



Tzedek League

“Justice, Justice Shall you Pursue” (Deuteronomy 16:20)

About the Program

The ballots were counted, and the 2015-16 7th graders decided to spend their 8th grade year in Tzedek League pursuing justice for the clients of Association to Benefit Children (serving underprivileged youth) and Friendship Circle (helping kids with special needs).

Our 8th grade Tzedek League program trains students to be leaders in making change. Participants have more frequent volunteer experience at the organization of their choice, deepening their relationship to those in need. Students also learn skills for different methods of working towards social justice including fundraising, advocacy, education and community organizing.

Program Structure

Students meet 2-3 times per month, for:

- **Volunteer Sessions** - Students will volunteer once a month at the organization they have chosen for the year:
 - **Association to Benefit Children**, 1841 Park Avenue. Students may volunteer in the Saturday day-care program, 10:45am – 2:00pm or the Wednesday afterschool program, 4:00-6:00pm
 - **Friendship Circle**, 419 E. 77th Street. Students will volunteer in the Sunday afternoon program, 1:00 – 3:30pm.
 - If a student wishes to volunteer on a day/time not offered, or at another organization that they worked with in 7th grade, we can help them arrange an independent volunteer opportunity.
- **Sunday Summits** - All Tzedek League students will come together one Sunday evening a month to:
 - Learn about the methods of social justice and choose a team to lead (fundraising, advocacy, education and community organizing). Students may join as many teams as they wish.
 - Plan team activities to pursue justice for their organization.
 - Reflect on their volunteer experiences.
 - Enjoy dinner.
- **Team Gatherings** - Each team will have at least 2 gatherings throughout the year where they will put their social justice plans into action through:
 - Fundraising – For example, a bake sale
 - Advocacy – For example, meeting with a New York City council member
 - Education – By teaching younger students in the Religious School
 - Community Organizing – By having one-to-one conversations with members of the community

Please look at the program calendar on the reverse side and mark your calendar for the Volunteer Sessions and Sunday Summits. Team Gatherings will be scheduled in collaboration with students and parents as each team chooses activities.

Tzedek League Program Calendar 2016-2017

Sunday Summits

5:00 – 7:00pm at Emanu-El, dinner included.

Date
September 25
November 6
December 11
January 8
February 12
March 5
April 2
May 7

Volunteer Sessions

Students must attend one volunteer session each month at their chosen organization.

Association to Benefit Children		Friendship Circle
Saturdays 10:45am – 2:00pm	Wednesdays 4:00 – 6:00pm	Sundays 1:00 – 3:30pm
October 15	October 19	November 20
November 19	November 16	December 4
December 10	December 14	January 22
January 21	January 25	February 5
February 11	February 15	March 5
March 11	March 15	April 2
April 22	April 5	April 23
May 13	May 3	May 21

Team Gatherings

Each team will schedule at least 2 additional gatherings to put their social justice plans into action! These will be scheduled in collaboration with team members and their parents. These activities will be scheduled in the fall and take place in the winter and spring.

Teen Leadership Shabbat

Tzedek League students will be honored at our annual Teen Leadership Shabbat Dinner for 8th-12th graders on April 21, 2017, following Shabbat Kodesh at 7:00pm.

Additional Information

For more information about Tzedek League, contact Missy Bell, Director of Youth Learning and Engagement, (212) 507-9529 or mbell@emanuelnyc.org.

For calendar updates and the complete Congregation Emanu-El calendar, visit us on the web at www.emanuelnyc.org.