



2026 CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP INFORMATION GUIDE

Questions? Be in touch with Henry at cornerstone@jewishcamp.org.

**CORNERSTONE
SEMINAR**

MAY 17-20, 2026

**CAPITAL CAMPS &
RETREAT CENTER
WAYNESBORO, PA**

The Cornerstone Fellowship, a leadership development program with Foundation for Jewish Camp (FJC), invests in the training and professional development of exemplary camp staff, preparing them to be leaders, role models, and to see themselves as Jewish educators.

Returning camp staff are the “cornerstones” of their camp communities, having spent time growing into their roles and delving into the mission of their camp. Fellows leave the seminar inspired to amplify Jewish life and create innovative programming to support and enrich their camp’s unique culture, vision, and Jewish mission and philosophy.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Participant Types & Requirements.....2-3

Camp Commitments.....4

Program Timeline.....5

The Essential Fine Print.....6



WHO PARTICIPATES IN CORNERSTONE?

1. FELLOWS

Fellows are outstanding returning staff that camp wishes to invest in. They are role models and have shown interest in personal growth, camp programming, and Jewish education.

- FJC recommends a minimum group of 3 Fellows from each camp attend, for maximum impact. However, participation with 1 Fellow is allowed. Cohorts are limited to a maximum of 10 Fellows, with a \$500 fee for each Fellow beyond 5.
- Cohort should be large enough to implement meaningful initiatives but small enough to represent your strongest returning staff with the potential to positively impact a broad range of campers.

Note: If you have a phenomenal staff member in mind that does not fit these guidelines, be in touch with Henry at cornerstone@jewishcamp.org to discuss.

CRITERIA

- At least 18-years-old on or by May 17, 2026, No exceptions
- Is returning for at least their 2nd summer as staff (camper/CIT/SIT years do not qualify)
- Spends at least 80% of their time in direct contact with campers as a counselor or specialist
- Has the opportunity to create and implement Jewish programming and participate in weekly Cornerstone meetings
- Has not been a Cornerstone Fellow in the past
- Must attend the seminar in its entirety

2. SENIOR FELLOWS – 3 CAREER TRACKS

In our newly revamped Senior Fellow experience, Cornerstone alumni and/or older seasonal camp staff who have not been to Cornerstone before, are invited to apply for our new career development focused program at the Cornerstone Seminar!

There will be three new career-focused Senior Fellow tracks:

- **Education is for aspiring Jewish educators and those looking to deepen their skills in experiential education.**
- **Rabbinate is for aspiring Rabbis and clergy and those passionate about Jewish ritual and learning.**
- **Community Care is for aspiring inclusion and mental health professionals and those with a passion for inclusion, wellness, and belonging.**

For each track, seminar programming will include:

- Mentorship from outstanding professionals in each career area
- Opportunities to build a pre-professional peer network across camps
- Programming by career track, with all senior fellows together, with their camp cohort, and the entire Cornerstone community
- Resume building opportunity to design and implement a unique camp project that reflects their personal career interest areas and meets the needs of their camp communities



NEW

CRITERIA

- At least 18-years-old on or by May 17, 2026
- Working at camp this summer
- Is available to attend the pre-seminar virtual gathering and the seminar in its entirety

Note: Senior Fellows do not count towards your total Fellow cohort numbers.

3. SUPERVISORS

The Cornerstone Supervisor is a year-round team member, or a returning seasonal supervisor, whose portfolio aligns with the goals of the Cornerstone Fellowship.

Supervisors benefit from professional development that advances their coaching, mentoring, and facilitation skills, sharpens their ability to give constructive feedback, and expands their network through connections with other camp leaders and Cornerstone faculty at the seminar.

CRITERIA

- A proven, responsible staff member with the time and capacity to support the cohort and see the Cornerstone program through effectively
- A returning member of the camp community who understands how the camp is uniquely positioned to benefit from Cornerstone
- Able to help Fellows integrate meaningful Jewish content into their programming
- A near-peer role model who has strong rapport with and respect of the Fellows
- Must attend the seminar in its entirety

4. LEADS

The Cornerstone Lead is your camp's Director or a seasoned Associate or Assistant Director.

This role supports and empowers the cohort, mentors the Supervisor, vets Cornerstone programming in advance of the summer, and ensures cohort is accountable for carrying out their Action Plan.

CRITERIA

- Employed full-time, year-round by camp to support the Cornerstone process from December 2025-August 2026
- Be present at camp for the entire camp season
- Has the ability to influence Jewish culture at camp and support the implementation of Jewish activities throughout the summer
- Holds decision-making ability to approve cohort's plans and advance Cornerstone work
- Joins cohort virtually twice during the seminar for Camproom and is available to support Supervisor between May 17-20

Note: Your Supervisor and Lead may be the same person if they fit all the above requirements. See below for all responsibilities included in these two roles.

