

## Marvel at the Jewish Values of Superheroes!

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**SUMMARY:** Through different modalities participants will find the super heroic qualities in themselves by learning from the Jewish values present in caped crusaders and the real-world heroes in their midst at camp.

**GOALS:**

- Identify the Jewish values present in popular comic book characters.
- Compare the strengths of superheroes to the leaders working at camp.
- Determine what values stand out in ourselves and what values we want to build upon.

**AUDIENCE:** Older campers or staff, with an ideal group size of around 30!

**TIMING:** 45 minutes

**MATERIALS:**

[Superhero posters](#)

Post-it notes – small stack per pp

Flipchart paper – 9 pieces

[Superhero bracelets](#) (or a different take-home reminder of the session!) – Amount per pp

Roll of tape – 1

[Comic book cover template](#) – amount per pp

Colored pencils – 3 colors per pp

**SET-UP:** Ideally participants will be seated at tables to journal and complete their art on! Also, this program will require a large enough room to hold a gallery walk element.

## SESSION TIMELINE

- 00:00-00:05 – *Origin Stories | Introductions and Opening Framing*
- 00:05-00:15 – *Mask On | Gallery Walk*
- 00:15-00:20 – *Mask Off | Group Discussion*
- 00:25-00:35 – *Camp Heroes | Comic Cover and Paired Sharing*
- 00:35-00:40 – *Saving the day! | Journaling*
- 00:40-00:45 – *Flying Ahead | Wrap-Up*

## SESSION OUTLINE

00:00-00:05 – Session leader introduces the Jewish background of some of the most popular heroes and frames the session with the help of Jewish values. A round of introductions follows (name, pronouns, camp, favorite superhero).

00:05-00:15 – Session leader leads group in a gallery walk involving posters around the room featuring one hero on each (i.e. Spider-Man poster, Iron Man poster, etc.). Participants are asked to walk around the room assigning Jewish values (displayed on screen) to each hero using Post-It notes while music from the MCU plays in the background. Once participants return to their seats, a few volunteers are asked to share what values they assigned to different heroes.

00:15-00:20 – Session leader transitions the group to focus on the people behind the mask (Peter Parker, Tony Stark, etc.) and facilitates a group dialogue using the following prompts and reading the room:

- Notice how that last task didn't ask you to name each hero's superpowers but instead, asked what values make them heroic. Why do you think that is?
- In what ways are the values we learn at camp present in these heroes?
- Are people like this present at your camp? Take a moment to think of the individuals who have these heroic characteristics present.

00:20-00:35 – Session leader distributes the comic book panel template and asks participants to create a comic book cover of their "camp hero" in action! A few comic cover examples are shown on screen for inspiration. The leader encourages participants to embed a few of the values previously discussed in their illustration. With the last 5 minutes of this portion, participants are asked to discuss their illustrations with a neighbor.

00:35-00:40 – Session leader shifts focus onto the participants; what are YOUR superpowers (values)? Participants are invited to write 3 values they currently bring to the table and 3 that they'd like to develop over the course of the summer. How do you save the day?

00:40-00:45 – Session leader wraps up the program by reminding participants that anyone can wear the mask by giving them a superhero-themed bracelet to wear during the summer that will remind them of the powers they have and the ones they hope to work on. Participants are also encouraged to let their camp heroes know the impact they've made!

## BRINGING IT TO YOUR CAMP

## CORNERSTONE RESOURCE



This program can be adapted to be for campers in place of staff members. The modality of superheroes is a great way to introduce young people to Jewish values, given how present these characters are in pop culture. Superhero posters aren't necessary, feel free to have the name of the hero written!