



USY ON WHEELS, EAST

PROGRAM MANUAL

2012

OUR 52nd YEAR OF SERVICE

Aviva Tilles, DIRECTOR

JULES A. GUTIN, DIRECTOR
UNITED SYNAGOGUE YOUTH

THE USY ON WHEELS PROGRAM
IS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF
THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE
OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

820 Second Avenue
10th Floor
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017

212-533-7800 ext. 1146
FAX 212-353-9439
wheels@uscj.org



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the wonderful world of USY ON WHEELS! You are about to embark on a most exciting and unusual adventure and this manual is designed to tell you all about it. Of course, it is only by participating on USY on Wheels that you can actually experience it, but we want you to know as much about our program as possible before the summer begins. What is included in this manual is what will actually happen this coming summer. In addition, the basic USY on Wheels policies are described here so please **read this guide carefully.**

Your understanding and acceptance of these policies are crucial to a successful summer and positive experience for everyone.

USY on Wheels can be one of the most exciting adventures of your life, if you are prepared for it!

Travelling from New York to Canada and to Florida, participants on USY on Wheels, East (who we lovingly call "Wheelniks") will begin this summer at our orientation site in the New York/New Jersey area. USY on Wheels is not just another teen tour of North America. It is a total experience in Jewish living: an opportunity to live Jewishly with new friends from all across the country. Whether saying Birkat Hamazon (grace after meals) at the Lincoln Memorial, davening (praying) on the beach in Norfolk, or volunteering at a soup kitchen in Jacksonville, it is a chance to learn and to grow together as Jews

In many ways, USY on Wheels is the most effective means of determining people's impressions of what a Jew is really like. Thus, your behavior, language and other actions in public are crucial at all times in creating the proper impression about Jews. Each Wheelnik has a special responsibility as a participant in the program. You will not only represent yourself, you will also be representing United Synagogue Youth (USY) and United Synagogue Conservative Judaism (USCJ). Very often, the attitudes developed by people in various communities about Jews are based directly on their encounters with Wheelniks. Sometimes, the only contact a community has with Jews may be the annual visit of a Wheels bus. In some places, you may be one of the first Jews a person has ever met! **Your behavior within the Jewish community is also extremely important** and will be touched upon in greater detail in this manual.

Each year the USY on Wheels program undergoes changes. Some may be minor while others are significant. Therefore, do not rely on information provided by people who are not current USY on Wheels personnel. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us and we will try to help you as best we can.

USY on Wheels is sponsored by United Synagogue Youth and the International Youth Commission of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, which underwrites each participant by subsidizing this program.

USY on Wheels is one of the finest ways to spend your summer. You will learn more about

North America and about your Judaism than you could ever imagine. You will meet wonderful people from all over and make friends to last a lifetime!

So read on and prepare for the best summer of your life!!!

TRAVEL INFORMATION

BUS

USY on Wheels, East travels around the East Coast by bus. Each bus is air-conditioned and luxuriously equipped with reclining seats, tinted windows, DVD players, and a cell phone. There is a rest room on the bus. However, due to the fact that it would require time-consuming servicing by the bus driver and that it produces an odor, it is not used. Therefore, sufficient rest stops are made throughout the day for all passengers. The bus drivers are very experienced and are aware, as is the bus company, that safety always comes first and is of the utmost importance.

USY ON WHEELS, EAST will begin with an orientation in a **New York/New Jersey** area hotel at the end of June and will return to a New Jersey location at the end of July. Information will be forthcoming as to exact return location and time.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Please note that your bus is going into Canada- you must bring a passport with you on the first day of Wheels. If you already have a passport, check that it will be valid through February 2013. If the passport is not valid through February 2013 you will need to renew your passport before traveling on USY on Wheels.

GROUPS

The USY on Wheels, East bus is composed of approximately 40 Wheelniks and 5 staff members. The staff is made up of the Rosh Tiylul (group leader) and 4 madrichim (staff members) as well as the bus driver. They may be rabbis, educators, Jewish youth workers and/or college students.

STAFF

USY on Wheels chooses its staff with an eye to quality. To work for USY on Wheels is a coveted position, and we receive many applications each year for the available openings.

Selection is based upon extensive Jewish knowledge, commitment and experience working with youth. Our staff includes youth workers, rabbinical students, teachers and people who devote their lives and their talents to the Jewish people in general and to youth in particular. They are mature, responsible and caring people.

Each Wheels Bus has five staff members (One Rosh Tiylul and four staff members) and a bus driver. These individuals are responsible for the overall functioning of the trip. Together, these people create a joyous and stimulating atmosphere in which the USY on Wheels program grows and thrives.

During the summer, there is also a full array of staff including the Director of USY Summer Programs and Parent Liaison in our New York office, who are available to serve the needs of our participants and their parents.

ITINERARY

What are you going to see? How can you possibly see so much in only 4 weeks? You can imagine that these are often-asked questions by people who have never experienced USY on Wheels.

In the back of this manual you will find a sample itinerary for this incredible route that will tour the east coast of the United States and Canada. Some sights include: Disney World, Kennedy Space Center, Touro Synagogue, Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto, Virginia Beach, Great Lakes Science Center, Howe Caverns, and much more. Not only will the participants see many sights but they will also take a unique look at early Jewish life in North America.

Experiences such as these and many of the others you will encounter on USY on Wheels are special and the memories will last a lifetime.

In the back of this manual is a sample itinerary to show you how many miles our Wheels buses cover. This itinerary is subject to change depending on home hospitality and hotel availability.

ORIENTATION

Orientation for both programs will begin with registration in the late morning on the **first day of your program**. This overnight orientation is mandatory of all Wheelniks. Parents and friends are invited to attend. You will be receiving additional information and instructions about this in the spring.

At orientation, you will have an opportunity to meet your fellow Wheelniks and staff, as well as the Central Wheels staff. You will receive regalia and kits and a preview of the summer ahead of you.

We suggest that your family stay throughout the afternoon session on orientation day, during which a special session will be held for your parents and plan to bid farewell **by 2:00pm**. Dinner will be provided for Wheelniks. This will enable you to concentrate your energies on getting to know the other members of your bus.

ACCOMMODATIONS

HOTELS

There are many types of facilities utilized by USY on Wheels. They usually are hotels and motels of chains such as Hilton, Holiday Inn, Hyatt, Sheraton and Marriott. They are very nice and have been used by Wheels for many summers. New hotels are evaluated by either a staff member or representative of Wheels to determine their suitability for use by our program.

