



BELFER TEEN FELLOWSHIP



MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TEEN ISRAEL PROGRAMS

The Belfer Teen Fellowship provides merit scholarships to teens looking to travel to Israel this summer on a transformative Jewish experience. Our goal is to award teens who display leadership potential and a strong commitment to community.

If you're a New York-area high school student who's planning to join an accredited, immersive Jewish experience in Israel this summer, we encourage you to apply! A limited number of scholarships of at least \$1,000 are available.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR SCHOLARSHIPS?

- High school students
- Permanent residents in UJA-Federation's catchment area: New York City, Westchester, or Long Island
- Prospective participants in an accredited teen Israel program (see below for a list of accredited programs)
- Teens who have never received a merit scholarship from UJA

ARE THERE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP?

Share Your Experience: You are required to share your experience by writing a one- to two-page essay on completion of your program. Along with the essay, you are also required to share two photos from your summer.

Community Service Project: As a merit award recipient, you are expected to complete a community service project following your Israel summer experience. These projects can be developed with a synagogue, day school, or Jewish nonprofit organization in New York City, Westchester, or Long Island. You will be asked to share a one- to two-page description of your program, along with two photos, on completion.

Summer experience essays and community service descriptions can be sent to belferteenfellowship@ujafedny.org. Both essays are due by October 19, 2026.

HOW WILL YOU KNOW IF YOU RECEIVE A SCHOLARSHIP?

WHAT'S THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

- You must complete an application that includes three short essay questions. [Click here](#) for the application.
- All applicants must be recommended by a rabbi, teacher, JCC staff, or other Jewish nonprofit professional to be considered for a scholarship. Recommendation letters should be emailed by the recommender directly to belferteenfellowship@ujafedny.org with the applicant's **first and last name** in the subject line.

A scholarship committee at UJA will make the final decisions on the awarding of merit scholarships. These decisions will be shared with you by the beginning of May via email. Scholarship awards are made directly to the program provider.

WHICH PROGRAMS ARE ACCREDITED?

For a full list of accredited programs, please see [2025---2026-IJEX-Accredited-Programs.pdf](#).

Other programs may be eligible for accreditation. Please reach out directly to belferteenfellowship@ujafedny.org to see if your program is eligible.

If you have any questions regarding merit scholarships, please contact the Belfer Teen Fellowship at belferteenfellowship@ujafedny.org.

Scholarships are made possible by the Belfer Family Fellows Fund.

