



FRIENDS OF
ISRAEL
SCOUTS, INC.
TZOFIM

Tzofim

Friendship Caravan

Host Family Handbook

On behalf of the Friends of Israel Scouts, Inc.- Tzofim, we are so excited that the Caravan will be joining your community this summer! Before they arrive, we ask that you thoroughly read the Host Family Handbook, as it includes vital information about their visit.

For questions, comments or clarifications, please contact Sarah Sechan, Director of Tzofim Friendship Caravan & Summer Delegation: 212-390-8130, x308 or caravan@israelscouts.org.



Host Family Experience

The host family experience is often times the most meaningful part of the Caravan's visit. Getting to know the Tzofim is consistently a memorable experience for both the families and the Caravan. We encourage community leaders to confirm host families long in advance and familiarize the families with the information below. For JCCs and synagogues that will be hosting the Caravan within their own facilities, we request that you ask members to donate air mattresses for the evening.

Food: While the Caravan is visiting in your community, we ask that you provide them with meals. They do not require anything extravagant, but we do ask that you provide options other than pizza and bagels- these are often a staple of their summer diet, and healthier options are always preferred when possible. Kosher food is **not** required. Home cooked meals are always a welcome choice! We also ask that you provide the Caravan with snacks after their performances, as they are often exhausted and hungry. Remember- the Caravan is made up of ten seventeen year olds, who certainly eat like teenagers!

Driving: Caravan members are not allowed to drive. They are also not allowed to be driven by anyone under the age of 21.

Laundry: The Caravan has a limited amount of clothing and costumes that they bring with them. We ask that you allow them to do laundry when possible.

Times: Following each show is a forty- five minute to hour long break down of the Caravan's equipment, selling of merchandise, as well as "mingling" time with the community. Because of this, host families may have to wait until the full Caravan experience has concluded before they can take the Caravan back to their homes. Because of this, the Caravan can also make family drop- offs after the show if it is inconvenient for the host families to wait for them. This can be discussed with the Caravan leaders before their arrival to the community.

The success of the summer is largely based on keeping with the schedule that has been built. As the Caravan travels from community to community in order to reach as many audiences as possible, they are often in a time crunch to get to their following destination. It is vital that hosting families are on time for all pick- ups and drop offs.

Sports and Other Physical Activities: The Caravan loves to be active when spending time with their host families. However, it is imperative that the Caravan keeps themselves out of any situations that cause injury. Remember, there are 10 participants in each Caravan and no understudies! We ask that you keep this in mind during their stay in your community. All water sports and activities are absolutely prohibited, and swimming is only permitted when there are certified lifeguards present. Additionally, horse- back riding, skating, rollerblading, etc. is also prohibited during their stay.



Phone Calls Home: Each Caravan member has a specific day when he/she is scheduled to call home. All Caravan members are provided with calling cards, and their phone calls will be at no international calling expense to the host families.

Sleep: Please make sure, to the best of your ability, that the Caravan members receive at least six hours of sleep each night. While they would be happy to talk with you all night, they need their sleep to get through each busy and exciting day.

Drugs & Alcohol: As all Caravan members are under the age of 21, giving any Caravan member alcohol or drugs is strictly prohibited.