Rooms usually contain two double beds for three or four Wheelniks. Rooming will be done on a rotation basis. At each new stop, you will have new roommates. This will give you the opportunity of getting to know your fellow Wheelniks as well as possible. **There is no need for you to bring a sleeping bag or linens.**

HOME HOSPITALITY

Home hospitality is one of the unique aspects of USY on Wheels that makes our trip so special. Each Wheels bus will have the opportunity to spend several nights with families from our Conservative congregations across the country. These families open their homes for you for the duration of your stay. They usually go out of their way to insure your comfort and it is important to remember that the mitzvah of Hachnasat Orchim (hospitality) applies as much to being a proper guest as to being a proper host. Many Wheelniks in the past have corresponded with their hosts for years after their summer on Wheels.

Programming within home hospitality is done with the local USY chapters. The purpose of this programming is two-fold. In addition to normal sightseeing, you will have the opportunity to meet with USYers across the country. This is an exciting experience of which you should take full advantage and when local USYers join the bus.

Each of you will be responsible for writing an individual "thank you" note to your host after your stay - even if there are more than one or two Wheelniks in a home.

Please remember that we stop at homes, synagogues, hotels and national parks and you will not find a porter or bellhop at any of these places. Therefore, we urge you, once again, to travel light. Remember, also, that your suitcase will become fuller and heavier as the summer moves along as you put your souvenirs into it. We have provided a full packing list later on in this booklet.

DAILY LIVING

A "typical" day on Wheels starts with wake-up from approximately 6:00 to 7:00 A.M. You will begin the day with Shacharit (morning) services and breakfast. Loading the bus is then handled by a committee of Wheelniks who see that this is done quickly and efficiently and that everyone's luggage is on board. However, it is the individual's responsibility to make sure that all personal belongings have been put on the bus and have been taken from the hotel.

Bus trips may be long or short, depending on where you are traveling to on any given day. Indeed there are many times throughout the summer when you only will do local traveling and will not move on to a new city. On longer trips, certain rest stops will be scheduled and throughout the day your Wheels group will take advantage of all that North America has to offer. These longer rides provide some of the best opportunities to express your own creativity. You may write poetry, crochet kippot, sing songs or even learn how to read Torah or lead Tefillot (prayer). In addition, that time should be used for writing letters, listening to music, reading and, of course, getting to know the people around you!

An appropriate curfew will be established by the group leader for the group each evening giving everyone opportunity for adequate rest. Also, since you will be keeping a very hectic pace

during the summer, you will frequently have early morning quiet hours on the bus to catch up on some additional sleep. However, it is extremely important that you observe the curfew in order to achieve the most from the summer's experience.

Every Wheelnik serves on various committees throughout the summer. These committees include such activities as loading the bus, meal preparation, Tefillot and Shabbat. The committees are rotated throughout the summer so that you will have the chance to help in many different ways. It is your participation in these and other aspects of the summer that will guarantee that the bus runs smoothly.

LAUNDRY

There will be several occasions when the group will travel to a Laundromat to do laundry as a group activity. You should be sure to bring primarily wash and wear clothing which you can also wash out and allow to dry overnight in your hotel room. Be sure to try out new clothes before the trip; manufacturers claims cannot always be relied upon. As a reminder, you will need to do your own laundry at these laundromats. We recommend bringing 10-14 days worth of clothing for the summer (see packing list).

You can buy small packages of laundry soap along the way. You may want to bring small packets of Woolite in case you need to hand wash any of your clothing. Needless to say, opportunities for dry cleaning will **not** be available.

VISITING RELATIVES

Wheelniks are generally not permitted to leave the group. If you wish to see relatives around the country, you may invite them to visit you at the hotel or synagogue in which you are staying, or meet them at a site that your group is visiting - **ONLY WITH PRIOR WRITTEN PARENTAL PERMISSION TO THE NEW YORK OFFICE AND PERMISSION OF THE STAFF AND AT A TIME DESIGNATED BY THE STAFF!! Wheelniks ARE NOT permitted to arrange visitation on their own.** No visitations whatsoever will be permitted on Shabbat. Of course when visiting relatives or friends, it is expected that all Wheels' policies such as Kashrut will be observed. Please note that at no time will you be permitted to stay overnight at your friend's or relative's homes

As the summer approaches, you will receive a link to the **Relative Visitation Form** which you will be asked to complete and to return to the USY office no later than **June 5, 2012**. Your parent or guardian must sign the form. No visitation will be allowed without their written permission. If an opportunity for visitation should arise over the summer, your parents will need to contact the New York office in writing to approve these additional visitations.

FREE TIME

There are various occasions for free time on Wheels. These include sightseeing or browsing in small groups in a museum, a national park, or other tourist attractions. This is done under the complete direction and guidance of the staff. "Free time" must be spent in groups of three or more Wheelniks. Most of our time, however, is spent in group activities and pre-arranged programming.

MAINTENANCE OF THE QUARTERS

When staying in a hotel or motel, you will not be expected to make your own bed each day. However, you will be expected to keep the room neat so that when the hotel chamber staff comes in to make up your room the following morning, they can easily find your bed and clean other portions of the room and bathroom.

Each Wheelnik and his or her parent or guardian is responsible for reimbursing any hotel for damage done by them during their stay.

Remember you are staying in a "public" place. When you keep your belongings neat, things are less likely to get lost or disappear.

Here, too, you are making an impression upon other people, and it is important for our reputation to present a neat and positive appearance. Needless to say, in spite of whatever your host or hostess may say, when you are staying in a **home hospitality** situation, making the bed should be the first thing you do when you get up in the morning. Always hang up all of your clothing, and do not leave things lying around the room or house. **It is also your responsibility to make sure that your host gets you to the meeting place (usually the synagogue) ON TIME.**

CONTACTING THE WHEELNIKS

It is especially important for your family to remember to write frequently to you. Wheelniks really look forward to receiving their friends' and parents' letters as often as possible throughout the summer and it is always a nice treat when you arrive in a new community to receive the mail that has been awaiting your arrival. Parents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents and good friends - you can't believe how the Wheelniks await your mail. Please remember to write frequently - and please, the tone of your letter can directly affect your Wheelniks enjoyment of the trip.

If you are sending a package to your Wheelnik, we recommend that you send it to a Shabbat Hotel. If you are sending something important in the package, such as medicine, please make sure you inform our office. Once you send your package, you can track its progress and make sure that it arrives at its destination. Once we arrive at any hotel, the group leader will check the front desk for any mail or packages that have arrived for the Wheelniks in the group. You should be sure that your Wheelnik knows to expect a package from you, and where it will be waiting for them, so that they can check with their group leader. If your child has a birthday, and you would like to send them a package by surprise, please let our office know in advance.

We have found that receiving mail at National Parks is not always easy or reliable. Therefore, we do not recommend sending any mail or packages to the National Parks.

