




Teva Learning Center

Inspirational Jewish Education for an Ecological Age

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Teva's programs inspire participants to develop a more meaningful relationship with the world and their own Jewish practice. The Teva model of education is effective because it is experiential, joyous, and relevant to today. The Teva Learning Center facilitates personal spiritual growth, community building, ecological literacy, and a genuine commitment to healing the world.



The Teva Learning Center exists to renew
the ecological wisdom inherent in Judaism



SHABBAT RETREATS

Experience the rejuvenation of a retreat-based Teva Shabbat. Through engaging prayer, hands-on learning, and immersion in the natural world, participants are encouraged to develop more meaningful relationships with Creation and with their own Jewish identities, while building a strong community. Teva's programs emphasize a genuine commitment to *tikkun olam* (healing the world) and becoming *shomrei adamah* (guardians of the Earth).

Featured retreat activities include inspiring night and daytime nature hikes, spirited singing, eco-arts and crafts, text study, biblio-drama, cooking, farming, and community-building initiatives and games. Teva is committed to meeting the needs of each unique community regardless of age or denomination.



EDUCATOR-IN-RESIDENCE

When a Shabbat retreat is not possible, bring a dynamic Teva educator to your synagogue, school, youth group, or community organization.

Choose an educator-in-residence program based on the *chaggim* (holidays) and highlight the agricultural and seasonal underpinnings of the Jewish calendar, or choose a program based on an environmental issue of interest to your community. Educator-in-residence programs can range in time from one-hour to an entire day. Teva educators are available to lead programming on-site at your facility, at a local park, or at one of our beautiful partner retreat centers.

מנוחה ושמחה Menucha V'simcha

תעשה לך תיבה Ta'aseh Lecha Teyva

A RESTFUL, JOYOUS SHABBAT FOR ALL CREATION
Ideal for families with children up to 6th grade

BUILD YOURSELF AN ARK
Ideal for families with children up to 6th grade

What greater gift can we give to ourselves and the planet than Shabbat? Discover the delight of celebrating Shabbat with your personal community and with all of God's Creation as we sing, dance, study, and pray together. From inspiring outdoor exploration to celebratory meals, Shabbat is a time to recognize the blessings in our lives. Come learn what Jewish tradition says about balancing use of the world's resources with pausing to appreciate and evaluate.

It's a family Shabbat celebration like Noah could only have imagined! Let local lizards, ladybugs, deer, and hawks inspire your prayer. Learn how to stalk like a fox, weave stories like a spider, and stretch like a cat. Like Noah and his family, we will learn to be *shomrei chayyot* – caretakers of the animals and of all life. Join us as we build a *kesher* – a connection to the animal world through Shabbat celebration, family and community.



בני מצווה B'nai Mitzvah

WHAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY?
Ideal for children in grades 5 to 8 – independently or with parents

As children begin their journey towards Jewish adulthood, they face a host of difficult issues. Join other Bar and Bat Mitzvah age youth as we embark on an exploration of social responsibility, leadership, and Jewish identity. Spirited prayer, challenging discussions, outdoor adventure, and a creative exploration of Jewish texts and values will help create a foundation for the entire B'nai Mitzvah experience.

חבורה ירוקה Havurah Yerukah

CREATING A GREEN COMMUNITY
Ideal for teens, young adults, or families with older children

Pirkei Avot teaches us: "It is not up to you to complete the task, but neither are you free to desist from it." It is time to take action! During this vibrant Shabbat experience, participants will be introduced to a world of hands-on, practical ways to create environmentally sustainable communities in their synagogues and homes. Awaken your own connection to the natural world through guided nature hikes, engaging text study, community-building games, and, ultimately, the creation of an individual or family *brit* – a commitment to begin the meaningful work.

חגים Holidays Environmental Issues

סוכות SUKKOT

On this harvest holiday, celebrated under the open sky, we ask for *gishmei beracha*, blessings of rain for the Earth. See why Sukkot is called *z'man simchateynu*, our time of joy, and learn more about the role of water in our world.

חנוכה CHANUKAH

In the darkest time of winter we celebrate the "Festival of Lights." Generate awareness about climate change and energy issues as we remember the miracle of Chanukah.

ט"ו בשבט TU B'SHVAT

Honi, the legendary tree planter, knew the value of thinking about future generations. On the birthday of the trees, through theater, food, and song, Teva will celebrate the importance of trees in Judaism and on this Earth.

ל"ג בעומר LAG B'OMER

For centuries, Jews have celebrated this holiday together in the outdoors. Team building initiatives, wilderness games and skills, and fun in nature will be the focus.

שבועות SHAVUOT

As we conclude the counting of the *omer*, this program celebrates the joy of studying Torah together as a community and enjoying the harvest of foods from the Earth's soil.

The legacy passed down from one generation to the next, *l'dor v'dor*, is of the utmost importance to the Jewish people. One of the greatest challenges facing the current generation is the ecological state of our planet. It is critical that we educate and mobilize the Jewish community to address today's environmental issues. While this can be complicated and difficult to discuss, Teva has pioneered a unique style for doing so that is joyful, relevant, and inspiring. From raising awareness to dissecting the issues to taking action, Teva educators-in-residence will guide your community towards a meaningful *brit adamah*, covenant with the earth. Using Jewish tradition as a resource for wrestling with challenging environmental issues, Teva can explore the following topics with your group:

- **Israel and the Environment**
- **Food and Ecology**
- **Animals and Biodiversity**
- **Global Climate Change and Energy**
- **Consumer Choices and Responsibility**
- **Introduction to Jewish Environmental Values**



All Teva programs follow a thematic progression from Awareness to Interconnectedness to Responsibility.

AWARENESS

We thank you...for your miracles that are with us each day, and for your wonders and goodness that are with us every moment.

SIDDUR, AMIDAH

INTERCONNECTEDNESS

Even those Creatures that you deem superfluous in this world such as flies, fleas, and gnats nevertheless have their allotted tasks in the scheme of Creation.

SHEMOT RABBAH (Midrash) 10:1

RESPONSIBILITY

When the Holy One, blessed be God, created the first human...God said to Adam, 'See my works, how good and praiseworthy they are? And all that I have created I made for you. [But] be mindful then that you do not spoil and destroy My world – for if you do spoil it, there is no one after you to repair it.

KOHELET RABBAH (Midrash) 7:13



Teva Learning Center is a Program of Surprise Lake Camp and a beneficiary of UJA-Federation of New York



OUR SITES

Teva's congregational and community programs are available on-site at your synagogue, in a local park, or at one of our beautiful partner retreat centers:



- Pearlstone Conference and Retreat Center in Reisterstown, MD



- Surprise Lake Camp in Cold Spring, NY



- Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center in Falls Village, CT

All of our retreat centers have comfortable housing, strictly kosher dining facilities, and hundreds of acres of beautiful hiking trails, meadows, forests, streams, and ponds.

TEVA EDUCATORS

Teva's dynamic educators are recognized leaders in experiential Jewish education. Educators receive extensive training in teaching innovative Jewish environmental education programs. They also bring to Teva their skills as musicians, artists, scientists, and teachers from the full spectrum of Jewish practice. Our team of experienced educators has a well-deserved reputation as committed, professional, charismatic Jewish role models.

Let us organize a Teva program for you!

Teva's programs are available year round; contact us to arrange dates. Costs are determined by site used, length of program, and number of educators required.

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