

# Journey for Identity 2017/ JFI

Journey for Identity (JFI) is a hallmark program of the Rochester and Modi'in Partnership2Gether program. Over the course of 3 weeks, teens from Rochester and Modi'in, together, travel to 3 continents where they: are joined by a local second generation participant and intensely learn about the Holocaust through guided exploration, examine their Jewish identity through shared immersive experiences, and gain an understanding of each other's community through home-based hospitality.

## OVERARCHING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Self-Exploration
  - a. Who am I? As a Jew? As an American? As an Israeli?
  - b. How do I define my Jewish identity?
2. Understanding Our Partners
  - a. Both on an individual and on a cultural level explore:
    - i. How are we different?
    - ii. How are we the same?
    - iii. What is our cultural identity as Jewish teens in American, and how does our Diasporic cultural identity differ from their Israel identity?
    - iv. What is our cultural identity as Jewish teens in Israel, and how does our Israeli cultural identity differ from their American/Diaspora cultural identity?
3. Poland Preparation
  - a. Provide historical and factual overview of Holocaust for teens so they have a context for understanding and learning.
  - b. Students will explore their personal Holocaust narratives and seek to understand if and how the Holocaust fits with their identity as a Jew.
  - c. Students will begin to explore:
    - i. How they (individually) understand the Holocaust?
    - ii. How (and why) does the Holocaust matter to their lives in the present day?
    - iii. How Israeli teens may experience the Holocaust and their visit to Poland. In what ways will it be different for the Israelis, and in what ways will it be the same?
4. American teens will have a strengthened understanding of and identification with the State of Israel and its people; likewise, Israeli teens will have a strengthened understanding of and identification with Diaspora Jewry.

## PRE-SESSIONS

### Session #1/Group Bonding/Getting to Know One Another

- Shared experience-something active and engaging
- Learning about each other
- Participating in community service together

## Session #2/Introspection/Who am I?/Identity Exploration

- Looking inward
- Mapping family narrative
- Mapping their own story
- Family trees
  - Where are you from?
  - What are your family rituals and customs?
- What does it mean to be a Jew in America, New York State, in whatever town they live, etc...?

## Part 2: Exploring My Identity

*Explore the complexities of our own identities, and how these identities shape the way we view and act in the world.*

### Enduring Understandings

- Our identities are complex and shifting, and shape the way we move through the world.
- Jewish identity is not simple and homogenous, but complex and changing.

### Essential Questions

- What are the parts of your identity?
- What are the factors that influence our own identities (those identities that we choose and those that are imposed on us by others)?
- How does your identity change, or how might parts of your identity come into conflict, in different contexts?

## Session #3 Poland/Holocaust - Part 1

- History/Facts/Figures
- Stories/a variety of stories showcasing different elements of the Holocaust
- Explore personal Holocaust narratives and seek to understand if and how the Holocaust fits with their identity as a Jew.
- Explore “the how and the why” the Israeli teens experience in Poland may be different from their own.
- Emotional Preparation

## Session #4/Poland/Holocaust – Part 2

- History/Facts/Figures
- Stories/a variety of stories showcasing different elements of the Holocaust
- Explore personal Holocaust narratives and seek to understand if and how the Holocaust fits with their identity as a Jew.
- Explore “the how and the why” the Israeli teens experience in Poland may be different from their own.
- Emotional Preparation

## Session #5/Israel

- Overall Israel history/ How did we get here?/Timeline
- Borders/maps
- Zionism and its relation to the Holocaust

## Session #6:/More Israel and Prep for “Meeting” your partner

- Modern life in Israel –movie/tv show/reading

- Prepare for your partner interview – what questions do you want to explore, including:
  - Who are your personal heroes?
  - Who are heroes in Israeli society?
  - What are important moments (defining moments) in Israeli history? In your life? Parents? Grandparents?
  - What major problems is Israeli society dealing with at the present moment?

Session #7/Debriefing the Partner “Meeting” & Final Session, including parents

Part #1 – with teens from 5:30 – 7:00 pm

- Introduce your partner from Modi'in
- What did you learn about them? What did you learn about Israel? What are your questions? What confuses you? What did you learn about yourself?
- How is their narrative different?

Part #2 from 7:00- 8:00 pm

- Meeting families and JFI community
- Logistics and other administrative details, such as coordinating rides, making other plans as group.
- Prep for Israelis arrival
- Explanation of Federation and Partnership

# ITINERARY PART 1: ROCHESTER

## Thursday, July 20

*Israeli teens arrive in Rochester*

## Friday, July 21– Getting to Know Each Other

Breakfast at Host Homes

9:30 am – 12:30 pm	Introductory programming at the JCC
12:30 – 2:00 pm	Free time at the JCC
2:30 pm	<i>Go Game Scavenger Hunt</i> at Park Ave
5:30	Pick up at Federation Offices

*Dinner, Shabbat, and overnight at host homes.*

Host families are encouraged to take their Israeli partners to Shabbat services at least once – Friday night AND/OR Saturday morning – according to your and their customs.

## Saturday, July 22 - Shabbat

No official JFI programming during Shabbat. All meals with host families. Host families are encouraged to take their Israeli partners to Shabbat services at least once – Friday night AND/OR Saturday morning – according to your and their customs.

*Overnight at host homes.*

## Sunday, July 23 – Finger Lakes

Breakfast at Host Homes – bring a packed dairy/pareve lunch.

