

# JEWISH TEEN FUNDERS NETWORK

## TEEN SUPPLEMENT AMPLIFIER'S POP-UP GIVING CIRCLE



A complimentary resource by the Jewish Teen Funders Network to adapt the Amplifier Virtual Pop-up Giving Circle for teens.

## Jewish teen philanthropy is a powerful way to engage Jewish teens in meaningful action to change the world.



The [Amplifier Pop-Up Giving Circle Participant Workbook](#) is a great resource that can help introduce teens to a collective giving experience. Through this method, teens not only make a difference within the causes they support, they are also introduced to new skills, explore Jewish values that guide decision-making, and understand their own role as philanthropists both now and in the future.

The [Jewish Teen Funders Network](#) has put together this complimentary teen supplement to accompany Amplifier's Pop-Up Giving Circle in order to help create a deeply meaningful and exciting experience for participating teens.



**Group Dynamics.** Establishing a comfortable space where teens feel safe to express themselves is vital in order to have meaningful conversations and to be able to make a collective giving decision. Consider: Does this group know each other already? Or is it the first time they are meeting? Here are our suggestions for building group dynamics online:

- Invite participants to rename themselves in the online space and invite the participants to share their pronouns.
- Using tools like Zoom, take advantage of breakout rooms. By working in pairs or small groups you create conditions for all different personality types to be able to express themselves, allowing for more voices to be represented in the decision-making process. Make sure to give specific instructions and share a time frame with the teens when they are using this feature. In addition, breakouts can be a great leadership opportunity for teen leaders to facilitate a conversation. Set your teen leaders up for success by sharing prompt questions and a script in advance.
- Whether in person or online, framing the day allows the teens to get to know each other better, warming them up to be more expressive in the program and allowing them to know who is in the “virtual” room. Check out the [JTFN Opening Rituals and Icebreakers Resource](#) to explore different activities and styles that can enhance the group dynamics in your giving experience.



**Grantmaking Pool.** Typically, participants in adult giving circles will contribute their own money as part their giving experience. This may be doable for some teens, for others it may not. In order to make this an accessible and equitable experience, consider all the different ways you can generate funds and how to best support participating teens in the program. A few different ways to fund the experience include:

- **Program fee to participate.** Encourage each teen to contribute a certain amount resembling a classic giving circle. Remember, if teens are contributing their own money, make sure that ALL participants are comfortable and able to commit to giving at that level.
- **Fundraising.** Prior to your giving experience ask each teen to set a fundraising goal. Depending on your timeline and needs, fundraising goals can be set by dollar amounts or by the number of donors engaged. For information on fundraising and how to join the JTFN Giving Hub, an online giving platform, contact [itfn@itfn.org](mailto:itfn@itfn.org).
- **Organizational Support.** If you are running this program within your organization or as part of an existing program, it may have funds that can be used for this particular experience.
- **Individual Donor.** There may be members of your community who are passionate about supporting the next generation of Jewish givers. Reach out and see if anyone would be interested in supporting your Jewish teen philanthropy experience.



**Facilitator.** As you plan for your giving circle experience for teens, consider who you would like to lead the group and how to set the teens up for success:

- Is there someone who has the skills to lead a dynamic teen session?
- Is there someone with an established relationship with the participants?
- Are there opportunities for teens to take on leadership roles and help with the facilitation process?
- Prepare a docket of organizations to help streamline the process and help narrow the expansive options of nonprofits to choose from.
- Identify any logistical pieces the facilitator will hold, including sharing information with the group ahead of time, adding any supplementary educational materials to the session, and coordinating the delivery of funds to the selected organization.

You may also consider having a peer-led giving circle experience, facilitated by teens. In order to determine if this would be a good fit for your program, consider:

- What is the age of the teens?
- Have they served in leadership roles before?
- Will there be an adult in the online room to help keep the group on track?



**Consensus.** Consensus-building is a method of decision-making, commonly used in Jewish teen philanthropy programs, that gives each teen an equal voice in the decision-making process. It encourages teens to negotiate, debate, and take an active role in discussions, while also creating a highly inclusive and democratic tone. While reaching a true consensus in a 90-minute giving circle experience may not be entirely possible, we invite you to introduce this concept and use some of the tools to help guide the decision-making process. This process eliminates the “yes” or “no” of a vote and introduces levels of agreement in place of a “winner” and a “loser”. By using consensus, a final decision may not be everyone’s first choice, but participants will feel comfortable moving forward.

An effective consensus activity is the “Fist To Five” methodology (from [Seeds For Change](#)). Have each participant use a hand to represent responses to a decision/discussion by lifting up and visually showing:

- \*\*\*\*\* Five fingers for strong support and a willingness to lead the proposal forward.
- \*\*\*\* Four fingers for strong support, and a willingness to work on it.
- \*\*\* Three fingers for minimal support, but a willingness to work for it.
- \*\* Two fingers for neutrality.
- \* One finger for no support.



**Giving Jewishly.** Understanding what is Jewish about giving is central to Jewish teen philanthropy. By creating context, teens receive the building blocks needed to further develop their identity as Jewish givers. Before teens select a Jewish value that resonates for them, have a discussion or play a game to familiarize the group with the Jewish values they will be working with. Invite teens to share a real-world example of when they’ve seen that value in action or an example of when it has been missing. Exploration of values is an important fundamental of giving.