



Agudas Achim Men's Club

of Northern Virginia

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From: Harold Salters, President

To: Parents of Agudas Achim Teens

Subject: Israel Pilgrimage Scholarship Program Fact Sheet for 2024

Program Overview

The Men's Club Israel Pilgrimage Scholarship Program provides scholarships for Israel experiences for our teens. When the program was established in 1987 through the initiative and persistence of Herb Quint, the United Synagogue Youth (USY) Israel Pilgrimage was the only eligible program. Over time the program has been expanded to a wider range of experiences, but emphasis remains on those sponsored by the Conservative Movement. In 2020, Israel trips sponsored by Agudas Achim Congregation that are not youth specific were also included. Israel experiences affiliated with other organizations outside of the Conservative Movement are considered on a case by case basis. Since the first scholarship awards in 1988, 135 of our teens have been scholarship recipients. The value of the scholarship awards to date totals approximately \$340,000. Initially, scholarships were funded through annual appeals to congregants for donations. Eventually, the program became self-sustaining through the generosity of a bequest from Robert Lainof that was facilitated by Rabbi Emeritus Jack Moline. The program is governed by the By-laws of the Agudas Achim Men's Club Israel Pilgrimage Scholarship Program.

Eligibility

Eligible recipients must be at least age 13 and must not be beyond their senior year of high school (programs cannot extend beyond the summer following the senior year). Eligible recipients may not have previously received an Agudas Achim Israel Pilgrimage Scholarship. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of applicants must be current members in good standing of Agudas Achim Congregation.

Application Process

A letter or email requesting consideration for a Men's Club Israel Pilgrimage Scholarship must be submitted to the Men's Club President. The scholarship request should include name of applicant, age, grade, name of the program, the sponsoring organization, cost, time period of program, payment deadlines, and anticipated scholarships from other sources. The President will inform the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of eligible recipients of the expected dollar amount of the scholarship

award. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must confirm their child's participation on the Pilgrimage. Upon this confirmation, the Men's Club Treasurer will disburse the scholarship award directly to the organization sponsoring the Israel experience.

Award Levels

The award levels for scholarships for 2024 programs will be up to \$6,000 for programs sponsored by the Conservative Movement and up to \$3,000 for all other programs including those sponsored by Jewish day schools. The scholarship award will be subsidiary to any other scholarship awards to be received by an eligible recipient. To better recognize the benefits to our teens of programs outside of the Conservative Movement, the award for these programs has been gradually increased over time from \$250 when the first such awards were made in 2000 to the current level. A representative list of programs available and estimated costs are provided in Table 1. Airfare is included in determining the amount of an award even though some programs provide pricing without airfare. The Jewish United Fund provides a useful program resource (https://www.juf.org/israel_experience/Trips-Teens.aspx). Interested teens and parents should check with sponsoring organizations for exact costs and other program opportunities. Some programs offer early enrollment discounts.

Table 1. 2024 Teen Israel Experiences

Program	Conservative Movement?	Length	Cost \$	Airfare Included?
Agudas Achim 2024	Yes	11 days	4,370	No
Ramah Israel Seminar	Yes	6 weeks	12,350	Yes
Ramah TRY Classic High School	Yes	18 weeks	22,500	Yes
Ramah TRY Quarter High School	Yes	7 weeks	14,600	Yes
USY EPIC Israel Plus	Yes	4 weeks	9,899	Yes
Alexander Muss HIS Minimester	No	8 weeks	12,750	No
Alexander Muss Roots Israel	No	4 weeks	7,250	No
BBYO Passport Israel Journey	No	3 weeks	5,680	No
BBYO Passport Israel Journey Plus	No	4 weeks	7,415	No
Capital Camps LIT 11th Grade	No	3 weeks	TBD	Yes
Gesher 8th Grade Trip	No	11 days	TBD	Yes
Habonim Dror MBI	No	4 weeks	9,735	Yes
NCSY Israel ID	No	5 weeks	9,000	Yes
NFTY Yallah! Adventure Israel	No	4 weeks	8,500	Yes

Additional Scholarship Resources

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington provides scholarships through Israel Quest (<https://www.shalomdc.org/israelquest/>), RootOne (<https://www.rootone.org/>), an ambitious new initiative, is offering \$3,000 vouchers for 2024 summer in Israel programs, and some of the individual programs also offer financial assistance. Applicants should contact the Federation, RootOne, or the individual programs for details.

Contact Information for Questions and Applications

Please direct questions and applications to Harold Salters (hms5516@gmail.com) and Elliot Parkin (elliot.parkin@gmail.com).