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The JCC of Central New Jersey Places in the Maccabi Games

The JCC Maccabi Games celebrate sportsmanship, athletic competition and community service in the largest gathering of Jewish teens from around the world. Approximately 1800 Jewish athletes between the ages of 13 and 16 compete in this week-long Olympic-style sporting event.

This year the Maccabi Games, held in Westchester County , NY from August 16-21, hosted 43 delegations across the United States as well as delegations from Canada , Venezuela and Israel . Opening ceremonies were held at Madison Square Garden , and the athletes were introduced by ESPN Sports Analyst, Chris Berman.

The JCC of Central New Jersey brought five delegates, Justin Weissbrod, Daniel Pesin, Neil Shulman, Nora Ellmann and Brenda Generowicz, who competed in swimming and tennis.

Fifteen-year-old Daniel Pesin, who swam in the 15-16 year old age division, was spectacular winning two gold medals and one silver medal. Daniel won gold in the 100 backstroke and 50 backstroke and silver in the 200 backstroke. He was also part of a mixed 200 freestyle relay which came in second.

The Maccabi Games are about more than competitive sports; they provide an exciting, competitive venue for Jewish teens to meet other Jewish teens, make friends and form a closer bond with their Jewish Heritage.

All athletes were required to participate in The Day of Caring and Sharing Program which is an opportunity for athletes to enhance their experience at the Games by taking a morning or afternoon out of the competition schedule to participate in a community service project. The concept of community service is closely tied to the basic Jewish value of Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) which urges all of us to make a difference in the lives of others who may be less fortunate.

The 2009 Maccabi Games were a great experience for the teens representing the JCC in Scotch Plains ; the athletes all proudly represented their JCC with excellent sportsmanship, made new friends and had a fabulous time.

For information about the 2010 Maccabi Games, contact Gary Schaefer, Sports League Director, at 908-889-8800 ext. 281 or gschaefer@jccnj.org.

The JCC of Central New Jersey is located at 1391 Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains . The JCC of Central New Jersey is a constituent agency of the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey, United Way and the United Fund of Westfield. Financial assistance is available for membership and various programs.



