

Central Synagogue - 8th/9th Grade Programming

Program Options:

1. **8th/9th Grade Jewish Leadership Institute:**

Highlights:

- Tuesdays, 6:30-7:45PM, dinner included
- 5 seminars (6 weeks each), each culminating in a special event or *trip in line with the theme of the course (schedule below)
- Exclusive access to our Jewish Leadership seminar, in which students will hear from influential lay leadership within our congregation, explore how Jewish values have dictated their professional growth and success, and begin to develop their own role as leaders within Central Synagogue's community
- Access to all outside programming, service opportunities, and trips
- Special one-on-one time with our staff and clergy to match students with lay leadership opportunities
- Students are expected to attend 80% of classes.

*Weekend trips (NOLA, Civil Rights, RAC/D.C. trip) only additional fees, not included in program cost

2. **8th/9th Grade Seminars:**

Highlights:

- Tuesdays, 6:30-7:45PM, dinner included
- Flexibility to enroll in 1-4 seminars (6 weeks each), each culminating in a special event or *trip in line with the theme of the course (schedule below)
- Program options fit to students' schedules
- Access to all outside programming and service opportunities
- Students are expected to attend all 6 sessions in each seminar they sign-up for – excused absences allowed with notice and on a case-by-case basis.

*Weekend trips (NOLA, Civil Rights, RAC/D.C. trip) only additional fees, not included in program cost

NOTE: In our 8th/9th Seminars program, students may only register for a trip/special event if they are also enrolled in its corresponding seminar i.e. enrollment in Jewish American History gives access to the Civil Rights trip in April.

Program Costs:

1 Seminar: \$900

2 Seminars: \$1050

3 Seminars: \$1200

4 Seminars: \$1350

8th/9th Jewish Leadership Institute (5 seminars): \$1500

2018-19 Seminar Schedule

Seminar 1, Sept. 25-Oct. 30, 2018:

Option 1: Jewish Cooking*

Option 2: Jewish American History (NOLA/Civil Rights Trip in April)

Seminar 2, Nov. 6-Dec. 18, 2018:

NOTE: Excludes the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, November 20, 2018.

Option: Modern State of Israel*

Seminar 3, Jan. 8-Feb. 12, 2019:

Option 1: Jewish Advocacy (9th only, RAC trip in March)*

Option 2: The Holocaust (8th only)*

Seminar 4, Feb. 26-April 9, 2019:

NOTE: Excludes LCLJ Spring Break on March 27, 2019

Option: Jewish American History (NOLA/Civil Rights Trip in April)*

Seminar 5, April 9-May 21, 2019:

NOTE: Excludes Passover break on April 23, 2019

Option 1: Jewish Leadership (only open to Leadership Institute students)*

Option 2: Jewish Cooking

*indicates course Jewish Leadership Institute students will take each seminar period

Seminar Descriptions

1. **Jewish Cooking/Food:** Students will explore Jewish ritual, history, and culture through a culinary journey.

Deliverables:

- Learn how to cook at least 6 traditional Jewish foods
- Understand how food became an important part of Jewish tradition/culture
- Learn the history of why certain Jewish foods are “Jewish”
- Visit important Jewish food institutions and interview influential Jewish cooks/congregants
- Connect with Jewish foods of the major holidays

Special Event/Trip: LES Jewish Food Tour

2. **Jewish Advocacy Seminar (9th grade only):** students will build the skills needed to engage with and make a difference in issues close to their hearts.

Deliverables:

- Knowledge of the process of community organizing and advocacy through lobbying/legislation
- Learn about events in which the Jewish community played a large role in advocacy work and the Jewish leadership behind those initiatives
- Text-based understanding and historical understanding as to how this work is important in our Jewish tradition
- Students will visit Washington D.C. with the Religious Action Center, where they will engage with local and/or state politics, write position papers on an issue of their choosing, and lobby on Capital Hill
- Students will regularly discuss current events, learning how to view the world through a Reform Jewish lens

Special Event: RAC Trip in March (note: trip fees not included in program cost)

3. **The Holocaust (8th grade only):** Students will study this destructive event in Jewish history, including the political and social catalysts and implications. By learning about the Holocaust in-depth, students will be able to pull important themes and draw connections to modern incidents of genocide, war, and anti-Semitism.

Deliverables:

- Knowledge of the Holocaust – political, social, and historical perspectives; major events; key players; and implications we still see in our world today
- A deeper understanding of how this affected global Jewry
- The ability to identify key themes and make connections to modern events and conflicts
- Intimate talk-back with survivors and their families
- A more comprehensive look at the Holocaust in the context of WWII than in younger LCLJ years

Special Event/Trip: Exclusive family visit and program at the Jewish Heritage Museum

4. **Jewish American History – Anti-Semitism, Civil Rights, and the Future of Judaism:** Students will learn about the history of Jews in the United States and in doing so tackle themes still present in our world today.

Deliverables:

- Knowledge of Jewish immigration, assimilation, demographics, and denominations in the US throughout history
- Students will regularly discuss current events, connecting themes from the past to the present
- Knowledge of the history of Reform Judaism and the role of Central Synagogue in shaping this culture and narrative
- Students will explore the unique perspective of American Jewry in the world today – how we relate to others in the diaspora and Jews in Israel

- Students will visit major historical sites in the Civil Rights movement, learning about Jewish participation in this movement

Special Event/Trip: Civil Rights Trip/NOLA Trip in April – alternating years (note: trip fees not included in tuition)

5. **The Modern State of Israel:** Students will take an in-depth look at Israel today – the people, politics, demographics, daily life, and current events – to develop their personal connection to the land.

Deliverables:

- Knowledge of the politics and government of Israel today
- Demographics of Israel – who lives where? What kind of Jews live there? What non-Jews live there? – and in doing so exploring complexities and conflicts over the land
- Students will regularly discuss current events to help better understand the modern state and how it came to be
- Students will be able to express why Israel matters to them as Jews living in NYC
- Students will learn from speakers and guests, offering different perspectives on life in Israel – from settlements, to the IDF, to high school

Special Event: NYC Israeli Culture & Food Experience

6. **Jewish Leadership (Jewish Leadership Institute participants only):** Students will learn from Jewish leaders across industries to better understand how their Judaism and Jewish values motivate leadership and success.

Deliverables:

- Students will meet with several leaders from across industries from in-depth learning sessions.
- Students will better understand their own leadership style through various strength-based leadership activities.
- Students will study great Jewish leaders, past and present, and dissect their leadership styles.
- Students will understand how our tradition can dictate leadership, decision-making, and morality in their lives today.
- Special one-one-one planning sessions with Central clergy and staff to develop long-term lay leadership opportunities through high school and beyond.

Special Event: TBD