



Youth Literacy Corps



A program of the JCCs of Greater Boston
and the JCRCs Telem Teen Service Initiative



Dear Prospective **Teens for Tzedek Literacy Volunteer**,

Thank you for your interest in Teens for Tzedek's Literacy Corps! Helping a child learn to read can yield immeasurable rewards for you and the child. Forty percent of America's third grade children currently read below grade level, according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, and YOU can help lower this percentage by becoming a child's reading mentor.

Our program this fall is set to be a huge success, and we're committed to having another fantastic year in 2008-2009! The year will be divided into three sessions (Fall, Winter and Spring), each session approximately 10 weeks in length. Please indicate which session you are registering for on the enclosed application form. We welcome your participation in multiple sessions. Many teens actually choose to volunteer all year. People who have sports conflicts will be able to filter into the program as their seasons permit. As we did last year, we will be reading to children in Roxbury and Medford. Reading periods last about one hour to one and a half hours and transportation can take up to 45 minutes each way. Enclosed you will find a full-year calendar with orientation and session dates and times, as well as a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheet, with all of the information you need. Also enclosed are the application materials, which must be returned to us October 19th, 2008.

Applications can be faxed to 617-969-5115 or they can be mailed to:
JCC's of Greater Boston c/o Teens for Tzedek
333 Nahanton Street
Newton, MA 02459

Again, thank you for your interest in becoming a tutor! If you have any questions you can contact me, Robyn Avellino, Youth Social Justice Coordinator, by phone at (617) 558-6512 or email: RAvellino@jccgb.org. On behalf of the Teen JCC staff, we look forward to working with you this year.

Sincerely,

Robyn



An agency of Combined Jewish Philanthropies and a United Way Beneficiary



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VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Looking for a rewarding and fun experience? Help a child learn to read by joining the Teens for Tzedek Literacy Corps, a partnership program of the JCC's of Greater Boston Teens for Tzedek program and the JCRC's Telem teen service initiative. Please fill out all sides of all attached forms. If you have any questions, call the Teens for Tzedek office at (617) 558-6512.

- **Please return all forms To:**

Jewish Community Centers of Greater Boston
333 Nahanton St. - Newton, MA 02459 - Fax: (617) 969-5115

- **SPACE IS LIMITED!!!** Enrollment is first come, first served. We currently provide transportation from **Newton South, Needham, Milton and Lexington High Schools**. If you do not attend one of these schools but are interested in volunteering or getting your school involved, please contact the Teens for Tzedek office.

- **ALL NEW AND RETURNING APPLICANTS MUST COMPLETE THIS FORM.** Returning volunteers need not complete the essays.

- **Please circle whichever is appropriate:**

I am applying to be a NEW RETURNING volunteer
I am applying for Fall 2008 Winter 2008-2009 Spring 2009

Personal Information	<i>Please print neatly!</i>			
Name				
Street				
City, State ZIP				
Home Phone / Cell Phone	Hm:			/ Cell:
E-mail: Teen / Parent				
Screen Name				
Synagogue affiliation (if any)				
How did you hear about us?				
High school / Grade	HS:		/ Grade:	
What time does your school day end? (Newton folk, circle the day that is best – M or Th)	M:	Tu:	W:	Th:

A tuberculosis test is not required; however, some volunteers may choose to have one conducted.

Will you be receiving community service credit? Yes No If so, who is your contact?

Would you be willing to help organize or promote this program? Yes No

Are you interested in getting involved in other Teens for Tzedek programs? Yes No

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EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

(To be completed by a parent or guardian)

Name of TJCC Participant: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Grade: _____ Sex: _____

Home Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone: _____ E-mail address: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Screen Name: _____

Names of Parents or Guardian(s): _____

Work Phone(s): 1) _____ 2) _____

Cell Phone/Beeper: 1) _____ 2) _____

Parent E-Mail(s): _____

In the event of an emergency and I cannot be contacted, please call:

Name: _____

Relation: _____ Phone: (h) _____ (w) _____

Doctor's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Insurance Company: _____

Policy Number: _____

List any allergy or medical conditions of which we should be aware, and any medication taken:

List any dietary restrictions: (vegetarian, lactose intolerant, kosher, diabetic, etc.)

I give permission for my son/daughter _____ to attend the event/s she/he has registered for, and certify that my child is capable of participating in these activities. I understand that for some of these trips (as indicated in program descriptions) I am giving the JCC permission to take my child on a bus or JCC van to various locations. The JCC cannot assume responsibility or liability for accidents or loss occurring on these trips. In the event of an emergency where I (or my emergency contact) cannot be reached, I authorize the JCC to secure medical treatment for my child.

I give permission to use any and all written comments, pictures, video and/or movies in which my child may appear for publicity, promotion, and advertising on behalf of Jewish Community Centers of Greater Boston.

Parent or Guardians' Signature: _____

If any of the information changes, please contact the TJCC office at (617) 558-6512.



