



PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES

Every other year, The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee selects local high school students to participate in the prestigious Bob Malkin Young Ambassadors Teen Leadership Program (BMYA) two week mission to Israel. This educational and spiritual journey allows teens to develop leadership skills, explore who they are as individuals and as a team, and learn first-hand the importance of Israel to Jews around the world. In addition to the highly subsidized trip, the program includes regular pre- and post-mission meetings, social events, and leadership training, during which the Young Ambassadors will develop their relationships with one another and with Israel, and become ambassadors in our community.

Included in the program are: (1) Leadership training, (2) Heavily subsidized, all-inclusive mission to Israel, (3) Gatherings, social events, and community-service opportunities throughout the year, (4) Learn Israeli history, culture, geography, demographics and advocacy; and, gain a personal connection to the land, (5) Opportunities to network with leaders and professionals in the community.

On alternate years, Tel Mond Young Ambassadors will visit Sarasota-Manatee for the home hosted Levenson Exchange and Advocacy Program.

***Please note that due to COVID-19, the summer trip is now in December of 2021; however, plans for future trips will remain in summer.**

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for this program, you must:

- Identify as a Jewish person.
- Be a current sophomore or junior in high school (in school year 2020/2021)
- Be a resident of Sarasota or Manatee County for at least one year prior to applying.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL BMYA/LEAP TEENS

1. Attend all 2020 pre-trip meetings:
 - Interviews May 4, 2021
 - Orientation for teens and parents..... August 15, 2021
 - BMYA pre-mission meeting September 19, 2021
 - STEP Family Shabbat Dinner October 8, 2021
 - BMYA pre-mission meeting November 7, 2021
 - BMYA pre-mission meeting December 5, 2021
 - Send-off Brunch with families December 19, 2021
 - Israel *tentative dates* December 26, 2021 – January 5, 2022 (including travel days)
2. Attend all post-trip meetings:
 - Trip Debrief and Connection to Israel ... January 17, 2022
 - Service Project Planning Day TBD
 - Tel Mond exchange in SRQ TBD
3. Upon return, complete an **evaluation** of the BMYA program and a media presentation of your choosing (Jewish News article, photo exhibit, art medium – song, painting or poem, oral presentation, video or social media blog.)
4. Attend at least **five** Federation events throughout the year following the mission.
5. Complete a minimum of **15** volunteer hours for Federation or partner organizations (as approved by Program Coordinator). Volunteering may

include but is not limited to registration, set up, clean up, ushering, and other duties for Federation.

6. Represent the Federation and/or the BMYA/LEAP program at events throughout the year when called upon. These events include but are not limited to speaking opportunities, educational programs, concerts, parlor meetings, Federation Annual Meeting, Destination Israel, Young Ambassador Forum, new participant training sessions, and mentorship. You will be provided with a list of events, times, and locations.

Exceptions must be approved by the Project Coordinator, Jessi Sheslow. Requests for **exceptions** must be made via email (jsheslow@jfedsrq.org) at least **one week in advance**. Verbal requests will **not** be approved.

Reasons for approved absences include illness with doctor's note, death in the family, emergencies, or any other situations at the discretion of the Project Coordinator.

PRE-MISSION ABSENCE PENALTIES

- 1 unexcused absence: Make up missed session
- 2 unexcused absences: Make up missed session + \$250
- 3 unexcused absences: Dismissal from program and repayment of \$4,000 subsidy

POST-MISSION ABSENCE PENALTIES

- 1 unexcused absence: Make up session + \$250
- 2 unexcused absences: Dismissal from program; ineligible for any future subsidies or scholarships from Federation; no letter of recommendation.

PARENT REQUIREMENTS

The Bob Malkin Young Ambassadors Teen Leadership Program requires commitments from the Young Ambassador as well as his/her family. To receive the subsidized trip to Israel, valued at approximately \$5,000, parents are required to fulfill the following program requirements:

1. Meet one-on-one with Federation staff to discuss a financial contribution to the Federation's unrestricted annual campaign.
NOTE: For families with demonstrated financial need, alternative giving options can be discussed.
2. Volunteer for a minimum of 15 hours for Federation or partner organizations (as approved by Program Coordinator). Volunteering may include but is not limited to registration, set up, clean up, ushering, and other duties for Federation.
3. Attend the following 2021 pre-mission meetings:
 - Orientation for teens and parents August 15, 2021
 - STEP Family IDF Shabbat Dinner October 8, 2021
 - **Send-off Brunch with families..... December 19, 2021**

HOW TO APPLY

1. Fill out Federation scholarship application by the deadline. on JFEDSRQ.org/BMYA by **April 14, 2021**.

All submissions will be reviewed by the Teen Travel Committee and Federation staff. An \$800* financial commitment deposit and a \$200 nonrefundable program fee are required.

*No student will be denied this opportunity due to lack of financial resources. Such situations will be addressed by the Financial Hardship Committee.

For more information, contact

Jessi Sheslow

jsheslow@jfedsrq.org or 941.343.2109



The Jewish Federation
OF SARASOTA-MANATEE