

# Summer 2012 Opportunities For Jewish Teens

*Parent and student guide to what is available for our teenagers this upcoming summer*

Prepared by the East Bay Midrashot

## SUMMER 2012 OPPORTUNITIES FOR JEWISH TEENS

*Below is a collection of summer experiences for Jewish teens. If you hear about other opportunities, please let your Midrasha director know so we can add them to the list.*

### Let's Go: Israel! 2012

**Dates:** June 19–July 18, 2012

**Grades:** entering 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>

**Price:** \$7,350 (Early bird price of \$6,990 on or before January 16, 2011)

**Financial Aid:**

East Bay Residents: [www.jfed.org](http://www.jfed.org)

Non-East Bay Residents: [www.jewishfed.org](http://www.jewishfed.org)

**Contact:** Loal Isaacs, Let's Go: Israel Director - 510.318.6467 or [loal@jfed.org](mailto:loal@jfed.org) or Elad Geva, Shaliach - 510.318.6455 or [elad@jfed.org](mailto:elad@jfed.org)

**Imagine** your teen hiking in the Negev, welcoming Shabbat in the streets of Tzfat or sitting on a beach surrounded by friends watching the sun set into the Mediterranean Sea. You don't have to imagine anymore. This summer they can do it all and more on **Let's Go: Israel!**

For over 20 years, **Let's Go: Israel** has been the premier community Israel trip for the entire Bay Area, and this summer stands to be the best summer yet! The **Let's Go: Israel** trip has proven to strengthen teens' connection to Israel and to their Jewish community at home.

Teens from all around the Bay Area (East Bay, Marin, San Francisco, Peninsula) will join us for this life-changing, four-week experience, as we travel all around Israel, creating memories around every turn. Participants will challenge themselves, be immersed in Israeli culture, make new life-long friends, and make Israel part of their life forever.

Plenty of financial aid is available.

Parents! Make summer 2012 one your teen will never forget, and send them to Israel.

**More info:** [www.letsgoisrael.org](http://www.letsgoisrael.org)

### **Foundation for Jewish Camping**

<http://www.jewishcamp.org/how-we-help/grants-and-scholarships>

Check here for financial aid opportunities

### **The Alexander Muss High School in Israel (AMHSI)**

provides an 8-week (school-year) or 6-week (summer) pluralistic, academic adventure in Israel. Follow in the footsteps of more than 19,000 alumni and discover Israel through an inspiring, life-changing experience. The whole country will become your classroom. You will be challenged to live outside of books and in the presence of history by studying at the actual sites where history took place!

Grades: 10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> Cost: TBD Phone: 212-472-9300 More info: <http://www.amhsi.org/>

## **American Jewish Society for Service**

Grades: 11th -12th Phone: 301-767-3930 More info: [www.ajss.org](http://www.ajss.org)

### **AJSS Signature Summer of Service June 27 to August 6 2012: \$4250**

**AJSS Session of Service: \$2850/sessions:** Session 1: June 24 to July 18, 2012, Session 2: July 1 to July 25 2012, Session 3: July 25 to August 19, 2012

Since 1950, AJSS, an independent charitable organization, has been conducting voluntary summer work camps throughout the U.S. Our projects usually involve the construction or repair of one or more buildings. They have built a school, a gymnasium, single family homes, barns, recreational facilities, and a community center; installed water systems; repaired homes, etc. In 121 projects, they have worked in 45 states in such widely scattered places as New Mexico, California, South Dakota, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Kentucky; 17 projects have been on Indian Reservations. Recreation, education and religion are included in the program. Each summer, AJSS selects three local community organizations to be their partners. They bring groups of 16-18 able young workers to work on their critical construction projects, often low-income housing. The local organization provides materials and supervision for their team.

## **BBYO: B'nai Brith Youth Organization**

BBYO, Inc.

Central Region West

1414 Walnut Street

Berkeley, CA 94709

P 510.848.0237 ext 125

F 650.240.0567

Leeba Morse [lmorse@bbyo.org](mailto:lmorse@bbyo.org)

<http://bbyo.org/teens/experiences/summer/>

Open to students: entering 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade (all programs)

There are several summer opportunities with BBYO. Check their website.

