



**JWB Jewish
Chaplains Council**
Serving Jews Who Serve®
a signature program of  JCC Association
of North America

TAG-tivities
TAG: Daily Living Through a Jewish Lens

TAGtivity:

Songs and Spirit: A Fourth of July Singdown



TAG: Issues of Daily Living Through a Jewish Lens is a resource library of interactive and thought-provoking activities originally developed for JCC day and overnight camps and after-school programs. TAG activities—which address all aspects of life from hospitality, kindness, and sportsmanship to body image, diversity, friendship, community, and more—trigger conversation and reflection about Jewish meaning in today’s world. They incorporate drama, discussion, games, art, music, storytelling, and Jewish text study, enabling participants to access the relevancy of Jewish wisdom through various channels.

Initiated in 2004 by the Mandel Center for Jewish Education (MCJE), TAG resources provide flexible, engaging Jewish learning materials that reflect the JCC Movement’s pluralistic and inclusive philosophy. Designed to be used by camp counselors without specialized background or training in Jewish content or educational methods, TAG lets them adapt the materials to meet their needs and incorporate informal learning and Jewish wisdom into their campers’ experiences.

These **Fourth of July TAGtivities** are the newest addition to the TAG library, designed to help JCC campers and staff explore American ideals through a Jewish lens. JCC Association is happy to make them available to all Jewish camps and community organizations looking for meaningful ways to celebrate America’s birthday.

ACTIVITY SUMMARY:

Type: Music

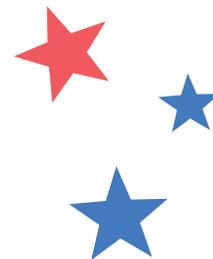
Size: Large

Target Audience: All ages

Activity Time: 30 minutes

Materials:

- MP3 recording of the U.S. military service songs
- Lyric sheets with the words to the songs (or PPT slides to project the lyrics)
- Butcher paper (or chart paper) to record responses



OVERVIEW:

The primary responsibility of any government is to keep its citizens safe. That's why the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution includes, "...provide for the common defense" as a central goal. It's the reason the U.S. maintains a standing military through the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard.

The U.S. Department of Defense's job is to make plans to protect the U.S. in the event of war. The 1.3 million active-duty soldiers in the U.S. military, including 10,000 Jewish men and women, are responsible for executing those plans.

To help instill pride and maintain spirit, every branch of the U.S. military has a song.

This Independence Day activity explores the role of music in expressing devotion to country, celebrates the safety we enjoy in the U.S., and acknowledges gratitude to those who protect and maintain that safety.

PREPARATION FOR THE ACTIVITY:

Have enough lyric sheets for the participants, or set up a computer, LCD projector and screen. Have the butcher paper (or chart paper) to record responses. Make sure the leader of each of the groups has an MP3 recording of one of the service songs.

INSTRUCTIONS:

PART 1

1. Divide the group into five smaller groups.
2. Ask the groups if they can identify the values most important to the camp (some camps have designated certain values "Core Values"). List them on the butcher paper/chart paper.
3. Ask the groups how those values are displayed or enacted in camp (i.e., what "happens" in camp that offers examples of that value). List those behaviors next to the appropriate value on the butcher paper/chart paper.
4. Now ask them if they can identify songs they sing at camp that serve as examples or "advertisements" for those values. List the songs.
5. Select a few of the songs and sing them.
6. Explain: Songs have always provided a way for individuals and communities to express the values they hold dear. That's true of religious songs, national/ethnic songs, and popular songs, too. Ask the group to identify songs that are personal favorites and to identify the value(s) the songs promotes.
7. Explain: Singing songs is also a way to create group spirit. That's why the every military includes marching bands and creates songs. Today, in celebration of Independence Day, we're going to look at the songs of the U.S. military and explore the values they express.
8. Ask the group: what values do soldiers and sailors need to uphold? (You can expect to hear: bravery, loyalty, strength and fitness, discipline, obedience, order, etc.) Record their responses on the butcher paper/chart paper.
9. Ask: How do those values connect/do not connect to the values of our camp?

