UJA lion cub

program overview

Newly reimagined for this year, **Lion Cub** is a UJA Women's Philanthropy program designed to foster community, inspire the values of ***tzedakah*** and ***tikkun olam***, and empower the next generation of Jewish women as they celebrate the milestone of their bat mitzvah.

The Lion Cub program includes six engaging sessions from January through June. Each session offers opportunities to hear from inspiring speakers, participate in meaningful volunteer experiences, and connect with fellow Lion Cubs through fun social activities—all designed to foster personal growth, deepen Jewish learning, and inspire a lifelong commitment to philanthropy and community.

Lion Cub 2027 Program

Please note: all dates and details are subject to change.

1 WELCOME & BECOMING A BAT MITZVAH

Wednesday, January 13, 2027

Lion Cubs will explore what it means to step into this meaningful milestone, discovering different ways to embrace the next chapter of their Jewish journey with confidence, purpose, and pride. Through conversation and interactive activities, Lion Cubs will explore the Jewish values that are important to them, the people who influence them, and the qualities they hope to develop as they grow. They will also consider what a greater responsibility can look like at this stage of life, from making thoughtful choices to becoming more involved in their families, schools, and communities.

2 YOUR PHILANTHROPY, YOUR WAY: A GUIDE TO YOUR JEWISH PHILANTHROPIC JOURNEY

Wednesday, February 3, 2027

Lion Cubs will join professionals from the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto for a fun and interactive session where they'll discover how they can help make a difference in the community. Lion Cubs will learn the basics of philanthropy, explore how to make thoughtful giving decisions, and discover how planning their donations can create an even bigger impact. Through hands-on giving exercise and real-life stories, they will practice deciding where to give, think about the causes that matter most to them, and build the skills to become confident and compassionate philanthropists.

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UJA WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY

3 FINDING YOUR VOICE: THE POWER OF ACTIVISM & ADVOCACY

Wednesday, March 3, 2027

Alongside high school and university students, as well as professionals from the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, Lion Cubs will engage in a conversation about advocacy, Jewish pride, and using their voices to make a difference. Through personal experiences and perspectives, Lion Cubs will explore standing up for their beliefs; navigating challenging conversations about Israel, antisemitism, and Jewish identity; and speaking confidently. The session will provide practical tools for expressing their perspectives, responding to disagreement, and becoming advocates in their schools, communities, and beyond.

4 UNDERSTANDING HUNGER & CREATING HOPE

Wednesday, April 7, 2027

Food insecurity is a growing challenge for individuals and families across Jewish Toronto. In this session, Lion Cubs will hear from Jonathan Tebeka, founder of Chasdei Kaduri Jewish Food Bank, about what inspired him to act, the impact of his work, and how even small acts of kindness can make a meaningful difference. Taking place just before Passover, the session will explore the challenges faced by families experiencing food insecurity and the importance of ensuring everyone can celebrate with dignity. Lion Cubs will also give back firsthand by helping distribute food boxes to community members in need. Through this experience, they will explore the power of compassion, leadership, and taking action to strengthen their community.

5 FINDING YOUR VOICE AS A COMMUNITY LEADER

Wednesday, May 5, 2027

Join an inspiring mother-daughter duo for an interactive conversation about leadership, giving back, and making a difference at any age. Through personal stories and experiences across generations, participants will discover that leadership comes in many forms, from volunteering and supporting causes they care about to taking initiative and inspiring others. The session will encourage participants to recognize their own strengths, explore their passions, and understand how even small actions can create meaningful change in their community.

6 CELEBRATING GROWTH: A LION & LION CUB CHALLAH BAKE

Wednesday, June 9, 2027

The Lion Cub program will conclude with a special challah bake and graduation celebration, bringing participants together to reflect on their growth and accomplishments. As they prepare challah, each ingredient will connect to a meaningful lesson from their journey. Participants will share their bat mitzvah projects, exploring how to put these values into action and make a difference in their communities. Together, they will celebrate the friendships and experiences that have shaped their year and look ahead to continued growth as young Jewish women and engaged community members.

To register a future Lion Cub or if you have any questions, please contact **womensphilanthropy@ujafed.org**

Visit **jewishtoronto.com/lion-cub** for more information.