

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)
- Students will learn from influential lay leadership within our congregation, explore how Jewish values have impacted these professionals' growth and success, and begin to develop their own role as Jewish leaders
- 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 trip (Memphis, L'taken Seminar/D.C. trip) fees are 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 trip (Memphis, Civil Rights, RAC/D.C. trip) fees are 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 its corresponding seminar i.e. enrollment in Jewish American History gives access to the Memphis Study Trip in April.

2019-20 Seminar Schedule

Seminar 1, Sept. 10 – Oct. 29:

Option 1: Jewish American History (Memphis trip in April)

Option 2: Jewish and Israeli Pop Culture: Food, Music, Art, and TV

Seminar 2, Nov. 5 – Dec. 17:

NOTE: Excludes the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, November 26, 2019.

Option: Antisemitism and Antizionism: What is it and how to deal with it

Seminar 3, Jan. 7 – Feb. 11:

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

Option 2: The Holocaust (8th only)

Seminar 4, Feb. 25- April 7:

NOTE: Excludes LCLJ Spring Break

Option 1: Jewish American History (Memphis trip in April)

Option 2: Jewish and Israeli Pop Culture: Food, Music, Art, and TV

Seminar 5, April 21- May 19:

NOTE: Excludes Passover break

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

Please Note: Students enrolled in Jewish leadership will take each seminar one time.

Seminar Descriptions

1. **Jewish and Israeli Pop Culture:** Students will explore how Judaism influences American and Israeli Movies/ TV Shows, Art, and Jewish food in this interactive and hands on seminar.

Seminar Outline:

- Explore the role Judaism plays in movies and TV Shows
- Understand how and why Israeli television has reached a global audience
- Learn why certain Jewish foods are “Jewish”
- Connect with Jewish foods of the major holidays
- Create Jewish ritual items and artwork by learning the history of Jewish artists in North America, Europe, and Israel

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. Students will have the option to attend the RAC’s L’taken Seminar in Washington, DC.

Seminar Outline:

- 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

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.

Seminar Outline:

- 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

4. **Jewish American History:** Students will learn about the history of Jews in the United States and in doing so tackle themes still present in our world today. All enrolled students will have the option to travel on the Memphis Study Trip in April.

Seminar Outline:

- Knowledge of Jewish immigration, assimilation, demographics, and denominations in the US throughout history (including the history of Reform Judaism)
- Students will regularly discuss current events, connecting themes from the past to the present
- Students will explore the unique perspective of American Jewry in the world today – how we relate to others in the diaspora and in Israel
- Students will learn about Judaism in Memphis and other places in the world and how it has evolved over time

5. **Antisemitism and Antizionism: What is it and how to deal with it:** Students will define antisemitism and antizionism, learn the origins of the words, how they influence the word today, and how to deal with the challenges that they present.

Seminar Outline:

- Learn the history of antisemitism and antizionism and how to deal with it as a teenager and young adult
- Identify ways that both concepts have changed over time
- Recognize examples of antisemitism and antizionism today and how people and groups act in response
- Students will regularly discuss current events to help better understand both concepts and how they impact our communities
- Students will learn from speakers and guests, offering different perspectives and providing tools for students to carry with them through high school and college

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.

Seminar Outline:

- 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 sessions with Central clergy and staff to develop leadership roles and skills

Program Costs:

1 Seminar: \$900

2 Seminars: \$1050

3 Seminars: \$1200

4 Seminars: \$1350

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