INSTRUCTIONS (continued):

PART 2

1. Explain: Each group is going to receive the official song of one of the branches of the U.S. military. They will have a short amount of time to read the lyrics, discuss the values, and listen to a recording of the song to learn it. Then each group will perform the song for the rest of the group.
2. Explain: Each time the group identifies a value presented in the song (e.g. bravery) they should then discuss the following:
 - a. What does that mean for a soldier?
 - b. What does it mean for them in their lives? What examples can they give?
 - c. What does it mean in Jewish life? Do they know any stories from Jewish history when that value was demonstrated?
3. When the groups are finished (ten minutes or so), reconvene the entire group.
4. Ask each group to share one value it uncovered in the songs and an example they shared. Encourage each group to choose a value not already presented.
5. When all the groups have finished, ask: how do you think the soldiers feel when they sing their song?
6. Now ask the entire group to stand at attention. Ask each group to sing the song it was assigned. Invite everybody to join in if they know it.

SONGS:

The Army Goes Rolling Along

army.mil/values/song.html

The intro is for study, not for singing. Begin singing at First to fight:

INTRO:

March along, sing our song, with the Army of the free
Count the brave, count the true, who have fought to victory
We're the Army and proud of our name
We're the Army and proudly proclaim

First to fight for the right,
And to build the nation's might,
And the Army goes rolling along
Proud of all we have done,
Fighting till the battle's won,
And the Army Goes Rolling Along.

Then it's Hi! Hi! Hey!
The Army's on its way.
Count off the cadence loud and strong (Two! Three!)
For where e'er we go,
You will always know
That The Army Goes Rolling Along.

U.S. Marine Corps Hymn

marineband.marines.mil/about/library-and-archives/the-marines-hymn

From the Halls of Montezuma
To the shores of Tripoli;
We fight our country's battles
In the air, on land, and sea;
First to fight for right and freedom
And to keep our honor clean;
We are proud to claim the title
Of United States Marine.

Verse 3 – This verse is for study only, not for singing:

Blue of the mighty deep:
Gold of God's great sun.
Let these our colors be
Till all of time be done, done, done, done.
On seven seas we learn
Navy's stern call:
Faith, courage, service true,
With honor, over honor, over all.

Anchors Aweigh – U.S. NAVY

navy.mil/navydata/nav_legacy.asp?id=191

Anchors Aweigh, my boys,
Anchors Aweigh.
Farewell to foreign shores,
We sail at break of day-ay-ay-ay.
Through our last night ashore,
Drink to the foam,
Until we meet once more.
Here's wishing you a happy voyage home.

U.S. Air Force Song

youtube.com/watch?v=mtJ8mMYiBBc

Off we go into the wild blue yonder,
Climbing high into the sun;
Here they come zooming to meet our thunder,
At 'em, boys, Give 'er the gun! (Give 'er the gun now!)
Down we dive, spouting our flame from under,
Off with one helluva roar!
We live in fame or go down in flame. Hey!
Nothing will stop the U.S. Air Force!

This verse of the song is for study, not for singing:

Off we go into the wild sky yonder,
Keep the wings level and true;
If you'd live to be a grey-haired wonder
Keep the nose out of the blue! (Out of the blue, boy!)
Flying men, guarding the nation's border,
We'll be there, followed by more!
In echelon, we carry on. Hey!
Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!

Semper Paratus (Always Ready) – U.S. COAST GUARD

youtube.com/watch?v=1I48yVtU1ws

CHORUS:

We're always ready for the call,
We place our trust in Thee.
Through surf and storm and howling gale,
High shall our purpose be,
"Semper Paratus" is our guide,
Our fame, our glory, too.
To fight to save or fight and die!
Aye! Coast Guard, we are for you.

