

# What is Jewish Teen Philanthropy?



Jewish teen foundations (or boards) are a powerful model of Jewish teen engagement. Utilizing experiential education, Jewish teen foundations introduce teens to collective grantmaking. The group process is guided by Jewish values and provides teens with opportunities to engage, hands-on, in ***tzedakah***, ***gemilut chasadim***, and ***tikkun olam*** through strategic philanthropy.

This giving experience develops leadership practices, strengthens engagement in Jewish life, and increases commitment to lifelong giving based on Jewish values.

While each teen foundation is tailored to fit the institution and community, the program arc is consistent across our network.

## Teens make real decisions about real money!



Teens undergo a **participant application and selection process** indicating their commitment and readiness to participate on the teen foundation. The year begins with a process of **Jewish values clarification** and exploring **Jewish texts related to giving**. Teen philanthropists start to learn about the landscape of community issues and collectively develop a **mission statement** to guide their work. Next, each teen board begins the core work of grantmaking, **learning about nonprofits** and **best practices in grantmaking, reviewing proposals, fundraising for their grantmaking pool**, and **visiting nonprofits in action**. Jewish teen foundations make their decisions, from mission statement to grant decisions, using **consensus**, ensuring that every opinion is voiced and every voice is heard. The program concludes in **celebration**, raising awareness of the important and difficult work and allowing for **reflection** from the teen philanthropists.

## What is the Jewish Teen Funders Network?

The mission of the Jewish Teen Funders Network (JTFN) is to strengthen and grow Jewish teen philanthropy programs in North America and around the world. JTFN provides training, networking opportunities, resources and curriculum materials, conferences, and one-on-one consultations to support the growing field.

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