Responsibilities	Supervisor	Lead
Develop Cornerstone Framework (including summer goals and a vision for Jewish life at camp)		✓
Recruit all Fellow and Senior Fellow cohort members	✓	✓
Support cohort throughout the entire arc of Cornerstone, from March to August	✓	
Translate Lead's vision for enhancing Jewish life into camp's Action Plan	✓	
Support Fellows with their personal growth and their program development and execution	✓	
Facilitate weekly Camproom meetings throughout the summer	✓	
Confirm that weekly Camproom meetings for Fellows and Supervisor are on the calendar		✓
Systematically support buy-in for Cornerstone at camp by educating staff about the Fellows' & Supervisor's roles and ensure collaboration with other relevant Jewish programming at camp		✓
Create a schedule for camp's Cornerstone Advisor's camp visit and ensure all cohort members are present at camp on that day	✓	✓
Completing all post-seminar surveys in June and both end-of-summer reports in August	✓	✓
Communicate promptly with the FJC team from time of application submission through summer	✓	✓

CAMP COMMITMENTS



MAY SEMINAR REGISTRATION & PARTICIPATION

Camps agree to ensure on-time seminar registration for all participants. Fellows and Supervisors are required to attend the full seminar and participate fully in all aspects of the program. Any exceptions must be approved by FJC prior to the registration deadline on April 15, 2026.

ADVISING & SITE VISITS

Once Cohort Information forms are submitted, FJC assigns a Cornerstone Faculty Advisor to each camp for the duration of the Cornerstone process. Advisors guide the development of the camp's Framework, drawing on the Lead's vision and goals, through customized consulting conversations with the Lead and Supervisor in March (timeline on next page).

Camps agree to host their Advisor for a summer visit, either in-person or virtually. During this visit, the Advisor meets with the Supervisor, Fellows, Senior Fellows, and the Lead, and any other staff interested in participating in the future.

DATA REPORTING & EVALUATION

FJC is committed to accurately collecting and using data to improve programs, report on field growth, and communicate the impact of Jewish camp. All organizational information is kept strictly confidential. Camps agree to support FJC's efforts to evaluate program impact and collect data.

Reporting & Evaluation Deadlines:

- May 29, 2026: All participants complete a post-seminar evaluation survey.
- August 14, 2026: The Supervisor and Lead complete end-of-summer reports, including implementation details and reflections. Fellows submit a Reflection Form on how their Cornerstone experience shaped their summer work.
- Fall 2026: All camps within the FJC network are required to participate in the Camp Census.



CORNERSTONE TIMELINE

Camps apply to participate in Cornerstone and are selected based on their readiness and capacity to engage fully in the program and strengthen Jewish life at camp. Before completing your Camp Application, please review all dates and requirements for participation. Camps applying for the first time should contact Henry at cornerstone@jewishcamp.org to discuss their application prior to submission.

All dates below are 2026.

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- January 23: Final deadline to complete Camp Application (completed by Cornerstone Lead)
 - January 26: Last acceptance notifications sent (rolling acceptances provided earlier)
 - February 10, 1-2pm EST: Post-Application Onboarding Webinar (Required for all new Cornerstone camps)
 - February 13: Senior Fellow Applications due (Acceptances announced by February 20)
 - February 27: Cohort Information Form due
 - By March 9: Camproom Advisory Group (CAG) assignments sent
 - Week of March 9: Registration information disseminated
 - March 10–31: Conference calls between Leads, Supervisors, and Advisors
 - March 24–April 15: Seminar Registration completed
 - April 10–23: Supervisors attend virtual CAG with Cornerstone Advisors
 - April 17: Frameworks due to Advisor
 - April 27–May 13: Supervisors complete virtual Camproom
 - May 17–20: Cornerstone Seminar
 - May 29: Post-Seminar Evaluations and Action Plans due; finalize Advisor's camp visit
 - August 15: Final End-of-Summer Reports & Reflections due
 - August–September: Off-boarding call between Supervisor, Lead, and Advisor
 - Fall 2026: Complete FJC's Camp Census

THE ESSENTIAL FINE PRINT

TRAVEL POLICY OVERVIEW

FJC covers most travel expenses (in accordance with the Cornerstone 2026 Travel Policy) for the Supervisor, Fellows, and Senior Fellows. Coverage includes travel within North America between the participant's home, school, or camp. FJC does not reimburse for transportation to and from the home airport.

- All travel is booked by FJC's travel consultant. Participants may not arrange their own travel to Cornerstone.
- Each participant travels independently. While we do our best to coordinate, we cannot guarantee group flights or cohort travel. Flights are booked as participants register and are subject to airline rules and regulations.
- Fellows may not drive to or from Capital Camps. Supervisors may drive, however, driving expenses are not reimbursed by FJC.

Full travel guidelines for Cornerstone 2026 will be available on the program website and shared upon acceptance the Cornerstone Fellowship.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Participants who cancel their seminar attendance after April 15, 2026, may be charged a \$50 processing fee. This invoice will be sent to the camp.

TERMINATION OF PARTICIPATION

FJC reserves the right to terminate camp participation, with or without prior notice, in the sole and absolute judgment of FJC, if:

- Camp representatives or participants submit false, fraudulent, or misleading reports or documents
- The camp fails to carry out the project as described in their application and this agreement
- The camp's tax-exempt status is changed or revoked by the IRS, or if the camp is accused of fraudulent activity by any government agency
- The camp fails to submit the required reports outlined in this document

INFORMATION & SHARING PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

FJC recognizes the potential for this program to influence the broader field. Evaluation and reporting are intended to serve as shared learning resource. Accordingly, materials such as camp Action Plans, End-of-Summer Reports, program templates, and other project-related content may be shared with the wider camping community through the FJC website, group meetings, or other formats. FJC may also use photographic and video images from the program, as well as portions of evaluation materials, in future promotional or descriptive materials.

QUESTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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