

# **Zionist Organization of America: Pittsburgh Israel Scholarships**

## **General Guidelines**

The ZOA Israel Scholarship Program was founded in 1962 as an investment in the children of our region. ZOA has found these trips very important in reinforcing the commitment of these students to Judaism and in giving them an appreciation of the centrality of Israel to Jewish life. The program continues today with funding from endowments underwritten by Avraham and Patti Anouchi, Bernard and Esther z"l Klionsky, Harold and Marla Scheinman, and the late Thelma Esman.

The Novick family created an endowment in honor of the late Ivan J. and Natalie E. Novick, two ardent Zionists active in Pittsburgh causes. This is especially noteworthy as Ivan was a National President of ZOA. Natalie is remembered for her generous spirit and leadership ability in Jewish causes which was evident to all who worked with her.

Pittsburgh ZOA would like to thank these families for their generosity, commitment and vision to perpetuate the Scholarship Program.

### Objectives of the Program

- Cement Jewish identity
- Appreciate Jewish religious practice
- Experience Jewish history
- Understand the role of Israel in Jewish life and civilization
- Understand the importance of charity as a tenet of Judaism
- Understand the importance of volunteerism and giving service to the community

### Establishment of selection criteria

- The Scholarship Committee will announce the program's commencement through print in Jewish media. Interested applicants must contact the ZOA office for an application
- Qualified applicants must submit a completed application by February 28th, 2017. All required accompanying documentation (picture, program description, acceptance letter and reference letter) must be included with the application. Incomplete applications, or applications not containing the required attachments, will be returned to the applicant and will not be considered as received until all portions are completed and resubmitted. Applications received after the deadline date will not be considered.
- All applications must be submitted to the ZOA office.
- Israel programs selected by the applicants must fulfill ZOA Program Objectives and be approved by ZOA.

- Three scholarships will be awarded.
  - The ZOA Israel Scholarship is available to high school students entering their junior or senior year in the fall of 2017. (\$1,000)
  - The Anouchi Israel Scholarship is available for undergraduate and graduate students, having completed one year of college, and doing research. (\$750)
- Priority may be given to students who
  - Display leadership qualities
  - Have volunteered for community service
  - Have not been to Israel
- Students are expected to speak about their Israel experience at a ZOA or other meeting and to participate in ZOA activities.
- Applicants should have general knowledge of the mission and objectives of the Zionist Organization of America.
- All applicants must be Jewish and permanent residents of Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Washington or Westmoreland counties.
- Interviews may be required and will be conducted with individual students, and their parent(s) when the applicant is a minor. There will be no group interviews.
- Applicants will be notified by U.S. mail of the committee's decision.

#### Distribution of Funds

- ZOA will remit any and all payments directly to the program students are attending. No funds will be sent to the students, or student's parents.
- Along with remittance of payments to programs of choice, a general letter of instruction will be included to the program requesting notification if for any reason the student does not attend the program, withdraws from the program early, or is asked to leave the program at any time during the program duration, along with an explanation of the reason for the termination of the students program.
- In some instances noted above, the program may expect to keep some or all funds already paid on behalf of the student because of the commitment made by the student to participate in the program. In such instances, the ZOA will initially contact the program in question to request a refund of any and all monies and should the circumstances surrounding the termination warrant the program to retain any and/or all monies. The ZOA shall hold the student and the student's family responsible for refunding to the ZOA, all monies provided by the ZOA or a pro-rated portion of the funds, as may be deemed appropriate by the ZOA Scholarship Committee.

revised 12/12/16