Bring stamps with you for letters and postcards. It is most convenient to carry them in the stamp book sold at all post offices. Buy a few of these books before you leave for the summer, since you will need plenty of stamps and the post office is not always convenient while on the road.

Our summer is very busy and time spent on the phone takes away from sightseeing and meeting friends. Please also note that **all incoming calls to any hotel will be directed to the group**

leaders room. Please work with your child in limiting the times s/he will call home. Cell phones are permitted during the summer, but are only allowed to be used during set times throughout the day. They are not permitted to be used on the bus, during any type of programming or on Shabbat. **USY on Wheels is not responsible for lost cell phones.**

If there is ever a need to share bad news with a Wheelnik, please call the USY office first so that the Director and group staff can help when the news must be told to your child.

INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

We encourage the Wheelniks to become friends with each other, and many of these friendships last a lifetime. In order to have this occur in the most positive way, we have set certain guidelines while we are in hotels.

We are pleased to point out that Wheels is a co-ed trip. We are fully aware of the problems that you may face, especially when a "couple" breaks up during the summer, causing emotional strain for either one or both parties involved. Although this would not be as distracting in camp, or under ordinary circumstances, the fact that the bus becomes such a close knit group, only adds to the possible anxiety. When two people who are more interested in each other than the Wheels program, there is a tendency to do harm to their own summer, in addition to that of the group. The group Wheels staff will maintain a close relationship with all the Wheelniks, and will feel free to speak to you if they believe that a social relationship may be hurting your summer, or the group's summer.

There will be certain areas of the hotel that will be set aside for everyone's use; to sit or to talk with one another. After a long, hard day, people may want to relax in their own room. To make sure that they can feel comfortable there, **males are not allowed in female's rooms or on female floors and vice versa.** This allows everyone the opportunity to relax as they please without worry.

FINANCES

PROGRAM COST

The price for USY on Wheels, East includes room and board, sightseeing, admission fees, educational materials, Wheels bag, and Orientation. This price does **NOT** include personal medical insurance, nor does it include personal items, souvenirs, snacks, stamps, or trip cancellation. There may be times during the summer when you will want to purchase a snack, a drink, or other extras. These costs are paid by the individual.

PAYMENT AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The balance of fees for the program is due into the USY International Office no later than **April 1, 2012.** This is vital since most of our program expenses are paid before the summer in order to guarantee reservations.

There are a number of sources for scholarship funds.

- 1) **Help a Friend** – Talk to your friends about the program you are going on this summer and if they decide to sign up you will get \$50 off your program. For every person that you get to enroll on a USY Summer Program, who indicated that you are the reason they are signing up, you will get \$50 off your own summer escape.
- 2) **Men's Club, Sisterhood, etc.,** – Contact your synagogue's Men's Club and Sisterhood. They may have scholarship funds available.
- 3) **Your Rabbi** – Rabbis have discretionary funds and often want to help people like you get to Israel.
- 4) **Announcement in your Synagogue Bulletin or Weekly Newsletter** – If you send our office (either via hard copy or email) a copy of the announcement in your synagogue's publication with your name and the program you are enrolled in, you will earn \$50 towards your summer program. We have 4 versions available at:
<http://www.usy.org/escape/ads/>
- 5) **Federation** – some Federations offer scholarship for USY on Wheels programs.
- 6) **Your USY Region** – Each USY region has a limited amount of funds available through their Tikun Olam Tzedakah program. Please check with your Regional Youth Director for additional details.
- 7) Some communities throughout North America have a **Hebrew Free Loan Association**. Although these are not scholarships, they are interest-free loans. Which may also be of assistance.
- 8) The **International USY office** has a very limited amount of funds available for cases of extreme and unique need. There is an application process. Applicants must show that they have applied for other assistance as well. Our funds can only be applied after the applicant demonstrates that they have sought additional assistance through other sources.

Please do not wait until the last minute to seek assistance, since all scholarship granting agencies have deadlines and limited funds.

If you expect to receive a Tikun Olam scholarship, the procedure is slightly different. You may deduct the amount of money you expect to receive from the total amount due on **April 1, 2012**. These monies are transferred from your Regional USY office to your Wheels account at the end of May. When you are notified of the amount of the scholarship, you should pay the difference immediately (**but no later than April 1st**). If you do receive a **scholarship from a source other than Tikun Olam**, payment is still due **by April 1, 2012**.

In cases where an overpayment has occurred due the receipt of scholarships, refund checks will be sent directly back to the family.

Along with scholarships, International USY can help you set up a **payment plan**. This plan will assist in paying for a certain program over a period of time. If you are interested in setting up a payment plan, please be in touch as soon as possible with Aviva Tilles, Director of USY Summer Programs, via email at tilles@uscj.org or via phone at 212-533-7800 ext 1116.

INDIVIDUAL EXPENSES

Each Wheelnik should bring money along to cover personal expenses. The amount you bring should be discussed with your parents. Keep in mind the fact that you will be paying for snacks,

souvenirs, or an activity that you personally want to do.

Past Wheelniks have recommended \$500 as an ample amount of spending money. This should be in the form of debit cards. **Lost cash cannot be recovered.** Remember that this money is your responsibility throughout the summer and you should spend it wisely.

We recommend that if you choose to use a debit card, it is one that you can add money to as your child may run out. (Some people have used the Visa check card in the past or the American Express check card). Payoneer has designed a prepaid MasterCard/debit card program to accommodate the specific needs of participants traveling. Additionally, most banks and AAA have Visa/debit cards available for purchase.

NOTE: NEVER SEND MONEY TO CANADA!

COLLECTIVE TREASURY (Group *Kuppah*)

There are a number of events that occur within a group, such as birthdays, which the group will want to celebrate or for which the group will want to prepare a special activity. In order to make sure that this is possible, the groups will establish a *Kuppah* (treasury). Each person will contribute \$50 per person that is used for birthday cakes, the group picture, the group T-shirts, and the final banquet. The *Kuppah* is important because it provides the group with the wherewithal to incorporate these little human touches that can make the summer truly memorable.

GRATUITIES

Each Wheelnik will also be giving a gratuity to the bus driver in the amount of \$20.00. At the orientation a staff member will collect the gratuity that will be given to the bus driver at the closing banquet. This is a small amount considering the expertise and good service that each driver gives.

Aside from the bus driver's tip (as mentioned above), we do not allow staff members to accept gratuities. The staff members do receive a salary for their summer work and we request that parents not present them with monetary tips. In lieu of gratuities, we suggest that you make a donation to the USY Summer Program Scholarship Fund in honor of your child's staff. You will receive a mailing during the summer that will fully explain the donation procedure.

WHAT MAKES USY ON WHEELS SO SPECIAL?

