

JEWISH FEDERATION OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO 2019 COLLEGE STUDENT/YOUNG ADULT ISRAEL EXPERIENCE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

For 2019 Fall and Academic Year Programs

The FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment must be completed by April 15, 2019

ELIGIBILITY & GUIDELINES:

1. Eligibility:

- Demonstrate financial need.
- Live in metropolitan Chicago.
- Have already graduated from high school at the time of application.
- Be between the ages of 17 and 28.
- Have already applied to an approved program of work, study or travel in Israel. However, you may apply for a scholarship before you have received your acceptance to the program.
- Be available to participate in an in-person interview (to be contacted when your completed application has been received). *Applicants age 18 and under whose parents are Chicagoland residents must bring at least one English-speaking parent to the personal interview.*
- Participate in Jewish communal activities when you return from Israel.

2. **Siblings:** Families sending more than one child on an Israel Experience program may only request financial assistance for one child in a single academic year except in the instance of twins/triplets/other multiples. For example, a sophomore and a senior could not apply in the same year, nor could a college student and a high school student from the same family.

3. **Returning participants:** Although students who have traveled to Israel before, with or without the help of a Jewish Federation Israel Experience scholarship, are eligible to apply, priority will be given to first-time participants.

4. **Students currently in Israel:** Whether or not you have received a Jewish Federation scholarship for your current program, if you are in Israel during the application period you are *not* eligible to apply for a scholarship. Furthermore, only one Jewish Federation scholarship may be applied to any given Israel Experience program, and scholarships cannot be used for programs that are substantially similar to a program in which you have already participated.

TO COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION, YOU WILL NEED TO INCLUDE:

1. Detailed copies of all pages and Schedules of the **most recent** (can be either **2018 OR 2017**) Federal Income Tax Return Form 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ (as filed with the IRS) for parents/guardians and applicant, plus spouse or fiancé(e) (if applicable). Recaps and/or Summary Forms are not acceptable. If you file Schedule A, B, C, D, E or F, you must provide copies. If you do not have a tax return for either of these last two years, please call 312-444-2895.
2. Copies of all **2018** W-2 Wage and Tax Statement Forms for parents/guardians and applicant, plus spouse or fiancé(e) (if applicable).
3. Verification of program costs from sponsoring organization (webpage printout, brochure or letter from organization).
4. College Financial Aid Summaries indicating aid received during the 2018–19 school year, if you received financial aid.
5. Written statement by applicant briefly describing why s/he chose THIS PROGRAM in Israel.

IMPORTANT: If the above items are not included, your application will not be considered complete.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **The goals of the Jewish Federation Israel Experience scholarship program are to develop increased Jewish identity, greater commitment to Israel and the Chicago Jewish community, and leadership in the Jewish community.**
- Although we ask about the applicant's activities, please understand that this is not a merit scholarship application and that prior involvement in Jewish communal activities is not a requirement for receiving a financial need-based scholarship.
- Jewish Federation scholarship funds are limited, and we have many requests for financial assistance. Therefore, we must examine the resources of each family carefully to be sure that the scholarships are granted to the applicants deemed most in need of financial assistance. Please understand that **the basic requirement for a Jewish Federation scholarship is the demonstration of financial need.** While income alone is not the only determinant of financial need, applicants from families with lower incomes will usually receive higher priority than applicants from families with higher incomes. Please note: applicants with Federation Israel Experience savings (including SKIP, Gift of Israel, Bar/Bat Mitzvah Certificates and Walk with Israel Vouchers) are expected to use their funds toward the cost of the Israel Experience program when applying for a financial need scholarship.
- **No full scholarships are awarded.** Applicants are required to seek other financial assistance in addition to the Jewish Federation Israel Experience scholarship. Possible sources of other assistance include the sponsoring organization of the Israel Experience program and the synagogue or religious day school, if applicable. For information regarding other scholarship resources, visit http://www.juf.org/israel_experience/other_scholarship.aspx. However, public solicitation of funding will make an applicant ineligible for Federation funding. We expect applicants to make an appropriate contribution toward the cost of their program. Our average scholarship awards range from \$500-\$3,000.
- Families may apply for only one Federation financial need scholarship in any one academic year, except in the case of twins or other multiples. Applicants must wait a full year before applying for a second Federation financial need scholarship, and are only eligible to do so if the second program is substantially different from the previous program.
- Applicants must apply to an approved Israel Experience program (which does not begin until after the application deadline) before they are eligible to apply for a Federation scholarship. **They can, however, apply for a scholarship before being accepted to the Israel Experience program.** However, they **MUST** be accepted to the Israel program before they can receive any scholarship funds.
- Federation will treat each application and all of the information provided with the strictest confidentiality. Names and other identifying information will not be included in any materials sent to the Scholarship Committee.
- The Scholarship Committee of the Federation will make the final decisions on the awarding of scholarships after assessing each applicant's situation on an individual basis and in comparison to the other applicants. Remember that this is only an application for financial assistance and that no guarantee or promise of receiving a scholarship can be made until the Scholarship Committee reaches its decisions.
- Applicants will be notified of the Scholarship Committee's decision on the scholarship request, via email, by early June. No information on scholarship awards will be given by phone. The balance of fees due to the program is each applicant's responsibility. If the applicant fails to complete the Israel Experience program, s/he will have to repay the scholarship award to the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago.
- We ask that you provide any other information that you think would be helpful to us in making our evaluation of your application.

QUESTIONS?

israelexperience@juf.org

312-444-2895