

## ABOUT LFT

LFT, AJC's innovative education program for high school students, is designed to empower the next generation of young Jewish leaders to advocate on behalf of the Jewish people and Israel. LFT instills in teens the knowledge, confidence, and passion to serve as positive change-makers among their peers, in their communities, and beyond.

LFT will meet **virtually\*** during the 2020-2021 school year. These monthly interactive, student-centered sessions are facilitated by AJC staff and offer the opportunity to learn about and unpack the most pressing issues affecting today's Jewish teens.

*\*During the 2020-2021 school year LFT will be virtual until if/when it is safe to gather in person. At this unique time, students will also have the opportunity to participate in two special nationwide virtual sessions alongside their local sessions.*



## CRITICAL DISCUSSION AND LEADERSHIP

### Issues explored:

- A nuanced approach to Israeli history
- Current dynamics of the modern State of Israel
- Jewish identity and the role of being a Jewish advocate
- Combatting rising antisemitism at home and abroad
- Building an advocacy toolkit
- Being a Jewish leader on the college campus and beyond

## WHERE WE MEET

- Atlanta
- Chicago
- Dallas
- Detroit
- Kansas City
- Los Angeles
- Miami
- New England (Boston)
- New Jersey
- New York City
- Philadelphia
- Washington, D.C.
- Westchester/Fairfield

## LIFELONG LEADERSHIP

Graduates of LFT join a network of students from across the country who share a passion for Israel and Jewish peoplehood. LFT students have opportunities made available to them through our alumni network including advanced acceptance to AJC's Goldman Fellowship, AJC Global Forum, and other alumni-specific programming for college students.

## WHY LFT?

### LEARN FROM GLOBAL DECISION MAKERS

- Cohorts from around the nation have met with Diplomats and Members of Congress
- LFT cohorts travel to Washington D.C. annually to advocate on Capitol Hill and with thought leaders on behalf of the Jewish community
- LFT students have met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other Israeli officials



### AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- In 2018, the *Atlanta Jewish Times* selected 18 rising teen stars in the Atlanta Jewish community. Eleven of those chosen were LFT Alumni!
- Alumni have interned at Israeli Consulates and on Capitol Hill
- LFT is represented on the Rep. Tom Malinowski's Youth Advisory Council (NJ)
- After participating in LFT, students feel more inclined to speak on behalf of Jewish causes

### LIFE ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES FOR LFT ALUMNI

- LFT alumni are invited to participate in the Campus Leaders program at the AJC Global Forum
- LFT alumni have assumed leadership roles in their university's Israel and Jewish advocacy organizations
- LFT alumni have assumed leadership roles in their university's student government association and other secular organizations
- LFT alumni have selected college majors inspired by their LFT experience (International Studies, Political Science, Judaic Studies)

### CAMPUSES WHERE YOU CAN FIND LFT ALUMNI TODAY...

- |                       |                            |                                   |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Brown University    | • Florida State University | • Vanderbilt University           |
| • Colgate University  | • Georgetown University    | • Washington University St. Louis |
| • Columbia University | • New York University      | • Yale University                 |
| • Cornell University  | • Princeton University     |                                   |
| • Duke University     | • Tufts University         |                                   |
| • Emory University    | • Tulane University        |                                   |

## LFT STUDENTS IN THEIR OWN WORDS

### LEADERSHIP

*"While I know that I will not become a leader overnight, LFT has opened the door to a world I was unaware of and has ignited my passion for continuing my involvement in AJC once my LFT year is over." - Abigail Dubinski, Philadelphia*

### ENGAGEMENT

*"AJC created a huge outlet for us to try out ideas and express frustrations we have... I spoke against the Iranian nuclear deal [in college] and [my professor] came up to me after class and thanked me for speaking up. I thought that was a terrific moment of what true education should be." - William Scherr, New York City*

### CONFIDENCE

*"After participating in LFT, I am more aware and prepared to partake in conversations ... I feel lucky to have had this experience, and I am confident that anyone who participates in LFT will feel the same way." - Jereme Weiner, Atlanta*



### CONNECTION

*"My appreciation for Israel grew after LFT. When I was younger, I didn't grasp how precious and rare and unique Israel is. Coming back [from Israel], I see how everything here is holy and sacred. I think this is a credit to LFT. I didn't have that feeling of awareness before." - Molly Shapiro, New York City*

### LEGACY

*"As a first-generation American, it is important to me that I advocate for Jews in a way that my parents could not, and to make sure that Jews in the U.S. and abroad are appropriately recognized and supported. LFT gave me the skills and information I need to be confident in my defense of Israel and the Jewish community." - Rebecca Yasha, Los Angeles*

## LFT ALUMNI AROUND THE NATION....

**LFT Chicago Alumnus '17:** *Since completing the LFT program, this student has attended four AJC Global Forums. He is also an active Hillel participant and supporter of Israel advocacy on campus, as well as being the Co-President of WeListen, a group that works to foster civil and meaningful discourse surrounding controversial issues. He is currently at University of Michigan studying public policy.*

**LFT D.C. Alumna '19:** *As a member of the D.C. LFT cohort, this student was inspired by her learning about Israel and Judaism to travel to Israel to see it for herself, opening her eyes to the incredible world she barely knew existed. She sees the connection between Jews across the world, who share the same values, traditions, and stories that can't be explained in words. LFT taught her how to be an advocate and speak out for what she believes in, while working with others to achieve a common goal.*

**LFT New Jersey Alumna '19:** *Speaking about her LFT experience, this student says that, "[LFT] has taught me extensively about analyzing sources of Jewish history, but most importantly, about recognizing and calling out, hateful, rhetoric and threats to Jews and other minorities." She took part in the D.C. conference, urging Members of Congress to join the coalition against antisemitism, which helped spur her leadership roles in Jewish and Israeli causes in high school.*