2013–2015 Torch Awards - Application

Before you submit this application, please print out and review the "2015 Torch Awards Overview," available on the FJMC website.

Please complete the following information. The font for all submissions should be Times New Roman. Please embed photographs of your program into this file. This completed document will be submitted to us as a Word file, named in the format: “FJMC TA 2015_ChapterName_ProgramName.doc”

Please email your completed application to: torchaward.fjmc.2015@gmail.com. If you have difficulty, please contact the Torch Award Co-Chairs for assistance at the above email address.

Clubs participating must be in good standing as of March 31, 2015 (Club dues and Membership list received by FJMC). Programs to be considered for an award must have taken place between April 1, 2013 and April 15, 2015. Entries must be received by April 22, 2015.

Section 1: Title

Club Name: Temple Beth O’r – Beth Torah Men’s Club
Current Contact: Michael W Miller
Program Name: Tu B’Shvat Composting Activity for Pre-Hebrew and Hebrew School Students

Section 2: Contact information

Person completing form
First Name: Michael
Last Name: Miller (and Dennis Berry)
E-Mail: DrMike@millerchemist.com

Club President at time of Convention
First Name: Michael / Michael
Last Name: Goldstein / Miller
E-Mail: bsgnjtax@aol.com

Current Club President
First Name: Michael
Last Name: Goldstein
E-Mail: 

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Section 3: Category

Please choose up to two (2) selections. Please note, you can only win in one category. The co-chairs reserve the right to reclassify your program.

☐ Club Administration
☐ Community Outreach
☐ FJMC Other
☐ Fundraising
☐ Health and Wellness
☐ Hearing Men’s Voices
☐ Jewish Observance
☐ Israel / Masorti
☐ Keruv
☐ Men's Club Shabbat
☐ Programming for Younger Men
X Shomrei Ha’aretz
☐ Synagogue Service Project
☐ World Wide Wrap
☐ Youth Programming
☐ Shoah Yellow Candle
☐ I’m not sure, select for our club
☐ Best Overall Activities **To apply for this award, please see specific instructions in “2015 Torch Award Overview,” available on FJMC website**

Section 4: Program overview

Brief Summary - Please explain your program in 2-3 sentences. Tu B’Shavat is the Jewish “Birthday of the Trees,” Protecting the Earth. Food/organic waste represents 30-40% of the household trash. This is a hands on activity for children that turns food/organic waste into fertilizer and shows what cannot be composted and needs to be recycled.

Detailed Summary - Please answer the following questions. Be as detailed as possible.

• What were the goals of your program? Are there specific problems or challenges that it addresses?
• How does your program enhance the image of FJMC, your region, and your club?
• What is its value in building or strengthening your club?
• Who is your target audience? (i.e. congregation at large, chapter, community)?
• How does your program support FJMC’s mission, Involving Jewish Men in Jewish Life?

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- Describe the source of your program and its unique aspects. Is this an original program or an adaptation or enhancement of a previous program (if so, which one)?
- Please attach planning and marketing materials, as well as budgetary planning so the program can be replicated by other clubs.

Introduction & Purpose:
In August of 2013 the Temple Beth O’R – Beth Torah Men’s club accepted the FJMC Shomrei Ha’aretz program as a key activity for the Club for 2013-15. The composting activity was developed from children’s activities published by Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life, COEJL/ Hazon. The composting activity was combined with the children’s Tu B’Shavat seder on January 19, 2014. The children were asked questions to generate a discussion: What do you recycle? What happens to the material? What happens to your food and lawn waste? Do you help take care of your lawn, shrubs and garden?

The purpose of the program was to introduce the concept that Environmental Protection has Jewish roots. An example is to teach the children, parents and congregation the benefits of composting and what can be composted. A properly maintained compost bin does not smell and generates clean fertilizer. The end result should encourage composting, gardening and the use of organic fertilizer and pesticides on lawns and shrubs. Another purpose of the program was to demonstrate the Men’s Club support for our small school and encourage the fathers to support the Men’s Club activities. Several of the fathers are not Jewish and are participating in our activities. The last objective was to test the project so that it could be posted on the FJMC Shomrei Ha’aretz composting section of the web site as a Men’s Club activity to work with the children and get the fathers involved.

Enhance the image of FJMC, your region, and your club:
Shomrei Ha’aretz - Stewards of the Land, Protect vs. Use addresses the Talmudic commandment protecting the garden; "... to cultivate it and to guard it." As a Jewish organization we must present programming that addresses this commandment or we will not be relevant. Using this program we are demonstrating to the children that we care about their health and future on this earth. TBO-BT Men’s Club continues to work with the children and congregation presenting Jewish environmental programming.

Several fathers have been more active in Men’s Club project. The shul used the program in material recruiting families to the school.

Marketing: Program was announced in the temple bulletin and Men’s Club e-mail. Telephone calls and e-mails were sent to school parents. After the program an article with pictures was published in the temple bulletin and Jewish News. A poster board was constructed and displayed at Northern New Jersey regional meeting, Presidents Dinner and 2014 three-region combined retreat.

