

Oregon Board of Rabbis Teen Israel Experience

Up to \$4000 in scholarship funds may be awarded per student towards a qualifying Israel trip. In order to qualify, the program must meet these minimum guidelines:

1. The main emphasis of the trip is on, and in, Israel.
2. The program must be a minimum of 4 weeks in length.
3. It must include a substantial study component, including trips to historic sites.
4. The sponsoring organization must manifest a respect for religious pluralism.
5. The trip should occur during the student's 11th or 12th grade year. Trips taken after high school graduation do not qualify.

In order to receive this grant, the student must fulfill the following:

1. **Attend a Jewish High School program during all four years of high school¹** (grades 9-12). Those who attend 80% of classes or better will qualify for the maximum grant of 80% of the cost of the program, up to \$4000. Those who attend 65-79% of classes may qualify for a smaller grant of 50% of the cost of the program, up to \$2500. Funds are subject to availability.*
2. **Attend 20 religious services per year during each year of high school** (grades 9-12). This includes Shabbat, weekday, High Holy Day and festival services in synagogue, and Shabbat services during camp. This does NOT include services held in conjunction with the Jewish High School program. Services attended during weekend conclaves are subject to approval by the student's rabbi, and credit is limited to two services per weekend.
3. **Complete 30 hours of approved community service during each year of high school.**

*Scholarships are funded through the joint resources of the Krichevsky Fund of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation, the Oregon Board of Rabbis, and the Jewish Federation of Portland. Together, these organizations are committed to funding the scholarships to the fullest extent of their ability. Students and parents should be aware that insufficient availability of funds may result in reduced awards that are in no way a reflection upon the merit of the students. Neither the student's synagogue, the student's Rabbi, the Jewish Federation of Portland nor the Oregon Board of Rabbis shall have any liability to the student or his/her parent(s) for failure to fully fund the student's merit grant award.

The Oregon Board of Rabbis accepts applications for scholarships only through the student's congregation. The Board does not accept applications directly from a student unless there are unusual mitigating circumstances. Please be aware of your congregation's deadlines for confirmation of eligibility.

¹Students who do not have access to a weekly Jewish High School program should consult with his/her rabbi regarding an equivalent course of study.

Forms & Deadlines:

1. [Letter of Agreement](#). This is to be signed & submitted to the Jewish High School program by December 1 of the student's freshman year (9th grade).
2. [Log of Community Service and Religious Service Attendance](#). These should be submitted annually but the final deadline to submit all logs is January 31 of the student's junior year (11th grade).
3. [Eligibility Letter](#) (AKA 11th grade letter). This includes the name and cost of the Israel Program in which the student intends to participate. This is due by January 31 of the student's junior year (11th grade).

Scholarship funds are disbursed ONLY ONCE PER YEAR, in May. These funds may be applied to Israel Trips that will occur between May-Dec of that year, and Jan-Apr of the next calendar year. PLEASE PAY ATTENTION to all dates and deadlines! For example: if you would like a scholarship for a trip to Israel in January of 2018, you'll need to submit the "Eligibility Letter" in January 2017.

Scholarship Timeline for 2014-2015 School Year:

- **November:** 9th Graders enroll in the scholarship program using the "[Letter of Agreement](#)." Any student (grades 10/11) intending to travel to Israel between May 2015-April 2016 must notify the [ALIYAH office](#) that they will apply for funds this year.
- **January:** [Eligibility letters](#) are submitted to the Jewish High School Program. All grades submit annual records of [Community Service and synagogue attendance](#).
- **February:** ALIYAH verifies and transmits Eligibility Letters to the Oregon Board of Rabbis.
- **March:** The OBOR meets to determine individual scholarship award amounts.
- **April:** Families are notified directly by the Oregon Board of Rabbis.
- **May:** Funds are disbursed directly to the Israel Program. Most of the Israel Programs have worked with us before and are aware of our scholarship process and timing. If you tell the program director that the scholarship will be coming, they are usually quite good about waiting for it.

Additional Stipulations:

The student agrees to attend all classes that are considered preparation for the Israel trip and any meetings that take place after the trip.

The student agrees to refund the scholarship in a timely manner if sent home due to inappropriate behavior, or if the requirements of continued engagement are not met in subsequent years.

The student must receive a letter of recommendation from both the student's Rabbi and Educational Director. Check with the administration of the Jewish High School to see whether they or the family will take care of this.