



## J-Serve Reflection Resource (Facilitator's Guide)

**FACILITATOR'S NOTE:** Congratulations on completing a successful J-Serve experience! As the program comes to a close, be sure to leave ample time to provide a space for participants to reflect upon their experience and the Jewish values that they embodied through their service efforts. This guide offers ideas for a few different ways you can help guide participants as they seek to reflect and continue building upon their J-Serve experience.

**Judaic Framing:** The following text is one of many possible examples that can help you frame your reflection discussion by allowing participants to think about the Jewish values that were rooted in and demonstrated through their J-Serve experience:

כל ישראל ארבים זה לזה  
*Kol Yisrael arevim zeh b'zeh*

*"All of Israel is responsible for one another."* – Talmud Shavuot 39A

We learn in Judaism that each of us has the responsibility to take care of one another. Encourage participants to think about all the people and lives you just interacted with, or indirectly supported – whether children, elderly, veterans, animals and/or others. Think about the mission of the organizations you just involved yourself with – whether promoting food justice, environmental awareness, equality, Israel advocacy and/or other.

**Opportunities for Reflection:** Choose one (or all!) of these reflection models to use in engaging your participants:

- **Onsite Group Reflection** – Leave enough time and space after the J-Serve program is over to gather the group for a brief reflection of their shared experience. The text above can be used to begin this discussion. You can read the text out loud, or provide it on small slips of paper for each participant to have. This discussion will allow participants to begin thinking through the influence their service had on others, as well as the personal impact they felt, as well.
  1. Why did you decide to participate in J-Serve? Did you feel obligated to participate or was it a choice?
  2. What were your expectations coming into today's event? How did they compare to your experience?
  3. Looking back at your experience, how did you fulfill this "Jewish responsibility onsite" through J-Serve?
  4. What lasting impact will your efforts have on the group/organization that you supported today?
  5. What lasting impact will your efforts have on you as a person, a community member and a leader?
- **Personal/Small Group Reflection** – Encourage participants to individually journal about their experience. They can choose to share this with you (or others), send their written reflection to you in an email, or simply keep it for themselves. Depending on the group, you can decide if it's best to have this as a closing activity onsite or encourage them to make time for reflection on their own when they get home/later that week. You can also choose to do a more personal reflection in chevruta-style (one-on-one) or small breakout groups.
- **Post-Event Group Reflection** – Depending on your group and what you think is most appropriate, organize a Shabbat dinner (soon after J-Serve) to reflect together in a social setting, after folks have had time to individually reflect on their service experience. If a Shabbat dinner isn't ideal, plan a different activity that will bring the group back together for a casual, comfortable gathering to allow for group reflection and discussion.

**Stay Connected:** the best J-Serve projects will spark the interest of many participants to continue working with the organization/group(s) that you supported for J-Serve. Make sure you are prepared to provide participants with contact information and/or additional service opportunities to pursue for anyone who wants to continue to stay involved, whether on a one-off basis or as an ongoing initiative (i.e., BBYO chapter Stand UP campaign).

For more information about **J-Serve**, the International Day of Jewish Youth Service, visit [jserve.org](http://jserve.org).