

@Akiva

Jewish Education Center of Cleveland

A home base for Jewish teens in Cleveland, @Akiva is a hub for teen activities in the area. Offerings include formal and informal learning, group trips, and other community-based opportunities (i.e. HaZamir). Hebrew learning includes formal classes in which students can earn high school credit, informal conversational settings with Israeli *Shin-shinim* (like *shlichim*), and blended opportunities with online and in-person learning. @Akiva features a two-year Israel education experience, israel.cleveland.next, that bridges learning, community-building, and an Israel trip for sophomores and juniors with a strong Israel advocacy component. By bringing these many teen opportunities under one umbrella, @Akiva offers Jewish teens many gateways into Jewish experiences and many opportunities to build relationships with peers across the whole community.

Innovation Highlights: @Akiva

- Options for participants to choose their own Jewish experiences
- Community-based 'hub' for Jewish experience
- Formal and informal learning
- Hebrew learning through conversation and encounter
- A "research and development" function that provides an opportunity to test out new ideas through pilot initiatives

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Limmud B'Yachad

Jewish Federation of Greater Houston

6th-8th graders across the Greater Houston area come together for a one-day program for learning and making connections with kids from other congregations. The program is designed with the congregational Directors of Education from the community working with the education staff of the Federation to engage middle school aged kids and connect them with peers. Last year's program featured a series of classes offered over three sessions. This year, teens will be part of teams for the day, made up of teens from various synagogues. The teams will travel together through three sessions of activities: learning about Jewish communities around the world, participating in mitzvah projects benefitting local Jewish organizations, and a Maccabi-style, Minute-to-Win-it competition. The day concludes with lunch for all participants.

Innovation Highlights: Limmud B'Yachad

- Community-wide collaboration
- Middle school engagement
- Team-based approach to experiential learning
- Relationship building across congregational communities

Shalom Explorers

Jewish Learning Works, San Francisco

Shalom Explorers is designed for groups of families with children in grades K-2. It is based on the scouts movement, with indoor and outdoor activities. Once a group is formed, the Shalom Explorers director meets with the families to determine how often the group will meet and what the curriculum will be (selected from a menu of available curricula). Shalom Explorers provides all the materials and lesson plans for the year and parents take turn leading the learning sessions.

Innovation Highlights: Shalom Explorers

- Engaging young families in the pre-Hebrew school demographic.
- Providing voice and choice to content, meeting times, locations, and outcomes.
- Parents take leadership roles in determining the curriculum and facilitating the learning.
- Engages families who are not currently synagogue members in Jewish learning.

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Jewish Learning Works

JQuest B'Yachad

**Beth Sholom Congregation, Congregation Adath Jeshurun,
Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel
Jewish Learning Venture, Philadelphia**

JQuest B'Yachad is a joint elementary education program for three congregations (one Reform and two Conservative). This collaborative approach utilizes the talent of a large team of clergy, educators, and administrators from all of the participating congregations. JQuest B'Yachad highlights student voice and choice in their learning in an experiential environment, using project-based learning, Hebrew Through Movement, and arts-based holiday and *tefillah* learning.

Innovation Highlights: JQuest B'Yachad

- Utilizing effective practices (PBL, HTM, and chugim)
- Collaboration of multiple congregations
- Voice and Choice for students

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Jewish Learning Venture™

Chai Time

Temple Kol Ami

Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit

In this smaller religious school, all students come together for the last hour every Sunday for “Chai Time,” beginning with opening song session and then learning stations based on the current theme. Themes often span multiple sessions, giving students time to visit more than one station and build relationships with their selected group of various age levels. Chai Time utilizes experiential learning; sometimes with lots of movement and commotion and other times with more focus on relationship building in longer-term groups. The entire faculty works together to plan and implement Chai Time as an “all hands on deck” approach.

Innovation Highlights: Chai Time

- Multi-grade level learning
- Taking advantage of the unique gifts of the community
- Smaller-school Innovation
- Experiential learning
- Creating community experiences

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Tribes

Congregation Emanu-El of the City of New York

Jewish Education Project, New York

Tribes engages high school students as teachers and leaders for groups of 3rd-5th graders. They spend time together each Sunday exploring values, using Pirke Avot text. Younger students develop relationships with other students in close grade levels. High school students become Jewish role models to the younger students through their roles as “tribal chiefs.” The teachers provide guidance in their roles as “tribal elders.”

Innovation Highlights: Tribes

- Developing relationships across age groups.
- Engaging high school students in leadership roles.
- Building intentional relationships while learning deep content.
- Providing positive Jewish role models for younger students.

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