USY on Wheels is a very special experience both physically and spiritually. We want to ensure the best possible program for our participants. Perhaps more than anything else, it is the combination of amazing Wheelniks, the wonderful staff and the Jewish lifestyle that creates the magical atmosphere of USY on Wheels. The elements of the wonderful sights that are seen, meeting new friends, Jewish ritual and study combine to create a community that is truly unique and special. But one can only understand it if he or she experiences it.

TEFILLAH – CREATIVITY AND PRAYER

The religious program of USY on Wheels aims at creating an understanding and appreciation of

Tefillah. For many, this will be the first opportunity to pray on a regular basis and it may seem strange, particularly if one is unfamiliar with the structure of the service and the individual prayers themselves. You, your fellow Wheelniks and your staff will come together to create a support group and the proper atmosphere in which we can feel comfortable while we pray. It is important that we take advantage of this unique experience to learn and grow with your fellow Wheelniks and staff.

Imagine the beauty of a sunrise Shacharit service at Niagara Falls, Mincha service on The Mall in Washington DC, or a Kabbalat Shabbat service overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Imagine Havdalah at the beach, Hip-Hop Shacharit, or expressing prayers through the arts. Think of your reaction upon having a person from some other tour coming over to you to suddenly remembering that he is a Jew. Such experiences happen every year and have reminded the Wheelniks how fortunate they are to have maintained and strengthened their identity as Jews by participating in a Jewish experience. Creativity is welcome and is a daily part of the Wheels prayer experience. Think of the scene of your group discussing the meaning of a single blessing and wondering and learning how it relates to your daily lives. This only serves to enhance the Wheelniks' overall experience.

All participants in the USY on Wheels program engage in daily prayer, including the Shacharit (morning) service, as well as Mincha (afternoon) and/or Maariv (evening) service. On Shabbat, we have additional services starting Friday evening with a lively Kabbalat Shabbat and concluding on Saturday evening with a meaningful Havdalah.

Every Meal begins with HaMotzi and ends with Birkat Hamazon (Grace after Meals). By the end of the summer, all Wheelniks will have an understanding and deeper appreciation of this prayer.

SHABBAT

Regardless of how much or how little experience you have had with Shabbat in the past, together with your fellow Wheelniks and staff, you will experience Shabbat as never before, making it a special and meaningful experience. USY on Wheels will provide a special opportunity to enjoy and to participate in enhancing Shabbat to its fullest. Shabbat is a wonderful phenomenon, in that it becomes that much more special each time we observe it and this is especially true on Wheels.

All week long you will be traveling, rushing and doing many things at a quick pace. You will cover many miles each week, visit many communities and see many sights. On Shabbat, however, you will slow down and relax. Your bus will stop traveling on Friday afternoon and the group will not travel until after Shabbat is over.

Song and dance will fill the air as you rejoice and enjoy your friendships, your prayers, your leisure and your environment. You will strive to achieve true "Menucha" - rest and peace of mind and learn from one another. Dress is an important expression of Shabbat. Girls should bring at least 2 skirts and shirts appropriate to wear on Friday night and Saturday. Suits are not required for boys; however, a nice pair of pants (no jeans) and a shirt are needed for Shabbat. This type of dress and "cleanliness" enhance the Shabbat atmosphere, and differentiate it from

other days of the week.

Shabbat is a day set apart from the hectic week to which you will quickly become accustomed; a chance for you to talk with your friend, take a leisurely walk, or just catch up on some sleep. We, as a group on USY on Wheels and as individuals in public areas, refrain from the following in order to create the Ruach (spirit) of Shabbat: traveling, writing, doing laundry, blow-drying or straightening hair, playing musical instruments, listening to an iPod, watching television, or using your cell.

In order for Wheelniks to fully enjoy the Shabbat experience, you must be willing to participate in it, even though some aspects of Shabbat observance may be new to you. Each Shabbat will be special, something you will look back upon next fall as probably the most enjoyable experience of all your activities this summer.

KASHRUT

One of the best learning experiences on the USY on Wheels program is that of observing Kashrut (the Jewish Dietary Law).

Our observance of Kashrut as a USY group is in accordance with the tenets set by the Committee on Law and Standards of the Conservative Movement, which applies to all meals served each day. In addition, **Kashrut is followed even when you are away from the group** (ordering or eating food on your own). As part of your orientation and through the trip you will learn how to check ingredients for products to make sure that what you are eating is Kosher. **KASHRUT IS OBSERVED AT ALL TIMES BY ALL WHEELS PARTICIPANTS AND STAFF.**

On Wheels, the minimum amount of time we wait after eating meat, before we can eat a dairy product (e.g. ice cream, candy), is three hours. Some of you may choose to wait a longer period of time and your wishes will certainly be respected at all times. Some of the rules of Kashrut may be new to you, but there will be many opportunities to learn about them over the course of the summer.

Sometimes, as you travel around the country, USY on Wheels will be the guest of local USYers as part of our Home Hospitality Program. This allows you to sleep in their homes and eat with them. Most meals are in the synagogue, but some meals (such as breakfast), may be in the home. This is our Home Hospitality Program and it is one of the unique advantages of USY on Wheels. You can be sure that meals eaten within the synagogue will be kosher. However, in the homes, it is possible that at some time you may be innocently offered a non-kosher product that is not acceptable. For example, you may be offered ice cream in the home of your host shortly after eating a meat meal in the synagogue. If such a situation arises, in the most polite way possible, explain that as someone who observes Kashrut, you are not able to have that food. This is a perfect opportunity to share your knowledge of Kashrut with someone who might not be as familiar with it as you are.

Wheels enjoys special food arrangements with various kosher caterers. We purchase a wide variety of kosher dinners from them. We then arrange with hotels throughout the country to heat

and serve these for you. This has worked out extremely well and gives you the opportunity to have kosher meals in many unlikely places.

Wheelniks work together as part of a big family to help prepare these meals and the results are extremely worth while. This preparation includes shopping for food in local supermarkets on a rotating basis with other Wheelniks and a staff member.

One of the most difficult, yet worthwhile experiences concerning Kashrut, is our occasional use of restaurants. A committee of staff members and USYers, on a rotating basis, will go to a nearby restaurant on occasion during the summer and examine the facility for its menu and for the means of preparation of food that you would want. For example, if they were to prepare fish on a grill on which they prepare meat, the food would be unacceptable, unless the grill were covered with fresh aluminum foil. We also want to ensure that the proper vegetable oil is used for such preparation, and that the bread eaten is made with vegetable shortening and not prepared with lard. Many more questions are asked and precautions are taken. You will learn about the details as you participate on Wheels this summer. This method also gives Wheelniks, with direction by the staff, an opportunity to plan the menu for each meal according to the Kashrut guidelines as established by the Committee on Law and Standards of the Rabbinical Assembly.

