



# The Jewish Federation

OF SOMERSET, HUNTERDON & WARREN COUNTIES

## GIFT OF ISRAEL

A Program of The Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon & Warren Counties

### RULES AND PROCEDURES

Gift of Israel (the “Program”) is a cooperative savings program between The Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon & Warren Counties (the “Federation”), area synagogues, and families to help assure an impactful Israel educational program for participating teens and young adults.

1. **Eligibility.** Enrollment in the Program is limited to students in 3rd through 9<sup>th</sup> grade, who are enrolled in a program of Jewish education, and whose families belong to participating area synagogues. Once enrolled, a student may continue to make contributions, and qualify for matching contributions, through the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. To qualify for the matching funds, students must remain in a program of Jewish education through at least 10<sup>th</sup> grade; and their families must remain members in good standing of their synagogue during that period.
2. **Federation Matching Funds.** The Federation will provide \$50 per year for each child in the Program, for a maximum of 7 years (grades 3rd through 9th). The last year of matching funds is 9<sup>th</sup> grade, regardless of when the participant first enrolled. At the time of the Israel program, the Federation’s matching contribution is paid by the Federation to the organization sponsoring the Israel program, and not to the participant.
3. **Synagogue Matching Funds.** The participant’s synagogue agrees to match at least \$50 each year (although local synagogues may increase the amount of their match). The synagogue’s matching contributions are maintained by the individual synagogue. At the time of the Israel program, the synagogue’s matching contribution is paid by the synagogue to the organization sponsoring the Israel program, and not to the participant.
4. **Family Annual Contribution.** In order to receive matching funds, a family must contribute at least \$50 annually by December 15<sup>th</sup>. The deposits should be sent directly, and made payable, to The Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon & Warren Counties. Families may contribute more than \$50 annually, but only \$50 annually is eligible for the Federation’s match. The family’s contribution and the

Federation's match will be deposited into a separate account administered by the Federation. Failure of the family to make its contribution by the December 15<sup>th</sup> deadline will result in the family forfeiting the matching funds from their synagogue and from the Federation for that year, but the family may remain in the Program. The matches cannot be made retroactively the following year. Each annual contribution shall be accompanied by a statement from the participant's synagogue that the family is a member in good standing and that the participant is enrolled in a program of Jewish education (either in that synagogue or elsewhere).

5. **Enrollment Process.** To enroll, the family pays a \$72 one-time non-refundable registration fee to the Federation. In addition, the family pays the first year's \$50 annual contribution to the Federation at the same time. Both of these payments are due prior to December 15<sup>th</sup> and shall be accompanied by a statement from the family's synagogue that the family is a member in good standing and that the participant is enrolled in a program of Jewish education (either in that synagogue or elsewhere).
6. **Eligible Programs and Ages.** Authorized supervised trips to Israel such as Hebrew Day School or Congregational School Class trips of at least 10 days; summer programs in Israel of at least 3 weeks; gap year programs in Israel; study abroad programs at Israeli universities or colleges; and post college programs in Israel. However, all participants must be under the age of 24 when the Israel program begins. If an Israel program takes place prior to 10<sup>th</sup> grade (like a Day School eighth grade trip), then the match will only be for the annual family payments made prior to the Israel program.
7. **Termination and Withdrawal.** A family that misses 2 years of contributions will be terminated from the Program. If a family is terminated or withdraws from the Program, all annual contributions paid by the family to the Federation under the Program will be returned. However, the matching funds from the Federation and from the synagogue are forfeited.