



**USY makes a meaningful difference in your teen's life**

**USY is a second home — a safe, fun space where teens can be themselves and discover their potential.**

**USYers:**

- Belong to a warm, inclusive community
- Enjoy a much needed break from the social and academic pressures of high school
- Socialize with other teens from across North America and form lifelong friendships
- Explore the world and discover diverse cultures through immersive travel
- Develop and express their personal and spiritual identities
- Gain confidence and develop leadership skills
- Experience the joy of an authentic and dynamic Judaism
- Repair the world through volunteering, advocacy and giving to communities locally and globally

**Make a difference. Create an impact.**

# 324

chapters in USCJ affiliated synagogues

# 8,000

teens across North America

## 777

teens explored North America during the past 4 years

## 589

teens traveled to Israel, Poland and the Dominican Republic during the past 4 years

## 870

teens engaged in USY leadership development last year

## 210

teens participated in online Jewish learning last year

## \$110,500

raised by teens in 1 year for charitable giving

Teens volunteered

## 8,111

hours for 102 organizations last year



**Belong. Experience. Lead. Create. Impact.**



“USY is for teens who want to be Jewish and have fun. USY helps you understand that Judaism isn’t just about praying — it’s also about the culture and the community.”

Ari Solomon, Tampa, FL

## Everyone belongs at USY!

Everyone is welcome in USY, a diverse, inclusive community of Jewish teens from across North America.

USY creates an engaging environment for teens to gather with their friends and make new ones, developing bonds that last a lifetime. Teens participate in fun, dynamic programming, making connections with other USYers while also creating their own Jewish journeys.

For more than 60 years, USY has instilled strong values and leadership skills in teens during their high school years, while also preparing them for their college years and beyond. As a teen led organization, USY gives teens a powerful voice and the skills to make a positive difference in our world. USY is about impact today and in the future.

## Experiences that inspire leadership, connection and growth.

### Life-changing world travel:

USY summer trips enable teens to expand their horizons and open their eyes to new places and different cultures around the world. Destinations include North America, Israel, Poland and the Dominican Republic.

### Leadership training:

USY is a teen led organization, with leadership opportunities across chapter, regional and international levels. As leaders of their movement, USYers learn community organizing skills, organizational development, event planning and public speaking.

### Religious and spiritual development:

USYers explore contemporary topics through the lens of Jewish values and texts. Programming includes conventions during Shabbat and Torah Bytes, an online Torah discussion platform with teen-run webinars. USY also offers the Heschel Honor Society for teens who want to participate in Torah study, prayer and performing *mitzvot* (good deeds).

### Life-long ties with Israel:

USYers explore their personal connection to the land and people of Israel. Our *Chalutzim* Israel Club is perfect for teens who are passionate about Israel and want to share their views in open discussions and debates. *Takshivu*, a web series created by and for teens, is a great way to connect with Israeli culture, current events, history and cuisine. The Facebook group, *Hahadashot*, keeps teens up to date with daily Israeli life, from the latest news to the hottest songs.

“People aren’t afraid to show who they really are and be themselves. It’s truly my second home.”

Elizabeth Finer, Stoughton, MA



### Social action and social activism:

USY teens have a powerful voice and learn the skills to make a positive difference in our world. Through impactful experiences, we empower teens to volunteer, advocate and support causes and organizations. They perform acts of social justice through our *Tikun Olam* charity program and 613 Mitzvah Corps.

### Kadima:

Kadima is a program for middle-schoolers with programming closely tied to USY, including recreational activities, holiday celebrations, leadership development, weekend retreats, community service projects and end-of-summer sleepaway camp.

### Regional/chapter events:

There are many ways to get involved with USY, both through local chapter events at synagogues and larger regional events. All year long, chapters and regions offer dances, sports leagues, service days and overnight programs. This includes weekend conventions that bring teens together from Friday afternoon to Sunday morning to celebrate *Shabbat* with meaningful prayer and *ruach* (spirit).

“Being able to participate in USY leadership has been an amazing learning experience. The skills I’m learning now I will take with me for the rest of my life.”

Noa Kligfield, Los Angeles, CA

### Sleepaway camp:

Offered in select regions, USY’s week-long sleepaway camp is the perfect way for teens to end their summer. USYers participate in traditional camp activities such as swimming, sports, dance, color wars and rock climbing.

### International Convention:

Hundreds of USYers come together for five days of fun, friendship, celebration, Jewish learning and giving back to the local community. International Convention takes place annually at unique locations in North America.

Learn more about what USY offers your teen

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