The official USY on Wheels Kashrut policy is included in this manual as Appendix A.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

While on Wheels, there will be educational experiences every day. These experiences may be in the form of sichot (discussion groups), presentations, or Divrei Torah (explanations of particular themes in the Torah or a prayer). In each of these you will be encouraged to seek an understanding of Jewish traditions and values and how they relate to you in your everyday life.

The educational program is both formal and informal. Discussion groups are devoted to such topics as the Jewish life cycle, the North American Jewish community and the Jewish perspectives on hot topics such as body image. You will be dealing with Jewish concepts and studying their reasons, backgrounds and meanings to discover how they apply to your daily living experience on Wheels. You will learn by DOING and LIVING. Our staff will lead the discussions that will sometimes take place on a picnic ground, in a hotel meeting room, on the top of a mountain, or in the depths of a canyon - any place on the continent might be the site of a Wheels discussion group.

Shabbat and travel time on the bus are two excellent opportunities for you and your staff to have additional informal discussion groups. In the past, Wheels participants and the staff have usually chosen topics of special interest to explore further, such as social justice, Israel, environmental activism, and contemporary issues as they relate to Judaism. Each Wheels bus carries a library, including not only reference works and volumes of Judaism, but also fictional literature. We strongly urge each of you to feel free to ask a staff member to sit and to talk, individually or in a group.

Teaching and learning Hebrew have been successful programs on Wheels. If you want to learn basic Hebrew or continue your spoken language skills our staff is always willing and available to work with you.

USY on Wheels is a wonderful opportunity to increase your educational and cultural exposure of Judaism. Wheelniks are also strongly encouraged to bring along their musical instruments (provided they are small) and a space on the bus will be reserved for them.

SOCIAL ACTION AND TZEDAKAH PROGRAMMING

While traveling across the country, you will do more than just see sights. You will learn about performing many Mitzvot (good deeds) along with the mitzvah of *Hachnasat Orchim* (that is referred to in the Home Hospitality section in this booklet). You will also learn about and perform acts of *Gemilut Hasadim* (acts of loving kindness). You will engage in Social Action projects, which may range from serving a meal in a soup kitchen in Boston to singing songs at a retirement home in Cleveland.

In addition to Social Action projects, each Wheels bus raises hundreds of dollars for *Tikun Olam*, USY's International Tzedakah. Through Tikun Olam, hundreds of Jewish charities around the world benefit from money raised by USYers. Wheelniks are part of this endeavor. This is an accomplishment about which we are very proud.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

The USY on Wheels staff shares a responsibility with you to keep you healthy throughout the summer. We take this seriously and expect that you will do the same.

Failure to disclose medical information to us will prevent us from giving each Wheelnik the medical coverage and attention he or she deserves. This includes, but is not limited to, allergies, psychiatric care and past illnesses.

The Medical Form is to be filled out completely and signed by your parent/guardian and by your doctor. No individual has yet been turned away from participating on Wheels due to physical disabilities when the physician has felt that he/she could adapt to the program.

In order for the Wheels staff to be able to deal with medical problems, they must be made aware of them. Failure to report existing or developing conditions may jeopardize your participation on Wheels. The medical form is due in our office no later than April 1, 2012.

Medications: All prescription medications (with the exception of one epi-pen and emergency inhaler) must be clearly indicated on the medical form, or in writing if prescribed after submission. Wheelniks may not hold their own prescription medication. The group staff will collect medication at orientation and will hold it for the Wheelniks to take as prescribed.

It is absolutely necessary that we be informed of any special medical, health, dietary restrictions (including vegetarians and lactose intolerance) or personal situations and conditions in order for our staff to be properly briefed and prepared. If any situation changes between the time we receive the initial information and the time that Wheels leaves, we should be advised

immediately. Only with honest, up-to-date information, can we be responsible for your health and well-being.

IF ANY PHYSICAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL ILLNESS OCCURS ON THIS TRIP AND IT IS FOUND THAT THERE IS A PAST HISTORY OF THIS ILLNESS, WHICH WAS NOT REPORTED, THE PARTICIPANT MAY BE SENT HOME WITH EXPENSE TO BE INCURRED BY THE PARENTS.

If you wear **glasses** or **contact lenses**, please bring an extra pair with you **plus** a written copy of your prescription with you and give it to your group leader before your bus leaves.

USY Summer Programs Vaccination Policy

All participants attending USY Summer Programs must have completed a primary series of vaccinations for the following high risk diseases:

- 1) DTP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis) with one dose after age 4
- 2) Polio (oral or inactivated – with booster dose after age 4)
- 3) Tetanus Booster -Td or Tdap (Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis) within the past 5-10 years (5 years preferred)
- 4) MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) – 2 doses after age 1
- 5) HBV (Hepatitis B)
- 6) Chicken Pox (in absence of disease history) – 2 doses - 1 after age 4
- 7) Menactra (meningococcal meningitis)
- 8) Hepatitis A (highly recommended but not required)

Those who choose not to be vaccinated will not be allowed to participate on a USY Summer Program. If a participant is not vaccinated for reasons of immunodeficiency, or other medically documented reasons, they must provide USY Summer Programs with a detailed explanation by a physician, and their participation will then be subject to further approval by the USY office.

ALLERGIES

If you have any allergies (**including pet allergies**) you must indicate this on your medical form. This becomes very important when we house USYers for home hospitality. In addition, please include the type of reaction that you have to a particular allergen as well as the treatment that has relieved an attack in the past.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR PET ALLERGIES: You will spend approximately 5-7 nights per summer in Home Hospitality. If you have indicated on your medical form that you are allergic to pets, we do everything possible to insure that you will not be housed in a congregant's home with a pet. If, however, you find that you were accidentally placed in a house with a pet, you **MUST** contact your group leader **IMMEDIATELY** so your housing can be changed.

SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY, in order for you to return the form on time. We have found in the past that Wheelniks who do not make this appointment immediately upon receipt of these instructions often have difficulty returning the forms on time.

Be sure that the medical form has all signatures and information. You cannot be accepted for Wheels until the completed medical form has been returned to the USY office.

If a Wheelnik contracts mononucleosis within 90 days of the day of departure, please have your physician send written authorization for him/her to participate in the program. Due to the contagious nature of this condition we need to be very careful.

Please have your teeth checked before departure, so that if you are in need of dental attention, you can complete it before the program starts. If you have braces or other orthodontic devices, please make sure to have them checked before the summer as well. Poor teeth can suddenly become very painful and dental and orthodontic care on Wheels is more difficult to arrange than normal medical services. Of course, any emergencies will be taken care of immediately at your expense.

