all FJMC clubs to qualify for the FJMC Quality Club Awards.
5. Provide selected entries for display at the Convention 2021 Program Fair, showcasing the effort and creativity of Men's Clubs around the world.
6. Educate and stimulate club leaders at Convention 2021 with program ideas.

B. Timeline and Eligibility

1. Clubs participating must be in good standing as of March 31, 2021. (Club dues and Membership list received by FJMC)
2. Programs to be considered for an award must have taken place between April 1, 2019 and April 15, 2021.
3. Entries must be received by April 23, 2021.
4. All entries must be submitted online at:
www.fjmc.org/content/torch-award-2021-application.

C. Award Categories

Awards will be given for innovative, adapted or enhanced program development in each category. Programs should be submitted for consideration in one of the following Categories:

- **Club Administration** - publicity, membership enhancement, leadership training, etc.
- **Community Outreach** - programs that donate time and/or resources to benefit the community
- **Educational Programming** – programs focused on learning in an area outside of other categories, whether for youth or adults
- **FJMC Other** – FJMC programs which are not included in the other torch award categories
- **Fundraising** – programs which involve your club and community in raising funds
- **Health and Wellness** - programs that promote physical and mental health
- **Hearing Men’s Voices** – innovative formats or topics which engage new members in ongoing sessions; integrating into other synagogue activities; or formation of new HMV groups in other communities
- **Israel / Masorti** - programs that promote Israeli or Masorti causes worldwide
- **Jewish Observance** - programs that encourage, promote, and develop Jewish observance
- **Joint Programming** – programs run between local, regional, national, or international clubs
- **Keruv** – trained lay/professional partnerships which welcome interfaith men and women into our synagogues and family life
- **Men’s Club Shabbat** – programs which engage members as Shabbat leaders and grow your club

- **Programming for Younger Men** – when we reach out to younger men, we strengthen our abilities
- **Shomrei Ha’aretz** - programs that promote and address environmental concerns
- **Synagogue Service Project** - programs to support specific needs of the congregation
- **World Wide Wrap** – we lead by example and teach through innovative engagement using all media, method and spirit.
- **Yom HaShoah Yellow Candle** – programs which distribute Yellow Candles and encourage remembrance
- **Youth Programming** - programs which engage young members of our congregations.

If you are not sure of the most appropriate category, the chairs will review your submission and decide for you.

Criteria for excellence in any program may include the following:

- Innovative formats and/or topics
- Engaging new members or new leadership
- Building deeper engagement of existing club members
- Establishing a deep and rich curriculum of topics
- Building inter-club relationships through joint sessions
- Other program features that epitomize “Leadership, Innovation and Community”

Best Overall Activities:

This award category recognizes a club’s high standard of planning and implementation of a full year’s activities (not just a single program) as judged by the sum of the club’s overall programming. To apply for this award, please include, in Section 4 of the application, a list of all programs run by your club in a 12-month consecutive period, as well as detailed summaries of all major programs. You may reference individual 2021 Torch Award applications in your submission for this award.

D. Awards and Publication

Gold, Silver and **Bronze** awards will be issued. The Gold level will recognize the highest level of innovative programming. There may not be a Gold Award in each category. Silver and Bronze Awards are intended to recognize excellent, well documented programs that can be duplicated by other clubs.

At the discretion of the Co-Chairs, there may be multiple awards at each level.

Awards for the Best Overall Program(s) will be presented to those receiving the highest cumulative scores across all categories. Programs will not be submitted specifically for an overall programming award. Final determination will be at the discretion of the Chairman.

Awards will be presented at the 2021 International Convention. FJMC will submit press releases with recognition of the awards received at the FJMC convention. Entries and videos will be made accessible through the FJMC website.

E. Entry Application and Guidance

Please review the Torch Award site and prior winning Torch Awards for presentation and content ideas. Download and carefully review the 2021 Torch Award Application from the website at this link. This pdf copy of the application shows what is required by the online application.

F. Torch Award Submission Procedure

The 2019 Torch Award Application is to be made online at:

<http://fjmc.org/content/torch-award-2021-application>.

We recommend that here and below, that files be named in the format:

“FJMC TA 2021_ChapterName_ProgramName_[additional description].[file suffix]”

G. Video Submission

While not necessary for your application, if possible we would like you to submit a 3-5 minute video describing your program. Feel free to be creative in your submission, but try to include the following components:

- brief introduction, including club/program name and goal of the program
- how you encouraged participation in the program
- how you made the program meaningful to participants
- a description of the impact of the program on your club, synagogue and community

We would prefer that you not submit “talking head” videos – your videos should convey the enthusiasm and spirit of your club and your program!

Please name your video file(s) in the following manner:

“FJMC Torch Awards 2021_ChapterName_Program Name_#”

For example, a single file could be named “FJMC Torch Awards 2021_Beth El_Sukkah Brigade”. Two files would be named “FJMC Torch Awards 2021_Beth El_Sukkah Brigade_1” and “FJMC Torch Awards 2021_Beth El_Sukkah Brigade_2”

This year, you will submit your video(s) through YouTube. Upload files at www.youtube.com via your own account. This will allow everyone significantly more flexibility with respect to file formats and video size. Once you have completed your upload, make sure the video is published as a public file. You will then provide us with the URL link for the submitted video, i.e. “http://youtu.be/aXds2soO_o3”

Programs that receive a Gold torch award may be asked to submit raw video footage to the Torch Co-chairs for further editing and presentation at the 2021 Convention.

H. Judging

All submissions will be reviewed independently by three judges, and scored on the following criteria:

- Clarity and completeness of application
- How unique / innovative is this program?
- Does the submission allow another club to easily replicate the program?
- Does the program support the growth and development of the chapter and members?
- Does the program promote the mission of the FJMC: “Involving Jewish Men in Jewish Life?”

I. Questions?

The Torch Award Chairman can be reached at torchaward@fjmc.org.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH - We look forward to sharing your successes with the FJMC, and to seeing you Convention 2021!

Colin Pullan 2021 Torch Award Chair