



עברית במרכז
HEBREW AT THE CENTER

עמיתות עבריות

Hebrew Fellows

Make Hebrew come alive with *Amitei Ivrit* fellows trained by *Hebrew at the Center!*



Hebrew as a tool for cultural engagement

Language is a fundamental building block of our identity. A shared language brings an immediate cultural and emotional connection not only to its speakers, but to a broader community. The Hebrew language serves as a sacred link to the global Jewish community, reinforcing a shared history and heritage. It gives us deeper access to text and helps us engage in both spiritual and daily life with authenticity and understanding. Finding personal connections with Hebrew enriches individuals and communities, bringing joy and meaning to the contemporary and historical Jewish experience through activities, exposure and infusion.

Hebrew at the Center (HATC) is a recognized leader in the Jewish education sector, strengthening the teaching, learning, and engagement with Hebrew. Building on its success in formal educational settings, HATC developed an innovative approach to Hebrew engagement that focuses on infusing an environment with Hebrew to allow more pathways into a relationship with Hebrew and the strengthening of Jewish identity and community. Based on a two-year pilot that reached 38 camps in Summer 2022, this *Amitei Ivrit*/Hebrew Fellows initiative is now expanding to more camps and year-round settings such as synagogues, JCCs, day schools, and other places of informal education to create a wraparound Jewish experience in community clusters to encourage Hebrew infusion and shared language. Join a community of your local peers to strengthen the Hebrew fluency in your programming through engaging and experiential games and activities.



How Does it Work?

The New Approach

Rather than focusing solely on Hebrew language acquisition, this new approach creates fun entry points into a relationship with the Jewish language, with materials and training based on four pedagogic frameworks: Hebrew language games, Hebrew culture activities, materials that expand linguistic landscape (what one sees and hears), and meta-linguistic discussions (conversations about ones' relationship with language).

Tested and refined through the pilot programs at summer camps, this initiative is now expanding to more camps and is also now available for year-round settings, with approaches and materials appropriate for each of these different types of Jewish educational experience.

	At Summer Camps	In Ten-Month Settings
Staffing	HATC will train your JAFI Israel Fellow, mishlachat program partner or other Israeli staff	Each organization designates an existing staff member to be a Hebrew Fellow who receives training on Hebrew infusion
Materials	Fellows bring a toolbox of activities and materials designed to be used in a summer camp setting	Fellows bring a toolbox of activities and materials designed specifically for the setting where the Fellow works
Training	Training takes place in the spring with seasonal summer staff	Training takes place in the spring and summer for school year/year-round staff
Target Audience	Camps serving campers (ages 5-18) and their college-age staff	Jewish settings with informal educational programs serving elementary through high school students
Fellowship Grant	Camps contribute \$1,500 towards the program; <i>Hebrew at the Center</i> provides training, project management, materials, and a \$2,500 grant towards the Fellow's salary	Organizations contribute \$1,000 per year towards the program; <i>Hebrew at the Center</i> provides training, project management, materials, and a \$2,000 grant towards the Fellow's first year salary and \$1,000 towards the Fellow's second year salary
Application Process	The application process takes place in the fall with camps being selected in the winter	The application process takes place mid-winter with organizations and fellows selected in the late winter



What Types of Organizations Should Apply and What Do They Receive?

We are inviting a select number of JCCs, synagogues, camps, youth groups, and day schools throughout North America to apply to participate and serve as partners in supporting a more intentional approach to using Hebrew language and engagement in their educational programs and spaces. This is a competitive process, with those partners selected receiving partial funding for their Fellows and a comprehensive package of materials, training, and support.



What Does Participation Entail?

The project will begin by working collectively and individually with organizational leadership to help each partner organization consider their current connection to Hebrew engagement and identify ways in which Hebrew can be used to advance their Jewish educational and Israel engagement goals, and ways in which Hebrew can enhance making their setting a special, Jewish environment.

The first year will focus on capacity building and learning together how Hebrew will fit into the program and culture, including listening and learning, programming, and reflection and evaluation. Subsequent years will implement program elements more fully to allow for growth.

For camp partners, the designated leadership will participate in short, focused conversations and trainings in the spring and summer to surface questions and consider different types of goals that will emerge over the initiative that will begin the following fall. In year-round settings, similar conversations will take place in the fall and winter of each year.

The participating staff will receive tools for observing and learning, facilitating discussions about Hebrew and culture, and systems of change.

Staff at HATC will work with professionals to consider where to selectively test out new program ideas, whether with specific age groups or in particular program areas, and work with other staff members to leverage their Hebrew and passion.

The goal of this project is to support each organization's unique missions and find ways in which Hebrew culture and the Hebrew Fellow's toolkit of different, flexible tools can easily integrate Hebrew into the educational experience.



What You Bring to the Partnership

- Ideas of opportunities for further Hebrew infusion in your organization
- Staff with passions for learning and implementing Hebrew education (no expectations for Hebrew fluency are required! Beginners welcome!)

What You Receive from the Partnership

- Hebrew infusions materials including experiential games, posters, stickers, signs, and placards to hang up around the building, and a detailed and comprehensive program guide
- A well-trained Hebrew Fellow to help implement the programming materials
- Site visits, mentoring and coaching, and project management support
- HATC as a partner to help you advance your organization and its mission

Requirements:

Planning Time: The introduction of a new program always requires some planning time prior to implementation, and ongoing conversations to problem solve and ensure appropriate adjustments. Program supervisors will need to dedicate a few hours for these conversations over the arc of the year.

Onsite or Virtual Visits: At least one visit per year by a member of the HATC staff, with partners being asked to help arrange opportunities for observation of the Fellow and conversation time with key stakeholders.

Evaluation: Organizations will be asked to include evaluation questions for participant and staff surveys to understand the impact and help further refine the program and its implementation. Results of initiative evaluation will be shared with all participating organizations to inform progress and adjustment in subsequent years.

Hebrew continues to be an underutilized but powerful tool for Jewish engagement that creates opportunities to access and deepen Jewish identity, connection with the Global Jewish community, meaning making, and pathways to values, text & traditions, and Jewish culture. We remain excited about this effort and look forward to its continued growth.

To learn more or to apply to bring this project to your camp, email amitei.ivrit@hebrewatthecenter.org or visit hebrewatthecenter.org/hebrew-fellows/.

This program was initially developed in conjunction with The Jewish Agency for Israel, thanks to the generous support of the Patrick & Lina Drahi Foundation, and powered by Hebrew at the Center. The project is now lead by HATC with the support of our leadership and local and North American funders.



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Thank you