



Passport to Israel FAQ

1. Question: To whom do I contact in regard to the Passport Program?

Answer: If you are looking to sign up for the program, you would speak to your synagogue or dayschool. If you want to access the funds in your child's account or learn about programs available for your child, you would then contact the Milwaukee Jewish Federation.

2. Question: Passport to Israel sounds too good to be true. Am I really getting funding from the Federation and my synagogue or school with no "strings" attached?

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

Answer: 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. Question: What if the participant transfers from one congregation or school to another?

Answer: 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. Question: Can I enroll my grandchildren in Passport to Israel?

Answer: Yes. If your grandchildren are members of a sponsoring organization you may enroll your grandchild in the program.

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

Answer: 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. Question: I would like to contribute towards a Passport to Israel account. Can I make my payment with a credit card?

Answer: Yes. Please contact the Passport to Israel Assistant with your credit card information and the Passport account you would like to contribute to.

8. Question: What if I cannot contribute this year?

Answer: A family may suspend its participation at any time. The matching funds will also cease for the same period.

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

Answer: 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. Question: We have more than one child participating in the Passport to

Israel program. Can we transfer funds from one account to the other?

Answer: 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.

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

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

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

Answer: 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 414-390-5781.

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

Answer: 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. Question: What will the Passport Program not assist in funding?

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

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

Answer: Passport to Israel is a peer group educational program designed for students, and is not intended to defray the cost of a family trip. Rare exceptions may be made for some educational or service projects.

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

Answer: You may 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. Question: If there is money left in our account after an approved trip, will we get any of it back?

Answer: 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. Question: At what age do we need to use the Passport to Israel funds?

Answer: 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 contributions are fully refundable to you with a 60-day written notice.