

JEWISH FEDERATION OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO 2019 HIGH SCHOOL ISRAEL EXPERIENCE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

For 2019 Summer Programs

The FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment must be completed by March 1, 2019

ELIGIBILITY & GUIDELINES:

1. Eligibility:

- Demonstrate financial need.
- Reside in metropolitan Chicago. Applicants living outside Illinois but attending school in the Chicago area are *not* eligible to apply. Applicants presently in school outside of the U.S. are also *not* eligible to apply.
- Be enrolled in grades 9, 10, 11 or 12 as of September 2018.
- Have already applied to an approved Israel Experience program of work, study or travel in Israel *which does not begin until after the application deadline*. **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 along with at least one English-speaking parent or adult guardian (to be contacted when your completed application has been received).
- Participate in Jewish communal activities when you return from Israel.

2. **Siblings:** Families may apply for only one Jewish Federation Israel Experience financial need scholarship in any one 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. 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.

3. **Returning participants:** Although students who have traveled to Israel before, with or without the help of a Jewish Federation scholarship, are eligible to apply, priority will be given to first-time participants. *Jewish Federation scholarships cannot be used to extend a current program or for programs that are substantially similar to a program in which the applicant has already participated.*

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.

5. **Income guidelines:** Please keep in mind that our funds are limited and requests always greatly exceed demand. We work hard to make sure that the neediest families are given priority. While we do take into account the family's total financial picture, *families earning in excess of \$130,000 annually should contact our offices at 312-444-2895 before submitting an application.*

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TO COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION, YOU WILL NEED TO INCLUDE:

1. Detailed copies of all pages and Schedules of your most recent (can be either **2018 OR 2017**) Federal Income Tax Return Form 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ (**as filed with the IRS**) for parents and guardians listed, plus applicant (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 contact 312-444-2895.
2. Copies of all **2018** W-2 Wage and Tax Statement Forms for parents and guardians listed, plus applicant (if applicable).
3. Verification of program costs from sponsoring organization (webpage printout, brochure or letter from organization).
4. 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 these 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 a family ineligible for Federation funding. We expect parents to make an appropriate contribution toward the cost of the program, and we expect that applicants will also contribute toward the cost of their trip. 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 your scholarship request by email by mid-May. 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