



**We are as happy as Torah Scroll on Simchat Torah  
that YOU are here!**

Adventures in Judaism is an experiential religious school that fosters a lifestyle of learning in our Jewish Youth ages 0-17.

***Our Mission is to motivate, engage, teach, and inspire students to identify with the Jewish people through involvement and participation in Jewish life.***

We are a diverse group of students, teachers and parents committed to a Jewish Journey that is rich with ideas, connected to community, and celebrates the full spectrum of Jewish belief and practice. Our pillars are Kindness, Action, and Connectedness.



***Judaism is a lifestyle and a community experience. And we invite you to belong with us. We are a diverse and inclusive group of Jewish families ranging from secular to leaning Orthodox.***

*Parents are encouraged to attend classes with their students so that parents can engage in discussions with their students, and the learning can continue seamlessly at home. Many parents also volunteer to teach classes at Adventures in Judaism, though this is optional. If you have a Jewish subject you are passionate about reach out and let's co-create an experience for all our students to enjoy. [adventuresinjudaism.ajc@gmail.com](mailto:adventuresinjudaism.ajc@gmail.com)*

## Choose Your Own Adventure: Tuition is Free

*Our Classes are organized by track so families can "Choose their own Adventure."*

*The 2023-24 tracks are:*

[Holiday Explorers](#)

[Mitzvah Quest](#)

[Youth Mitzvah Club](#)

[Journey Through the Siddur](#)

[Hebrew Discovery](#)

# Current Classes

## Holiday Explorers



Holiday Explorers is a journey through a year of Jewish Holidays, immersed in Synagogue life such as Havdalah Under the Stars, or a Children's Rosh Hashana skit. Services are typically led by our Rabbi and Cantor, although are occasionally lay-led, and are typically once monthly.

Service information is available in "The Blast."

To subscribe to "The Blast," please email [ajciowa@gmail.com](mailto:ajciowa@gmail.com)

[Click here to enroll for 2023-24](#)

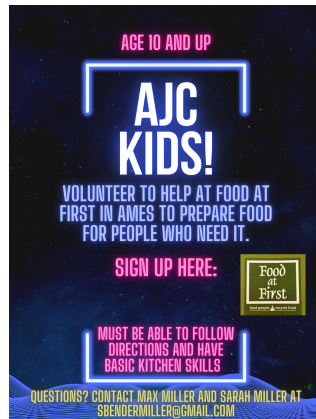
## Mitzvah Quest



Mitzvah Quest meets monthly to do hands-on mitzvot, such as picking apples for Rosh Hashana, donating items and time at local charities, field trips to the Iowa Jewish History Museum, Caspe Terrace in Des Moines for the Purim Carnival or the Global Day of Jewish Learning, and other places of interest, hikes, sledding and more. We typically meet monthly, the days and times vary. Contact Sashya Clark for more information: [sashya.clark@gmail.com](mailto:sashya.clark@gmail.com)

[Click here to enroll for 2023-24](#)

## Youth Mitzvah Club



The Youth Mitzvah Club is for Jewish Youth ages 10 and older. They are currently scheduled to prepare a meal several times annually at Food at First, helping people who are experiencing food insecurity in the Ames area. For more information please reach out to Max Miller and

Sarah Miller at [sbendermiller@gmail.com](mailto:sbendermiller@gmail.com)

[Click here to enroll for 2023-24](#)

## Journey Through the Siddur



Students and Parents learn the main points of the service structure while practicing siddur Hebrew and learning Jewish History related to the prayer service. This class also introduces Torah Trope in preparation for Bar/Bat Mitzvah tutoring. Journey Through the Siddur meets once monthly on Shabbat mornings. Participants contribute to a Student Led service (for students and families) at the end of each semester.

Contact Matt Wetstein for more information: [matt.wetstein@gmail.com](mailto:matt.wetstein@gmail.com)

[Click here to enroll for 2023-24](#)

## Hebrew Discovery



Hebrew Discovery is broken into three levels based on the abilities of each student. Level 1 students learn Hebrew via Hebrew through Movement, Conversational Hebrew, and Letter Recognition activities. Level 2 students spend a semester or two learning to sight-read Hebrew.

Level 3 students continue to sight-read Hebrew from modern sources, such as books and media, as well as from the Torah. They continue to build on their Modern Hebrew vocabulary and learn the grammar of Hebrew. The level is determined by Hebrew Skill set, not by grade.

For more information contact Ludmila Rizhsky: [ludmilar@gmail.com](mailto:ludmilar@gmail.com)

[Click here to enroll for 2023-24](#)

## Adventures in Judaism Calendar

[Calendar Link](#) (Please bookmark this page as the calendar is subject to changes)

## Other Paths to Connect with the Ames Jewish Community

### Bar/Bat Mitzvah Training and Preparation

Jewish Youth aged 10 and over are encouraged to reach out to someone at AJC to begin discussing preparations for Bar/Bat Mitzvah. For more information, please contact [adventuresinjudaism.ajc@gmail.com](mailto:adventuresinjudaism.ajc@gmail.com)

### AJC Book Club/AJC Craft Club

Meets monthly on Sunday afternoons, children are welcome with their caregivers (local, monthly), For more information, contact Rebecca Severin [rebeccaarielle@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccaarielle@gmail.com)

## Friday Night Shabbat Potluck in the Park (Dairy/Pareve)

Meets locally, in person, and outdoors throughout the summer. For more information, contact Sarah Miller, [sbendermiller@gmail.com](mailto:sbendermiller@gmail.com)

## Parasha Club

Online, Meets Weekly throughout the school year, Monday and Thursday from 4-4:30 pm. If enough people are interested, we could meet in person instead. For more information, contact Sashya Clark at [sashya.clark@gmail.com](mailto:sashya.clark@gmail.com)

## Carpool to Beit Sefer Shalom at Caspe Terrace

Sunday mornings (local, weekly). A group of local Ames students share a van that commutes them to Caspe Terrace for Hebrew School. Beit Sefer Shalom is a Sunday School in Waukeez funded by the Jewish Federation of Des Moines. Scholarships are available, and there is no cost to ride share. Some families participate in both Adventures in Judaism and Beit Sefer Shalom. For more information, contact Sashya Clark at [adventuresinjudaism.ajc@gmail.com](mailto:adventuresinjudaism.ajc@gmail.com)

## Jewish Values Class through the URJ (the schedule varies, online)

Weekly, Virtual Classes through Shalom Learning, a Jewish Values Education Service offered through the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ). For more information, please email [adventuresinjudaism.ajc@gmail.com](mailto:adventuresinjudaism.ajc@gmail.com)

## Young Adult leadership opportunities are also available, Post B'nei Mitzvah

Students who have completed their Bar/Bat Mitzvah are invited to assist Adventures in Judaism classes locally, or at Beit Sefer Shalom in Waukeez. For more information, contact Sashya Clark, [sashya.clark@gmail.com](mailto:sashya.clark@gmail.com)