## **Brandeis University has two summer teen programs:**

### **(1) BIMA Summer Arts**

415 South St., MS 037, Waltham, MA 02454

781-736-8417

[highschool@brandeis.edu](mailto:highschool@brandeis.edu) or <http://www.brandeis.edu/bima/>

Dates: July 4-August 2

Open to students: entering 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade

BIMA (The Berkshire Institute for Music and Arts) creates a pluralistic community devoted to artistic expression and Jewish living. Through the participation of Israeli students and faculty, BIMA generates an environment in which artistic expressions reflecting the perspectives of Israeli and Diaspora Jews can enrich Jewish identity. Activities include film, dance, instrumental and vocal music, visual arts, film, and writing.

### **(2) Brandeis University Genesis Program**

415 South Street, Waltham, MA 02154

781-736-8416

[highschool@brandeis.edu](mailto:highschool@brandeis.edu)

<http://www.brandeis.edu/genesis/>

Dates: July 4-August 2

Open to students: entering 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade

Brandeis University offers an engaging exploration into the relationship between Judaism and the humanities. Teens collaborate to help create learning experiences in workshops, for evening programs, on community days, and during social action projects. Topics include Investigating Journalism and Responsibility, Judaism and Justice, Torah of Technology and World Religions: Encountering Diversity. Some courses are for college credit

Summer 2012 tuition is \$5000. Financial aid is available: need-based, merit, and first-time camperships, and specific scholarships for filmmakers as well as teens from Russian families. Please see our website: [brandeis.edu/highschool](http://brandeis.edu/highschool) or call our office for more info or to apply: 781.736.8416

### **(1&2) MORE INFO ON BOTH BIMA AND GENESIS:**

**Summer 2012 application materials for BIMA and Genesis at Brandeis University are now online.**

At **BIMA**, young artists strengthen their skills and work with professional artists as part of a vibrant artistic community. Summer 2012 arts majors:- Dance- Music (Choral and Instrumental)- Theater- Visual Arts- Writing

At **Genesis**, teens ask challenging questions and apply them to real-world experiences in interactive college-level courses. Summer 2012 courses:- Business on a Mission - Entrepreneurship and Social Change- Beyond Belief - Exploring World Religions- Innovation and Revolution - The Relationship Between Technology and Society- In Pursuit of Justice-The Theories and Realities of the Legal System- Power of the Press - The Impact and Ethics of Journalism

Deadlines are February 6, 2012 and March 12, 2012. Various sources of financial aid are available. Please see [website](#) for more details.

### **Bronfman Youth Fellowships**

A five week intense, all expense paid educational experience in Israel for students finishing 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

July 3 – August 8, 2012

Apply on-line at [www.Bronfman.org](http://www.Bronfman.org) .

E-mail [info@byfi.org](mailto:info@byfi.org), 518-475-7212.

**Application Deadline is January 20, 2012**

Every year, twenty-six outstanding North American teenagers are selected for The Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel. The Fellows come from all over the United States and Canada, from the widest possible range of Jewish backgrounds, and are selected based on merit, and not financial need. In their five weeks together, the Fellows encounter the land and people of Israel, study Judaism and major issues in contemporary Jewish life, and learn about themselves and each other. The summer is the beginning of a long-term association for the Fellows, which continues through our extraordinarily active alumni network.

High School Juniors from the United States and Canada who will be sixteen by July of 2012 are eligible for the Fellowship. Fellowships cover round-trip transportation between New York and Israel, educational programming, and room, board and travel while in Israel. Room and board at orientation and the Follow-Up Seminar in New York City are also included. Limited additional subsidies (based on need) are available to defray costs of travel to interviews, to New York for the summer program, and for follow-up alumni activities.

