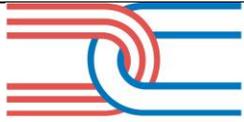


AMERICA-ISRAEL FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE

2012 Youth Ambassador Student Exchange Host Family Guide and Registration



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AMERICA-ISRAEL FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



YASE Host Family Guide and Registration

Dear Host Family:

In November 1977, 30 students from New York City high schools traveled to Israel for a month long stay arranged by the America-Israel Friendship League as part of the first Youth Ambassador Student Exchange Program (YASE). Over thirty-five years and 4,500 students later, this exchange continues to transform lives and perceptions in providing the opportunity to view and participate in life halfway around the world.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for opening your home and hearts to our program and students, and joining us in spreading the message of global understanding to our youth.

Sincerely,

Dr. Charlotte K. Frank
Chair, Partners for Global Education Committee
Charlotte.frank@mcgraw-hill.com

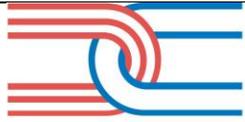


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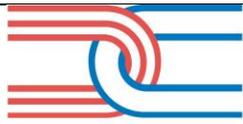
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Background Information: 1.1 About YASE

1.1 – About the Youth Ambassador Student Exchange (YASE)

Exploring New Cultures, Discovering New Worlds

The **Youth Ambassador Student Exchange** is one of the world's most innovative global education program and the only formal public secondary exchange between the United States and Israel. Arabs from Nazareth have visited Jews in Los Angeles; surfers from San Diego have explored the waves of Herzliya and, students from Moscow have traveled to Philadelphia.

Following the belief that experience is among our most effective learning tools, we have sent students from more than 60 cities overseas on a mind-expanding journey they will never forget.

Program History



In 1979, U.S Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, Joseph A. Califano and Israeli Minister of Education, Zevulun Hammer, signed the Bi-lateral Agreement on Cultural and Educational Exchanges. This agreement formally established the **U.S.-Israel Youth Ambassadors Student Exchange Program** and added a reciprocal visit of Israeli high school students to the U.S. beginning in 1980. The Public Council for Exchange of Youth and Young Adults, an arm of the Israeli Ministry of Education, currently known as the Israel Youth Exchange Council, was designated as the Israeli partner in the program.

Program Objectives

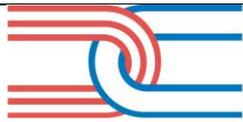
There are two primary objectives for the Youth Ambassador Student Exchange:

1. To encourage inter-cultural understanding and communication between high school youth in the United States and Israel.
2. To develop the awareness that the strength of a democracy rests in the diversity of its people and in its social, political and economic institutions.

Program Governance

Over the years, AIFL partners in YASE have been, the American Association For School Administrators, the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) and the National Urban Alliance in the United States (www.ascd.org) and the Israel Youth Exchange Council.

Dr. Charlotte K. Frank, Senior Vice President, Research and Development of McGraw-Hill Education chairs the AIFL's Partners for Global Education Committee, which has the responsibility of overseeing YASE.



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1.2 Program Philosophy

Program Philosophy

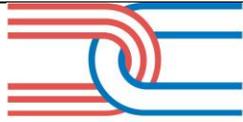
To date, over 4,500 American and Israeli high school students have visited each other's countries as Youth Ambassadors and or have hosted guests. Youth Ambassadors come from all walks of life and represent the racial, ethnic and religious diversity of their communities. During their stay in the United States and Israel, the Youth Ambassadors have the opportunity to experience everyday life, enjoy home hospitality and meet the local community. Dozens of U.S. cities have participated in the exchange since its inception.

U.S. YASE Participating Cities

Bethany, OK * Boston, MA* Chicago, IL * Cincinnati, OH * Cleveland, OH * Columbus, OH * Dade County, FL * Dallas, TX * Denver, CO * Detroit, MI * Fresno, CA* Atlanta, GA* Glasgow, MT* Hollywood, FL * Iowa City, IA * Long Beach, CA * Los Angeles, CA * Memphis, TN * Milwaukee, WI * Minneapolis, MN * New York, NY * Norfolk, VA * Oakland, CA * Bartlesville, OK * Oklahoma City, OK * Omaha, NE * Paw Paw, MI * Phoenix, AZ * Philadelphia, PA * Pittsburgh, PA * Portland, OR * St. Louis, MI * San Francisco, CA * Santa Barbara County, CA * Seattle, WA * Toledo, OH * Tucson, AZ * Tulsa, OK * Virginia Beach, VA *Washington, D.C.

Essential to the Youth Ambassador Student Exchange is a commitment to an educational process which provides high school students and teachers with an opportunity for experimental learning. Through study and travel, program participants are encouraged to appreciate, understand and accept different cultures from the cosmopolitan to the provincial.

