



PASSPORT TO ISRAEL

A Savings Match Program for Students Traveling to Israel
Information for Students and Parents

Help make Israel a reality for your children – with matching support from your congregation and Milwaukee Jewish Federation.

WHAT IS PASSPORT TO ISRAEL?

Passport to Israel is a matched savings account that helps families save for their child's educational peer trip to Israel. This program is funded by the Jewish Community Foundation and administered by the Milwaukee Jewish Federation Israel Center.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

You save \$100* or more each year

Your synagogue or school contributes up to \$100 each year

The Milwaukee Jewish Federation matches another \$100 each year

Do this for up to 8 years, starting as early as Kindergarten

That's \$300+ per year—adding up quickly toward a meaningful Jewish travel experience.

**Combined contributions from families + school/synagogue must equal \$200 to qualify for MJF match.*

WHAT THE FUNDS SUPPORT

Students may use funds for:

- 8th grade class trips
- BBYO Israel programs
- Birthright deposits
- All MASA-approved trips
- Other approved educational peer experiences

Funds can be used until age 26 for costs like airfare, program fees, and excursions.

HOW TO ENROLL

Contact your synagogue or school to let them know you're interested

Agree to save \$100+* each year

Stay in touch with your synagogue's Passport Coordinator

Submit receipts when it's time to use the funds

Questions? Contact: AbigailS@MilwaukeeJewish.org

Learn more: bit.ly/PassportToIsrael



Israel Center
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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Who do I contact with questions regarding the Passport Program?

To sign up for the program, or to access the funds in your child's account or to learn about programs available for your child, you should contact the Program Coordinator at Milwaukee Jewish Federation. The program is currently being coordinated by Abigail Stein in the Israel Center dept: abigails@milwaukeejewish.org.

2. Am I really getting funding from the Federation and my synagogue or school with no "strings" attached?

Yes. There are no "strings" attached to the Passport to Israel. Your contribution can be returned to you in full at any time on 60-days written notice. Congregation/School, Federation and other institutional funds are given to your child through the Passport to Israel program to encourage more youngsters to participate in programs in Israel as part of their Jewish education. The Passport to Israel is a very special program because everyone benefits from it; your congregation, Federation, the Jewish community, Israel, your family and, most of all your child.

3. My child is only 8 years old. How can we know they will want to go to Israel in the future?

Most youngsters who attend religious school from elementary school through junior high and high school welcome the opportunity to go to Israel with their peers.

4. What if the participant transfers from one congregation or school to another?

They may continue the program pursuant to the terms agreed by the family and the new congregation or school. They also need to notify the Federation of the change.

5. Can I enroll my grandchildren in Passport to Israel?

Yes. If your grandchildren are members of a sponsoring organization, you may enroll your grandchild in the program. We ask that the parents and their contact information are used at the time of enrollment.

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6. Are we able to contribute funds towards another child's Passport account in honor of a special occasion (i.e. bar/bat mitzvah)?

Yes. Just send the check to the Federation with a note expressing which child's account you would like it deposited into and the occasion. The Federation will send a contribution card to the child notifying them that there has been a deposit made to their account and who made the deposit.

7. Can I make my payment with a credit card?

Yes. Please contact the Program Coordinator at Milwaukee Jewish Federation.

8. What if I cannot contribute this year?

A family may suspend its participation at any time. The matching funds will also cease for the same period. Please contact the Israel Center Passport to Israel Coordinator to let them know to suspend contributions.

9. Can we put more money than required into the Passport account on occasion?

The minimum annual contribution to the Passport to Israel account by the family/organization must be \$200. The family/organization may contribute more than the minimum requirement; however, the Federation will only match \$100. Additional funds may be contributed from institutional partners or as gifts made by friends and family.

10. We have more than one child participating in the Passport to Israel program. Can we transfer funds from one account to the other?

You may transfer the family contribution and gifts from one account to another. Congregation and partner institution contributions may be transferred with written notification from the institution. Federation contributions may not be transferred.

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11. What if I want to close my passport to Israel account?

If withdrawal from the program occurs without using the funds for an Israel trip, the family forfeits its rights to the contributions of the congregation, partner institutions and the Federation.

12. Must my child go on a specific Federation program such as the community-wide teen mission?

No. Passport to Israel participants can use their funds on a wide variety of programs approved by the Israel and Overseas Committee of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation.

13. If my child does not travel to Israel in high school, is it worth keeping the Passport account open?

There are many things beyond high school age that the Passport program can cover. For example, a semester studying Hebrew in Israel or a MASA program. Also, your Passport account can help cover the national flights under the Birthright Program. There is additional funding for most of the programs under MASA. For more information, contact the Israel Center at the Milwaukee Jewish Federation at 414-390-5764. Funds must be used by the child's 26th birthday.

14. My child will be going on a trip next summer. What do I need to do to use the money from the Passport fund?

Contact the Passport to Israel assistant to find out if the trip is approved. Once approved, you will need to provide copies of the acceptance letter from the program, the trip itinerary, and a bill/proof of payment for the program and/or airfare.

15. What WON'T the Passport Program assist in funding?

The program does not cover incidental costs, such as food, entertainment, or pocket money.

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16. What if we want our child to go on a family trip?

Passport to Israel is a peer group educational program designed for students and is not intended to defray the cost of a family trip.

17. My child is going on a trip. Will we need to pay for it up-front and be reimbursed?

You must pay for the trip up-front and be reimbursed from your child's Passport to Israel account by submitting a copy of the bill and proof of payment. You may also request that we pay the program directly. You will need to submit the bill, the name/program to write the check to, and the address to send the check.

18. If there is money left in our account after an approved trip, will we get any of it back?

If your account has funds left after an approved trip, you may liquidate the account and receive the remaining portion of your family's contribution. The family forfeits its rights to the remaining portion of the congregation, partner institutions and the Federation contributions.

19. At what age do we need to use the Passport to Israel funds?

The money in the Passport account will remain available until your child's 26th birthday. However, if your child decides not to participate in an Israel program, your family contributions are fully refundable to you with a 60-day written notice.

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