The WHEELS program will utilize local doctors and hospital emergency rooms to treat children that need medical care. We will carry a full kit of first aid and over the counter medicine with us, but whenever the child is sick we will seek professional care. If your child is taken to the doctor, for any reason, you will be called. We will attempt to call you before your child is seen by a doctor, but please realize that this is not always possible. However, at no time, unless in a dire emergency, will there be any major treatment without your prior knowledge and approval.

If a prescription is needed, we will always purchase it for your child and bill you at a later date. If your child has a credit card with them, they can pay for a prescription on site. In addition, if special rest or conditions are necessary, we will do our best to make sure your child receives it. If a situation arises, where together, the WHEELS Director and the parent decide that your child would be better off at home for a while, we will arrange that as well. Flight arrangements will be at the family's expense.

If there are any medical emergencies during the summer, we will do our best to be in touch with the parents immediately. If we are unable to do so, we will be in touch with you as soon as possible after the proper treatment was given. Please be sure to provide us with all the appropriate information with regard to your health insurance

INSURANCE

Every Wheelnik **must** be insured for accident and sickness and we must have the name and address of your insurance company. Please make sure that proper information is given on the enrollment form. Also, please list the policy numbers of Blue Cross, Blue Shield, Major Medical and/or any other types of coverage you have and what it includes. **PLEASE SEND A COPY OF THE INSURANCE CARD (FRONT AND BACK) ALONG WITH YOUR ENROLLMENT FORM.**

All medical expenses for the Wheelnik incurred during the summer will be the responsibility of the Wheelnik and his or her parent/guardian.

We suggest that you contact the company that handles your homeowners insurance to see if you have coverage for items lost while traveling. If not, you may want to consider supplementary coverage. You can do so by inquiring through local travel agencies, insurance companies, or at www.TravelInsuranceIsrael.com. (We do not endorse this company or their product. We provide this information as a service to you.)

PACKING INFORMATION

Clothing should be geared toward the informality of the program, taking into account the warm climate of the United States during the summer months. The emphasis should be **sport clothes, light weight and easily laundered**. Ironing is difficult, so please bring drip-dry, wash-and-wear, no iron permanent press type clothing.

Jeans are desirable for certain places. Take ample supply of underclothes - this applies to both boys and girls. Since the sun is strong, you must bring a good pair of sun glasses and a hat.

While traveling, you will probably find it most comfortable to wear jeans or sweatpants and also a sweatshirt as the bus is air-conditioned. You will have the opportunity to purchase sweatshirts and pants from the USY office as the summer gets closer. One sweatshirt should be sufficient for the bus and for the evening weather. You would do well not to take your best clothes as the circumstances of travel are not always ideal. Clothes that are casual and wash-and-wear the most useful. While we want you to dress neatly and cleanly at all times, please bear in mind that simplicity and modesty should be important guidelines in choosing the clothes you will bring.

We insist on proper dress for Shabbat. One way that we make Shabbat different than the other days of the week is to dress "nicer"! Please bring "nicer" clothes for Shabbat. This does not mean jacket & ties for guys or fancy dresses for girls. It does mean nice casual clothes. Girls should note that mix-match skirts and shirts may be more useful than dresses.

EVERY WHEELNIK MUST REMEMBER THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO BRING AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE. EACH OF YOU IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CARRYING YOUR OWN SUITCASE. YOU WILL WANT TO HAVE ROOM FOR THINGS YOU WILL BE PICKING UP ALONG THE WAY.

LUGGAGE

Each participant is limited to only **one 26" X 20" X 10" (Standard Pullman suitcase) (absolutely no expandable suitcases or duffle bags)**. The buses carry a large supply of food and utensils that are necessary for us to keep Kosher and therefore, we have a limited amount of space. For this reason, if your suitcase is larger than the maximum size, you will be required at orientation to purchase a suitcase that follows our specific requirements. A list of stores in the area of our hotel will be provided at orientation should it be needed.

Please save yourself any complications and make sure that your suitcase measures **no greater than 26" X 20" X 10"**.

The suitcase should be lightweight and sturdy since it will have to take a lot of wear and tear over the course of the summer. Wheels are permissible and highly recommended, but duffle bags are not.

If your suitcase has an expandable feature, it must fit the **26" X 20" X 10"** guidelines in order to be used. If expanding the suitcase will bring it over **26" X 20" X 10"**, you may use the suitcase, but not expand it in any way.

Everyone will receive an ample size duffle bag at orientation to hold his/her everyday items on the bus, for example, camera, writing supplies, religious items and books. You are responsible for carrying your own luggage. Please attach an identification tag to the inside and outside of your luggage.

If you are flying to Wheels orientation, please check with your airline regarding weight restrictions and additional fees on your suitcase as USY is not responsible for those costs.

SUNGLASSES, FLASHLIGHT, HATS AND A WATCH ARE A MUST FOR ALL!

SIDDUR: You will receive a Siddur at orientation as part of your Wheels kit. This will be sufficient for the summer and there is no need to bring another.

Please refer to the clothing list and try to adhere to it as closely as possible. Please also note the **size requirements for each Wheelnik's suitcase**. These will be **strictly adhered to**, as we are limited to the amount of luggage that can fit on the bus. Please be advised that at our orientation in New Jersey, all suitcases will be measured. If suitcases do not meet the specified size requirements, Wheelniks will have to purchase a suitcase that does fit the proper measurements.

CLOTHING LIST

We recommend bringing 10-14 days worth of clothing. In addition you will receive information from the office about how to purchase USY ON WHEELS Sweatshirts and/or Sweatpants.

A SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT CLOTHING

Please be certain to bring the proper clothing this summer. No tank tops or sleeveless shirts, 2-piece bathing suits (except where midriff is covered), bare midriff styles, halter-tops, leggings, or see-through blouses are permitted on USY on Wheels.

CLOTHING FOR GIRLS

- 14 sets of undergarments
- 1 sweater/ sweatshirt (you can purchase a WHEELS sweatshirt)
- 3 skirts (or dresses-easily laundered summer ones for Shabbat- not sleeveless or low cut, backless or off the shoulder)
- 12-14 short sleeve shirts or knit tops
- 6 pairs of shorts
- 2 pairs of pajamas
- 2 pairs of jeans
- 1 pair sweatpants (you can purchase WHEELS sweatpants)
- 2 bathing suits
- 1 pair comfortable sneakers
- 1 pair of dress shoes
- 14 pairs of socks
- Supply of sanitary napkins

CLOTHING FOR BOYS

- 14 sets of undergarments
- 1 sweater/ sweatshirt (you can purchase a WHEELS sweatshirt)
- 2 pairs dress pants for Shabbat (khaki pants are great!)
- 12-14 short sleeve shirts including 4 light weight dress shirts for Shabbat (ex. collared polo shirts)
- 6 pairs of shorts
- 2 pairs of pajamas
- 2 pairs of jeans
- 1 pair sweatpants (you can purchase WHEELS sweatpants)
- 2 bathing suits
- 1 pair comfortable sneakers
- 1 pair of dress shoes (like docksiders or loafers)
- 14 pairs of socks

The following miscellaneous items are suggested for all participants:

Letter-writing materials
Stamps(postcard stamps especially)
Toothbrush/Toothpaste
Deodorant, Shampoo/ Conditioner
Extra shoelaces
Suntan lotion
Q-tips

Hairbrush and comb
Mouthwash
Water bottle/ canteen
Insect Repellant
Wash 'n Dry
Travel packets of Woolite
Notebook for journal writing

****NOTE: BOYS MUST BRING TALLIT, TEFILLIN AND A FEW KIPOT.** Females who are accustomed to wearing Tallit and Tefillin are encouraged to bring them on the trip.

