



Jewish Teen Funders Network Camp Philanthropy Program

CAMP PHILANTHROPY PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Jewish Teen Funders Network Camp Philanthropy Program! We are so pleased to be in partnership with camps to make teen philanthropy part of the Jewish summer camp experience.

Now that you've committed to facilitating a teen foundation, you may be wondering – what exactly is teen philanthropy and what are we going to do this summer?

ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, GO!

Jewish Teen Philanthropy is:

- A way for teens to explore their interests and passions
- A great way to teach about Jewish values through experience
- A road to shaping teen leaders and future philanthropists
- A group of teens coming together to change the world

The field of Jewish teen foundations has grown out of some of the best teen foundations in the non-Jewish community. All over North America, Jewish teen philanthropy programs are helping youth explore their values, gain leadership skills and build their local community. More than just teaching tzedakah, teen foundations help participants to truly live their values.

To launch a Jewish teen foundation, there are eight key tasks your teens will need to undertake. These are:

1. Introduction and Values Clarification
2. Understanding Tzedakah
3. Building Consensus
4. Defining Mission
5. Reviewing Grant Proposals
6. Making Site Visits
7. Grantmaking Decisions
8. Celebration and Sharing

Generally speaking, the goals of a Jewish teen foundation are:

- To teach basic philanthropic principles and giving with Jewish values
- To create a forum to explore personal values about giving
- To develop teen leadership and teamwork skills
- To teach group decision-making

HOW WILL THE PROGRAM WORK?

For more than ten years, a diverse group of Jewish organizations have been successfully doing this work. JTFN is thrilled that summer camps are among the list of Jewish institutions committing to philanthropy education for teens.

Our partnering camps, representing many types of Jewish communities and located across a diverse geographic area will each create their own program inspired by the materials in this Guide. These materials represent a mix of new materials created by JTFN specifically for the camp setting, and some of the best activities in the field of Jewish youth philanthropy that have been collected by JTFN over time. We know that camp staff is expert in building engaging, inclusive and fun programs, and we encourage you to do just that with this content.

Our expectation is that each camp will devote a minimum of fifteen programmatic hours to the Jewish teen foundation. We encourage you to use this time as it best suits your existing schedule. We recommend that you limit your campers to groups of 12-25 (with a minimum of 10) to allow for deeper engagement with the material. If you have a larger group of campers you'd like to involve, consider splitting them into smaller cohorts of up to 25 campers each (with each cohort responsible for an equal portion of the grantmaking pool).

Like camp, Jewish teen foundations offer many opportunities for leadership development. We encourage you to involve your campers in the leading and facilitation of programs wherever possible. Visiting faculty is also a great resource for providing inspirational programs.

Working with a diverse group of camps means that the program must be flexible; therefore these programs are not set in stone. Please adapt, refine and enrich the materials with your own knowledge and skills. While we know that camp life is lived "in the moment," we would very much appreciate receiving a copy of any notes or other documentation you can share about the programs you run at the end of the summer, so that we can continue to build our bank of successful programs.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO BEFORE MY CAMPERS ARRIVE?

In order for your program to succeed, the following steps must be completed prior to the first day of camp. If you are not in an administrative position yourself, some of the points below should be discussed and determined with your camp administration:

1. Familiarize yourself with the program materials.
2. Determine how much money your teens will be giving away in grants (and know where that money is coming from).
3. Decide how many groups you will run, and which staff members will interact with them.
4. Identify where in the regular camp schedule your teen foundation will fit.
5. Be certain that all involved staff understand the program and are excited about it.

PREPARING YOUR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

It will be important for you to prepare your RFP before the summer begins, and ideally to distribute it to organizations you hope will apply. You can find the sample RFP in Appendix A here: <http://www.jtfn.org/resources/camp-program-guide>.

An effective RFP packet includes:

- An introductory letter explaining your program
- Any guidelines you have developed for project eligibility (including grant range)
 - Important dates such as application and notification deadlines
 - Contact information for the lead professional at camp
 -

For help identifying organizations to send your RFP to, you may wish to consult:

- www.charitynavigator.org
- www.idealists.org

SCHEDULING SITE VISITS

You will want to do as much as possible to set up your site visits in advance, so that all of these pieces are in order when campers arrive. Your local Jewish Federation may be a helpful resource in choosing appropriate potential applicants, or site visit locations.

