

Shalom,

I am writing to you because you have previously had interest in your family hosting a 17 year old member of the Israel Scout (Tzofim) Friendship Caravan. We have now confirmed the dates for this summer when they will be arriving. The dates they will be in Dallas are **July 3, 2017 – July 11, 2017**. The Dallas Jewish Community has a longstanding relationship with the Caravan dating back several decades and this year we are excited to inform you that we are expanding back to 7 nights this summer.

Anyone who has hosted can tell you about the amazing relationship you develop with your guest. It's a wonderful opportunity for your children to learn about Israel from a peer, build long lasting relationships and have friends to visit when they travel to Israel for their teen tour!

**The Guidelines:**

- Host family must be Jewish
- Must have at least one child in the 10 – 18 year old range
- At least one parent must be at home during the stay (This simply means that you can't leave a scout with an 18 year old while mom and dad are traveling to Rome or some other fabulous place!)
- We will match Scouts with families of similar dietary observance

**Expectations:**

- The Caravan has activities during the weekdays, you will need to provide transportation to a drop off point in North Dallas in the mornings (before 8am) and pick them back up in the late afternoon/evening. For those that live in Frisco or further North, you are welcome to drop your scout at my home which is near Parker & the Dallas North Tollroad in Plano.
- There are a few evening activities which host families will be invited to join.
- Spend time with your Scout as a family. They are here to learn about America and build relationships with you as well.
- There is an annual host family orientation within a month of the Caravan's arrival where we will be able to share which Scout you've been matched with.

**The Ask:**

The Caravan requires support and funding from each community they visit. The cost for the Caravan is approximately \$10,000. In the past, host families and Boy Scout Troop 729 raised the funds to cover the Caravan costs. When Troop 729 was active, we would receive enough donations to cover the expense of the Caravan as well as have additional funds remaining to pay for an outing that included the host families and scouts. Unfortunately, with Troop 729 not active, and the dropping of the requirement that host families make a donation, we had been falling short of our funding needs. Last year the committee decided to reinstate the policy of requesting host families to donate to the caravan. Last year eight host families made \$250 donations or larger compared to only a single family making a donation the year prior. With the addition of the donations from those eight families, we were able to pay off our balance

from the prior year as well as cover the costs for a host family/Caravan event. We are going to continue asking host families to donate to the Caravan and/or assist in fundraising. We ask families to consider a donation of \$250 or to ask friends and family for donations equal to that amount. However if your family can not afford it a lesser amount is acceptable. The Caravan is a registered 501c3 and donations are tax deductible.

**\*\*If you work for a company that matches tax deductible donations, please let us know and we are happy to provide you a W9 for the employer match.**

For more information about the Caravan experience, you can visit their website: [Tzofim Friendship Caravan](#) or contact me to discuss more details.

Please let me know if you would like to be considered as a host family. If you are unable to host this year, please show your support of the Caravan by making a donation. We have set up a GoFundMe website where you can make a tax deductible donation with a credit card by clicking [Donate Here!](#) You can also write a check and it should be made out to **Friends of Israel Scouts** and mailed to the address below.

Friends of Israel Scouts  
C/O Mark Zable  
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Plano, TX 75093

Best regards,

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