

Spring Semester 2021 (January – May) Opportunities for Synagogue Teen Programs

The URJ is excited to offer five Spring semester experiences for teens to learn, lead and take action through our new [Fellowships and Academies](#). All of our programs are led by experts in the field, integrate the [URJ Teen Leadership Core Practices](#), and utilize interactive, relationship based approaches to virtual learning. Give your teens the opportunity to get to know Reform teens from across North America as they explore topics that they care about!

There are two ways you can use these programming offerings to support your work:

1. **Let Individual teens know about these opportunities and help them find the right match for them.** Perhaps you have a teen who is ready to take their songleading to the next level, or who loves art and is ready to think of it as a community catalyst. Let those teens know about these experiences and invite them to [register on their own](#) to supplement the experience you are giving them in your congregation.
2. **NEW! Use one or more Teen Leadership Opportunities as a part of your base curriculum.** Whether you are looking for madrichim training, or high level learning for your teen program, let us help you! Your congregation can choose to take part in one or multiple offerings as a cohort. Perhaps you would like all of your madrichim to participate in the Madrichim Academy together. Or, maybe you would like to offer Leadership Through the Arts Fellowship, the Israel Fellowship, and the Songleading Fellowship to your teens and give them credit as you would for a program you create in house. With our supplemental materials, you can create experiences just for your teens and meet on the days in between the other sessions if you would like. [Register your congregation](#) and let us know which programs you would like to participate in.

FAQ's

Is there a program fee?

Yes – there is a suggested program fee for each opportunity varying from \$75 to \$125 depending on the number of sessions being offered. We are using a pay-what-you-can model recognizing that for some this suggested fee is a barrier for participation and others may be able to contribute more to make this opportunity possible for others. Both individuals and congregations/groups are invited to also pay what they can.

When are the programs offered?



All of the programs run from January 2021-May 2021. Each opportunity is offered at different dates and times to accommodate teen's complicated schedules and time zones. Please look at the information on the [Teen Leadership Opportunities](#) webpage for specific dates and times.

How do my teens register?

If you are offering one specific program through your congregation, you can share the [information and registration link](#) just for that program. If you are offering multiple programs, you can send them to the full page of [URJ Teen Leadership Opportunities](#). Teens should use the "register now" links for each opportunity to register themselves for the program.

If you opt to cover your student fees, you'll need to let your families know that when they read the payment page at registration, they should opt not to pay as the congregation is already covering their fees. Please ask them to note in the information box in the payment section that their congregation is paying their fees. We will send you an invoice in mid-January for any of your students who have registered.

How do I let you know that I have a group participating?

If you will be participating as a group/synagogue, we ask that you fill out this [synagogue registration form](#) in addition to asking your students to individually register.

What grades can participate?

Each Teen Leadership Opportunity lists the grades that it is meant for. If a teen is interested in a program that is not offered for their age group, please reach out personally to Michelle Shapiro Abraham at msabraham@urj.org and we can explore options together.

Does an adult from my congregation need to participate along with my students?

If you are fully integrating a Teen Leadership Opportunity into your base curriculum, we suggest having a leader from your congregation join with your teens. In this way you can use the program to support the additional work you are doing with them, as well as an opportunity to build relationship and keep your teens connected to your community. If there is an adult from your congregation participating, we will invite them to participate in break out groups with your own cohort. You can then "fill in" your program as you would like with additional sessions just for your teens either virtually or in-person.

If you are not using this program as a base curriculum, or would like to have your teens participate individually, you are free to do that. Certain Teen Leadership Opportunities, such as the Madrichim Academy and the Songleading Fellowship do have built into the program support and partnership with synagogue professionals or local mentors (though not necessarily during the class time itself)

Which programs are available to be integrated into our curriculum and who is leading each program?



The following programs can be integrated into your curriculum (please see the full [Teen Leadership Opportunities](#) page for additional information about each program)

Madrichim Academy

Led by Emily Messinger, NFTY East Area Manager and past synagogue leader, this program is offered in partnership with ARJE and HUC Schools of Education. Participants will take part in 5 high level learning sessions to explore creating inclusive learning environments, meaningful experiences for younger kids, stages of child development, behavior management strategies, and fun zoom games. Open to 8th-12th graders on five Thursdays at 5pm PST/8pm EST

Leadership Through the Arts Fellowship

Jo-Ellen Unger, Director of URJ 6 Points Creative Arts Camp will be joined by guest artists Isaac Brynjegard-Bialik, Tamar Ghidalia, Shira Klein, John Adams Ross, and Pamela Rae Schuller for hands on creating, theater workshops, and reflections on Jewish leadership through the lens of art. At the end of the program participants will create interactive art themed programs for teens in your congregation and across North America. Open to 9th-12th graders and meeting on 10 Tuesdays/Thursdays at 4:30PST/7:30 EST

Songleading Fellowship

Offered in partnership with the American Conference of Cantors, The Songleading Fellowship is perfect for teens who are ready to take their songleading skills to the next level. In addition to their time in sessions and the small group/individual mentoring, students will work with local mentors (synagogue professionals or others) to complete hands on experiences such as songleading for religious school and services. Open to 9th-12th graders with monthly group learning sessions and individualized mentoring

Navigating Complexity: Israel as a Case Study

Through music, art, commentary, and the real stories of Israelis, this Fellowship will explore democracy, gender equality, religious expression, race and more with [the iCenter](#). At the end of the program participants will create a virtual Israel education experience for their peers at your congregation and across North America. Open to 9th-12th graders on 8 Wednesdays at 5pm PST/8pm EST

Edventure Certificate in Adaptive Innovation Certificate from NYU

Taught by Dr. Nir Tzuk, the NYU Global Distinguished Scholar, who brings over 25 years experience in the fields of social capital, entrepreneurship, impact and culture of innovation. This unique course will showcase the innovations in Israel while helping teens see a larger approach to innovation and entrepreneurship. This course is limited to 30 teens total. Based on interest, we will set a day/time in late November. Learn more about the [general program](#) (though please note that this webpage is not specifically for the URJ cohort and dates and fees are not applicable) Open to 10th-12th graders – eight sessions with date/time TBA

In addition to these programs, synagogues are invited to participate with their teens in the [RAC Social Justice Academy](#).

