

Justice League: Teen Social Justice Fellowship, Application

Temple Beth Sholom, Miami Beach 2022-2023, 5782-5783



Instructors:

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TBS Mission

Temple Beth Sholom is a vibrant, inclusive Jewish congregation in Miami Beach affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism.

We develop meaningful relationships and transformative experiences by committing to our core values of Spirituality (עבודה, *Avodah*), Lifelong Education (תורה, *Torah*), Community (קהילה, *Kehilah*), Israel (ישראל, *Yisrael*) and Repairing The World (תקון עולם, *Tikkun Olam*).

Justice League Overview

In alignment with our Temple's mission, the Justice League is a year-long cohort for advanced high school students who want to deepen their Jewish experiences of learning, service and advocacy. Justice League is open to Jewish 11th & 12th graders, regardless of Temple membership status. Admittance into Justice League will be selective by completion of the below application only, and commitment must be 100% for the year.

The Fellowship will typically comprise of two meetings per month: one on-site at TBS, which will be an opportunity for a "deep-dive" into Jewish learning that relates to that month's theme; and one off-site meeting for service and/or learning in the community. The on-site meetings will take place on one Wednesday each month, September through May, excluding any Jewish or federal holidays. The service trips will take place once a month on the weekend. **Each fellow is allowed no more than**

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three excused absences due to emergencies or extracurricular activities. We expect full engagement and enthusiasm throughout this program.

Justice League will include an immersive service trip over Winter Break (Monday, Jan. 2 – Friday, Jan. 6, 2023), sponsored by the Al and Jane Nahmad Family Foundation (AJNFF). This trip is only open to Justice League Fellows who participate throughout the year-long fellowship, and attendance is mandatory. It promises to be an unforgettable week of learning alongside the teens in the Israel Fellowship.

In consultation with Rabbi Sinacore and Rabbi Loiben, each fellow will have the opportunity to study, write and deliver a D'var Torah, which will introduce the learning session for the month. Fellows may also design and lead presentations related to the topic of that month.

Every fellow will also be responsible for captaining a Mitzvah Day project of their choosing. Mitzvah Day will take place on Sunday, February 26, 2023.

Goals

Enduring Understandings:

1. Judaism is profoundly concerned with creating a more just society.
2. Our engagement with Jewish text and values adds meaning to our lives and keeps Jewish tradition evolving and alive.
3. We all experience privilege in different ways, and we can use that privilege to make a difference in our community.
4. The world is riddled with inequity and injustice. Through education, first-hand experiences, and action, we can impact the world.

Objectives:

1. **Learn.** Understand and deepen the relationship between Judaism and social justice.
2. **Teach:** Speak and advocate intelligently about issues of social injustice.
3. **Act:** Engage in direct service and build meaningful connections with other communities, youth groups, and non-profit organizations in the greater Miami area.

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4. **Lead.** Become leaders of service and advocacy through organizing and designing projects for our study sessions and service trips.

Advantages of Participation

Form new and deep friendships within the cohort and with diverse communities throughout Miami Beach and the region.

Become a more engaged and concerned citizen of Miami, of Florida, of the US and of the world.

Become a more engaged, knowledgeable and intentional Jewish young adult whose actions are rooted in Jewish learning, values and identity.

Understand connections between local and global issues by participating in a week-long, subsidized service-learning trip sponsored by the Al and Jane Nahmad Family Foundation (AJNFF).

Build leadership skills and experiences.

Participate in rich experiences outside your normal routine.

Candidate Qualifications

- 11th-12th grade Jewish students in Miami
- Temple Beth Sholom Membership not required
- Enthusiastic and open-minded, non-judgmental Listener, team player
- Interested in, and have had experience in, community service and/or advocacy for social justice
- Interest in growing as a community leader

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This application, including the essays, is my own work or formally cited from other sources. I affirm that the information contained herein is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and ability.

Student Signature (Can be electronic signature):

_____ Date: _____

Biographical Information of Student:

Name: _____

Mailing Address:

Preferred Email:

Cell Phone: _____

Current School/Grade:

Bar/Bat Mitzvah? (y/n)

Confirmed? (y/n)

Been to Israel/Date? (y/n)

Jewish Summer Camp/Name? (y/n) _____

TBS Mitzvah Day Participant/Year/Project?

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Volunteer Organizations/Year/Project?

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Biographical Information of Parent/Guardian

Parent/Guardian Name(s):

Parent/Guardian Cell Phone(s):

Parent/Guardian Preferred Email Address:

Parent/ Guardian are Temple Beth Sholom Members? (y/n)

My teen and I have discussed their participation in this program and we both understand that there is a considerable time commitment needed to be a Justice League Fellow. I will encourage my teen's positive commitment and **I understand that no more than three excused absences are allowed throughout the year.** I understand that the service-learning travel component will take place during the second week of the Miami Dade Public School winter break 2022/2023. I also allow the Temple and Justice League leaders to include pictures of my teen in social media posts.

Parent/Guardian Signature: (Can be electronic but must be BY PARENT)

Date: _____

Letters of Recommendation:

Please include one (1) letter of recommendation from a teacher, mentor, rabbi, cantor, camp director, school counselor, coach, etc.

Letters of recommendation must be submitted directly from the recommender to rabbiloiben@tbsmb.org and received no later than Sunday, Aug. 14, 2022.

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Essay Questions: Choose ONE of the three questions and ALL new applicants must complete the Personal Story: (please attach typed answers to the back of application. No more than 250 words each)

1. Describe a particularly meaningful time when you volunteered in the community. What were you doing? How did it make you feel? What did it make you curious about? -OR-
2. If you had to choose one social justice issue that is especially close to your heart, what would it be and why? Share a personal story that makes this issue real for you. -OR-
3. Why do you want to join the Justice League and what are you hoping to gain from this program and give to this fellowship?

Personal Story: (please attached typed answer to back of application. No more than 500 words)

Describe a time when you either personally experienced or witnessed injustice, or when an event in your life affected you deeply and made you aware of an unjust aspect of society.

Please complete and submit this application to Rabbi Loiben by sending as an attachment to rabbiloiben@tbsmb.org no later than Sunday, August 14, 2022.

Thank you for your interest, and we will be in touch once your application is submitted. Admission is on a rolling basis! Don't hesitate to contact Rabbi Loiben with any questions.