****Also NOTE: Please try to LABEL anything that may be important to the USYer**

CAMERAS

One of the greatest treasures you can bring home to remember and share with your family is your pictures. To insure that you get all the shots you want, bring memory cards with space for 600-800 pictures, and your battery charger along with replacement batteries. Make sure you bring extra batteries!

To protect your camera, keep it in a case and make sure your name is on it. You'll have many

memorable experiences and visits to share with everyone back home, so keep a written record, also, of what you photograph. You will come to treasure those pictures.

RESPONSIBILITY OF ITEMS

We accept responsibility only for those items of value held by the staff—including passports and birth certificates. Please understand that we do not have facilities to store large items such as cameras or video equipment, and cannot take responsibility for those items in any instance.

Participants must take responsibility for their personal belongs used on a daily basis- i.e. expensive cameras, walkmans, Discmans, etc. **If you are afraid of losing or breaking it then please think twice before packing it.**

We strongly advise against bringing lap-top computers and other expensive electronic equipment (cameras, etc.). Additionally, camcorders and beepers/pagers are not permitted.

BEHAVIOR POLICIES

USY has set high standards for itself. As an ambassador of this program, of USY and of Conservative Judaism and of teenagers, you will be expected to fulfill your responsibility to maintain and even raise these standards. Many places we visit grant us special consideration because we are USY on Wheels and not "just another teen tour."

We frequently receive letters from hotels, restaurants and congregations indicating what a fine group of teenagers we have on our program. USY on Wheels has developed an envied reputation that we hope to preserve for many years to come. This, indeed, depends on you. By our selection of you to participate on Wheels this summer, we will have shown our trust in you and our confidence in your sense of responsibility in this area. Many deserving applicants will have been turned away from Wheels this summer and we are sure that you will not take your participation lightly.

You are expected to fully participate in every aspect of the program throughout the summer.

The following policies have both personal and public implications. Personally, they provide for the smooth functioning of your USY on Wheels group. Publicly, they show others what an impressive group USY on Wheels is.

It is expected that each Wheelnik will participate fully in every aspect of Wheels. This includes, but is not limited to, participation in discussions, Tefillot, committees, programs, meals and maintenance of living quarters.

Being a representative includes further responsibilities. The way you dress, speak, treat others and carry yourself, reflects your own pride and self-respect as an individual and as

a part of the Jewish people. We trust that you will be aware of the image you project to others, both within the Wheels group and outside of it. Derech Eretz-respect for oneself and for others-is an important concept in Judaism that you will learn about in greater detail during the summer.

We are sure you are aware of the fact that certain patterns of behavior are not to be tolerated on USY on Wheels.

Leaving the group without permission MAY result in being sent home.

Anti-group or destructive behavior, violating curfew, vandalism and mistreatment of others are typical actions that will force us to re-evaluate your participation on Wheels and may lead to eventual dismissal from the group, without any liability on the part of USY on Wheels.

The use of and/or possession of illegal drugs or narcotics is absolutely forbidden. The includes taking prescription drugs that were not prescribed specifically for your use. Anyone in possession of, or found using illegal drugs or narcotics will be removed from the program and immediately sent home at their parent's expense.

The use or purchase of intoxicating beverages is absolutely forbidden. Any participant who is found purchasing, consuming, or possessing alcohol (including beer) or alcoholic beverage bottles or containers (even if they are empty), or who is found or determined to have been under its influence, will be removed from the program and immediately sent home at their parent's expense.

Furthermore, in order to assure an appropriate environment for program participants, unsupervised entry into pubs, bars, discos, and the like is strictly forbidden.

This policy will be carried out without further warning, regardless of the quantity or circumstances under which the alcohol was consumed/discovered, and without regard to the participant's behavioral record or standing. There will be no "second chance" or "probationary period." In such circumstances, the participant's parents will be called once a flight home has been arranged. (Please note: purchase of alcoholic beverage for gifts, mementoes, souvenirs, etc. is included in this policy).

1. **Anyone found shoplifting or stealing will be sent home as quickly as possible by place at his or her parent's expense.** The wheels code here is very strict and there are no second chances. Any violation of this rule is a violation of the law and can jeopardize the entire USY on Wheels program. Of course, it is understood that the above holds true even when the individual is on his/her own and not with the group.
2. USY on Wheels upholds the highest standards of moral and sexual behavior within the frame work of Judaism. This includes the fact that males and females are not permitted in each other's rooms. Any USYer violating these standards is subject to dismissal and to being sent home at the parents' expense. Judgment in

such situations will be made by the bus leader in consultation with the Director of USY on Wheels and The Central Staff of the Department of Youth Activities.

3. **Smoking is not permitted at any time on the USY on Wheels program. Possession and use of cigarettes, hookas, and water pipes are prohibited at all times.**
4. Ear and body piercing is strictly prohibited at all times on the USY on Wheels program, including leisure time and during visitation periods. Even with parental permission this is prohibited, as we cannot assume responsibility for sanitary conditions of the piercing facilities and implements. If a Wheelnik violates this rule, he or she must remove the ring at his or her own expense. **Body piercing will be considered a serious behavioral offense and may result in a Wheelnik's being sent home. Tattoos are strictly prohibited at all times on USY on Wheels.** In addition, hair dying is prohibited at all times on the Wheels program.
5. **Possessing or purchasing knives or other weapons is absolutely forbidden and may result in the Wheelnik being sent home at his or her parents' expense.**

As part of the total framework within which the United Synagogue Youth programs operate, participants are expected to meet the highest standards of behavior in the areas of moral and sexual behavior, within the framework of the Judaic value system under which we operate. Any participant violating these standards is subject to dismissal and to being sent home at parents' expense.

