



MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION

The Bernard and Helen F. Soref Passport to Israel Endowment Fund

The Passport to Israel is an easy and affordable cooperative incentive savings program established to help provide students with necessary funds to have an unforgettable educational Israel experience. The Passport to Israel fund is set up through the Jewish Community Foundation and administered by the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. The goal of the Passport to Israel Program is to enable as many Milwaukee youth as possible to have an opportunity to participate in a peer group Israel learning experience as part of their Jewish education.

About the Program

The Passport to Israel Program is intended to provide youth with sufficient funds to pay for a substantial portion of an Israel educational experience. Each year, a minimum of \$300 will be set aside towards a future trip to Israel. Based on entry into the program in 3rd grade, participants should accumulate about \$2,400 plus interest by the time the child completes the 10th grade. This amount is not intended to cover 100% of the cost, and participants are encouraged to collect additional funds from institutional partners.

Students may choose to participate in an Israel program before 10th grade; however it is the desire and intent of the Passport to Israel Program to have students participate in a peer group Israel educational experience upon completion of 10th grade or beyond:

- At that age, students normally show higher levels of maturity and responsibility.
- This program should act encourage continue participation in a congregation after Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

The accumulated funds from all parties may not cover the full costs of an Israel program. While many families may be able to meet the total costs from personal resources, others may not. Participating families may seek additional financial support by applying for scholarship funds through the Israel and Jewish Education Scholarship Fund of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation.

How Passport to Israel Works

Beginning with 3rd grade families may enroll their child in the Passport to Israel Program through their local congregation. Families with no synagogue or institution affiliation may enter the program by applying directly through the Federation. To allow as many teens as possible to enjoy an Israel experience, participants living outside the Federation service area of Waukesha, Ozaukee, and Milwaukee counties may participate in the plan but will receive no Federation matching grants.

Each year participants may receive a combined minimum annual contribution of \$300 from the family, congregation and the Federation:

- Each year families and synagogues must contribute a combined total of \$200.
- The Federation will match with a \$100 contribution each year for up to 8 years.
- Additional contributions may be made by participating Jewish Institutions or with gifts made directly to the participant's account.

Participants may enter the program later than 3rd grade, but matching Federation funds will end at high school graduation or 18 years of age, whichever is later.

All individual funds must be used or withdrawn by the student's 26th birthday or the family's contribution will be deemed to be a contribution to the Passport to Israel Scholarship Fund.

Making Payments

The program is based on a combined minimum annual contribution of \$300 from the family, the congregation and the Federation. These funds may be increased by additional contributions from partnering institutions or gifts to the participant's account:

- The combined annual contribution of the family and congregation must total \$200.
- The family and congregation may decide how to divide the responsibility of the amounts paid, however the suggested contribution is \$100 each.
- Families should pay their portion directly to the synagogue. The congregation will forward one check payable to the Milwaukee Jewish Federation for the joint contribution of the congregation and the family.
- Additional contributions may be sent directly to the Federation.

Payments are due by December 31st. When making payment please include the following information:

- 1) Participant's name

- 2) Passport to Israel Account Number
- 3) Participant's grade
- 4) Family name, address and phone number

Suspension, Withdrawal and Transfer

A family may suspend its participation in the Passport to Israel Program and resume at a later date. Matching funds will also cease for the same period of time.

The family may withdraw from the program at any time with 60 day written notice. If withdrawal from the program occurs, the family forfeits its rights to the contributions of the congregation, the Federation and the institutional partners:

- Contributions made by the family will be returned, provided withdrawal occurs before the student's 26th birthday.
- Congregational and institutional contributions will be returned to the partnering institution.
- Any accrued interest will be used to offset scholarship needs and the cost of operating the Passport to Israel Program.

If the participant's family discontinues membership in a congregation, the congregation's contribution from previous years remains in the participant's account. Participants who transfer from one congregation to another may continue in the program through the new congregation.

If the participant moves out of the Federation area, money and matching funds may be transferred at the time of the move, providing the new community has a similar Israel experience plan. If the new community does not have a similar plan the family may leave funds on deposit to participate in an Israel trip at a later date, however the Milwaukee community funds are forfeited and additional matching funds will cease.

Eligible Israel Programs

All trips for which community funds will be used must have a peer group and an educational component appropriate to the student and be approved by the Passport to Israel Program Administrator. To find out if a trip is approved, please contact the Passport to Israel Assistant at 414-390-5781. For a list of resources for finding trips to Israel please visit our website: www.milwaukeejewish.org.

Eligible programs include:

- All MASA approved trips.

- BBYO peer group Israel programs.
- Milwaukee Jewish Day School 8th grade.
- All existing sponsored Jewish leadership programs.

All participants will be encouraged to attend Israel orientation programs and/or seminars.

What Passport Covers

Passport WILL cover:

- Airfare and the cost of the program itself for a peer educational trip to Israel.
- Domestic travel expenses of a Birthright trip.
- Approved Educational excursions not included in program costs.

Passport WILL NOT cover:

- Expenses for additional travel or sightseeing.
- Food or personal entertainment.
- Family trips to Israel (exceptions may be made for some educational or service projects).

Administration

The Passport to Israel Program will be administered by the Milwaukee Jewish Federation:

- All family, congregational and institutional contributions will be deposited with an appropriate financial institution.
- Participants will receive annual account statements issued by the Federation.
- Once a program has been approved and proper documentation of the cost submitted, funds from the participant's Passport to Israel account will be released to the family or program.

All policies regarding rules of participation will be established by the Israel and Overseas Committee of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation. For questions about the Passport to Israel Program, please contact Passport to Israel Assistant at 414-390-5781.