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PARENT PERMISSION FORM

I, _____, grant permission for my (circle one)
(Parent or Guardian name – Please print)

son/daughter _____ to join Teens for Tzedek’s Literacy
(Literacy Volunteer’s name – Please print)

Corps team. I understand that this commitment involves one afternoon (approximately 3 ½ hours) per week, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays, depending on location, for a span of approximately 10 weeks.

General Publicity Release: I give permission to use any and all written comments, pictures, video, and/or movies in which my child may appear for publicity, promotion, and advertising on behalf of Jewish Community Centers of Greater Boston.

(Parent or Guardian signature)

(Date)

(Literacy Volunteer signature)

(Date)

Criminal History Record Check

The Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy (GBJCL) has been certified by the Criminal History Systems Board for access to all available criminal case data. Please fill in the information below to enable the GBJCL to administer this criminal record check.

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Social Security Number: _____

Address: _____



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Teens for Tzedek?

Teens for Tzedek is the Youth Social Justice program of the JCCs of Greater Boston. Teens for Tzedek is a year-round program that provides teens with a Jewish context for working together to improve the quality of life for others in the community and the world beyond

What is the Teens for Tzedek Literacy Corps?

A group of teen literacy volunteers who join the fight against injustice, inequity, and most specifically, illiteracy. This literacy program provides an opportunity for high school and middle school students to read aloud with young children, one day a week after school. It also gives them a chance to learn about the root causes of certain social problems and find out ways they can make a difference.

What is the Telem Teen Service Initiative?

Telem is Jewish teens making a difference together. Through generous funding from the Combined Jewish Philanthropies, Telem connects Jewish organizations with service learning opportunities all over the Greater Boston Area. Telem helps to create Synagogue and School based teams of volunteers

How old are the students I will be working with?

You will be working with preschool and elementary school-aged children. These kids are getting an early start!

Where will we be meeting the children?

The children are participants in after-school programs such as those at elementary schools or Early Education Centers (EECs).

What will we be doing?

You will primarily be reading aloud to kids and doing hands-on activities to improve literacy. You will be helping kids develop oral language skills and begin to familiarize them with books. Most importantly, you will be giving them individual attention.

How will I know what to do? Is there any training?

There will be training for all participants prior to the beginning of your volunteer work. Orientation and training will include learning some innovative ways of getting kids interested in reading, some hands-on activities to do with them, and acquiring book titles that are appropriate for students (all books will be available at the school.)

 **What is the commitment?**

Tutors will read to the children once a week for 9 or 10 weeks. Participants will also be gradually learning more skills to help the children read and gain support from regular debriefing time with the group. Once you decide to join JYLC, please remember that you've made a commitment. The kids will look forward to your visit each week. If you need to miss a session, you need to communicate that with our staff in a timely fashion. Repeated absences may result will result in a re-evaluation of your eligibility to participate in the program.

 **How will I get to the school?**

There will be transportation available from Newton South, Needham, Lexington and Milton high schools.

 **Who else will I be tutoring with?**

You will be working with other teens from around Greater Boston.

 **Will there be supervision?**

Yes, there will be a TeenJCC staff member on the van and at the school for who will be guiding you through the experience.

 **Who should I call for more information?**

Robyn Avellino
Youth Social Justice Coordinator
617-558-6512

SCHEDULE for LITERACY CORPS 2008-2009

Tuesday

- Lexington High School 2:30 pm
- Medford Boys and Girls Club 3:00 pm
- Leave Medford 4:30 pm
- Lexington High School 5:00 pm

Learning Piece 3:00-3:30pm

Wednesday

- Milton High School 2:50
- Haynes Early Ed Center 3:30
- Leave Haynes 5:00
- Milton High School 5:30

Learning Piece 3:30-4:00pm

Thursday

- Needham 3:00 pm
- Newton South 3:15 pm
- Haynes Early Ed Center 4:00 pm
- Leave Haynes 5:30 pm
- Newton South 6:00 pm
- Needham 6:15 pm

Learning Piece 5-5:30pm

	FALL SESSION	WINTER SESSION	SPRING SESSION
TUESDAY Lexington/Medford BB/BS	Oct: 28 Nov: 18, 25 Dec: 2, 9, 16	Jan: 6, 13, 20, 27 Feb: 3, 10, 24 Mar: 3, 10, 17, 24	Mar: 31 Apr: 7, 14, 28 May: 5, 12, 19, 26 June: 2, 9, 16
WEDNESDAY Milton/Haynes	Oct: 29 Nov: 5, 12, 19, 26 Dec: 3, 10, 17	Jan: 7, 14, 21, 28 Feb: 4, 11, 18, 25 Mar: 4, 11, 18, 25	Apr: 1, 8, 22, 29 May: 6, 13, 20, 27 June: 3, 10
THURSDAY Needham+Newton/Haynes	Oct: 30 Nov: 6, 13, 20 Dec: 4, 11, 18	Jan: 8, 15, 22, 29 Feb: 5, 12, 19, 26 March: 5, 12, 19, 26	Apr: 2, 23, 20 May: 7, 14, 21, 28 June: 4, 11