Youth Ambassadors have the opportunity to move freely and independently in new environments, utilizing various skills and perspectives to analyze and compare daily routines, traditions and behaviors. For the youth ambassador, this experience becomes a catalyst and the basis for an appreciation of the differences in people and their ways of life. Program success, in part, is measured by the change, which takes place in the minds and future actions of its participants.



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Background Information

1.3 Program Components

The Youth Ambassador Experience is divided into three components, each of which is detailed below:

Pre-Program Preparation

In preparation for the program, Youth Ambassadors:

- Submit YASE application and essays for program admission
- Register on the AIFL website <http://www.aifl.org>
- Participate in pre-program orientation sessions at their schools
- Complete assigned pre-program study: readings, research assignments etc

The Exchange

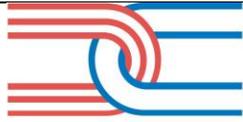
During the exchange, Youth Ambassadors:

- Live with host families and attend classes at local schools
- Conduct auditorium presentations on your home (state, city, school community) with host student, answering questions relating to topics like culture, sports and politics
- Participate in leadership workshops and seminars on cross-cultural issues, tolerance, diversity, democracy, and citizenship
- Participate with host student in classroom discussions
- Partake in a broad range of recreational/cultural activities and site visits
- Record experience in a trip journal

Following the Exchange

Upon returning from the exchange, Youth Ambassadors:

- Become register as an alumni on the AIFL's website at www.aifl.org
- Complete follow-up activities, including presentations to school, local civic groups, interviews and other activities throughout the year
- Participate in district orientation programs for new Youth Ambassadors
- Help plan annual Youth Ambassador reunions
- Stay connected with fellow YASE alumni through AIFL website and YASE pages on popular social networking sites (link to AIFL, Facebook, MySpace)



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2.0 YASE HOST FAMILIES

2.1 Host Family Roles

Host Family Roles

As a host family, we ask that you:

- ✦ Have an available bed for the visiting Youth Ambassador (not necessarily his or her own room)
- ✦ Have a resident student similar in age to the visiting Youth Ambassador
- ✦ Are willing to participate in orientation sessions organized by the district coordinator
- ✦ Are willing to learn about your guests through family discussions and other activities via Skype, Facebook etc.
- ✦ Are willing to participate in planned district program activities
- ✦ Are willing to accept your guest as one of your own during the time of the visit, including: providing meals when he/she is home, providing transportation when needed or not provided by the school

2.2 Host Family Orientation

Host Family Orientation

To get you acquainted with the program, we have set up an introductory session for you to participate in. This session will cover the basics of the program, including:

- ✦ A brief description about the AIFL and this history/object of YASE
- ✦ A brief description of Israeli customs
- ✦ What to expect as a host family
- ✦ A review of the district hosting program
- ✦ Suggested family activities for “free time”
- ✦ A Question and Answer session



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HOST FAMILY REGISTRATION

Accommodations:

Will the child you are hosting be sharing a room Yes No

If so, with whom? _____

Do you have transportation available for your student? Yes No

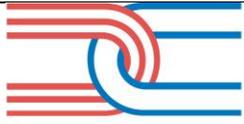
Can you host a student who is vegetarian? Yes No

Can you host a student who keeps kosher? Yes No

Do you have animals in your home? Yes No

If yes, please list: _____

Please briefly explain your reasons for wanting to be a host family, and any past hosting experience you have had:



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4.0 HOST FAMILY AGREEMENT

I (We) understand that a host family must:

- Have a separate bed for the guest but not necessarily a separate bedroom;
- Be able to spend time with our guest (specifically in the evenings and on weekends);
- Provide breakfast daily and any meals that are not provided as part of field trips and excursions.

I (We) understand that:

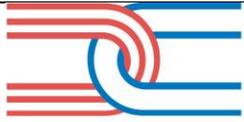
- There will be two free weekend days for hosts and guests to plan activities together;
- Israeli students will spend two days on planned activities;
- There will be two days where Israeli students will go to school with their host students.

I give my son/daughter permission to host an Israeli student in our home.

_____ Mother, Father, or Guardian Signature

Please return by _____

to: _____



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5.0 REGISTRATION FOR BACKGROUND CHECKS

****Please fill out the following information for all persons living in the household above the age of 18. ****

1. Name: _____

Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____

Social Security Number: _____ - _____ - _____

2. Name: _____

Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____

Social Security Number: _____ - _____ - _____

3. Name: _____

Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____

Social Security Number: _____ - _____ - _____

4. Name: _____

Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____

Social Security Number: _____ - _____ - _____