8:30 am	Depart from JCC* – Finger Lakes overnight trip.
10:30 am	Guided hike at Robert Treman State Park
4:00 pm	Visit to downtown Ithaca
5:30 pm	Depart for Camp Seneca Lake
7:00 pm	Dinner
9:30 pm	Bonfire and s'mores

*Overnight in cabins at CSL.*

## Monday, July 24 – Finger Lakes

8:00 am	Breakfast at CSL
9:00 am	Bus to Waterloo Outlets for shopping
11:00am	Bus to Roseland Waterpark
4:00 pm	Bus to JCC
4:30pm	Parent pick-up at JCC

*Dinner and overnight at host homes.*

## Tuesday, July 25 – Preparing for Poland & Volunteering

Breakfast at host homes.

8:30am

Goals:

- Summarize learning of the week in Rochester with regard to: identity development & cultural similarities and differences
- Introduce survivor to group. Get to know her, hear her story and process her experience with the group
- Review logistics for Poland component of trip
- Prepare for post concentration camp visit

Part 1: Review / Debrief week ( in large group)

Part 2: Introduction of Lea Malek – Survivor

- Quick and brief group introductions
- Lea will be final person introduced & will share a brief version of her story. Rich will provide the audio visual component.
- Questions

Part 3: Review Poland logistics

Part 4: Prepping for Poland

- Students will be pre-assigned a location (a specific camp in Poland) \*\* as well as a small working group. Each group will be responsible for shaping a closing ritual experience for each concentration camp.
- Keeping in my mind the cultural differences between Israelis and Americans, and how each culture honors and memorializes special moments -- how will your group create a closing ritual that honors both cultures' customs that :
  - Closes/ends the visit to the concentration camp in a mindful manner?
  - Creates a safe space to recognize people's emotions in the moment ?
  - Shows honor and respect to those who died and suffered in this space?
  - Remembers those who died in this space?
  - What else?

11:30 am	Bus to FoodLink
12:00 pm	FoodLink for Nutrition and Hunger in Rochester and Volunteering
4:00 pm	Potluck dinner and pool party

*Overnight at host homes*

Tuesday, July 26 - Toronto

Breakfast at Host Homes – bring a packed, dairy/pareve lunch and all luggage

9:00 am	Depart from JCC for Niagara Falls/Toronto.
10:30 am	Arrive at American side of Niagara Falls Made of the Mist Cave of the Winds Depart for Toronto
7:00 pm	Toronto Blue Jays baseball game against the Oakland Athletics

*Overnight at Holiday Inn Yorkville.*

Thursday, July 27 - Toronto

8:00 am	Breakfast at hotel
8:30 am	“Poland Is...” activity
10:00 am	CN Tower
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Depart Kensington Market for Toronto Pearson International Airport
3:00 pm	Arrive at Toronto Pearson International Airport
5:40pm	Depart for Poland

## **ITINERARY PART 2: POLAND**

### Friday, July 28 – Lodz & Krakow

Land in Warsaw  
Lodz Cemetery  
Radegast Station  
Kabbalat Shabbat at Isaac's Synagogue  
Hotel – Wilga Krakow Kazimierz

### Saturday, July 29 - Krakow

Podgorze Ghetto  
Kazimierz  
Walking tours  
Lunch with Polish teens OR Museum of Galicia  
Group discussion  
Hotel – Wilga Krakow Kazimierz

### Sunday, July 30 – Tarnow & Krakow

Tour of Tarnow  
Zbylitowska Góra Mass Grave  
Schindler Museum  
Group discussion

### Monday, July 31 – Auschwitz & Kielce

Auschwitz-Birkenau camps and museum  
Group Discussion  
Hotel – TBD

### Tuesday, August 1 – Kielce, Krasnik, Majdanek, and Warsaw

Kielce Synagogue  
Krasnik Synagogue  
Majdanek  
Group Discussion  
Hotel - TBD

### Wednesday, August 2 - Warsaw

Okopowa Cemetery  
The Ghetto Wall  
Museum of the History of Polish Jews  
Polish Uprising Monument and Old City Tour  
Free Time in Old City

### Thursday, August 3 – Warsaw & Treblinka

Umschlagplatz  
Treblinka  
Heroism Route  
Mila 18 War Memorial  
Group Discussion  
Hotel - TBD

### Friday, August 4

Say Goodbye to Lea  
Fly to Tel Aviv

## **ITINERARY PART 3: ISRAEL**

### August 6 -Jerusalem

Yad Vashem museum  
Mount Hertzel museum  
Packed lunch  
Dinner at Grill-Bar restaurant

### August 7 North

Bental Mountain-observation point: Syria - Israel border  
Packed lunch  
Trip at Magrase river  
Dugal beach hosting: grill dinner  
sleeping (tents)

### August 8 North

Dugal beach (Kineret)  
breakfast  
Sea sport activities  
Rosh Hanikra visiting and guiding  
Akko visiting and lunch

### August 9 Tel Aviv

Independence Museum  
Rabin Museum  
Lunch  
Nachlat Binyamin-sight seeing  
Tel Aviv beach

### August 10 South

Visiting a military base  
Kfar Hanokdim- desert ranch:  
Camel's riding  
Bedouin dinner  
Tent sleeping  
Early morning coffee and biscuits

### August 11.South

Mesada  
Breakfast  
Dead Sea

### August 13

Volunteering at Mishmar Ayalon farm for children with special needs (gardening activities) or  
Volunteering at a center for elderly  
A free afternoon

### August 14

Workshop: Living as a minority among majority  
Workshop: 3 weeks of JFI- how do we summarize?  
Final party

### August 15

Depart