



## Gift of Israel FAQ's

**What is the Gift of Israel Program?** Gift of Israel is an incentive savings program in which families, congregations and the Jewish Federation Foundation each contribute funds towards an approved Israel trip.

**Why is this a great financial deal?** For every \$150 annual contribution, your synagogue and community provide \$250 in matching funds. This is a return of 266% on your annual investment.

**How does Gift of Israel differ from Taglit-Birthright Israel?** Taglit-Birthright Israel is a free 10-day trip for first-time Israel travelers ages 18-26. The Gift of Israel is an incentive savings program that enables students to use their saved funds towards an approved Israel trip of their choice, whether for 10 days, a few weeks, or several months. Participation in a teen program in Israel does NOT exclude you from Birthright programs. Gift of Israel funds may be used for programs before or after Birthright participation.

**Why should I enroll in the Gift of Israel program if I can go on a free trip to Israel?** The Gift of Israel program allows you to use your Gift of Israel funds towards the program of your choice. There is a wide range of Israel trip options that provide more intensive and quality Israel educational experiences. The Gift of Israel funds are also guaranteed for your use towards an Israel experience through age 26 whereas funding for free trips to Israel is not guaranteed. Birthright at times attracts 3 or 4 applications for every available spot, so most applicants are initially turned down and must reapply in later years. The Gift of Israel funds are used for trips that are available when you want to go, even following participation in Birthright. Free programs are usually limited to ten days, whereas Gift of Israel programs can be used for programs of a few weeks or even several months.

**Is there additional funding for Gift of Israel participants traveling to Israel?** Yes, the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island provides grants to all high school, college and graduate students planning to study in Israel on a recognized study/travel program. The Rhode Island Jewish community supports an Israel experience as an integral part of a student's educational and growing Jewish identity.

**What is an example of how Gift of Israel Funds can be used towards an Israel trip?** A typical 3 week trip might cost \$6,500.



Gift of Israel Funds	\$3,200*
Jewish Alliance's Israel Travel Stipend	\$1,000
Family Cost for Israel Trip	<b>\$2,300**</b>

\*of which you have only put in \$1,200 over 8 years.

\*\* and you may still apply to the Jewish Alliance for needs-based financial aid.

**What if my child does not go to Israel or I want my funds returned?** The funds families deposit may be returned at any time without penalty. Please contact the Israel desk for the appropriate form. Matching funds will be forfeited.

**Where may I find more information?**

Contact the Israel Desk at [IsraelDesk@JewishAllianceRI.org](mailto:IsraelDesk@JewishAllianceRI.org) or call 401.421.4111 ext 179.