

ASB1



**Guides:** Samantha, Gabrielle, Lior  
**Group Cell:** 052-516-7404

## Monday, March 5

**Departure from JFK:** Meet together with 40 other American college students and young professionals, as you embark on a journey to do your part in building the Land of Israel. Together you will learn about the challenges of creating sustainable settlements in Israel's desert regions, the issues that face Israeli "development towns" on the periphery, environmental issues and - with JNF - take real steps toward continuing the reality of a Jewish State.

## Sunday, March 6

**Arrival in Israel!** After a brief snack and refreshment, together you travel south to the Negev desert to begin your seven-day adventure on this incredible JNF Alternative Spring Break Program!

**Travel South to the Negev Desert** where we will begin our program in Yerucham, one of Israel's original Negev development towns.

**Check in and Orientation** You and your peers begin to learn about each other and review the goals and highlights of the program. Learn about each other, where you come from, and what brought you to this program

**Overnight:** Beyachad in Yerucham – Negev Desert

## Monday, March 7

**Travel to Be'er Sheva – "The Capital of the Negev"**

**"Earth's Promise"** Meet with Noga Zohar, the Director of *Shavuat Ha'adamah* (Earth's Promise), which works with economically-disadvantaged Ethiopians in Be'er Sheva. Their current project is to take vacant parcels of land filled with garbage and debris, and with your help and the help of others in the neighborhood, clean the plot, lay down compost, and then gave out parcels of land on to Ethiopian families to farm. This urban farming is a twenty-first century version of Ben Gurion's dream to settle the desert, as well as a way to restore self pride and improve quality of life. In this particular project, you will continue the work of previous JNF Alternative Break groups in building an "urban sanctuary" along-side the community gardens, where families can relax and play together while working the land.

**Lunch** After a hard of meaningful work, you will have time to eat falafel and pita, unwind, relax, and reenergize for the afternoon ahead.

**Continuation of the Work Project**

**Discussion and Reflection** A follow-up conversation with residents and group reflection.

**Nahal Be'er Sheva** Tour the JNF project at the Be'er Sheva Promenade, part of the giant Be'er Sheva River development and restoration project that also includes sport and recreation facilities This project has already made a positive change in the quality of life of the residents of Israel's fourth largest city.

**Dinner and Group Discussion**

**Overnight:** Beyachad (Yerucham) – Negev Desert

## Tuesday, March 8

**Travel to "Karem Behar Hanegev Farm"**

**Orientation about the Project**

**Work project** – After meeting with Yossi, a former officer in the IDF who has now relocated his life and work to the Negev, we will be working with rocks and land to create terraces in which to contain water runoff and to promote crop growth for future seasons

**Lunch**

**Continuation of Work Project**

**Drive to Bahad** – Visit with soldiers

**Drive to Yerucham**

**Dinner and Group Activity**

**Overnight:** Beyachad (Yerucham) – Negev Desert

## Wednesday, March 9

**Drive to Mitzpeh Ramon**

**"Coloring Dimona"** After meeting with Chavatzelet from Amidar, a state-owned provider of subsidized and rent-controlled housing and learning about the day's work, you will head out to your work site—a neighborhood in Dimona, where you will spend the day painting murals on walls in community public spaces and apartment buildings, improving the quality of life for residents.

**Lunch**

**Continuation of the Work Project**

**Project Reflection**

**Hike at Nahal Chavarim-** Gorgeous hike in the Negev through ancient water reservoirs and opportunity to view indigenous plants and animals.

**Ben Gurion's Grave-** Learn and reflect on Ben Gurion's vision of the Negev and the passion of the original pioneers.

**Drive to Yerucham**

**Dinner and Group Activity**

**Overnight:** Beyachad (Yerucham) – Negev Desert

## Thursday, March 10

**Speaker from the Or Movement**

**Depart from the Negev Desert** This morning you leave the Negev, where you have seen communities struggle to create something out of little. Set out toward the center of the country – a fertile agricultural region – to see how we can deal with the problems of excess production.

**Visit to the JNF Sderot Indoor Playground** On March 14, 2009, one of JNF's latest projects - an indoor playground for the children of Sderot - was open for business and children can now enjoy sporting activities, a gaming center, and other features of this playground in a beautiful, underground structure safe from outside rocket threats. Spend time with the local children.

**Travel to Kvutzat Shiler**

**Lunch**

**Leket Yisrael** Spend the morning and early afternoon in a field outside, gleaned a harvest that will be donated to soup kitchens and food pantries throughout Israel later that day.

**Travel to Jerusalem**

**Visit to the Kotel**

**Check in and Dinner**

**Nu Campaign** - Grassroots Israeli organization that creates designer t-shirts that tell a story about different Israeli charities. Fantastic opportunity to find out how YOU can bring tzedek back to your local campus

**Overnight:** Jerusalem Ceasar Hotel - Jerusalem

## Friday, March 11

**Jerusalem "Green Project" at Bustan Hama'ayan** Spend the morning working with community activists who decided to make a garbage dump into an urban green space in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem neighborhood. Together you will build paths and terraces and help to maintain this nature sanctuary which provides a peaceful place for the residents of this hectic and at times stressful city.

**Shopping** No trip to Israel would be complete without a shopping stop at Jerusalem's famous Ben Yehuda Street pedestrian mall and Machane Yehuda Market (the *shuk*)

**Independent Lunch**

**Shabbat Preparation** After working and shopping you will return to our hotel with time to rest and prepare for a special Shabbat in Jerusalem

**Candle Lighting and Kabbalat Shabbat** We will welcome in Shabbat together with communal singing and lighting the Shabbat candles. You will then have the option of attending Shabbat services at a local traditional synagogue, attending our own egalitarian services in the hotel, or attending a discussion about Shabbat, also with our group.

**Shabbat Dinner** We will all come back together after Kabbalat Shabbat for a festive dinner followed by a "Shabbat party" in which we will tell stories about the week, sing, enjoy Israeli snacks, and take advantage of having time to relax together.

**Group Activity/Oneg for Shabbat**

**Overnight:** Jerusalem Ceasar Hotel - Jerusalem

## Shabbat, March 12

**Optional Worship**

**Shabbat Workshop on the Weekly Parsha**

**Shabbat Lunch**

**Shabbat Workshop on Justice and Judaism** Learn about the weekly Torah reading and discuss how it relates to the work you have been doing all week in Israel.

**Shabbat Rest - Menuchah**  
**Havdallah**

**Night Out On the Town** After time to rest, freshen up and eat dinner, we will head to downtown Jerusalem for a fun night out at the end of a long week of hard work!

**Overnight:** Jerusalem Ceasar Hotel – Jerusalem

## Sunday, March 13

**Depart Jerusalem**

**Drive to Carmel Forest**

**Orientation and Background on Forest Fire** Meet with KKL foresters and firefighters to find out about the devastation of Israel's worst forest fire that broke out on December 2, 2010

**Forestry Work** Help to prevent further destruction by participating in reforestation and preventative efforts in the Carmel forest

**Lunch**

**Hike in the Carmel**

**Travel to Dor Beach**

**Final Discussion and Dinner at Dor Beach**

**Travel to Ben Gurion Airport**

## Contact Numbers

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