### **Camp Alonim**

1101 Peppertree Lane, Brandeis, CA 93064

[alonim@ajula.edu](mailto:alonim@ajula.edu)

<http://www.alonim.com/>

Open to students: entering through 11<sup>th</sup> grade, includes CITs

Camp Alonim helps campers build self-esteem and independence in an atmosphere where teens can learn new skills, safely grow, and make lasting friendships in a completely Jewish environment. We use our 3,000-acre property to engender a love of the outdoors, promote environmentalism, build a connection to Israel, and instill the values of *tikkun olam*.

### **Camp Kee Tov**

Congregation Beth El

1301 Oxford St.

Berkeley, CA

510-848-2372

<http://www.campkeetov.org/>

[zach@bethelberkeley.org](mailto:zach@bethelberkeley.org)

Open to entering 10<sup>th</sup> grade and older for staff and grades K-9 for camp.

Camp Kee Tov is Congregation Beth El's award winning day camp. We have another exciting summer in store for 2012! Please visit <http://www.campkeetov.org/> or call 510-848-2372 for more information.

## Camp Ramah in California

### Administrative Office:

17525 Ventura Blvd, #201

Encino, CA 91316

888-CAMP-RAMAH

[info@ramah.org](mailto:info@ramah.org)

<http://www.ramah.org/>

Open to students: entering 3<sup>rd</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> grade, 11<sup>th</sup> Israel, 12<sup>th</sup> CIT

### Camp (June, July, August):

P.O. Box 158

Ojai, CA 93024

Phone: 805-646-4301

Ramah summers are packed with a wide range of activities, including Israeli dance and Jewish music, cooking, drama and play production, a ropes course, and our sports program. Hebrew is spoken and learned at camp in a spirit unique to Ramah. Jewish values underlie a concern for each individual and the development of a spirited and warm community.

## Camp Ramah Outdoor Adventure

<http://www.ramahoutdoors.org/> or [info@ramahoutdoors.org](mailto:info@ramahoutdoors.org) or 303-261-8214

2012 Dates: Session I (entering 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) June 19– July 16; Session II (entering 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) July 18-31; Session III (entering 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) August 1-14.

One-of-a-kind Jewish outdoor adventure camp in the heart of the Colorado Rocky Mountains called Ramah Outdoor Adventure ([www.ramahoutdoors.org](http://www.ramahoutdoors.org)). The best of outdoor adventure activities including horseback riding, climbing and rafting. The camp is located 90 miles from Denver in Pike National Forest on the 360 acre Ramah-in-the-Rockies ranch!

## Camp Tawonga Teen Programs

131 Steuart St., Suite 460, San Francisco, CA 94105

415-543-2267

[info@tawonga.org](mailto:info@tawonga.org)

<http://www.tawonga.org/>

Dates vary for all programs; go to <http://www.tawonga.org/extras/goto-camp.php> for more info.

**Leadership Counselor-in-Training Programs:** Students entering 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades

These sessions are designed to give veteran campers outstanding leadership training, hands-on experience, and a chance to see what being a counselor is all about.

**Quests:** Sierra Slam and Surf-and-Turf Programs for entering 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades; Northwest/Canada and Rock-and-River Programs for entering 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grades. These coed teen travel adventures aim to increase self-esteem, build group living and work skills, celebrate Judaism, and enjoy the outdoors. Quests are appropriate for teens who are new to outdoor sports but in good shape. Teens grouped together by grade.

**Camp Tawonga Summer Camp** for students entering 2<sup>nd</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grades

We introduce campers to nature and familiarize them with the natural world. Campers set their own schedule; with help from counselors, each camper weighs in on the bunk's activities, and participates in old favorites as well as new and exciting programs.

**Teen Service Learning in California** (entering 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grades) or **Israel** (entering 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades)

Join Camp Tawonga on a service learning adventure. Help those in with a close knit group and fun, excellent staff.

## e-Camp in Israel <http://ecamp4u.com/>

eCamp is an English speaking Israel camp focused on **technology, media arts and gaming** for children and teens ages 7-18. Each summer eCampers, from 30 different countries come together to develop their creative and tech skills, to explore the wonders of Israeli innovation and to make life-long friendships.

