



2014-2015(5775)
7th Grade Program

Congregation Emanu-El of the City of New York

Mitzvah Corps

About Mitzvah Corps

Mitzvah Corps empowers you to respond to important societal issues such as education inequality, senior citizen care, diversity, hunger, homelessness and climate change. This yearlong 7th grade Religious School program is divided into eight units, each focused on a different issue. Each unit includes a learning, action and reflection session.

Learning Session: Learn from our tradition how best to respond to an issue. Build skills that help you volunteer meaningfully and effectively during the corresponding action session. Learning Sessions are held during Religious School hours on Sunday (9:30am – 12:00pm) and Wednesday (4:00 – 6:00pm). Students only need to attend once per unit.

Action Session: Participate in a hands-on community service event with your classmates at an organization that responds to the issue that you studied in the Learning Session. Each unit will have a weekday and weekend option for the Action Session, which may meet outside of regular school hours. Weekend Action Sessions are on Sundays except on two dates where the schedules of the organizations require us to volunteer on a Saturday. For Unit 8, the entire family is invited to participate in the Action Session. Students may only participate in the Action Session if they have completed the Learning Session for that unit.

Reflection Session: React to your experience at the Action Session and discuss with your classmates ways to better respond to the selected issue. Reflection Sessions are held during Religious School hours on Sunday (9:30am – 12:00pm) and Wednesday (4:00 – 6:00pm). Students only need to attend once.

In addition to the units, there will be several other sessions throughout the year, including an introductory session for parents and students, a concluding session, a speaker for Yom HaShoah, and a special session for Mitzvah Messengers at the end of the year.

Mitzvah Messengers

Students who earn 18 points throughout the year become Mitzvah Messengers. Students who earn 25 points become Super Mitzvah Messengers. Students earn one point for every session they attend. Students can earn additional points when they:

- Complete a unit (attend the Learning, Action, and Reflection Session for the unit, 1 point per unit completed)
- Give their d'var torah from their B'nai Mitzvah during Tefilah at Religious School
- Present during class on a Mitzvah Project they did for their B'nai Mitzvah
- Bring a parent to the family Action Session

Mitzvah Messengers (18 points)	Super Mitzvah Messengers (25 points)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get your picture on the Mitzvah Messenger Wall of Fame in the classroom • Help choose the unit that will be the focus of the 8th Grade Tzedek League program • Get a copy of the Mitzvah Corps Video Yearbook • Receive special recognition at the Service Learning Awards Ceremony on May 15, 2015 	Earn everything the Mitzvah Messengers receive plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A \$100 scholarship towards the 8th Grade New Orleans Trip • Special recognition in the Temple Emanu-El Bulletin

Mitzvah Corps Calendar 2014-2015

Unit 1 – Providing the Poor with a Home

Unit 2 – Visiting the Sick

Unit 3 – Respecting the Elderly

Unit 4 – Respect for all Human Life

Unit 5 – Providing Food for the Hungry

Unit 6 – Caring for Animals

Unit 7 – Strengthening Underprivileged Youth

Unit 8 – Guarding the Earth

Session	Dates	
	Sunday Option	Wednesday Option
Introduction – Parents Invited!	September 14	September 10*
Unit 1 Learning	September 21	September 17
Unit 1 Action	September 28	October 1
Unit 1 Reflection	October 5	October 8
Unit 2 Learning	October 19	October 15
Unit 2 Action	October 26	October 21 (on Tuesday)
Unit 2 Reflection	November 2	October 29
Unit 3 Learning	(extended session 9:30– 1:00pm)	November 5
Unit 3 Action	November 9	November 12
Unit 3 Reflection	November 16	November 19
Unit 4 Learning	November 23	December 3
Unit 4 Action	December 6 (on Saturday)	December 10
Unit 4 Reflection	December 14	December 17
Unit 5 Learning	January 4	January 7
Unit 5 Action	January 11	January 14
Unit 5 Reflection	(extended session 9:30am – 1:00pm)	January 21
Unit 6 Learning	January 25	January 28
Unit 6 Action	February 1	February 4
Unit 6 Reflection	February 8	February 11
Unit 7 Learning	February 22	February 25
Unit 7 Action	February 28 (on Saturday)	March 4
Unit 7 Reflection	March 8	March 11
Unit 8 Learning	March 29	April 1
Unit 8 Action – with Families!	April 12	April 22
Yom HaShoah Speaker	April 19	April 15
Unit 8 Reflection Session	April 26	April 29
Closing Reflection	May 3	May 6
Mitzvah Messengers Session	May 10	May 13
Service Learning Dessert Reception and Awards Ceremony following Shabbat services	Friday, May 15	
Introduction to 8 th Grade and End-of-Year Assembly – Parents Invited!	May 17	May 20

*The first Wednesday session of Mitzvah Corps is the week before Religious School starts for younger grades.

Learn more about Mitzvah Corps at www.youtube.com/emanuelnyc or www.mitzvahcorpshq.org.