USY on Wheels 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 the health, safety and/or welfare of the program and or its participants. Judgment in such situations will be made by the group leader in consultation with the Director of USY on Wheels, and the Central Staff of United Synagogue Youth. USY reserves the right to enforce other rules relating to the integrity of the Wheels Program and/or the health, safety or welfare of its participants.

USY International Policy states, "If a USYer is apprehended for an infraction of the International Youth Commission's policy regarding drugs and alcohol abuse or any other criminal offense (including, but not limited to, shoplifting) punishment for that offense will include suspension from International USY events (including, but not limited to, the International USY Convention and USY Summer Programs) for one year following the infraction. The USYer's Region reserves the right to impose additional sanctions in connection with this or any other improper behavior as it sees fit."

Early Leave/Dismissal Policy

In the event that a USYer must leave the program before its conclusion, the following guidelines will apply:

- A. If the decision for the USYer to leave early is made by the parents/guardian or by the USYer, there is no refund, and all related expenses (such as return travel arrangements) are the responsibility of the parents.
- B. If the USYer is dismissed from the program because of behavior problems or actions that are deemed to be anti-group behavior at the discretion of the director, there is no refund and all related expenses are the responsibility of the parents.
- C. If the USYer must leave for medical reasons, USY will reimburse the parents 60% of the non-transportation costs/ rental of the remainder of the trip on a daily pro-rated basis, knowing that USY will not be able to cancel the arrangements that have been made.

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

To complete the application process for USY ON WHEELS we need four particulars from you:

1. A personal conference
2. Payment (see section on Financial Information)
3. The completed forms listed in this booklet (see section on "Forms")
4. USY membership

Personal Conference: The first step on the road to USY on Wheels is a personal conference that we require of each applicant. The conference will provide you with a more detailed idea of what to expect from the program and will offer you and your parents or guardians the opportunity to clarify any questions. We will review the educational and religious aspects of the program as well as our behavior policy with you. Please bring at least one of your parents with you.

Beginning in late March, one of our conference consultants will contact you either by email or by phone to set up an appointment with you. Please note that we cannot accept any applicant who has not had a proper personal conference.

If we deem it necessary, we reserve the right to request a second personal conference.

USY or KADIMA membership is a prerequisite for any USY on Wheels applicant!

Anyone who applies and is not a USYer should contact their local synagogue advisor and/or Regional Youth Director in order to join a local chapter. Afterwards, the advisor or Youth Director will write us indicating that the person has joined, as well as the date of their membership.

CONCLUSION

This is not the end, but rather the beginning of what we are sure will be one of the most exciting and meaningful adventures of your life. You will be living a total Jewish experience in every way while traveling throughout our great and beautiful continent with all of its God-given natural resources.

You are the one who will make this experience work. Be willing to give and you will find that you will receive much in return.

FORMS CHECKLIST

You will note throughout this manual that there is a lot of information that we are requesting from you. You will be receiving from us a link to be able to fill all of these forms out online. If you prefer to receive any of these forms hard copy please be in touch with Aviva Tilles at tilles@uscj.org or via phone at 212-533-7800 ext 1116 to receive the hard copy.

Most of the forms are self-explanatory. Although some of them may seem unnecessary to you, they are vital and may seriously affect your standing on Pilgrimage if they are not returned on time.

Below is a list of the forms and their due dates. You may use this as a checklist. Please return them by registered mail in order to guarantee their arrival.

Additional Reminders



Date

Balance of Tuition is Due

April 1st

Personal Conferences

April/May/June

UNITED SYNAGOGUE YOUTH

USY ON WHEELS APPENDIX "A" KASHRUT POLICY

USY on Wheels, as a program sponsored by the United Synagogue Of Conservative Judaism, is a *Kashrut* observant program.

One of the objectives of the USY on Wheels program is to teach USYers how to observe *Kashrut* away from home, where supervised *hashgacha* may not be available. Therefore, during the first week of the USY on Wheels trip, an educational program that teaches about *Kashrut* will be an integral part of the program.

In an effort to further clarify our policies and given the unique nature of the USY on Wheels program, the *Kashrut* policy of the program is as follows:

1. When meals are prepared for participants of USY on Wheels by the USY on Wheels staff, they will use products with a *hecksher* or they will be provided by a certified Kosher caterer or purveyor.
2. Staff and participants on USY on Wheels wait a minimum of three (3) hours after eating meat but before eating dairy.
3. When in a home hospitality situation, USY on Wheels will defer to the *Kashrut* policy of the host congregations set by the congregational Rabbi as *Mara D'atra* of the congregation. All hosting congregations are informed in advance of the USY on Wheels *Kashrut* policy.
4. On occasion, the USY on Wheels group will eat in restaurants. In doing so, they will follow the following priority approach:
 - a. Dining in a certified Kosher restaurant
 - b. Dining in a completely vegetarian/dairy restaurant
 - c. In the event that options a and b are not available, the following could apply:

Dining in a non-kosher restaurant where the fish/dairy/vegetarian menu choices (both hot and cold) will be thoroughly investigated and offered to the USYers based on the method of preparation and ingredients meeting our standards.

When eating in these restaurants, there must always be a comparable cold dairy/vegetarian option as a selection for the USY on Wheels participants and staff.

5. When on their own, USY on Wheels participants may only eat those foods which conform to the above standards.

Please sign and return to USY Office after you've completed reading through the information booklet.

POLICY AGREEMENT

TO: DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH ACTIVITIES, The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

FROM: _____

Please Print Full Name

Number and Street

City, State, Zip

Region

I HAVE READ THE USY ON WHEELS INFORMATION BOOKLET THOROUGHLY AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE RULES AND PRINCIPLES SET FORTH.

MY PARENTS HAVE ALSO READ THE BOOKLET AND HAVE AFFIXED THEIR SIGNATURE BELOW TO INDICATE THEIR UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT TO ALL ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM.

Wheelnick's Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

USY on Wheels East

SAMPLE ITINERARY—TENTATIVE

****ITINERARIES ARE TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.****

**YOU WILL RECEIVE FINAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE ITINERARY
PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.**

DAY	USY on Wheels, East
SUN	
MON	
TUES	NY/NJ
WED	Boston
THURS	Boston
FRI	Syracuse, NY
SAT	Syracuse, NY
SUN	Toronto
MON	Toronto
TUES	Cleveland
WED	Louisville
THURS	Nashville
FRI	Atlanta
SAT	Atlanta
SUN	Atlanta
MON	Orlando

TUES	Orlando
WED	Orlando
THURS	Daytona
FRI	Jacksonville
SAT	Jacksonville
SUN	Jacksonville
MON	Savannah
TUES	Charleston, WV
WED	Raleigh, NC
THURS	Washington DC
FRI	Washington DC
SAT	Washington DC
SUN	Philadelphia
MON	New York
TUES	Depart