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Men’s Club Compost Bins Instructions

1. Cut the tops off the 2-liter plastic soda bottles at the shoulder and punch a few holes in the sides to let the contents breathe. Make two bottles per student.
2. Students filling bottles must wear disposable plastic gloves. In the first bottle, layer the bottle with the soil, the non-protein food, leaves, uncoated paper, more soil and two tablespoons of water.
3. In the second bottle, cover the bottom with a layer of soil, cut up non-biodegradable trash (candy wrappers, metal, plastic tableware & bags etc.) and two tablespoons of water.
4. Stir the contents of each bottle, date the bottles and label each with name and type of “garbage” it contains. You can have the children draw the recycled symbol (♻) and place it on the bottle. Seal the top part of the bottle back on with duct tape.
5. Ask the children what they think will happen in the bottles.
6. At home place bottle on a plastic plate, at room temperature (about 70⁰) and dispose of any water that leaks out.
7. At home, check the bottles periodically over the next few weeks and months:
   - Once each week, gently shake the bottle to mix the contents.
   - Once a week, write down what is happening to the contents (noting color changes, shape changes etc.) Report to the class

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Person(s)</th>
<th>Due date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Propose Shomeri Ha’Aretz to MC board and approval</td>
<td>Michael Miller</td>
<td>Aug 2013 meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Jewish sites for Children’s compost project and pick</td>
<td>Michael Miller</td>
<td>Sep 2013 meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Propose project to Hebrew school teachers, board and Cantor. Set date</td>
<td>Michael Miller &amp; Michael Goldstein</td>
<td>Oct 5, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recruit Men’s Club workers &amp; photographer</td>
<td>Mike Goldstein</td>
<td>Dec, 2013 meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepare soda bottles, collect non-compostable and compostable materials, not food, small disposable gloves,</td>
<td>Michael Miller, Harvin Freedman, Ben Bauer</td>
<td>Dec 27, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discuss Tu B’Shavat plans with students note to parents</td>
<td>Teachers and school board</td>
<td>Jan 5, 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Responsible</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Remind students to bring small items that they think are compostable and non-compostable for 19th</td>
<td>Teachers</td>
<td>Jan 12, 16, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collect clean food waste, not cooked</td>
<td>Teachers, Michael Miller</td>
<td>Jan 12-17, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crew arrive early to set up</td>
<td>Michael Miller, Harvin Freedman</td>
<td>Jan 19, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crew cleanup</td>
<td>Michal Miller, Harvin Freedman, Teachers, parents</td>
<td>11:30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepare article for Temple and Jewish news</td>
<td>Michael Miller, Cantor Stern</td>
<td>Jan 20, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepare materials for FJMC website and poster</td>
<td>Michael Miller, Harvin Freedman</td>
<td>Mar, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact neighboring Shuls &amp; NNJR</td>
<td>Michael Miller</td>
<td>May 10, 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Section 5: Certification

I certify that my club has not won a Gold Torch Award for essentially the same program in a previous year. (Previous silver and bronze winners in this category that submit an enhanced application only qualify to be considered for a Gold Torch award.)

Certification: Initials: MWM_________

Note: I am the 2013-15 Shomrei Ha’Aretz Chair, I used the materials I produced for FJMC at TBO-BT

### Section 6: Documents & Pictures

1. **Article TBO-BT Feb. News Letter.**

   **Men’s Club of Temple Beth O’r/Beth Torah, Clark, NJ**
   **Tu B’Shavat Composting and Recycling Project**
   **Pre-Hebrew and Hebrew School Children**

   On January 19th, the Beth O’r/Beth Torah, Clark, NJ Men’s Club sponsored a Tu B’Shavat composting and recycling project for the pre-Hebrew school and Hebrew school children. The Men’s Club provided the bottles, instruction sheets and supplies. The importance of recycling and composting was discussed. The children described their home activities. Under the direction of Michael W. Miller, with the help of Harvin Freedman, Elaine Kolker, Thelma Purdy and teacher Michelle Pincus, the children prepared two 2-liter plastic soda bottles with air holes and cut the tops off, as the compost bins.

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One bottle contained – in layers – soil, cut up vegetable waste, leaves, paper napkins and uncoated cardboard. The second bottle contained – in layers – foam plates, aluminum foil, bottle caps, a plastic bottle and candy wrappers. The contents of each bottle were mixed and the top was taped to close the bottle. The children then took the bottles home to observe what happens, and reported their findings to the class.

2. **Article sent to Jewish News January 23, 2014**

   Men’s Club of Temple Beth O’r/Beth Torah, Clark, NJ  Tu B’Shvat Composting and Recycling Project for Pre-Hebrew and Hebrew School Children

On January 19th, the Beth O’r/Beth Torah, Clark, NJ Men’s Club sponsored a Tu B’Shvat composting and recycling project for the pre-Hebrew school and Hebrew school children. The Men’s Club provided the bottles, instruction sheets and supplies. The importance of recycling and composted was discussed. The children described their home activities. Under the direction of Michael W. Miller, with the help of Harvin Freedman, Elaine Kolker, Thelma Purdy and teacher Michelle Pincus, the children prepared two 2-liter plastic soda bottles with air holes cut and the top cut off, as the compost bins. One bottle contained – in layers – soil, cut up vegetable waste, leaves, paper napkins and uncoated cardboard. The second bottle contained – in layers – foam plates, aluminum foil, bottle caps, a plastic bottle and candy wrappers. The contents of each bottle were mixed and the top was taped to close the bottle. The children then took the bottles home to observe what happens, and reported their findings to the class. (pictures below)
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Students filing bottles

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Bottles at Start Yellow cap has food

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For additional information:  http://fjmc.org/content/torch-award-0 or email  torchaward.fjmc.2015@gmail.com

Bottles After 4 months
Traveling Poster

Section 7: Video

If possible, we ask that you please create 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 name and goal of the program
- how did you encourage participation in the program
- how did you make the program meaningful to participants
- impact of the program to your club, synagogue and community

DO NOT ATTACH VIDEO TO THIS APPLICATION. Files are to be uploaded directly to YouTube, named in the following format:

Please review detailed instructions in the document “2015 Torch Award Overview.”