

Adopt-A-Firefighter

LESSON PLAN

B'NAI MITZVAH & ABOVE

MATERIALS:

Adopt-A-Firefighter flyer

Shoshi Mishali Firefighter Video (Mature content, please preview and determine if this is appropriate for your class.)

Firefighter Facts

Sample Letter to Parents

“Our School Helps Protect the Land of Israel” poster

PR Template

DISCUSSION:

Jewish Values (10 -15 minutes)

- Ask students, “What are your responsibilities?” Students may respond that they are responsible for getting their school work done, a part time job such as babysitting, taking care of their belongings, doing chores, or helping a younger sibling. Encourage students to share their experiences.
- Discuss: “How have you helped someone in the past?” Encourage students to share their experiences. There are different ways to help people, both physical and spiritual.
- As Jewish people, we believe that helping someone whose life is in danger is a most important responsibility. In Hebrew this is called *Pikuach Nefesh*. Firefighters help people whose lives are in danger every day. In Israel, starting at age 16 young people can work with the firefighters, as part of their community service, in the Fire Scouts. Volunteers learn that they are responsible not just for themselves, but for their entire crew, their family at the station, and the residents of their community. They devote about four hours a week after school to the program during 10th grade. Numerous fire chiefs and high-ranking firefighters began their careers as scouts. Israeli firefighters respond to any emergency call such as a fire in a building, a forest fire, a car accident, or acts of terror. The fire scouts, because they are young and not fully trained, are not permitted to enter a burning building or put out a forest fire. Their job is to help in other ways. For more information on fire scouts, go to <http://www.jnf.org/about-jnf/news/press-releases/jnfs-fire-scouts-program.html>
- Jewish people believe that we should not stand idly by when someone is in danger; it is our responsibility to help. This is called *Lo Ta'amod*. Firefighters often go into dangerous situations in order to save a life. Of course, since you are not trained as a firefighter you should not run into a fire to save someone, but you could call 911, or find an adult to help.
- The Talmud tells us *Kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazeh* - All Jewish people are responsible for one another. Israeli firefighters help keep Jewish people safe, and as Jews in the



JEWISH
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United States, we can help with *tzedakah*, providing Israeli firefighters and fire scouts with tools and equipment they need to do the job. In that way we can be responsible for our fellow Jews.

TAKE ACTION!

- **Firefighting Equipment:** The *Firefighters Flyer* tells about equipment the firefighters and fire scouts need in order to protect the people of Israel. You can create a class fundraising page to send out the message to friends and family. Go to www.jnf.org/mitzvahprojects for easy-to-follow directions.
- **Israeli Firefighter Facts** are helpful in communicating to students and their families the need for help in providing equipment to the Israeli firefighters and fire scouts. Include some in the text you write for your fundraising page!
- **Shoshi Mishali Firefighter Video:** Show this video about a young woman firefighter to the class to learn about the work of a first responder in Israel in first-person. (Mature content, please preview and determine if this is appropriate for your class.)
- **Write to an Israeli Firefighter or Fire Scout:** Students can write letters to Israeli firefighters and fire scouts. Contact education@jnf.org for information on where to send your letters.
- **“Our School Helps Protect the Land of Israel” poster:** Use this to post your fundraising goal. Color in each piece of equipment as you raise money to supply it to your Israeli firefighter or fire scout
- **Sample Letter to Parents:** Use this to let parents know about the students’ project to help the Israel Firefighters and Fire Scouts.
- **Bake Sale:** Sell “Fire Hose” cookies. Make your favorite sugar cookie recipe. Instead of forming circles, form long thin hose-shapes with the dough. Sprinkle with red sprinkles and add a chocolate chip at each end for the spigots.
- **Eco-Friendly Car Wash:**
Hold an eco-friendly car wash: Students will use hoses like the firefighters as they raise money to help them! Choose a site for the car wash where the water will filter into grass or gravel. Use cleaners that are labeled non-toxic, chlorine-free, and phosphate-free or biodegradable. Use a spray nozzle with an automatic shut off to prevent wasting water. Remember to clean up after the car wash, and to think before you allow anything to go directly into a gutter or storm drain.
- **Local/Global Connection:** Use the PR template to let local papers know about your *tzedakah* project.



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Support for the Firefighters:

1. \$5,000 provides suits of protective gear for three firefighters, and school receives permanent recognition at American Independence Park in Jerusalem
2. \$1,800 provides a complete suit of protective gear for one firefighter and school receives a plaque from Jewish National Fund and Friends of Israel Firefighters
3. \$500 will help supply firefighters with the equipment they need, and school receives a personal letter of thanks from a firefighter in Israel
4. \$180 will help supply firefighters with the equipment they need, and school receives a certificate of thanks from Jewish National Fund and Friends of Israel Firefighters

