



HANUKKAH 2019 • 5780

Celebrate Hanukkah the Maccabi way - Torch Relay 2019

Hanukkah is Chag HaMaccabim, the Jewish festival that celebrates the liberation of the Jews as a result of the Maccabean revolt against the Greeks led by Matitiah Cohen Ben Yochanan and his five sons.

The story begins in Modi'in, a remote village in the Judean hills, a few poor and anxious Hebrews gathered before an idolatrous altar to hear the words of King Antiochus. The King's man, guarded by his escort of Assyrian soldiers, commands the Hebrews to make a sacrifice to Zeus, foremost of the gods of Greece. All are afraid and silent, but here is the voice of the aged Matityahu, eighty years old, tearing and rising through the silence: "Even if my people abandon the Living God and worship Antiochus - I and my sons and what is mine do not, and will not agree! We shall always be loyal to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob!" Thus spoke Matityahu, his body frail, his spirit invincible; the call to revolt! This ancient and great spirit sensed and knew that in life there is Eternal Truth, more precious than life itself. He also knew this: such a tremendous truth is not at the whim of the majority, but each person must hold it sacred, and sacrifice to it even all the wealth of the land.

The story of Hanukkah brings inspiration to the Maccabi Movement. Sharing the ideals of Jewish continuity, Zionism and Community work. Let's rejoice in the example of the Maccabim strengthening and spreading our message for the strength and the unity of the Jewish People. Just like our Maccabim forefathers, young people are more than capable of creating an immense change in the world. Hanukkah is a time for us to appreciate more than ever what those Maccabim accomplished and use that historic moment as an example for what we can do as part of Maccabim today! Let's make the Maccabim voice our voice to multiply actions that bring out the best in our People.

Chag Hanukkah Sameach, Maccabim, and Chazak Ve'ematz!!

So what's the Torch Relay all about?

As part of the connection to the roots of the nation's forefathers, the Maccabi Tzair youth movement started the long-lasting tradition of the famed Torch Relay.

Every Hanukkah, members of the youth movement run with the torch through towns and cities across Israel and take part in various educational activities.





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The Torch Relay symbolizes the distribution of the values the Maccabim believed in; Patriotism, the continuity of the Jewish people in their land, freedom, independence and Persistence. This event testifies that the members of the Maccabi movement also hold all those values proudly and are committed to spreading them during the relay and throughout the whole year.

The first Torch Relay was held in 1944, before the establishment of the state of Israel. It was a pioneer act made during tense times marking the trail for the relay through the country and has been consecutively held ever since.

As part of the mission of developing relations with Jewish communities overseas, local delegations go abroad with a symbolic torch thus distributing the values and principles of the movement.

How to Celebrate Hanukkah the Maccabi way:

In the following pages, we have gathered a variety of ideas and suggested activities that you can experience with your colleagues, chapter members, family and friends right before or after lighting the Hanukkah candles.

At the bottom of the page, we added a list of everything you need to host a Hanukkah candle lighting including the prayer, a suggested Hanukkah song playlist, yummy recipes and more.

Call to Action:

Use this kit (Menorah, candles and this page) **light** the Menorah with your community, **tag** and **win** the best SWAG!

How It Works?

- Spin the dreidel in an interesting and original place and tag **#MaccabiTorchRelay**
- Take a photo of you and your community lighting the menorah you and tag **#MaccabiTorchRelay**

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Suggested activities:

Trivias:

1. What a fun way to learn about Hannukah - check out this [Kahoot](#)
2. Hanukkah [Jeopardy](#)
3. More like a Trivia person? Check this cool [Trivia](#) out

DIY's:

1. How to create the [Ugliest Hanukkah Sweater](#)
2. [Menorah DIY](#)
3. Where is Judah Maccabi - Where is Waldo. Find where is Judah Maccabi [here](#).
4. Want to do more? Check out this [Hanukkah activity with candles](#) out.
5. Who runs the world? YOU! Torch Relay Race [10 tasks to get done in 15 minutes](#).

All you will need to host a Hanukkah candle lighting:

[Blessings for candle lighting](#)

1. Menora - Hanukiyah
2. Candles
3. Matches

Check out [this video](#) if you are looking to learn the prayers, brush up on the tunes and sing along!



Here are some Ambiance ideas:

[New Playlist](#) for Hanukkah

[GIF](#) about torch relay in past years – screen it at your Hannukah event

Everything fried: [Hanukkah Recipes](#)





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10 Tasks in 15 Minutes

The Maccabees succeeded to defeat the Greeks, expel them from the land of Israel, reclaim the temple in Jerusalem, and light the Menorah for eight days with an oil can for one day.

Could you succeed in the Maccabean tasks?

Try to do 10 tasks in 15 min - you can have multiple groups and/or individuals

1. **Spin the Dreidel** - Get your dreidel to spin for at least 60 sec (you can make it 90 or 120 if it's too easy)
2. **Fast Eating** - a competition between 2-4 competitors for the fastest sufaganiyah eating. Each one gets one, and the winner is the first who shows an empty mouth.
3. **Human Hanukiyah** - Create the biggest, tallest, and the most impressive human Hanukiyah.
4. **Spin and Kick** - Spin like a dreidel for 10 seconds and then try to kick the ball into the goal.
5. **Torch Relay** - relay race between two (or more) teams.
6. **Full of Jelly** - eat 5oz of Jelly without using your hands (you can put a candy into baking flour instead of the jelly)
7. **Get the Gimel** - Make the dreidel point on "Gimel" for 3 nonconsecutive times.
8. **A Short Play** - Play one of Hanukkah stories in a funny and amusing way.
9. **Hebrew Lesson** - write Hanukkah in Hebrew
10. **Find Judah Maccabi** [here](#)



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Spread the Light:

Hanukkah is all about light – Hanukkah is an eight-day celebration, also known as the Festival of Lights, that marks the victory of a small band of Jews called the Maccabees over the Syrian Greek Empire in the second century BCE. During this time, the Greeks sought to assimilate the people of Israel by forbidding Torah learning and Jewish practice. The Maccabees revolted and ultimately overpowered the Greeks and reclaimed the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. Our tradition tells us that when the Jews attempted to rededicate the holy space by lighting the Temple menorah (Hanukkah means rededication in Hebrew), they found only one vial of pure oil. However, that small vial miraculously burned for eight days and nights. To commemorate and publicize this miracle, and the wonder of winning the war, our Sages instituted the festival of Hanukkah.

Activity:

We are inviting you to spread the light. For this activity each of the participants should have a candle – one person will start and share what brought them light this past day / week / month and will light their candle. Once their candle is lit, they will then light someone else's candle. That person will then share what brought them light and will light someone else's candle. This goes on until everyone shared what brought light to them. For the best effect--the room should be as dark as possible.

