

URJ YOUTH:

Together, our interconnected network
of experiences build
AN ENGAGED, REFORM JEWISH FUTURE

Survey of URJ Youth Alumni, Rosov Consulting, 2017



In the Fall of 2017, the Union for Reform Judaism hired Rosov Consulting, premier evaluators, to research whether Reform Movement youth experiences – NFTY, URJ Camps, and congregational teen experiences – have a lasting impact into adulthood, as alumni who embrace Jewish life as a path to meaning, purpose, and joy and shape a more whole, just, and compassionate world in our congregations and beyond.

With 2,180 alumni completing the study, **we can proudly state that adults who had Reform Jewish experiences in their youth are strongly associated with an array of Jewish outcomes later in life.** These outcomes include stronger Jewish identity and Jewish practice with an emphasis on Tikkun Olam, incorporating Jewish ritual into their lives, and carrying forward a high level of commitment to Jewish continuity, as played out by the high propensity to pass on Jewish education to one's children. The URJ Alumni Study was matched with a comparison group, derived from the Pew Center 2013 study of American Jews to further demonstrate the effectiveness of our programs.

The long-term impact of Jewish youth experiences are bolstered by Jewish education through high school and Jewish engagement during college-age years.

A unique aspect of the URJ is its ability to offer an interconnected network of experiences. They start during childhood and adolescence, continue through college, and see expression in Jewish engagement and identification during adulthood, and *l'dor v'dor* - they pass it down to their children.

About the Study Methodology

At the beginning of September 2017, a survey created by Rosov Consulting was fielded to alumni of Reform teen experiences and others connected with the Reform Movement through a variety of distribution channels. The survey received 3,296 responses of which 2,180 were alumni of Reform teen experiences. Post-sample weights were applied to correct known biases in the sample in terms of age and gender. The data collected by the Pew Research Center in its 2013 study of Jewish Americans was used for this purpose, as it is presumed that the Pew data offer a reliable representation of the age and gender among all raised-Reform individuals in the United States. The Rosov Consulting team has undertaken two parallel approaches to analyze and make meaning of the data collected, Comparative sample and Multiple hierarchical regression analysis. To learn more, visit www.urjyouth.org/impact.



SEE OUR IMPACT



URJ YOUTH

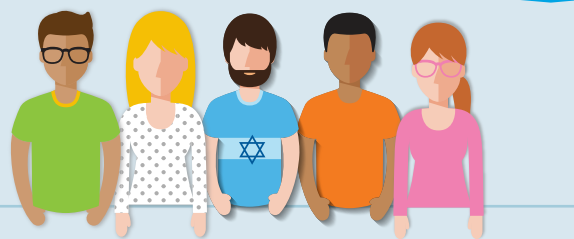
CREATING AN ENGAGED FUTURE

URJ Youth programs nurture vision, foster compassion, and develop participants' skills to live Jewishly today, empowering them to build tomorrow.

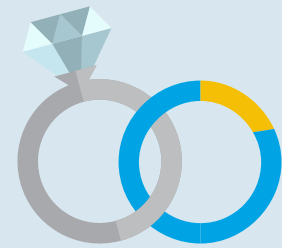
CAMPS • NFTY • ISRAEL • MITZVAH CORPS • RAC

BUILDING JEWISH IDENTITY

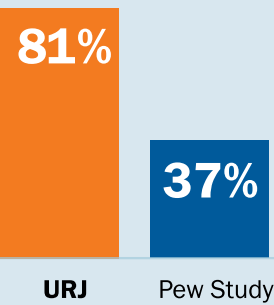
URJ Youth programs give children and teens the tools and passion they need to be Jewish and create strong social networks.



They are **3x more likely*** to say that **“being part of a Jewish community” is essential**



More than **83% of alumni** marry other Jews



Alumni say **“Being Jewish is very important in my life”** at more than **2x the rate** of those in the Pew Study*

*As compared to a sample of Reform-identifying Jews derived from the Pew Research Center's 2013 study of American Jews.

