

Dear Hagesher,

“America and Israel share a special bond. Our relationship is unique among all nations. Like America, Israel is a strong democracy, a symbol of freedom, and an oasis of liberty, a home to the oppressed and persecuted.”

- Alan Dershowitz, *The Case for Israel*

In September of 2006, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad gave a very unique speech to the United Nations General Assembly in New York. In his speech he talked about a variety of issues, all of them pertaining to Israel or the US. Ahmadinejad made drastic claims and gave open remarks that directly slandered Israel such as “...Anybody who recognizes Israel will burn in the fire of the Islamic nation’s fury...” and then concluded with statements on their growing nuclear capabilities such as “...Iran is ready to transfer nuclear know-how to the Islamic countries due to their need...”

Hagesher, we live in an age that requires us to protect the things that we hold dear to us. Daily, Israel receives threats to be “wiped off the face of the map” and we need to make sure that we are there to defend our country. The big question is how. How do we protect Israel from these attacks? Well here is your answer...

February 19th to the 20th at Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El is the Hagesher Hechalutzim Shabbaton. During this Shabbaton you will actively learn about Israeli history, culture, and modern topics. In addition you will also learn successful advocacy techniques that will help defend Israel’s name both now and in the future. This is your opportunity to have an amazing weekend with your friends and learn tons of information in a fun, exciting way. The only requirement we have is that you are a member of Hechalutzim and if you are not, you can sign up on the application. All you need to do is include an additional \$10.00 to the application fee.

Please also note that Saturday evening the 20th begins a chapter program that is open to the Region at Adath Israel, Merion Station. There will be activities Saturday night (Falafel Fest with an added social action component) and then a sleepover as well. The fee for the program is not included in the Shabbaton fee and to register for that portion of the weekend you must contact Matan Silberstein at matan.silberstein@gmail.com

Referring to the quote at the beginning of the letter, Israel and America have a unique and special relationship. Above everything else, that is the most important thing that I learned at convention. We have this bond. Now it’s up to us to utilize this bond and keep it untouched and unharmed by slander and biasness. So please do yourself and Israel a favor, sign up and get ready to have fun!

B’ahavat Tzion

Louis Sacks
2009 – 2010 Hagesher Israel Affairs VP
2010 USY Israel Affairs VP

Registration Fee: \$65.00

Please note that late applications will be subject to a fee of \$15.00 and the application fee is not inclusive of transportation.

**USY Application Due Date
Monday, February 8th**
Chapter


Hagesher Chalutzim Shabbaton
February 19th and 20th, 2010
Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El, Wynnewood, PA



Name _____ Hebrew Name _____ Sex _____

Address _____

& Street

City/State

Zip

E-mail Address _____ Grade _____ Phone () _____ Birthday _____

Dad's Hebrew Name _____ Mom's Hebrew Name _____

Mother/Guardian _____ Work Phone () _____

Father/Guardian _____ Work Phone () _____

In Emergency Notify _____ Phone () _____

Medical Insurance Company and Policy Number _____

Current Medication _____ Check if being sent _____

Allergies _____

Physician _____ Phone () _____

Housing: We will be staying at homes on Friday night. Please make sure to write the names of two people (of the same gender) with whom you would like to be housed. Every attempt will be made to house each USYer with at least one of his/her choices. All Housing decisions are final.

I would like to be housed with:

1. _____ Chapter _____

2. _____ Chapter _____

I need to stay within walking distance to the synagogue: **Yes** **No**

I can lead the following services (please Circle):

Weekday:	P'Sukei D'Zimra	Shacharit	Mincha	Maariv	
Shabbat:	P'Sukei D'Zimra	Shacharit	Musaf	Maariv	Kabbalat Shabbat
Read Torah:	Read Haftorah	Be a Gabbai	Lead Birkat Hamazon	Lead Hamotzi	Lead Kiddush

My child has my permission to attend the Hagesher USY Chalutzim Shabbaton. In case of an emergency, I give the adult in charge my permission for medical treatment to facilitate immediate emergency action. I hereby authorize the medical personnel to order x-rays, routine tests and treatment for my child, and in the event I cannot be reached in an emergency, I hereby authorize the physician to hospitalize, secure proper treatment for and order injection and/or anesthesia and/or surgery for my child as named above. I understand that I shall be responsible to pay for any medical care rendered to my child while attending this USY function.

Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

During the convention, I give permission to to the staff member in charge to dispense over the counter medications. I understand that the amount of medication dispensed will be according to the recommended dosage on the bottle. These medications will mostly include, but are not limited to, Tylenol, Advil, Benedryl.

Parent Guardian _____ Date _____

Attention USYers:

You must be a member of Chalutzim in order to attend this convention. If you are unsure if you are a member, call the Regional Office to find out. If you are not a member and you would like to join, please include an additional \$10.00 to the application fee and we will sign you up!

