



EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

COHORT V

DATES

March 2027 - October 2028

APPLICATION PERIOD

September 22, 2026 - October 23, 2026

QUESTIONS

contact jenni@jewishcamp.org

OVERVIEW

The Executive Leadership Institute (ELI) is Foundation for Jewish Camp's premier fellowship for experienced camp leaders who are ready to lead with greater vision, purpose, and impact.

Designed for senior professionals, ELI combines executive skill development, serious Jewish thought leadership, executive coaching, and a trusted network of peers to prepare leaders for the increasingly complex challenges of today's Jewish camps.



PROGRAM GOALS

Through the program, participants will:

- Develop a stronger identity as visionary Jewish leaders.
- Sharpen executive leadership skills in strategic planning, financial stewardship, governance, fundraising, organizational direction, and crisis management.
- Learn to lead effectively through change, innovation, and emerging challenges.
- Engage deeply with contemporary Jewish thought and explore how Jewish ideas inform executive camp leadership.
- Apply their learning through executive coaching and a capstone project that creates meaningful organizational and field-wide impact.
- Build lasting relationships with a trusted cohort of senior camp leaders.
- Join a lifelong alumni network of leaders committed to strengthening Jewish camp and the broader Jewish community with ongoing support from Foundation for Jewish Camp.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



SEMINAR LEARNING AND EXECUTIVE CERTIFICATION

The fellowship includes five immersive seminars designed around executive education, visionary leadership, Jewish thought, and peer learning. Led by the Fellowship Director, faculty, executive advisors, and guest experts, seminars combine leadership theory with practical application and provide dedicated time for reflection, collaboration, and strategic thinking.

For the first time ever, ELI Fellows will complete 30-40 hours of asynchronous learning and earn an executive leadership certificate from Cornell University.

CAPSTONE PROJECT

Each Fellow develops and implements a capstone project focused on a significant strategic opportunity within their camp. Designed with support from their executive coach and **a \$10,000 implementation grant**, the capstone project allows Fellows to apply learning while creating meaningful organizational impact.

COACHING

Each Fellow is paired with an executive coach who provides individualized guidance throughout the fellowship. Coaches help Fellows interpret leadership assessments, navigate complex professional challenges, refine leadership goals, and support the development of their capstone project.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



LIFELONG COHORT & ALUMNI NETWORK

The fellowship extends well beyond graduation. Fellows become part of a lifelong community of Jewish camp executives who continue supporting one another and advancing the field through ongoing networking, professional development, and collaborative leadership opportunities. **Between 2026 and 2030, alumni of the Executive Leadership Institute will be eligible for exclusive grant opportunities to advance the business of camp.**

LEADERSHIP ASSESSMENT & 360 FEEDBACK

Each Fellow will complete a customized 360-degree leadership assessment aligned with the ELI leadership competencies. The assessment establishes a baseline for growth, informs individual leadership goals, and provides opportunities for reflection.

ELI COHORT V EXECUTIVE COACHES



RACHEL WALLINS, M.A.

ELI Cohort V Executive Coach | Founder, Accelerate Talent Management

Rachel brings more than 35 years of experience coaching executives and building high-performing teams. Her Jewish communal work includes coaching and training Jewish camp executives to build stronger, more engaging staff environments.



MARISSA LIFSHEN STEINBERGER

ELI Cohort V Executive Coach | Founder, One Eleven Leadership

Marissa is a certified coach and team facilitator with more than 20 years of experience across the education, nonprofit, and Jewish sectors. She helps leaders and teams turn overwhelm into alignment through values-driven coaching and facilitation.



STEFAN TEODOSIC

ELI Cohort V Executive Coach | Founder and Principal, Maverick Soul Consulting

Stefan brings almost 30 years of experience building teams, implementing strategy, managing cultural change, facilitating groups, and coaching. He spent nearly two decades in senior Jewish camp leadership roles.

[SEE COMPLETE EXECUTIVE COACH BIOGRAPHIES AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE](#)

COMMITMENTS

PROGRAM COMMITMENT

Participants are expected to attend and participate in all required fellowship activities, including:

- Five in-person North American based seminars
- Small group summer site visits to exemplary FJC network camps in summer 2028
- Routine work with an assigned executive coach
- Completion of a customized 360-degree leadership assessment
- Development and implementation of a capstone project
- Active participation in cohort learning and peer consultation, including 30-40 hours of asynchronous Cornell course-work.

LEADERS ASSEMBLY

Selected ELI V Fellows will also be required to attend Leaders Assembly, FJC's biennial conference for the Jewish camp field.

REQUIRED DATES

LEADERS ASSEMBLY

January 11-13, 2027

SEMINAR 1

March 15-18, 2027

SEMINAR 2

October 26-28, 2027

SEMINAR 3

January 11-13, 2028

SEMINAR 4

April 4-6, 2028

SEMINAR 5 (GRADUATION)

October 25-26, 2028

Seminar locations will be announced with the cohort.

CAMPS MUST

- Sponsor each Fellow's participation in the Executive Leadership Institute with a \$2,000 program fee. After this, expenses such as travel for seminars are covered by FJC.
- Support the Fellow's attendance at all required fellowship activities and the implementation of the Fellow's capstone project.
- Identify a lay leadership partner who will support the Fellow's leadership development throughout the fellowship and **attend seminar 3**.
- Purchase and administer the **Camper Satisfaction Insight (CSI) and Staff Satisfaction Insight (SSI) survey** at camp in summers 2027 and 2028.

ELIGIBILITY & APPLICATION PROCESS

ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES

At Foundation for Jewish Camp, we value diversity and equal opportunity. We are committed to building a cohort representative of a variety of backgrounds, experiences, perspectives, and leadership styles because we know our field is stronger when it reflects the richness of our community.

Applicants should:

- Serve in a senior executive leadership role (Executive Directors, Camp Directors, etc.) within an FJC-affiliated Jewish camp.
- Have at least ten years of professional experience and a minimum of two summers in their current executive leadership position.
- Hold significant responsibility for organizational strategy, culture, operations, and performance.
- Work closely with a governing board or other lay leadership.
- Demonstrate strategic thinking, curiosity, and openness to continued personal and professional growth.
- Be committed to active participation in a cohort-based learning experience.
- Have the support of both their professional and lay leadership to participate fully and apply their learning.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Executive Leadership Institute Cohort V will include up to 25 Fellows selected through a competitive application process that includes written applications and interviews with selected finalists.

Applications open **September 22, 2026**, and must be submitted by **October 23, 2026**.

IMPORTANT DATES

INFORMATION SESSIONSeptember 17, 2026 (3 ET) [register here](#)**APPLICATIONS OPEN**

September 22, 2026

INFORMATION SESSIONSeptember 29, 2026 (1 ET) [register here](#)**APPLICATIONS CLOSE**

October 23, 2026

INTERVIEWS WITH SELECTED APPLICANTS

November 2026

COHORT ANNOUNCED

December 2026

THANK YOU

Cohort V and VI of the Executive Leadership Institute are generously funded by the Marcus Foundation.

The logo for The Marcus Foundation, Inc., featuring the name in a stylized, cursive script.