ACTIVE AND COMMITTED TO JUDAISM IN COLLEGE

Reform youth experiences + Engagement during the college years = Greater alumni participation in Jewish life

90%

of alumni ages 25-29 (72% of all alumni) during college participated in/worked at one or more of the following:

- Hille or Chabad on Campus events
- Volunteer efforts
- Jewish studies classes
- Jewish camp
- Study Jewish content informally
- NFTY counselor/youth advisor/leadership
- Jewish fraternity or sorority

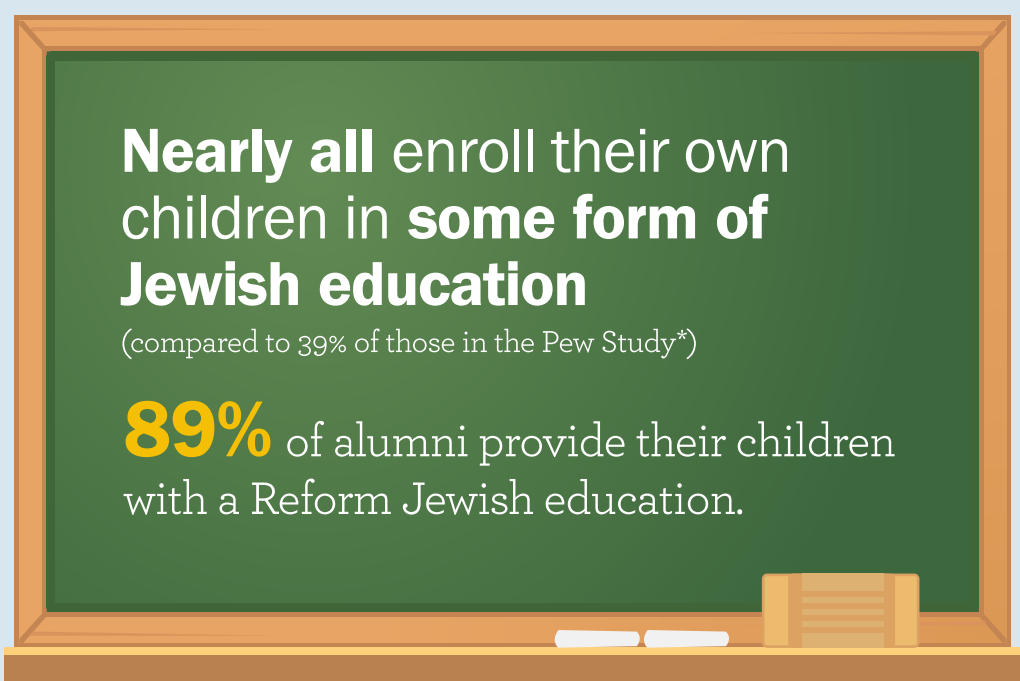


Participation in Jewish activities during college leads to even greater outcomes as adults

- A strong connection to Jewish heritage
- Inspired by Jewish concepts, like Tikkun Olam, to improve the world
- Feel good about oneself when participating in Jewish activities
- Reflect often on what being Jewish means
- Volunteer work is important

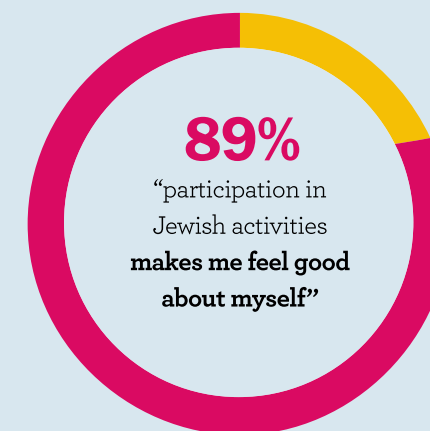
GREATER JEWISH COMMITMENT FOR THEIR FUTURE

Alumni provide a Jewish education to their children, find meaning in Jewish rituals and translate their values into social action.



