



FJMC 2027 Torch Awards

FJMC Torch Award Committee

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2027 Torch Awards Program Guidelines

Introduction

FJMC International invites you to participate in the 2025-2027 cycle Torch Awards. The goal of the Torch Awards is to recognize those clubs that develop quality and innovative programming that build community and support the growth and development of their club. Torch Awards provides an easy way to share detailed information about exciting programs that can be quickly replicated by other clubs to benefit their programming in the future.

We are also making it **easier** for clubs to document programs by providing a downloadable application template to assist in preparation of submitting the final application via our online Torch Awards portal. The Awards are a great way to get your club international recognition. But you must submit to win!

For 2025-2027 we continue to support Combating **Antisemitism** programming as a category and, while all of the available categories being offered are significant, we want to also emphasize the importance of **Programming for Younger Men, Community Outreach, Health and Wellness, Fund Raising, Shomrei Ha'aretz, Israel/Masorti** and **Joint Programming**; all with a vision of betterment for our local and global community.

Please read through these program guidelines and instructions carefully. *There is no need to recreate the wheel.* After logging in to the fjmc.org website, discover ideas from:

- a. [2025 Torch Award Winners](#)
- b. [2023 Torch Award winners](#)
- c. [2021 Torch Award winners](#)
- d. [2019 Torch Award winners](#)

- e. [2017 Torch Award winners](#)
- f. [2015 Torch Award winners](#)
- g. [2013 Torch Award winners](#)

Create your unique and innovative programming, either by significantly altering and enhancing a previous program idea or by creating a new novel program within the categories listed herein.

Plan to attend the 2027 International Convention, in beautiful San Francisco, where the awards will be presented and where you can share your enthusiasm, achievements and commitment with fellow Men's Club leaders.

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 club programming and practices for all our FJMC International affiliated clubs to benefit. Awarded 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 International clubs to qualify for the FJMC Quality Club Awards.

5. Provide selected entries for display at the International Convention 2027 Program Fair, showcasing the effort and creativity of Men's Clubs around the world.
6. Educate and stimulate club leaders at the International Convention 2027 with program ideas.

B. Timeline and Eligibility

1. Clubs participating must be in good standing as of March 31, 2027. (Club dues and Membership list received by FJMC)
2. Programs to be considered for an award must have taken place between April 15, 2025, and April 30, 2027.
3. Torch Award entries must be submitted via the online portal by Sunday, May 8, 2027.

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C. Awards Categories Club Awards

Club Awards will be given for innovative, adapted or enhanced program development in one of the following Categories:

- **Combating Antisemitism** – Programs in congregations, clubs and communities that explore means to educate and combat antisemitism.
- **Club Administration** - Publicity, membership enhancement, leadership training, etc.

- **Community Outreach** - Programs that donate time, resources and/or funds to enrich and benefit a club's broad community.
- **Educational Programming** – Programs focused on learning in an area outside of other categories, whether for youth or adults.
- **Family And Youth Programming** - Programs which engage families, and our congregation youth from pre-school through high school.
- **FJMC** – FJMC programs which are not included in the other Torch Award categories.
- **Fundraising** – programs which involve your club and community in raising funds to help offset costs of programs or outreach.
- **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.
- **Inclusion** - Programs that address, promote and encourage welcoming and inclusion of underserved communities as per the [Inclusion Resource Guidebook](#). Submissions should include at least 5 of the inclusion practices expressed in the guidebook.
- **Israel / Masorti** - Programs that promote Israeli or Masorti causes worldwide (e.g. Israel Independence Day, Club Trips, Virtual Tours of Masorti shuls.)

- **Jewish Observance** - Programs that encourage, educate, promote, and develop year-round Jewish observances (e.g. Sukkot, Shiva and daily minyans).
- **Joint Programming** – Programs run between local, regional, national, or international clubs
- **Men's Club Shabbat** – Programs which engage members to evolve and learn new skills as Shabbat leaders (e.g. Torah, Haftorah, Gabbi).
- **Programming for Younger Men, 39 and younger** – By reaching out to younger men we strengthen our abilities and significantly help build for our clubs' strong future (colleges, frats, young dads, young professionals).
- **Shomrei Ha'aretz** - Programs that promote sustainability and address environmental concerns in our homes and communities.
- **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, methods and spirit.
- **Yom HaShoah Yellow Candle** – Programs which distribute Yellow Candles and encourage solemn remembrance.