## Etgar 36 (not related to our Etgar program)

P.O. Box 2212, Decatur, GA 30031

404-456-6605

<http://www.etgar.org/> or [etgar36@etgar.org](mailto:etgar36@etgar.org)

Open to students: entering 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades

Etgar 36 is a cross-country summer journey where you will travel across America seeing the sights, learning history and politics, discovering your American and Jewish identity, meeting with politicians, activists, musicians and artists, and performing social action. Choose the Etgar 36 West (June 24-July 15, 2012) trip with a focus on the South and West, or the full Etgar 36 trip (June 24-July 31, 2012), which also includes East Coast cities.

**Hazon (America's largest Jewish environmental group) is having a bike ride across the country this summer and teens are welcome to join them, either with your family or by yourself (depending on your age.)** Info: <http://www.hazon.org/programs/cross-usa-ride/segments/?tr=y&auid=9969296>

Seattle, WA to Washington, DC - June 7th to August 16th

Cycle Cross-Country or for 1-week, 10-day, or 3-week segments.

Week 1: Seattle to Spokane June 8th - 17th

If you've never been to Washington state, you're in for a treat.

Climb through the Cascade range on the redesigned Pacific Coast Rail Trail

Pass beautiful rivers and the Snoqualmie Falls, an 84 meter cascade

End in Spokane, home to the largest cycling community in the state

And that's just the first week of riding! [Ride with us all the way to DC](#) or choose a shorter segment:

5-Week Half-Country Tours - Registration Fee: \$300, Fundraising Minimum: \$3600 Seattle, WA to Minneapolis, MN, June 8th - July 13th Minneapolis, MN to Washington DC, July 13th - August 17<sup>th</sup>

3-Week Segments - Registration Fee \$250, Fundraising Minimum \$2900 Minneapolis, MN to Pittsburgh, PA, July 13th - August 9th Chicago, IL to Washington DC, July 29th - August 17<sup>th</sup>

10-Day Segments - Registration Fee \$190, Fundraising Minimum \$1800 Minneapolis, MN to Chicago, IL, July 13th - 26th Chicago, IL to Pittsburgh, PA, July 29th - August 9<sup>th</sup>

1-Week Segments - Registration Fee \$190, Fundraising Minimum \$1800 Seattle, WA to Spokane, WA, June 8th - 17th Pittsburgh, PA to Washington, DC, August 9th - 17<sup>th</sup>

(There is also a local ride May 10-13 in Sonoma Country).

### **Nesiya Institute: The Kehillah Israel Experience**

[http://www.nesiya.org/Israel\\_Summer\\_Program/Israel\\_Summer\\_Program\\_Overview.htm](http://www.nesiya.org/Israel_Summer_Program/Israel_Summer_Program_Overview.htm)

National summer Israel trip Monday, July 2 - Sunday, August 12, 2012. Open to those entering 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

This summer, take a journey that makes a difference! Join Nesiya for six weeks in Israel with Israeli and North American peers from diverse backgrounds. The program is open to North American and Israeli students completing grades 10-12.

The Kehillah Experience combines outdoor adventure, workshops in the visual, performing and literary arts, community service projects, cultural activities and creative Jewish study in Israel. Meet artists, educators, nature guides, activists, and community leaders who will work side by side with you creating, exploring, learning and building. Participants travel through four regions of Israel – the Negev, Galil, Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, and the Judean Desert – and focus on the origins, development, and role of the land of Israel in the future of the Jewish people. All Nesiya programs observe the common denominators that are necessary for Jews of different backgrounds to live, learn and celebrate together. Programs are kosher and no full group activities are conducted that violate traditional Shabbat observance. We provide generous need and merit-based financial aid

for those who need it, and will work with you to find sources of funding in your community. For more information about financial aid go to [http://www.nesiya.org/Israel\\_Summer\\_Program/Financial\\_Aid.htm](http://www.nesiya.org/Israel_Summer_Program/Financial_Aid.htm).

**NFTY: National Federation of Temple Youth (Reform Movement)**

<http://www.nfty.org/summer/> Open to students: entering 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades

**Kutz Camp**

46 Bowen Road, Warwick, NY 10990

845-987-6300

[kutzcamp@urj.org](mailto:kutzcamp@urj.org)

NFTY's leadership academy, Kutz Camp, is a unique teen-only, college campus-like environment that is the perfect place for teenagers to play and work together as they develop their leadership potential.

