



2016-2017(5777)

7th Grade Program

Congregation Emanu-El of the City of New York

Mitzvah Corps

About Mitzvah Corps

Mitzvah Corps empowers you to respond to important societal challenges such as education inequality, senior citizen care, diversity, hunger, homelessness and climate change. This yearlong 7th grade Religious School program is divided into seven units, each focused on a different cause. Each unit includes a learning, action and reflection session.

Learning Session: Learn from our tradition how best to respond to a cause. Build skills that help you volunteer meaningfully and effectively during the corresponding action session. Learning Sessions are held during Religious School hours on Sunday (9:30am – 12:00pm) and Monday (4:00 – 6:00pm). Students only need to attend once per unit.

Action Session: Participate in a hands-on community service event with your classmates at an organization that responds to the cause that you studied in the Learning Session. Each unit will have a weekday and weekend option for the Action Session, which may meet outside of regular school hours. Weekend Action Sessions are on Sundays except on two dates where the schedules of the organizations require us to volunteer on a Saturday. For Unit 7, the entire family is invited to participate in the Action Session. Students may only participate in the Action Session if they have completed the Learning Session for that unit.

Reflection Session: React to your experience at the Action Session and discuss with your classmates ways to make ongoing change to the selected cause. Reflection Sessions are held during Religious School hours on Sunday (9:30am – 12:00pm) and Monday (4:00 – 6:00pm). Students only need to attend once.

In addition to the units, there will be several other sessions throughout the year, including an introductory session for parents and students, a concluding session, a speaker for Yom HaShoah, and sessions to prepare for 8th grade at the end of the year.

Mitzvah Messengers

Students who earn 18 points throughout the year become Mitzvah Messengers. Students who earn 25 points become Super Mitzvah Messengers. Students earn one point for every session they attend. Students can earn additional points when they:

- Complete a unit (attend the Learning, Action, and Reflection Session for the unit, 1 point per unit completed)
- Give their d'var torah from their B'nai Mitzvah during Religious School
- Present during class on a Mitzvah Project they did for their B'nai Mitzvah
- Bring a parent to Orientation and the family Action Session

Mitzvah Messengers (18 points)	Super Mitzvah Messengers (25 points)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get your picture on the Mitzvah Messenger Wall of Fame in the classroom • Help choose the unit that will be the focus of the 8th Grade Tzedek League program • Get a copy of the Mitzvah Corps Video Yearbook • Receive special recognition at Shabbat Services on May 19, 2017 	Earn everything the Mitzvah Messengers receive plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A \$100 scholarship towards the 8th Grade New Orleans Trip • Special recognition in the Temple Emanu-El Bulletin

Mitzvah Corps Calendar 2016-2017

Unit 1 – Visiting the Sick

Unit 2 – Respecting the Elderly

Unit 3 – Respect for all Human Life

Unit 4 – Providing Food for the Hungry

Unit 5 – Strengthening Underprivileged Youth

Unit 6 – Caring for Animals

Unit 7 – Guarding the Earth

Session	Dates	
	Sunday Option	Monday Option
Orientation – Parents should attend!	September 11	September 12
Introductory Session	September 18	September 19
Action Session Introduction	September 25	September 26
Unit 1 Learning	October 16	October 17
Unit 1 Action	October 23	October 24
Unit 1 Reflection	October 30	October 31
Unit 2 Learning	November 6	November 7
Unit 2 Action	November 13	November 14
Unit 2 Reflection	November 20	November 21
Unit 3 Learning		November 28
Unit 3 Action	December 3 (Saturday)	December 5
Unit 3 Reflection	December 11	December 12
Unit 4 Learning	January 8	January 9
Unit 4 Action	January 22	January 23
Unit 4 Reflection	January 29	January 30
Unit 5 Learning	February 5	February 6
Unit 5 Action	February 11 (Saturday)	February 13
Unit 5 Reflection/Unit 6 Learning	February 26	February 27
Unit 6 Action	March 5	March 6
Unit 6 Reflection	March 12	March 13
Unit 7 Learning	April 2	April 3
Unit 7 Action – Families Invited!	April 9	May 1*
Yom HaShoah Speaker	April 23	April 24*
Unit 7 Reflection	April 30	May 8
Final Reflection	May 7	
Mitzvah Messenger Session	May 14	May 15

*Due to when Passover and Yom HaShoah fall this year, the Unit 7 Action Session will not take place until after the Yom HaShoah Session for Monday students.

End-of-Year Celebrations

- Friday, May 19, 6:00pm: Mitzvah Corps students will be honored during Shabbat Services!
- Sunday, May 21, 9:30-11:00am: Festive bagel brunch for Mitzvah Corps Families honoring Mitzvah Messengers (followed by the End of Year Assembly)
- Monday, May 22, 6:00 – 7:00pm: Festive dinner for Mitzvah Corps Families honoring Mitzvah Messengers (preceded by the End of Year Assembly at 5:00pm)