

The Rabbi Emily Feigenson Impact Fellowship



An immersive education program for Jewish Youth Professionals

Overview

The Rabbi Emily Feigenson Impact Fellowship is designed to equip Jewish educators with the tools and methods used by Tzedek America to integrate experiential social justice education into their teaching practices. This program is ideal for new and experienced educators who work with Jewish teenagers and are passionate about fostering social justice awareness through experiential education.

Who Should Apply

This fellowship is open to educators working in Jewish educational settings, including day schools, synagogue schools, and community organizations. Applicants should have a commitment to social justice and a desire to engage their students in meaningful, impact-driven learning experiences.

Fellowship Structure

- **Cohort Size:** Participation is limited and selective
- **Format:** A blend of three virtual sessions and one in-person, four-day immersive experience in Los Angeles. The fellowship includes workshops, personalized coaching, and resources to guide fellows in the development of an action plan for integrating social justice into participants' educational settings.
- **Schedule:**
 - **Application Deadline:** November 27, 2024
 - **Session 1:** December 16, 2024 4:00-6:00 PM PST
 - **Session 2:** February 10, 2025 4:00-6:00 PM PST
 - **Session 3:** April 28, 2025 4:00 - 6:00 PM PST
 - **LA Trip:** June 8-11, 2025

Program Highlights

- **Experiential Learning:** Fellows will explore Tzedek America's mission and impact learning methods, learning how to apply these principles to their work.
- **Social Justice Foundations:** Sessions will include key Jewish teachings on social justice and guidance on how to create a safe, brave and positive learning environment that fosters activism.
- **Leadership Practicum:** During the Los Angeles trip, each fellow will have the opportunity to put their learning into practice as they work in small groups to lead mixers, facilitate debriefs, and create processing experiences during the Los Angeles Social Justice Journey, taking place at the conclusion of the fellowship.
- **Los Angeles Immersive Experience:** Fellows will participate in a three-night four-day, all-inclusive* trip to Los Angeles, engaging in hands-on learning, community engagement and recreational activities.

Curriculum Overview

The fellowship curriculum provides participants with theoretical knowledge and practical tools to integrate social justice into their educational settings. It includes:

- **Session 1: מה (pronounced: Mah) "What?" - Connecting and Framing**
Fellows will explore Tzedek America's mission, Jewish teachings on social justice, and the role of experiential education. The session will include cohort bonding activities and an introduction to creating impact through Social Justice learning.
- **Session 2: מה אז (pronounced: Az Mah) "So What?" - Creating a Positive Learning Environment**
Educators will learn strategies for fostering critical thinking, addressing sensitive topics, and designing brave spaces for impactful learning. The session will also cover key Jewish texts on justice and equity, helping fellows align their educational practices with Jewish values.
- **Session 3: מה עכשיו (pronounced: Mah Achshav) "Now What?" - Designing Immersive Learning Experiences**
This session will guide fellows in developing experiential learning activities, assessing their outcomes, and applying experiential learning theory to their work.
- **All-Inclusive Los Angeles Social Justice Journey**
Fellows who participate in all three online workshops will have the opportunity to fully experience Tzedek America's Los Angeles Social Justice Journey in which you will engage in hands-on learning, participating in real-world social justice impact learning experiences.
- **Post Fellowship Offerings:** Upon completion, fellows will receive a certificate of completion in experiential social justice education and will be invited to join a network of alumni for ongoing professional development and support. Tzedek America educators will provide three free coaching sessions for fellows as they implement social justice impact learning experiences in their own Jewish educational settings.

Fellowship Participation Requirements

To ensure a successful and meaningful experience, all fellows must meet the following requirements:

- **Professional Commitment**
 - Currently working in a Jewish educational setting with middle or high school students.
 - Demonstrated passion for social justice and experiential education.
- **Engagement**
 - Active participation in all three virtual sessions and the four-day in-person experience in Los Angeles.
 - Completion of assigned readings and pre-session homework before each virtual session.
 - Participation in cohort discussions, group activities, and one-on-one (optional) coaching sessions.
- **Leadership Practicum**
 - During the Los Angeles trip, each fellow will have the opportunity to put their learning into practice as they work in small groups to lead mixers, facilitate debriefs, and create processing experiences during the Los Angeles Social Justice Journey, taking place at the conclusion of the fellowship.
- **Time Commitment**
 - Attendance at all scheduled online sessions (approximately two hours per session) and the full duration of the LA immersive experience.
 - Dedicate time to complete brief pre-session readings, assignments, and group project work between sessions.
- **Financial Commitment**
 - Pay the \$500 participation fee (need based scholarships available on a first-come first-served basis).
 - Fellows are responsible for transportation to Los Angeles. Once in LA, the trip is all-inclusive.
- **Collaboration and Contribution**
 - Engage with the cohort by sharing experiences, offering feedback, and supporting fellow participants throughout the fellowship.

Application and Selection Process

- **Application Requirements:** Complete and submit the [application](#) no later than November 1, 2024.
- **Selection Criteria:** A peer review selection committee will seek candidates who demonstrate a strong passion for social justice, experience or enthusiasm for experiential education, and the potential to create meaningful change within their educational community.
- **Deadline:** Apply now; spots are limited. Application deadline: November 1, 2024.

About [Tzedek America](#)

Tzedek America is an organization guided by the Jewish principles of Tzedek (justice), Chesed (compassion), and Tikun Olam (the act of repairing the world). We are dedicated to providing immersive and customizable [social-impact educational experiences](#) for teenagers and adults.

Each of our programs is uniquely curated to meet the needs of our partnering institutions and crafted through the lens of radical empathy. Our dedication to a non-partisan inclusive approach creates a safe space for sharing different points of view and a brave space for inquiry.

Our team of experiential educators collaborates with local experts, activists, individuals directly involved in or affected by the issues, and government officials from both sides of the aisle. Through our network, we grant the participants access to primary sources as we visit significant locations. This ensures memorable learning opportunities that nurture curiosity and understanding while modeling conversations that honor diverse perspectives and backgrounds while ensuring that Jewish texts and values are at the core of every experience.

Participants of our transformative experiences share that they feel inspired, more knowledgeable, stronger in their own Jewish identity and in the connection between social justice and Judaism, and motivated to take meaningful and compassionate action.

The Rabbi Emily Feigenson Impact Fellowship Leaders



Avram Mandell, Founder and Executive Director (he/him) is a dynamic Jewish educator with well over 25 years of experience developing and leading impactful programs for Jewish youth. Known for creating immersive and relevant educational experiences, Avram inspires young adults to incorporate Jewish values into their everyday lives. He previously served as Director of Education at Leo Baeck Temple in Los Angeles and Temple Beth El in San Antonio. With a Master's in Jewish Education from Hebrew Union College and a background in youth group leadership and Jewish camping, Avram is a frequent speaker on experiential education, teen engagement, and technology in Jewish learning. He has served on several professional boards, created innovative Hebrew learning apps, and authored multiple publications on Jewish education.



Rabbi Adrienne Pasternak, Associate Director (she/her) is an experienced Jewish educator with over 25 years of leadership in innovative, experiential education. She has directed both supplemental religious schools and early childhood centers, creating creative curricula for students from toddlers through high school. She holds a Master's degree in Education from American Jewish University, is a graduate of the Mandel Teacher Educator Institute, has participated in numerous fellowships and think tanks, has served on several professional boards and has led workshops and authored publications on best practices in experiential Jewish education.

For more information, please contact us at info@tzedekamerica.org