



Adam Schneider (SSDS '07)

Occupation: Graduate Student, Master in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government

University: Dartmouth College

High School: Chicagoland Jewish High School

Current City: Cambridge, MA

Hometown: Deerfield, IL

Whether serving in the United States Navy or pursuing joint degrees in law and public policy at Georgetown Law Center and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Adam Schneider attributes his interest in public service and pursuing justice to his experiences at Schechter. "Schechter instilled in me the Jewish values of *kavod* (respect), *tzedek* (justice), *rachmanim* (compassion) and *kahillah* (community)," he said. These values are the driving forces in how I interact with the world today. I believe the successes I have experienced as an adult can be directly traced back to the education I received at Schechter as a child."

After graduating from Schechter in 2007, Adam attended Chicagoland Jewish High School and Dartmouth College. In 2015, following his graduation from Dartmouth, he entered the military and earned a commission as an Ensign from Navy Officer Candidate School. During his five years on activity duty, Adam served aboard the USS Michael Murphy, a destroyer home-ported at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and aboard the USS Manchester, a littoral combat ship based out of San Diego. "Keeping kosher while at sea was a tremendous challenge, but it was important for me to remain connected to my Jewish heritage," he said "For many of my shipmates, I was the face of the Jewish people since they had never met a Jew before, and I really took this role to heart."

Following his military service and before entering graduate school, Adam chose to take six months off to explore another one of his passions — the outdoors. He traveled throughout the American West climbing, hiking, and skiing.

Adam considers his time at Schechter as providing the foundation to his academic success in high school and college. "In both general and Judaic studies, my Schechter teachers were constantly investing time and effort into each student's success," he said. "Additionally, being surrounded by a community that placed such a high value on education seeded my passion for learning at a very young age."

In recalling his days at Schechter, Adam fondly describes the role that the community played in his family's life. "Every Friday night we celebrated Shabbat with other Schechter families, and before many of my classmates B'nai mitzvah I attended neighborhood Shabbat sleepovers," he said. "I cannot express how much it means to me that despite graduating nearly 15 years ago, I still hear from my Schechter friends and their families, and so many of my Schechter teachers. I think it says a lot about the institution that my peers and I are still bonded by our experiences that began in kindergarten. My Schechter community is still cheering for me to succeed in life — whether it be while serving my country in uniform or simply adventuring in the outdoors on my own."

Adam sends a shoutout to his brother, Daniel, who attended Schechter until fifth grade and currently works at the Santa Barbara Zoo as a zookeeper!