87% agree **“doing volunteer work is important to me”**

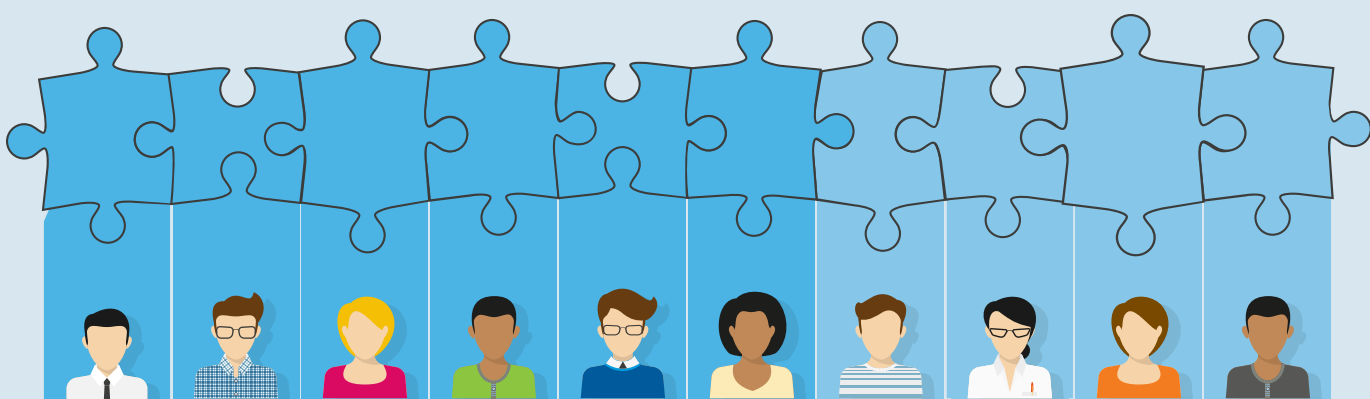
65% say an essential part of being Jewish is **“choosing and adapting Jewish rituals that are meaningful to me”**



Alumni respond to today's most pressing social justice issues

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Anti-Semitism | 94% |
| Israel and/or Palestine | 93% |
| Racial Equality | 85% |
| Immigrant Rights | 81% |
| Environmentalism | 80% |
| Free Speech | 77% |
| Gender Equality | 77% |
| Abortion | 73% |
| LGBTQ Equality | 72% |
| Access to Education | 70% |
| Gun Violence Prevention | 64% |

82% belong to a synagogue, temple, minyan or havura



6 in 10 attend synagogue monthly or more



Alumni who played a leadership role as teens experience long-term gains in **leadership skills** later in life

URJ Youth creates a long-term impact on participants and future generations



THE UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM (URJ) HAS PROVIDED YOUNG PEOPLE WITH IMMERSIVE JEWISH EXPERIENCES IN NORTH AMERICA AND AROUND THE WORLD FOR MORE THAN 75 YEARS.

The URJ's youth programs instill a sense of joy, compassion, and pride in being Jewish while nurturing a young person's innate desire to make a difference in the world. Our true impact, and what continues to set us apart, is the depth of our program content; the breadth of our network; and the commitment of the entire Reform Movement to investing in the emotional and physical well-being of the next generation. Our goal is to nurture committed, transformational, on-going relationships that ultimately lead to an increase in the number of young Jews choosing to be Jewish, living Jewish lives, and impacting the world in positive ways.

Camping

With seventeen camps across North America, the URJ operates the largest, most successful Jewish camping program in the world. Building on the success of the pioneering 6 Points Sports Academy in North Carolina, the URJ now boasts 5 specialty camps, engaging campers who would not have otherwise had a Jewish summer experience.

NFTY – The Reform Jewish Youth Movement

For 80 years, NFTY has offered thousands of young people the opportunity to explore and live Reform Judaism. NFTY builds strong, welcoming, communities through teen-powered engagement, impacting local congregational youth programming as well as shaping a North American teen movement. Participation in NFTY builds confidence, friendships and leadership skills through experiential youth-led educational programming including social justice projects, worship, and community-building initiatives, for teens in grades 6 to 12.

Israel Programs

Since 1958, thousands of high school students, college students, and grads have travelled to Israel on URJ Israel programs. From NFTY in Israel teen tours and specialty trips, to our URJ Heller High School in Israel, our programs have transformed the lives of over 30,000 young people by turning a spark of interest into a journey of exciting challenges, wonderful new friends, and a lifelong involvement with Judaism.

Mitzvah Corps Social Justice Travel Programs

The network of regional social justice programs began in the 1960s as a way to help Jewish high school students develop a deeper understanding of social justice within the context of Reform Judaism. Teens develop a peer community as they explore contemporary social issues in the United States and around the globe, and work together to make a difference in the world.

L'taken Social Justice Seminars

This innovative program from the Religious Action Center (RAC) engages thousands of teens annually in learning about the political process, engaging with Jewish tradition around public policy issues, and sharing Jewish views on social justice issues with decision-makers on Capitol Hill.

Machon Kaplan Summer Internship Program

Based in Washington D.C., this internship program for undergraduate students provides a hands-on opportunity to study, learn through social action, and explore the relationship of Judaism and American ideals, all steps from the seat of government.

On Campus

New college-age initiatives connect Reform Jewish college students on campus, support students in creating Jewish community, finding Reform congregations, celebrating Jewish holidays, and more.