



# ***Agudas Achim Men's Club***

## ***of Northern Virginia***

2908 Valley Drive      Alexandria, VA 22302-2428      703-998-6460

November 20, 2018

From: Elliot S. Parkin, President

To: Parents of Agudas Achim Teens

Subject: Israel Pilgrimage Scholarship Program Fact Sheet for 2019

### **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. Israel experiences affiliated with other organizations are considered on a case by case basis. Since the first scholarship awards in 1988, 100 or more of our teens have been scholarship recipients. The value of the scholarship awards to date totals approximately \$240,000. 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. 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, and payment deadlines. 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 expected award levels for scholarships for 2019 programs will be \$5,000 for programs sponsored by the Conservative Movement and \$2,500 for all other programs including those sponsored by Jewish day schools. To better recognize the benefits to our teens of programs outside of the Conservative Movement, the award level this year for these programs has been increased from \$1,500 to \$2,500 and reflects a very significant increase from the initial award level of \$250 for these programs when the first such awards were made in 2000. A representative list of programs available and estimated costs are provided in Table 1. Interested teens and parents should check with sponsoring organizations for exact costs and other program opportunities.

**Table 1. 2019 Teen Israel Experiences**

Program	Conservative Movement?	Length	Cost \$	Air Fair Included?
USY Israel Adventure	Yes	4 weeks	7,299	Yes
USY Israel Innovation Israel	Yes	3 weeks	7,499	Yes
USY L'Takayn Olam	Yes	4 weeks	6,799	Yes
Ramah Israel Seminar	Yes	6 weeks	10,217	Yes
Alexander Muss HIS Summer	No	6 weeks	8,480	No
Alexander Muss HIS Academic	No	8 weeks	9,980	No
NFTY Sci-Tech Israel	No	3 weeks	7,500	Yes
NFTY Adventure Israel	No	4 weeks	8,500	Yes
NFTY Mitzvah Corps Israel	No	3 weeks	7,500	Yes
NFTY Chalutzim Ba'Aretz	No	4 weeks	8,500	Yes
NFTY Sports Israel	No	3 weeks	7,500	Yes
Habonim Dror MBI	No	4.5 weeks	7,850	Yes
BBYO Passport	No	3 weeks	5,940	Yes
BBYO Passport Plus	No	4 weeks	7,140	Yes
Friends of Israel Scouts Chetz V'Keshet	No	3.5 weeks	6,350	Yes

## Additional Scholarship Resources

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington provides scholarships for Israel teen experiences through the Israel Quest program (<https://www.shalomdc.org/israelquest/>) and some of the individual programs also offer financial assistance. Applicants should contact the Federation or the individual programs for details.

## Contact Information for Questions and Applications

Please direct questions and applications to Mike Scheinberg ([mike@schuschein.com](mailto:mike@schuschein.com)) and Elliot Parkin ([elliott.parkin@gmail.com](mailto:elliott.parkin@gmail.com)).