Name of Participant _____

Region _____

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR USYERS, KADIMANIKS AND STAFF

Year after year, the Kadima and USY members have a great time at our Regional activities. Because of our genuine concern and care for each member, and so that all can enjoy these programs to the fullest extent without interference, we have a Code of Conduct at Regional events. These rules are basic, simple and fair, and in the best interest of all participants. It is the responsibility of parents to review these rules and stress their importance to their children as we will expect full compliance. We reserve the right to call parents of individuals whose behavior is inconsistent with the Code of Conduct below to personally pick up their child from the event (with no refund) and/or to exclude their child from future events.

1. There is to be no smoking.
2. There is to be no possession or use of any narcotics, marijuana, other illegal drugs or prescription drugs not prescribed for the user. Matches, firecrackers (or similar devices), knives, sharp or dangerous objects, as well as the items mentioned before are not permitted to be brought to camp, nor may they be in the possession or cabin of any Camper.
3. There will be no possession or consumption of any alcoholic beverages.
4. There will be no shoplifting or other theft of any kind.
5. If a USYer/Kadimanik is caught in possession of/or using alcohol or illegal drugs, he/she will immediately be sent home at his/her parents' expense. Furthermore, USY International policy states: "Anyone violating any such rules at a regional event for the infraction of these rules is barred from international events for one year following the infraction. Individuals will also be prohibited from participating in the next major regional USY program and other events occurring in the interim, and prohibited from chairing events or staffing programs for six months. Individuals already in leadership positions will be removed. A major Regional event is a regionally sponsored overnight event, such as a convention, Kinnus or Encampment. These events will also include (but are not limited to) the International USY Convention and USY summer programs." The Region reserves the right to impose additional sanctions in connection with this or any other improper behavior as it sees fit.
6. All participants are expected to be in sessions (services, meals, study groups, etc.). Swimming is permitted only at scheduled times when certified supervision is present. The pool and lake areas are off limits at all other times. Because the campgrounds are very spacious, certain other areas will be announced as off limits for your safety. NO USYer/Kadimanik may leave the premises without prior approval of the Regional Director and a parent.
7. All males are expected to bring a tallit and tefillin. All males are required to wear a kippah during all services, meals and study groups. Tallit/tefillin must be worn for morning services where appropriate.
8. Each participant is expected to maintain proper decorum and attitude during the entire program. Disruptive behavior (including, among other things, inappropriate sexual behavior) will not be tolerated. Your parents will be responsible to pay for any damage you may cause.
9. Proper dress is expected of everyone. For Shabbat, males must wear a shirt and tie or sweater, no jeans or sneakers. Females are to wear dresses or skirts, no shorts, culottes or dress pants. All USYers/Kadimaniks shall wear clothing appropriate to the event/location. Please note that you may not wear tank tops, halters, see through blouses or strapless shirts to regional events.
10. All housing/rooming/bunking assignments are final. Changes in bunking can only be made by the Regional Director or her designee. All USYers must be in their assigned bunks at curfew and remain there. Males are not permitted in sleeping rooms of females and females are not allowed in the sleeping rooms of males.
11. Each participant is expected to conduct him/herself appropriately as a Conservative Jew (including through the observance of Shabbat and Kashrut), in accordance with applicable standards of the Law and Standards Committee of the Rabbinical Assembly and/or the local Rabbinical Authority.
12. No USYer shall violate any civil or criminal law, including but not limited to, those related to tampering of or destruction of property, and destruction of one's own or another person's physical and/or mental integrity. Inappropriate or unwelcome physical contact or language, indecent attire or public nudity, shall not be permitted.
13. The Region reserves the right to search the room and belongings of any attendee if it has reasonable grounds to believe that such a search is necessary to secure and maintain the health, safety and/or welfare of the program and/or its participants. The USY or Kadima Director, in consultation with the Regional Youth Commission, reserves the right to enforce other rules relating to the integrity of the Regional Youth Program and/or the health, safety or welfare of its participants.

I have read these rules and understand them fully. I certify that I will adhere to this Code and will conduct myself in a manner reflecting credit upon myself, my Chapter, congregation and community. Any violation of this code of conduct may result in the participant being sent home at his/her parents' expense. The Regional Director has the sole discretion to send a participant home.

SIGNATURE OF USYer

I _____, the parent/guardian of _____, a minor, who will be participating in USY/Kadima Regional programs, do hereby certify that I have read the Code of Conduct set forth above. I do hereby agree that if my child who has signed the above Rules of Conduct fails to adhere to the Code, then in such event those persons in charge of the program may send my child home at my expense. I understand that the Regional Youth Director has the sole discretion to send my child home.

I have been made aware of the fact that the events in which my child is participating may be photographed by either amateur or professional photographers, that the photographs taken may be used both for purposes of reporting on the event or for such other use as the USY or Kadima organization may determine. I have no objection to the pictures taken being used at any time for promotional use. It is my understanding that by signing this document I consent to the use of the pictures just referred to for any purpose whatsoever.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT

DATE

ALL USYers/Kadimaniks MUST HAVE MEDICAL INSURANCE IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN REGIONAL PROGRAMS.