It is important to remember that a site visit is different from volunteering. Campers should have an opportunity to tour the site, and speak with a staff member to ask questions. Consider providing campers with notebooks and pens to use both for the visits, and during other aspects of their process. An hour is generally enough time for a thoughtful visit. Be sure to review Task 6 to understand site visits well in advance of the Task.

WHERE ARE THE MATERIALS?

All of the materials you need to create a Jewish Teen Foundation at your camp this summer can be found at <http://www.jtfn.org/resources/camp-program-guide>. For each of the eight tasks you will find a pdf outlining:

- The big idea of this task
- During this task campers will grapple with
- By the end of this task, campers will be able to
- You know you have been successful with this task when
- To have “on your radar screen” (when relevant)
- Additional resources (when relevant)
- Raisin the Bar: Ideas for further integrating the task into the camp day
- At least two sample activities that address these learning goals.

There are three ways to use the material: You may use a sample session as is, you may use parts of a sample session or multiple sample sessions, or you may create your own session from the learning goals. Pay extra attention to the “Raising the bar” ideas. They will help you integrate this program into the camp experience and build out the program so it really makes an impact on your campers.

You will also find additional resources as Appendices, including sample activities that were not available in Word format, the sample RFP and a glossary of philanthropic term.

Please note that all sample materials have been provided “as is” by the individuals who created them. Therefore samples created by teen foundations in the field, and not by JTFN directly, will have a different format than the rest of the materials.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Appendix A: Request for Proposal Sample

Appendix B: Sample Letters

Appendix C: Vocabulary Sheet for the Non-Profit World

Appendix D: Additional Materials for Planet Zop (Task 3)

HOW WILL THE JEWISH TEEN FUNDERS NETWORK HELP?

JTFN is delighted to provide support in helping develop and strengthen your teen foundation. As you work with your campers this summer, there are a variety of ways to access support for any questions that may arise:

- Consult our website, www.jtfn.org, to find resources about the history of teen philanthropy, and additional program materials.
- Join the JTFN Facebook Group, Jewish Teen Philanthropy Educators and Professionals at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/jewishteenfundersnetwork/>.
- Consult with your local Jewish Federation. They can be a tremendous help in connecting you to local philanthropists and non-profits and in helping your campers understand the needs of the local Jewish community.
- Finally: Don't forget to utilize us at JTFN! Naomi Skop Richter is available for support throughout the summer at naomi@jtfn.org or at 212-726-0177 ext. 215.

EVALUATION

Evaluations allow us to learn from our challenges and triumphs, and grow in the successful delivery of any program. JTFN is happy to provide a sample camper evaluation form, based on the survey JTFN created working with an outside evaluator to evaluate the success of this program during the pilot phase. Please email Naomi at naomi@jtfn.org for the sample evaluation.

OTHER CURRICULA

JTFN's website hosts many resources related to teen philanthropy including a number of full curriculum. If you are looking for additional resources, you might want to check out the curriculum below:

Ramah Philanthropy Initiative Curriculum

<http://www.jtfn.org/resources/ramah-philanthropy-initiative-curriculum-and-leaders-guide>

Union for Reform Judaism Congregational Philanthropy Curriculum

<http://www.jtfn.org/resources/urj-jtfn-teen-philanthropy-project-curriculum>

A ROUND OF APPLAUSE

JTFN would like to offer thanks to the following organizations whose materials inspired or appear in this guide:

- Bay Area Jewish Community Teen Foundations (San Francisco, Peninsula, Marin, Sonoma Counties, California)
- Ramah Philanthropy Initiative (New York)
- Rose Youth Foundation (Colorado)
- URJ Greene Family Camp Kibbutz Philanthropy (Texas)

A very special thank you to Michelle Abraham, MAJE and Alyson Bazeley, MSW who created this Program Guide in 2013; and to Dana Sheanin, MSW MAJCS, who compiled an earlier iteration.

About the Jewish Teen Funders Network

In 2001, the Jewish Funders Network (JFN) first recognized the potential of Jewish youth philanthropy programs to empower and educate teens about effective philanthropy and Jewish values. Shortly thereafter JFN began to facilitate regular conference calls for practitioners in the field and joined forces with other organizations to convene the first Jewish Youth Philanthropy Conference for 150 teens in April 2006. Building on the success of the conference, donors and JFN formed a partnership to create the Jewish Teen Funders Network (JTFN) in 2006. Operating as a project of JFN, JTFN now serves as a central address for over 125 Jewish youth philanthropy programs across North America.