

L'TAKEN SOCIAL JUSTICE SEMINARS

Parents' Guide



INVEST IN A TEEN'S EDUCATION

Since 1961, the Religious Action Center has been a voice for Reform Jewish values across North America. The RAC educates and mobilizes teens, clergy, and everyone in between. In all, they advocate for public policy that reflects the Jewish commitment to social justice.

STUDENTS WILL LEARN...

- History and background of important public policy issues for greater understanding and engagement in the national dialogue
- The deep Jewish values that underpin social justice advocacy and how the pursuit of justice is a pillar of Jewish tradition
- Up-to-the-minute legislative updates on current policy
- Skills in critical thinking, writing and oration
- Persuasive speech writing
- Capitol Hill legislative advocacy

...AND CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION

- Countless *L'Taken* alumni have been inspired to pursue college studies in political science, American history, international studies, and Jewish studies.
- Often past participants reflect on the profound impact their lobbying experience had on them in their college entrance essays.

CONCERNED ABOUT MISSING SCHOOL?

Chaperones can provide a school excused absence letter explaining the value of a *L'Taken* experience.

Questions?

Reach out to the *L'Taken* team at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism:

rac.org/LTaken
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202.387.2800



INVEST IN A TEEN'S JEWISH FUTURE

Every year, nearly 2,000 school students descend upon Washington, D.C. for the *L'Taken* Social Justice Seminars, a four-day Jewish public policy conference hosted by the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC).

Students will travel with their community for a fun and meaningful weekend together. The program is designed to both expose participants to a variety of public policy issues and explore the Jewish values that inform the Reform Movement's advocacy around these topics. On Friday and Saturday, participants have the opportunity to attend interactive programs on Israel, climate change, economic justice, antisemitism, mental health, and more.

On Sunday, participants have the opportunity to focus on a single, specific issue about which they are particularly passionate. The seminar culminates with students presenting a speech to their Members of Parliament on the topic of their choice.

L'Taken also takes advantage of the vast opportunities available in our nation's capital by visiting the National Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Smithsonian, the National Mall, and celebrating Havdallah at the Jefferson Memorial. And, all the while, teens have the chance to meet and mingle with Reform Jews from across the US.

L'Taken seminars take place in Washington, D.C. area hotels.



Parent Testimonials

"At *L'Taken*, our children experienced how important it is to have a say in the social justice issues impacting their culture and community and how powerful their collective voices are. They learned about key topics on the legislative agenda and especially those important to the Reform Jewish movement. This program provided meaningful opportunities for hands-on learning, igniting curiosity, building life-long friendships, being part of something bigger and discovering one's own voice. Each of our children came back energized, excited and proud, having grown in immeasurable ways over those few days at *L'Taken*."

— Susan Steinbrink, Leslie Weiss, Michelle Landau and Sharon Kollender, parents of David, Sarah, Annie and Ellie from Beth Or Congregation in Maple Glen, PA

"The opportunity to advocate for social justice on Capitol Hill has been an unforgettable highlight of my daughter's life. The experience resulted in her decision to major in politics and government when she heads to college. She expressed how grateful she was to dig deep into a public policy issue, and the opportunity to research, learn, write, and collaborate and actually lobby on Capitol Hill was an experience that she will always remember."

— Ann Wolff, mother of Rachel and Sarah Wolff, Temple Beth Am in Los Altos, CA

"When my daughter was invited to participate in the *L'Taken* program, we initially saw dollar signs versus opportunities, but sent her anyway at the urging of our rabbi. It was perhaps the best investment we've made to date: how do I write about a program that may have single-handedly both locked in our daughter's career path and turned the final key in guaranteeing her active involvement as a Jewish adult?"

— Debbie Roos, mother of Bailey Roos, Temple Beth-El, San Antonio, TX

"The seminar allowed them to address weighty issues with considered responses, and grapple with the realities involved with making change in an imperfect world. Perhaps most importantly, they were introduced to peers from around the country and young leaders at the RAC who are passionately engaged in their work promoting justice in the world. We couldn't have asked for a more eye-opening experience for our kids!"

— Larry and Lisa Westreich, parents of Noah, Tali, and Ari Westreich, Temple Ner Tamid, Bloomfield, NJ