



JAINA: Federation of Jain Associations in North America

The Federation of Jain Associations In North America (JAINA) is the umbrella organization of local Jain Associations (Sanghs) in U.S.A and Canada. The Purpose of the organization is to preserve, practice and promote Jain Dharma.

JAINA BSA BACKGROUND

Scout is an Ambassador

THE JAIN COMMUNITY OF NORTH AMERICA (JAINA) AND THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA (BSA)

The Jain Community of North America is pleased to sponsor BSA Troop in America (USA), scouting to a successful way to train our youths to become a good law abiding citizens, as well as live in peace and harmony with dignity within the community at large



What is JAINA?

JAINA is a Federation of Jain Associations in North America - an umbrella organization to preserve, practice, and promote Jain Dharma, Jain principles, and the Jain Way of Life. This Jain Community is connected whereby every center deputing their representatives, forming the General Body of JAINA. Each center or society is financially and functionally an independent entity but interconnected through JAINA. Biennial Conventions, Regional Conferences besides regular meetings of the Executive Committee maintains the unity within the faith. *Saman Suttam* is the scripture uniting all the divisions within the denomination. JAINA was started with the blessings from Gurudev Shri Chitrabhanuji and Acharya Shri Sushil Kumarji. It was initiated at the first Jain Convention held in Los Angeles in 1981 and formalized at the second Jain Convention in New York in 1983.

Over 65 organizations are members of JAINA

Represents over 100,000 Jains and over 70 Jain organizations in North America

Has over 15 active committees

Held conventions every two years since 1981

Publishes a quarterly magazine (earlier in print now on-line) sent free to 10,000 families

First convention in LA in 1981 and second one in NY in 1983

There are over 70 organizations under the JAINA umbrella. Each organization, based on their membership size appoints 1, 2, or 3 Directors. There are 110 JAINA Directors who elect the JAINA Executive Committee every two years. Also there are over 30 specialized working groups called JAINA Committees.



ORGANIZATION INFORMATION:

Religion:	JAIN
National Headquarter:	JAIN ASSOCIATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA (JAINA) 43-11 Ithaca Street, Elmhurst, NY, 11373 USA Phone (718) 606-2885
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RELIGIOUS PRINCIPLES AND KEY TERMS: JAINISM IN A CAPSULE

The ancient religion of Jainism embraces the Three Jewels of Faith, Knowledge and Conduct. Jains believe in the existence of *Soul* – the eternal and divine in each living being which aspires to liberate from the cyclical rebirths, finding eventually ultimate *Moksha*. By practicing three core tenets of Jain philosophy: Non-Violence, Non-Absolutism, and Non-Possessiveness, one may fulfill life's ultimate purpose: *liberation*.

Non-Violence is compassion and forgiveness in thoughts, words, and actions towards all living beings, including animals and plants. Non- Absolutism is respect for and seeking others' views. Jains encourage dialogue and harmony with others. Non-Possessiveness is balancing of needs and desires, while staying detached from these possessions. This is in part why Jains practice vegetarianism, yoga, meditation and environmentalism.



ROLE OF SCOUTING IN JAINISM;

Prompted by the Savant family, after a year long inquiry dating from 2008, with the hope of their “son to proudly wear the Jain religion pin on his Class A uniform”, Mr. Prakash Mody the JAINA Inter-Faith Coordinator based in Ontario Canada, was asked by Lataben Champesse in 2009 to initiate the first steps and broach the Boy Scouts of America for approval of the Jain Religion Emblem Awards Program. Given the successful approval by the Boy Scouts of Canada in 2008 and with unwavering dedication, the efforts were realized with the MOU signing on December 15th 2010 between JAINA and the BSA.

The mission continues now to bring the best of both the Jain principles and the Scouting experiences together to share the strengths for developing youth with confidence, character and excellent attitudes.

Train a child under *Ratnatriya* and you'll train a human being.
Ratnatriya = Right Thought, Right Speech and Right Action

The Boy Scouts of America maintains that no member can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing an obligation to God. In the first part of the Scout Oath or Promise the member declares, ‘On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law.’ The recognition of God as the ruling and leading power in the universe and the grateful acknowledgment of His favors and blessings are necessary to the best type of citizenship and are wholesome precepts in the education of the growing members. No matter what the religious faith of the members may be, this fundamental need of good citizenship should be kept before them. The Boy Scouts of America, therefore, recognizes the religious element in the training of the member, but it is absolutely non-sectarian in its attitude toward that religious training. Its policy is that the home and the organization or group with which the member is connected shall give definite attention to religious life.

