

2012 Summer Fellowship Security Policy

Over the past few years, because of the security situation in Israel, we have made a number of adjustments to our traditional itinerary and security protocols. As the summer of 2012 approaches, we will revisit and refine our security procedures. As of now, our plan is for the program to be based at a youth village in Jerusalem, the northern Galilee town of Tzfat, and the Negev (at Sdeh Boker, in and around Eilat, and in the Negev desert). The Jerusalem location is a gated, guarded campus facility, in a relatively out of the way neighborhood of southern Jerusalem. The group has stayed there many times in the past, and we have found the security procedures and the facilities to be excellent.

Group day-trips into downtown Jerusalem and Tel Aviv will be made only if and when the security situation allows it. Last summer, we were able to see most of the sites that we have traditionally visited in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, and we feel hopeful that, with the proper precautions being taken, we will be able to do so again this year. Our movements in the north and the Negev will also be subject to the developing security situation.

Our Security Guidelines

Our security guidelines have been developed over twenty-five years of experience, in consultation with our Israeli security staff personnel and the appropriate authorities. The guidelines under which we operate attempt to take the volatile aspects of living in Israel into account. In planning our programming elements, be they educational, religious, or recreational, security and safety are a foremost concern. However, no matter how carefully one plans, the situation in Israel is fluid and unpredictable. While in Israel, we receive the best available information, and our security decisions are made daily, based on the day-to-day situation, in consultation with the relevant governmental organizations.

Our Security Director, Assaf Snir, maintains a liaison with the Israeli Police Department, the Israeli Army, the United States Embassy in Israel and international security advisory services throughout the summer.

When in Israel, we will, on an ongoing basis, carefully review our itinerary in light of security considerations. Our itinerary will be cleared by the central Israeli Government office which coordinates the activities of the Army, the Police and the Intelligence Services; they issue specific guidelines as to where it is safe to travel and the best routes to use. Local security personnel are notified of our travel plans and will immediately notify the group in the event of incident or security risk.

If necessary, we will change our itinerary to reflect any heightened risk or security concerns. Our current plans as to where we will base the group for much of the summer and what areas we will visit may change as a result of evolving developments. For security reasons, we will not distribute a detailed copy of this coming summer's itinerary to parents or Fellows in advance. Parents will be getting e-mailed updates on the group's activities and movements, including pictures, on a regular basis all through the summer.

Geographic Restrictions for the 2012 Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel Program

- No travel in or near the Gaza Strip or the Lebanon border
- No travel in the West Bank or Arab East Jerusalem
- Travel within East Jerusalem is limited to accessing the most popular Jewish religious sites therein (e.g. The Western Wall and the Jewish Quarter)
- Fellows will at NO TIME be allowed to travel on their own in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, or anywhere else, without parental permission and permission from our security personnel
- While at our home base in Jerusalem, we will be in an enclosed, protected environment, in which Fellows will be allowed to move freely, but which they will NOT be allowed to leave on their own
- In Tzfat, if security conditions permit it, Fellows will be allowed to go in groups of at least three to certain designated areas in town, once they have received permission to do so
- In the Negev we will always be traveling as a group

Identification/Contact Cards

All Fellows will be issued a personal identification card that includes faculty/staff contact information. This card must be carried by the Fellow at all times.

A Closing Word

We are determined to create an experience for our 2012 Fellows which is challenging, exciting and inspiring. The faculty and staff are convinced that we can run a full, active, dynamic program, within the parameters that we have outlined above. With your cooperation, this year's trip will be a great one.