



## Youth Literacy Corps

*If I am not for myself who will be for me? If I am only for myself what will become of me? If not now, when?* Ethics of the Fathers 1:14

**Looking for a rewarding and fun experience? Help a child learn to read!**

Join the Jewish Community Center's Youth Literacy Corps and spend one afternoon per week reading with children at an after-school program. Become a mentor, teacher, and friend while making new friends of your own.

- 📖 Read to young children one-on-one, one day a week after school
- 📖 Earn community service credit for school
- 📖 Become a friend and mentor to a child
- 📖 Gain valuable leadership experience
- 📖 Work side by side with other high school students
- 📖 Join teens all over Boston in the fight against illiteracy

The Youth Literacy Corps is part of a community-wide effort to improve literacy -there are over 500 reading mentors involved in the Jewish Coalition for Literacy in Boston! That means that our community can have a real impact in the areas of social justice and education.

Enclosed you will find a Frequently Asked Questions sheet, a full-year calendar with orientation and session dates and times, as well as the application materials.

If you have any questions regarding this program please contact the Teen Program Manager at the Jewish Community Centers of Greater Boston at (617) 558-6512 or [teens@jccgb.org](mailto:teens@jccgb.org). We're committed to having another fantastic year and we look forward to working with you this year!

The JCC's Youth Literacy Corps is run in partnership with the Jewish Community Relations Council's Greater Boston Coalition for Literacy and is part of the Telem Teen Service Initiative



## Youth Literacy Corps

*If I am not for myself who will be for me? If I am only for myself what will become of me? If not now, when?*  
Ethics of the Fathers 1:14

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **What is the Youth Literacy Corps?**

The Youth Literacy Corps is a youth social justice program of the JCCs of Greater Boston, in partnership with the Jewish Community Relations Council Telem Teen Initiative. This literacy program provides an opportunity for high school students to read aloud with young children, one day a week after school. Through discussion and reflection sessions volunteers also get 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?**

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 at the Haynes Early Education Center in Roxbury and the Medford Boys & Girls Club. We will pick you up from school, bring you to these centers, and drop you back off at your school at the end of the day.

#### **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 approximately 9 weeks. The year is divided into three sessions (fall, winter and spring) so that volunteers who have sports conflicts will be able to filter into the program as their seasons permit. Many teens actually choose to volunteer all year. We ask that you indicate which session you are registering for on the enclosed application form. Reading periods last about one hour to one and a half hours and transportation can take up to 45 minutes each way.

Once you decide to join the Youth Literacy Corps, 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 is transportation available from Newton South, Needham, Lexington, and Milton high schools. If you do not attend one of these schools but are interested in volunteering or getting you school involved, please contact the JCC's teen programming office.

### **What is the weekly schedule?**

#### **Tuesday**

Pick up at Lexington High School 2:30pm  
→ Medford Boys and Girls Club → Lexington 5:30pm

#### **Wednesday**

Pick up at Milton High School 2:30pm  
→ Haynes Early Ed Center → Milton 5:30pm

#### **Thursday**

Pick up at Needham High School 3:00pm → Pick up at Newton South High School 3:20pm → Haynes Early Ed Center → Newton South 5:45  
→ Needham 6:00pm

### **Will there be supervision?**

Yes. There will be a JCCGB staff member on the bus and at the school who will be guiding you through the experience.

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

Contact the teen program manager at [teens@jccgb.org](mailto:teens@jccgb.org) or at (617) 558-6512.

### **What else can the JCCGB offer me?**

The JCCGB also sponsors the JCC Maccabi Games over the summer and runs the Diller Teens Fellows program year round.





# Youth Literacy Corps

*If I am not for myself who will be for me? If I am only for myself what will become of me? If not now, when? Ethics of the Fathers 1:14*

## Emergency Contact Information

(To be completed by a parent or guardian)

Name of Participant \_\_\_\_\_

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/c) \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I give permission for my son/daughter \_\_\_\_\_ to join the JCC's Youth Literacy Corps. I understand that this commitment involves one afternoon (approximately 3 1/2 hours) per week, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays, depending on location, for a span of approximately 9 weeks. I certify that my child is capable of participating in these activities. I understand that for these trips (as indicated in program description) I am giving the JCC permission to take my child on a bus, cab, 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.

**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 Guardians' Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

This form will be kept on file at the Jewish Community Centers of Greater Boston.  
If any of the information changes, please contact the JCC office at (617) 558-6512.



# Youth Literacy Corps

*If I am not for myself who will be for me? If I am only for myself what will become of me? If not now, when?*  
Ethics of the Fathers 1:14

## Orientation and Session Dates

Tentative Day/Route	FALL SESSION	WINTER SESSION	SPRING SESSION
<b><u>SUNDAY</u></b> Orientation/Training Day	<i>Tentative Dates and Times</i> October 25 <sup>th</sup> LSJCC 4-6 pm Bring your favorite childhood book with you!	<i>Tentative Dates and Times</i> January 3 <sup>rd</sup> LSJCC 4-6 pm Bring your favorite childhood book with you!	<i>Tentative Dates and Times</i> March 28 <sup>th</sup> LSJCC 4-6 pm Bring your favorite childhood book with you!
<b><u>TUESDAY</u></b> Lexington → Medford Boys and Girls Club	Oct: 27 Nov: 17, 24 Dec: 1, 8, 15, 22	Jan: 5, 12, 19, 26 Feb: 2, 9, 23 Mar: 2, 9, 16, 23	Apr: 13, 27 May: 4, 11, 18, 25 June: 1, 8
<b><u>WEDNESDAY</u></b> Milton → Haynes Early Ed. Cntr.	Oct: 28 Nov: 4, 18 Dec: 2, 9, 16, 23	Jan: 6, 13, 20, 27 Feb: 3, 10, 24 Mar: 3, 10, 17, 24	Apr: 7, 14, 28 May: 5, 12, 26 June: 2, 9
<b><u>THURSDAY</u></b> Needham → Newton South→ Haynes Early Ed.Cntr.	Oct: 29 Nov: 5, 12, 19 Dec: 3, 10, 17	Jan: 7, 14, 21, 28 Feb: 4, 11, 25 March: 4, 11, 18, 25	Apr: 1, 8, 15, 29 May: 6, 13, 27 June: 3, 10