



Omaha Passport to Israel Program Description and Rules of Participation

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Passport to Israel program (aka "The Gift of Israel Program") provides an avenue for families to save for future trips to Israel for their children. Participating children are eligible for matching funds from the Jewish Federation of Omaha and the family's Omaha synagogue.

PROGRAM RULES OF PARTICIPATION

The current program requirements include the following:

- 1) A family's total annual contribution must be no less than \$125 and no more than \$250 placed into a child's personal savings account at Signature Bank of New York. Each participant will have his/her own subsidiary account to the Jewish Federation of Omaha's Master Account at Signature Bank. All deposits and withdrawals flow through the Master Account. Funds deposited remain the property of the family.
- 2) Initial program enrollment is available for children attending kindergarten through 8th grade. Subsequent contributions may be made through the participant's completion of 10th grade.
- 3) At the time the funds are to be utilized for an approved program, the Jewish Federation of Omaha and the family's synagogue will each provide a maximum of \$2,000 in matching funds. Residual funds may be matched at a later date for a similarly approved program. Funds may be used for domestic travel and incidental expenses in conjunction with a Birthright trip.
- 4) Funds may be used after the student has entered 10th grade, but not later than the last year in college or the 23rd birthday, whichever occurs first. Funds may be applied toward an Israel peer program approved by the Jewish Federation of Omaha.
- 5) Approved programs must: (a) be educational in nature for a group of peers (b) be organized by a non-profit organization or an educational/religious institution (c) be staffed by qualified personnel (d) be structured with a predetermined itinerary or curriculum.
- 6) Families must make written application to the Jewish Federation of Omaha at least sixty days prior to the date on which payment is due to the approved Israel program.
- 7) The participant must have continued enrollment in a program of religious studies approved by the senior rabbi of the family's congregation during the contribution years.

*These policies are active as of **April 2020**, replacing any and all previous policies.*

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- 8) The family must be a contributor, in good standing, to the Annual Campaign of the Jewish Federation of Omaha from the time a child's account is opened until the money is dispersed.
- 9) The family must be a member of a synagogue, in good standing, that is recognized by the Jewish Federation of Omaha from the time a child's account is opened until the money is dispersed.
- 10) The family must have continued residency in the Omaha metropolitan area. If the family moves from the Omaha metropolitan area, no matching funds will be available.
- 11) A family may, at any time, withdraw any and all deposits made by the family to the account. Funds will only be matched according to the guidelines stated above.

PROGRAM ENROLLMENT

- 1) Complete the Omaha Passport to Israel Program Participation Agreement and the Participant Account Application.
- 2) Return the completed forms to the Jewish Federation of Omaha along with a check made payable per the instructions listed on the Participant Account Application and the enclosed example. A deposit of \$125-\$250 is required to establish the account.

ANNUAL STATEMENTS AND MAKING DEPOSITS

Statements At the end of each year, Signature Bank will send a statement to your address of record stating the current account balance. On or about April or May of each year, the Jewish Federation of Omaha will send a status update indicating the date of the last deposit and the account balance shown by the JFO. This is done to assist you in staying on schedule with deposits. It is also an opportunity to cross-check the account balance provided by Signature Bank with the balance reported by JFO.

Deposits The Jewish Federation of Omaha provides deposit slips and envelopes upon request. If deposits are being made for more than one child, separate deposit slips and checks are required. All materials may be sent in one envelope. Make checks payable to:

Jewish Federation of Omaha FBO (child's name).

- Include the child's account number (available through the JFO) in the Memo section of the check.
- Mail to Signature Bank in envelope provided

*For assistance contact: Mark Kirchoff, Community Engagement and Education
(402) 334-6463 or mkirchoff@jewishomaha.org*

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