



## 2026 MACHON TEEN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Machon Teen Leadership Program at Sci-Tech is for teens entering Grade 12 (11th graders in the 2025–2026 school year) and is designed to offer a challenging, fun, and meaningful summer experience like an internship or apprenticeship program. It is designed as a 6-week program, but participants can shorten their stay to 4 weeks. It is best suited for hard-working teens who want to challenge themselves to be teen leaders in a Jewish STEM camp environment. Through this program, teens will learn life lessons about leadership, personal responsibility, STEM, and Jewish values. The program's goals are to create opportunities for personal and professional growth, provide intensive hands-on leadership experience and STEM skill building, offer a meaningful transition from “camper” to “camp leader”, and give teens the chance to give back to the 6 Points Sci-Tech community and impact camp and the future of STEM in a meaningful way.

### ELEMENTS OF THE MACHON PROGRAM

- **Jewish Leadership:** Machonikim (i.e., Machon participants) will meet with staff and educational faculty to explore essential questions in Judaism and wrestle with the connections that can be found between science, technology, and Judaism. Teens will also gain a deeper understanding of Sci-Tech's mission of creating a more whole, just, and compassionate world through science and technology.
- **Teacher Training:** Machonikim will assist Instructors and counselors in workshops and chugim and learn how to plan for and lead fun, educational, and values-based STEM activities and events. They will gain these teaching skills alongside our counselors, instructors, and leadership team who will support and mentor them on how to best share knowledge and inspire a love of learning!
- **Learning from Experts:** Each summer, we have leadership staff, faculty, and special guests who bring a wealth of knowledge in science, Judaism, and innovation to our community. Machonikim will have special opportunities to meet with these leaders and learn about their unique knowledge-base and skillsets. These innovators will help teens understand different opportunities in STEM as they think about life after high school.
- **Training in Community-Building:** Machonikim will live on halls with younger campers and practice building community in a small-group setting. They will learn about a wide variety of community-building topics, including homesickness; diversity, equity, and inclusion; how to identify and prevent bullying; development of listening skills; health and safety; and how to lead and facilitate group activities.
- **Hands-on Leadership Experience** and opportunities to build relationships and serve as role models for younger campers.
- **An Incredible Cohort:** Spend the summer with an amazing cohort filled with other highly motivated, exciting, STEM-loving peers! Throughout the summer, Machonikim will participate in fun, Machon-only social activities as they build relationships and friendships that can last a lifetime!



## MACHON APPLICATION GUIDE

Before starting the online application, make sure you have...

- An adult nearby who knows your family's CampInTouch login and can verify/provide necessary contact information.
- A list of school and extra-curricular activities, experience working with children, previous/current employers, hobbies, and passions, and special abilities, skills, and talents for the "Machon Supplement" section of the online application

Log into your family's CampInTouch account by visiting the camp's "Register Now!" page of the website. Enter a parent/guardian's email address and password. Close out the instructions and select 2026 from the "Season" dropdown menu. Either choose the appropriate existing camper or select "Another Child" if the applicant's name is not on the list.

The Machon applicant can enter most of the information with parent/guardian assistance, and a parent/guardian should verify/enter any contact and other information that is already listed or required. **Teens must enter their own email address when prompted in the application so we can be directly in touch with them (as well as their parents/guardians) throughout the process.** At the end of the application, a parent or guardian must be available to complete the Financial Information and sign the Terms and Conditions.

### Applicant should...

- Fill out the CampInTouch application alongside parent/guardian.
- Sign Background Questionnaire with parent/guardian, found in "Forms & Documents" section of your CampInTouch account.
- Write the essays/complete the reflections and upload them to the "Forms & Documents" section of your CampInTouch account.
- Email the Machon Reference Link your 3 references:  
<https://6pointsscitech.org/machonreference/>

### Parent/Guardian should...

- Log into CampInTouch.
- Choose Season 2025 and select the teen's name or enter it as a new camper.
- Review and/or update all camper and contact information that is pre-populated and enter all that is not.
- Complete the Financial Information and sign the Terms and Conditions at the end of the application.
- Sign the Background Questionnaire with teen.

### **After the application is submitted...**

Parents/Guardians will receive an automated confirmation upon submitting the application form. From that point onward, we will be in contact with parents/guardians and applicants via email about the status of the application. Applying via campminder does not guarantee acceptance into the program. Applicants are only invited into the program after interviews, references, and reflection questions are completed. While we do our best to have as many teens as possible participate in the program, spots are limited and completing the application process does not guarantee your acceptance into the program, so make sure to complete all the steps! All interviews will be conducted via Zoom. Starting in January, Applicants will receive detailed information about scheduling those interviews after their full application (including essays) is received. Notification of acceptance will be sent via email after the interview if the rest of the application is complete.



