



Teen Program at SAJ

We offer multiple pathways for teens at SAJ. These opportunities include: 1.) once a month social/ educational / service programs, 2.) the annual teen trip, and 3.) the teen assistant program.

Monthly Programs

Teens can participate in monthly programs that include service projects, opportunities to learn about and/or advocate for social justice issues, and social events designed to build community. Programs have included attending the Big Shabbat (a record-breaking Friday night dinner with 2,800 attendees), packing hygiene kits for immigrants at the Marlene Meyerson JCC, and a babka bake-off. Our Teen Leadership Committee (made up of 5 committed teen leaders and our Director of Education) selects and helps plan these programs.

Teen Trip (9th-12 Graders)

Teens participate annually in social justice/social action themed trips. Past teen trips have included:

- The L'taken Social Justice Seminar in **Washington, D.C.**: Teens learn advocacy skills and lobby their representatives in Congress on issues important to them
- A housing-focused tour with Tivnu in **Portland, Oregon**: Includes actual time building homes for those experiencing homelessness
- A Southeast Civil Rights Journey throughout **the American South**: A look into the history of the Civil Rights Movement and Jewish involvement in it as well as reflection on the state of racial justice today
- An immigration-focused trip to the **U.S.-Mexico border in Arizona**: includes a tour of the border, the opportunity to hear contemporary immigration stories first-hand, and a chance to register citizens living near the border to vote
- In addition, our 8th grade cohort usually goes on a trip to Philadelphia to explore Jewish life in the city, learn about Reconstructionist history, and reflect on the history of American democracy.

Teen Assistant Program

We invite teens in the 9th-12th grade to apply for our Teen Assistant positions. Teen Assistants work in the classrooms, ideally with students who are at least 3 grades younger than them, supporting the teacher with educational, administrative, relational, and creative work. The teen assistant role can be tailored to your interests. For instance, if you like music, we can find a way to have you take a leadership role within our music or tefillah sections of the day. If you like art, we can find a way for you to rotate based on which classrooms are doing art-based activities. With an expectation for committed work and attending professional development sessions and meetings with Rabbi Adam, Teen Assistants will receive a cash stipend at the end of each semester. Teens may also volunteer for community service credit.