Membership in the Boy Scouts of America is open to all boys and girls who wish to make the promise, regardless of race, color or creed. The purpose of the programs is to assist boys and girls in character development by encouraging them to be responsible citizens of their country. An important part of the program is to assist in the spiritual growth of each boy or girl in their own religious community and to uphold the principle that specific religious instruction is the responsibility of parents and religious authorities.

Scouting Specialists are members of the Jain community, who have an interest in helping local Jain centers in establishing or expand their Scouting groups. These volunteers help local Jain Centers to consider Scouting activity as a group while serving as a communication liaison from the parent body to the local grass root level. Each Scouting Specialist promotes training events, recognition awards, Scout Sunday, and support of the Religious School Teachers. All interested candidates must be at least 18 years of age, hold membership of the Jain Center, show proof of Youth Protection or Safe Sanctuaries and Sexual Ethics training, and pay an annual registration fee. Ongoing training is provided.



FIVE REASONS TO ESTABLISH OR EXPAND YOUR SCOUTING UNIT:

1. Scouting provides an outreach opportunity. The Jain Center prepares the followers of *Tirthankars*, (the last *Tirthankar* was *Lord Mahavir*) for the transformation of our world. A Scout program offers an opportunity to welcome young people, and their families, where they may be nurtured as a true Jain in the service of the Community.

2. Scouting provides opportunities for spiritual growth. Awards provide opportunities for Scouts Specialist and religious school - class teachers to educate young people about Jainism and help them grow as a true Jain. Age-appropriate awards enable young people to grow in the faith.

3. Scouting provides an opportunity to the community. While many Scouts may not become an active faith follower or part of the religion, Scouting provides valuable experiences for young people within the neighborhood. Through Scouting for Food, Eagle Scout projects, Cleanup efforts, and other service initiatives, scouts serve their communities, and the world.

4. Scouting is inter-generational. Often, older adults and youth get united as group or unit to set an example of “Unity is power” or “United we stand, divided we fall”. Scouting provides an opportunity for adults to become merit badge counselors, mentors, leaders, or committee members of BSA.

5. Scouting may be co-educational. The Venturing program is for young men and women between the ages of 13 and 20. Its structure and activities complement our society’s youth group. Local BSA Councils offer the use of their youth protection training, leadership education and access to high-adventure activities in addition to low-cost liability plus accident insurance for Venturing crews.



JAINA EMBLEM AWARDS:

The religion program is in four progressive stages, color-coded and adapted to the youth's developing maturity which may approximate the age groups and Scouting rank advancements as guided by the inputs of the candidate's own spiritual leader or appointee as follows:

- **Stage 1**-Yellow Border..Age 8-10.....Cub Scout Rank.....**Wolf-Webelos**
- **Stage 2**-Green Border...Ages 11-14.....Boy Scout Rank...at least **Tenderfoot**
- **Stage 3**-Blue Border.....Ages 14-17.....Boy Scout Rank.....at least **1st Class**
- **Stage 4**-Red Border.....Ages 17 and over....Boy Scout Rank.....at least **Life**

Club Scout:	<i>Live and Let Live</i>Stage 1
Webelos Scout:	<i>Live and Let Live</i>Stage 1
Boy Scout and Varsity Scout:	<i>Live and Let Live</i>Stage 2,3, or 4 or Medal
Venturer, Older Boy Scout, Varsity Scout:	<i>Live and Let Live</i> Stage 2,3, or 4 or Medal
Adult Recognition: Boy Scout / Girl Scout	<i>Live and Let Live</i>Medal

The Jain Scout Gold Medal: This award recognizes a Jain individual who has given an exceptional service in the use and promotion of local Scouting programs. Three years of service is minimum requirement.

The Jain Scout Samaritan Medal: This award recognizes, children, youth, and young adults who serve others through outreach and humanitarian assistance. Recipients must be between the ages of 6-30.

The Jain Center Recognition Medal: This medal honor Jain centers or Jain societies that provide outstanding promotion and support to their local communities.

REQUIREMENTS:

Nomination application and a letter supporting the nominee from the Temple Leadership/ Pathshala Teacher/Spiritual Leader and/or Parent should be submitted for the award.