## EXAMPLE OF MACHON BACKGROUND QUESTIONNAIRE

*A digital version of this form is in the "Forms and Documents" section of your CampInTouch account. It is labeled as "Machon: Background Check Questionnaire" and is due by January 1, 2026.*

1. Have you ever been charged with or convicted of a misdemeanor? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No
2. Have you ever been charged with or convicted of a felony? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No
3. Have you ever been charged with or found guilty of committing an act of physical, sexual or any other type of child abuse? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If you answered yes to any of the above, please provide details (use separate sheet if needed):

I authorize the URJ and/or its agents to conduct an independent background investigation. I further authorize the URJ and/or its agents to request or receive any conformation including criminal, motor vehicle reports, past employment, education and/or reference from any persons, schools, or previous employers.

The above statements in this form are true. I understand that if accepted to the Machon program they will become part of my personal file and that any miss-statement of fact on this and other application forms might be cause for immediate expulsion from the program.

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_



## MACHON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

*Save your essays/reflections in a single PDF document, including your name and page number in the header. Upload the file to the "Machon: Reflection Questions UPLOAD" section on the "Forms & Documents" page of your family's CampInTouch account. They are due by January 1, 2026.*

There are three required questions. Additionally, applicants should choose one out of the three supplemental questions. This means there should be a total of four reflections submitted. These questions are typically answered in written format (with each question answered in 250-300 words). However, if you would like to answer these questions in another (i.e., via digital art, a short film, video answer, video game, etc.) that is also okay! Please be in touch if you want to submit your reflections in an alternate format.

### REQUIRED QUESTIONS:

1. Describe a conflict you had, how you resolved it, and what you learned from it.
2. How are Judaism and STEM-related to one another?
3. What special skill, talent, hobby, or passion do you have that you would like to share with camp?

### CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS:

1. Describe an experience you have had working with children. How do you think this experience will help you within the camp environment?
2. What Jewish values are most important to you and why?
3. What experience(s) do you think had the greatest impact on your Jewish identity?

Essays may be uploaded anytime up through midnight on Jan 1, 2026.



## MACHON REFERENCES

*Participants will need to acquire three references using the online reference form link we provide. Applicants are responsible for sending their references the links themselves! The system does not automatically request references for you. A digital copy of these instructions is found in your CampInTouch account.*

The Machon application process mirrors the professional process for job employment. Like other job applications, your Machon application requires references from three adults. We suggest that at least one come from a Jewish professional (Rabbi, Cantor, Educator, Youth Group Advisor, Religious School Teacher, etc.) if you know one! However, all references must be from adults who know you well. Your references CAN NOT be your legal parent or guardian or close family relative (i.e., a sibling, aunt, uncle, etc.). These adults could be an academic or school-based professional (Teacher, Guidance Counselor, Administrator, Club Advisor, Sports or Robotics Coach, etc.), an employer who can provide a character or employment reference, or an old family friend who has had the opportunity to see you grow over the years.

**For academic or school-based references, we DO NOT need to know any information regarding grades.** When reviewing your application, we focus on your character, integrity, growth, potential, and level of responsibility, **NOT your G.P.A.**

If you have any questions regarding references, please contact our office at [scitech@urj.org](mailto:scitech@urj.org) or at 857-246-8677.

Please email this link to your references:

**<https://6pointsscitech.org/machonreference/>**

References may be submitted at any time up to 11:59 PM ET on January 1, 2026.



## **MACHON APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

Use the following checklist to make sure all components are completed prior to the application deadline of January 1, 2026:

- ☐ Online application (submitted through CampInTouch)
- ☐ Personal Essays/Reflection Questions (uploaded to CampInTouch in Forms and Documents)
- ☐ Digital Background Questionnaire (submitted via CampInTouch in Forms and Documents)
- ☐ 3 References (submitted via the online link YOU send to your references)



## MACHON TUITION PAYMENTS

Machon follow the same deposit, tuition payment schedules, and cancellation and refund policy as other campers. These policies can be found on the [dates and rates](#) page of our website.

While it is our goal to make the Machon experience possible for as many teens as possible, not all Machon applicants will be formally accepted into the program. We have limited space, and not all teens are ready for the high level of responsibility Machon have at camp. The Machon application process is rigorous because the program itself is rigorous, and we want to make sure teens are ready for the challenge! **If your teen is not accepted into the Machon program, all tuition, including your deposit, will be refunded!**

Formal acceptance letters to the program are sent by February 15. A machon application will only be accepted if the teen has finished their campminder application, essays, background check questionnaire, interview, and references.