

YALLAH ISRAEL, HELLER HIGH, TIOI/F TALKING POINTS FOR TEENS

Yallah! Israel

Yallah! Israel is an epic four-week journey through the story of our people. For over 65 years it has provided trips for those seeking an authentic Jewish summer experience.

Yallah! Israel is more than just a trip: it's a cultural exchange, during which you'll explore our communal history while building your own traveling community.

Sure, on Yallah! Israel you'll visit all the iconic sites:

- the Western Wall
- Masada
- the old city of Jerusalem
- modern Tel Aviv
- the Dead Sea
- some interesting, lesser-known sites off the beaten path

But Yallah! Israel isn't just a sightseeing trip.

You'll have time to:

- go snorkeling
- ride camels in the desert
- relax on the beaches of Tel Aviv
- get off the grid and hike and camp in the desert
- experiencing Bedouin hospitality before waking up to climb Masada for sunrise
- explore the Old City of Jerusalem, write a note and put in in the Western Wall
- learn what *Kabbalah* really is in Tzfat
- hang out with Israeli peers in cutting edge Tel Aviv

You'll also have four extra days to experience an adventure you choose, like

- hiking and camping
- pursuing social justice
- experiencing the Israeli army's basic training

An optional fifth preliminary week is available during which you'll spend time in Poland deepening your understanding of the most challenging period in our collective history, before flying to Israel for the remaining four weeks of the program.

Heller High

A semester spent at Heller High will give you a chance to connect with the long, rich history of the Jewish people as well as the vibrant, challenging world of today's Israel.

You can also be a part of a new chapter in the Israeli story. October 7 shifted many basic paradigms for Israelis and Jews outside of Israel alike. Studying at Heller High will help you make sense of all that has gone on since October 7, in a space where conversations are safe and where you can learn tools for discussing and communicating about difficult issues.

The central pillar of the program is the Israel / Jewish Studies curriculum.

- You'll have your own Israel Studies teacher (provided we have 15 students or more) and one to eight counselors.
- The curriculum covers Jewish history starting with Abraham and covers key events, concepts, figures, and texts.
- Current affairs and modern Israel will be woven into the historical narrative
- One to two weekly daylong or overnight *Tiyulim* (excursions), visiting sites and meeting people, are part of the program.

In addition to Israel studies, you'll also take General Studies courses.

- These will be based on what you study at home, in coordination with your guidance counselor.
- You'll receive credit for General Studies, Israel studies, Hebrew, and PE.
- You'll be able to take regular, honors, and/or AP classes
- You'll be able to complete college applications while on the program with the help of the General Studies team.

You'll take part in creating a semester-long Reform *Kehila* (congregation).

- You'll expand your knowledge of Reform Judaism.
- You and your classmates will celebrate Shabbat and Jewish festivals together.
- You'll live as a group grounded in Reform values.

Heller High offers a choice of two different semesters:

- Fall semester from the end of August to December
- Spring semester from January to end of May/early June

While your "classroom" will be everywhere you go during the semester, you'll be based on the campus of Alexander Muss High School in Israel (AMHSI) in Hod Hasharon.

- It's in a central location, 20 minutes outside Tel Aviv and an hour from Jerusalem.
- The campus has a gate that is guarded 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- You'll be allowed to "sign out" and go off campus at designated times, for up to two hours, two to three times a week.

Tuition is \$23,590, not including flights.

There are a number of scholarships available.

- Teen organizing fellowship
- Dream Israel
- Local synagogue and federation scholarships
- URJ-Heller High need-based scholarships

Teen Israel Organizing Fellowship & Immersive

Since October 7, Jewish young people in North America have needed safe spaces to process their thoughts and feelings around Israel. Too many have directly or indirectly experienced Israel-related antisemitism.

Many young people need places where they can ask thoughtful questions about current events in Israel and find trusted adults and peers to answer these questions with the sensitivity, care, and nuance they deserve.

The Teen Israel Organizing Fellowship and Immersive will explore important and complex issues about Israel and train young leaders how to organize safe spaces about Israel in their communities.

The **Teen Israel Organizing Fellowship** is a nine-month fellowship, including five months in Israel as a student in the Fall 2024 semester of Heller High, and four months back home organizing a project around Israel. Participation comes with individual mentoring, exposure to community organizers and thoughts leaders on Israel, and a \$15,000 stipend to offset the cost of tuition at Heller High.

For many, spending five months in a high school in Israel isn't possible.

The **Teen Israel Organizing Immersive** is a five-month, U.S.-based fellowship for teens who have been to Israel or who just want to deepen their connection to Israel. It begins with a kick-off opening seminar at *The Collab*, a teen-powered retreat held October 18-21, 2024. Fellows receive a full scholarship to attend. After the seminar, fellows will return home to work with mentors and engage their peers in a community organizing project around Israel.

As a fellow you'll make a difference. You'll be able to:

- Convene empathetic dialogues about Israel and the war with friends from synagogue and school;
- Build alliances between Jewish and non-Jewish communities;
- Lobby your state and local governments and school boards to increase education around Israel, the Holocaust, and Jewish history;
- Combat misinformation online and in your community;
- Aid and raise funds for people affected by the war;
- Create original documentaries and musical compositions inspired by Israel and the war;
- Interview journalists and thought leaders on Israel; and
- Write for publications about your experiences in the Teen Israel Organizing programs.

Admissions are rolling and space is limited, so apply as soon as possible. Speak with you camp alumni of the Fellowship/Immersive. Ask them about their experience and tell them you're interested in the programs.