If you are not sure of the most appropriate category, please reach out to the committee for support. The committee will also review all submissions to determine if they are placed in the appropriate category.

Awards for Best Overall Activities will be presented to those receiving the highest cumulative scores (with Gold being 3 points, Silver 2 points and Bronze 1 point) across all categories. Programs will not

be submitted specifically for this overall award. Final determination will be at the discretion of the committee.

Awards will be presented at the 2027 FJMC International Convention. All participants are highly encouraged to submit Short Videos describing and documenting their submitted program(s) to be made accessible at the International Convention, and all information will be further available through the FJMC website.

Region Awards

This year again, awards will be made to regions that do the most to encourage and support their clubs in participation. The Region Participation Award will be given to the regions with the highest percentage of clubs submitting at least one application. The Overall Region Torch Award will be given to the regions with the highest cumulative weighted number of Torch Awards, where Gold is 3, Silver is 2 and Bronze is 1.

Club Award Levels

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, based on the committee's decision. Silver and Bronze Awards are intended to recognize excellent, well documented programs that can be replicated by other clubs. At the discretion of the committee, there may be multiple awards at each level in case of possible tie scores.

D. Torch Award Application and Submission

This year, a downloadable **word document** will be available to assist in documenting programs during the 2025-2027 period. Please use this document to edit and prepare your clubs' 2027 Torch Award Application through the online portal.

THE ONLINE AWARD SUBMISSION MUST BE COMPLETED IN ONE SESSION AND YOU CANNOT SAVE WORK IN PROGRESS.

The 2027 Torch Award Application is to be prepared and submitted online at:

<https://fjmc.org/2027-torch-award-application/>

You must be logged into the FJMC International website.

The application requires the following information to be provided:

- Information about the club, the president and the preparer of the application
- Program Name and Category
- Program Overview Summary - short description of the program
- Detail Program Description – program objective and detail description through discussion and attachments
- Program Advance Planning – a schedule template is provided to identify tasks, key assignments and timelines.

- Marketing – attachments including flyers, email announcements, etc.
- Photo and video attachments- Please submit a SHORT Video that describes the program and, if possible, features highlights from the Event (of course no videos on Shabbat).
- Self-Assessment – impact on the club, synagogue or community and how the program supports the FJMC International mission

The following format must be used for naming attached files: FJMC TA 2027_ChapterName_ProgramName_ [additional description]. [file suffix].

Video Submission

For 2025-2027, we are encouraging clubs to submit a **short 2–5-minute video** with the highlights of the event with the application. All video(s) must be submitted through YouTube, by uploading files at www.youtube.com via **your own account**. This will allow more flexibility with respect to file formats and video size. Once you have completed the 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”

Feel free to be creative in your submission and include the following components:

The short 2–5-minute video for the application should include: a summary of the event with club/program name, key learnings (what could have made the program better), impact of program (both positive and negative) and a short description of the success of the event. Your videos should convey the enthusiasm and spirit of your club and your program!

Videos should include the following

- Please name your video file(s) in the following manner:
- “FJMC Torch Awards 2027_ChapterName_Program Name_#”
- Please make sure to document “Short Video”
- For example, a single file could be named “FJMC Torch Awards 2027_Beth El Sukkah Brigade Short Video”.

Programs that receive a Gold Torch award may be asked to submit raw video footage to the Torch Award committee for further editing and presentation at the 2027 International Convention.

E. Judging

Submissions will be independently judged by multiple judges using the criteria listed below. Scores, up to the maximum for each criterion, will be assigned by the scoring Judge. Total scores by the Judges will be averaged and compared with other submissions within a category. The highest scores will be awarded. Judges will not score their own club's or region's submissions.

<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Max Points</i>
• Is the application clear and complete?	10
• How unique / innovative is this program?	15
• How well was the program planned and marketed?	10
• Was the program successful? Were participants engaged and did they enjoy it?	15
• Does the program support the growth and development of the club and its members?	10
• Does the program enhance relations and support the synagogue, other clubs, FJMC and/ or the community?	10
• Does the program foster love of the Jewish religion, culture and heritage?	10
• Does the submission allow another club to easily replicate the program?	10
• Quality of supporting materials: data, videos and photos	10
Total	100

F. Questions?

The Torch Award Committee can be reached at
torchaward@fjmc.org, or as follows:

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THANK YOU VERY MUCH - We look forward to sharing your successes with the FJMC Internation, and to seeing you at the FJMC International Convention 2027!