**For Immediate Release**

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**New Fellowship Launches in Jewish, Outdoor, Food & Environmental Education**

*Yearlong placements will offer networking and learning opportunities designed to help catalyze careers in the field*

New York, NY-- Hazon, in partnership with the JCC Association, is launching a fellowship to invigorate the Jewish educational landscape by seeding Jewish communities with a cadre of outstanding Jewish Outdoor, Food & Environmental Education (JOFEE) educators. Support for the year-long Fellowship, which begins May 2016, comes from a Jim Joseph Foundation $7.5 million grant awarded earlier this year to Hazon and collaborative JOFEE organizations Pearlstone Center, Urban Adamah, and Wilderness Torah, that also provides matching funds for strategic planning and capacity-building. The Fellowship will train emerging leaders and early career professionals and place them in host institutions and organizations around the country to deliver dynamic and effective JOFEE programming.

“The partnership of these four prominent organizations with the JCC Association is a very significant development and is indicative of a maturing JOFEE field,” says Chip Edelsberg, executive director of the Jim Joseph Foundation. “As an increasing number of individuals engage in Jewish life through JOFEE experiences, the field needs even more motivated and highly skilled educators in this space.”

Hazon, Pearlstone Center, Urban Adamah, and Wilderness Torah – the four largest organizations of their kind – engage thousands of people each year through innovative Jewish programming. The Fellowship leverages their collective reach and expertise to develop a new cohort of skilled practitioners for the field through site placements; one-on-one mentoring with a top JOFEE practitioner; frequent professional development webinars; and in-person trainings with Outward Bound, the Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education & Policy, and other leading non-JOFEE organizations. JOFEE Fellows will be well equipped to help build capacity within and among existing JOFEE organizations.

The Fellowship will also bring JOFEE to Jewish communities that are excited about offering JOFEE programming to their constituents, but have lacked resources and/or personnel. “We are thrilled to bring the strategic investment of the Jim Joseph Foundation in Hazon's vision of Jewish life to the vast ecosystem of JCCs,” says Stephen Arnoff, JCC Association CEO. “This is a huge opportunity to shape what's next at the heart of the Jewish world.  JOFEE is a deeply promising part of that.” In particular, the partnership with the [JCC Association](http://jcca.org/) will help the organizations fully leverage their impact through community-wide programs and initiatives, and will allow JOFEE experiences to reach communities across the country that do not currently have a JOFEE organizational presence.

Most importantly, the Fellowship will create a pipeline for emerging leaders to gain the skills, training, and experience they need as JOFEE professionals. Nigel Savage, President of Hazon, added​, “Many young adults finish immersive JOFEE experiences or a master's program but don’t yet have the work experience and network to really move forward a career in the field. At the same time, Jewish institutions around the country are increasingly looking to hire creative, talented JOFEE educators and professionals to run innovative programs. The Fellowship is intended to close this gap.” This dual need – to professionalize the JOFEE field and bring JOFEE programming to more communities – was documented in the 2014 report [*Seeds of Opportunity: A National Study of Immersive Jewish Outdoor, Food, and Environmental Education (JOFEE).*](http://hazon.org/transformative-experiences/jofee/)

The Fellowship is designed with certain individuals especially in mind:

* early career professionals seeking to build on one or more immersive JOFEE experiences such as Adamah, Urban Adamah, Teva, and similar programs;
* recent graduates of a masters or other advanced program of study in Jewish education, Jewish communal studies, or other fields closely related to JOFEE; and
* Jewish professionals in related disciplines seeking a career in JOFEE by gaining the skills, experience, and certification obtained through the fellowship.

Applications for the JOFEE Fellowship are open and will be reviewed on a rolling basis until all spots are filled. To apply, visit hazon.org/jofee-fellowship. For more information, please call Julie Botnick, Hazon Program Associate, at (212) 908-2525 or email julie.botnick@hazon.org.

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The JOFEE Fellowship is a program of Hazon. The word Hazon means *vision.* We work to create a healthier and more sustainable Jewish community and a healthier and more sustainable world for all. For more information about the JOFEE Fellowship – and about other Hazon programs such as our community bike rides, events happening in Boulder, Denver, San Diego, the San Francisco Bay Area, Philadelphia, New York, and at our Jewish retreat center in the Connecticut Berkshires, our nationwide CSA network, our educational resources, and more – visit us online at hazon.org.