**Mitzvah Corps**

Several locations in U.S.

[nftymc@urj.org](mailto:nftymc@urj.org)

**NFTY in Israel**

[www.nftyisrael.org](http://www.nftyisrael.org)

**Oranim Educational Initiatives**

5035 Mayfield Road, Suite 230, Lyndhurst, OH 44124

888-281-1265

<http://www.travel4teens.com/>

Open to students: aged 14-18

Jewish Teen Travel, a division of Israel Way, is preparing for a sizzling summer like never before! Israel Way is a leader in Jewish educational travel worldwide. When traveling with us, the participants and their parents can be sure that our programs have been planned with the utmost care. Experts in teen travel and Jewish education design our tours. They are educational, inspirational, and fun! No matter what your interest is, Jewish Teen Travel has a trip for anyone ages 14-18: [Israel Discovery](#), [European Capitals](#), [Israel & Greek Islands](#), [European Capitals & Israel](#), [Europe, Israel & Greek Islands](#) or [Community Service & Hebrew](#).

**SCG: Seeking Common Ground**

P.O. Box 101958, Denver, CO 80250

303-691-2393

[info@s-c-g.org](mailto:info@s-c-g.org)

<http://www.s-c-g.org/>

SCG's flagship program, **Building Bridges for Peace (BBfP)** is a multi-year, multi-level leadership development and peacebuilding program that brings together groups of 30-45 American, Israeli, and Palestinian teens, ages 15-18 for a two-year program to strengthen relationships and improve understanding across communities and cultures. Founded in 1994, BBfP combines two summer intensive programs in Colorado with yearlong follow-up programming conducted in participants' home communities. Each two-year cohort cycle culminates with a final symposium where participants present their social change projects. Though originally a female-only program, BBfP expanded to include male teens in 2007. The majority of BBfP programs are led by past participants and alumni of various SCG initiatives. BBfP participants are drawn from diverse religious, cultural, ethnic, political and socioeconomic backgrounds, and are of all sexual and gender orientations.

SCG's **P.E.A.C.E** (Participant Encounter And Community Engagement) programs train diverse high school students to become change agents in creating a more just and peaceful world, beginning at home. The programs address personal development, local action, and global awareness. The P.E.A.C.E. programs consist of a one-week intensive and/or opening retreat, and a yearlong follow-up program of meet-ups, residential retreats, group service projects, and a 10-12-day encounter trip to Northern Ireland, South Africa as well as Israel and Palestine. These unique programs stand at the intersection of global learning and local action; participants study a region in conflict and experience an encounter trip while applying what they learn to improving their communities at home. The encounter trip experience combines SCG's best practices in 'people-to-people' work with the opportunity to learn firsthand about an area of conflict/post-conflict. Trips include workshops in SCG's

curriculum on themes ranging from “identity and perspective” to “communicating through conflict” and “leading for social change”, with in-country home stays, service projects, and social networking with peers in the region. SCG’s years of experience working internationally gives participants unique access to the host community.

**URJ Camp Newman**

**Administrative Office:**

711 Grand Avenue, Suite 280, San Rafael, CA 94901

415-392-7080, x 11

<http://newman.urjcamp.org/>

Dates vary depending upon program

Ages vary depending upon program.

**USY: United Synagogue Youth (Conservative Movement)**

<http://www.usy.org/escape/>

Open to students entering various grades

USY has many Israel and Israel/Europe trips and travel opportunities in the US.

A few programs are:

**USY on Wheels Programs:** “Classic” USY on Wheels; Mission: Mitzvah; Pacific Northwest; East.

Participants will share a 4-to-6-week long sightseeing and exploration adventure with Jewish teens throughout North America. **USY on Wheels East** and **Northwest** focus on those regions of the country. **USY on Wheels: Mission Mitzvah** has an intensive service learning component, in which students will engage in community service and social action in various cities.