

Utilizing Returning Students at L'Taken

<https://rac.org/leadership-development/empowering-young-leaders/ltaken-social-justice-seminars/returning-ltaken-participants>

What makes the program special for returning students?

- **Arrival:** Returning attendees will have a special flag/ribbon for their nametag
- **Friday Night Dinner:** Returning students will be invited to help lead the blessings before the meal
- **Friday Night Programming:** Friday evening is the kick-off program for this cohort. The program runs at the same time as the traditional Friday evening Poverty/Economic Justice program. The goal of this program is to explore concepts of power as framework for examining social justice and the process of creating change.
- **Saturday Morning:** During Shabbat morning services, returning students will be invited to help lead sections of the service.
- **Havdalah:** Returning students will assist in leading the community in Havdalah with our songleader and RAC staff.
- **Saturday Evening Elective Program:** Returning students are encouraged to sign-up for a new issue-area--a program that they have not participated in previously.
- **Sunday Morning Storytelling Program:** Returning L'Taken participants will repeat the storytelling and we will look to the returning students to help other students develop their stories and volunteer to model their stories in front of the room.
- **Sunday Morning Elective Program:** Returning students are encouraged to sign-up for a new issue-area--a program that they have not participated in previously.
- **Sunday Lunch:** Eat with the RAC's Eisendrath Legislative Assistants (LAs) to learn more about working with the RAC, what they do on a day-to-day, and how to be more involved.
- **Peer Mentorship:** Chaperones of returning participants are encouraged to connect with each other to learn about peer mentorship opportunities to have their returning support first-time students in their delegation! Please email Kara Weiner and she can put you in touch with chaperones that can share their best practices.

What should I do *before* the weekend to prepare my returning students?

- We suggest a meeting with all returning students to discuss the following:
 - Tell them about their unique program arc and the special things they get to participate in
 - Discuss specific times where you want their help and leadership (examples below)
 - Ask them how they want to help
 - Prepare them to reflect on their experiences or lead debriefs

- Encourage them to select new electives
- Use them to help recruit more peers to attend!
- Have them hype up their peers in advance of the weekend

How can I utilize my returners *during* L'Taken?

- Role model within the group
- Share excitement about upcoming programs
- Lead discussions and reflections after a program or at the end of the day
- Discuss the schedule for the next day
- Mentor in a speech writing group
- Tour guiding during off-site time
- And more!

What should I *not* do with my returning students?

- Returning students are not mini chaperones.
- They are not adult coverage
- They can not disciplinarians for their peers

How can I utilize my returning students *after* we return from L'Taken?

- Lead some of the pre-created [RAC debrief programs](#)
- Help recruit for next year
- Reflect on their experience during a service.

Need more resources?

Email Kara at KWeiner@rac.org and I will connect you with a chaperone who uses their returners with great intention, year after year.

What if I think of something to do with my students that you didn't talk about here?

Please tell us! If you do something great, we would love to share it with more people.