

Texas Hillel – Engaging the Jewish Future Today

Our Engagement Philosophy – The Micro-Community

We begin with the students and their interests. Some students will become involved with Texas Hillel whether or not we intentionally reach out to them; for these students we offer the traditional array of activities that people expect from their Hillel – Shabbat programming, holiday celebrations, social get-togethers and so on. But those self-selecting students are a small minority of the total Jewish population, leaving thousands of people unreached. To meet and enrich every student we go beyond our own walls and engage them based on their interests and within their existing social circles. Our fourteen CEI (Campus Entrepreneur Initiative) interns and SJE (Senior Jewish Educator) are creating micro-communities under the Texas Hillel umbrella, helping students navigate their Jewish journeys on their own terms.

Some examples of new micro-communities at Texas Hillel include:

- Jewish Arts Alliance (artists collaborating on Jewish themes and showing work at Hillel)
- Hamsa Yoga (weekly Jewish-themed yoga class at Hillel)
- JOBS (Jewish Organization at the Business School)
- I ♥ Shabbat (selects themes for Shabbat and invites diverse groups of students)
- The Garden of Eatin' (eco-friendly students gardening at Hillel)
- Jewish Film Society (small group that screens and creates films of Jewish interest)
- Immersive Experiences (Birthright Israel and Alternative Breaks, with pre and post-trip engagement)



Each micro-community feeds into and from the larger Hillel family. We meet students where they are and help them find Jewish meaning in things they already value and connect them to others with similar interests. All of this is based on a solid foundation of research and Jewish learning. Our educational vision is to provide students with positive Jewish memories, Jewish knowledge, Jewish self-confidence and a sense of belonging to the global Jewish people.

We also continue to support the work of our existing micro-communities focused on social justice and Israel advocacy. The White Rose Society and Texans for Israel get students from all backgrounds involved in important causes.

Recognition by Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life

Texas Hillel was selected this year by our international parent organization as one of four Hillels excelling in all areas (Jewish student life, operations and fundraising). We will be researched and showcased as a model for other Hillels in North America in partnership with the Jim Joseph Foundation of San Francisco. We are on the cutting edge of student engagement.

Our Major Events and Groups – Mega-Engagement Opportunities

Texans for Israel
The White Rose Society
Crazy Science Extravaganza
Alternative Spring Breaks
Birthright Israel
Israel Block Party
Weekly Shabbat Services and Dinner
High Holy Day Services and Meals

Passover Seders
Campus Leadership Dinners
Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies Lunches
Chanukah and Israel Independence Parties
Sukkot Events in the Patio-Pavilion Sukkah
Jewish Learning Fellowship
Monday Lunches in the Lobby
Ongoing Student Leadership Development

Learn more about all of these exciting experiences at www.texashillel.org