**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CONVENTIONS**

**How does Transportation work?**

• We provide chartered transportation from centralized pickup points. We do understand that sometimes this means you may have to drive about an hour to get to the pick-up spot. All participants help pay the cost of the bus. A finalized detailed itinerary is sent out about 10 days before the convention and we provide staff on every bus.

**Can a USYer drive himself/herself to convention?**

• USYers may not drive themselves to/from convention under any circumstances. The only exception is when a local USYer is coming directly from school. At that point, they give the keys either to their parents (who come to get the keys) or give them to the Regional Youth Director to keep for the duration of the convention.

**Can Participant come late/leave early?**

• This question is handled on a case by case basis. We feel that with limited conventions during the year, each minute is important, but we would rather have your child there for some of the convention versus none. Due to national policies, participants may not come/go during Shabbat. Please contact us directly with any questions.

**Where do participants stay during convention?**

• It depends on which convention it is. Traditionally Fall Kallah and Sprinter are held at Synagogues so we sleep in the shul on Friday night and Saturday night, participants stay with a few other USYers at different host homes of synagogue members of the hosting synagogue. Regionals is held at a hotel or camp. For all conventions your teens can make requests on who they would like to stay with and the region does their best to accommodate the requests.

**What kind of programming goes on at convention?**

• The specifics change from convention to convention, but you can usually expect all of the following in our action packed schedules:

* **A fun and educational Israel Program**
* **A Social Action program (i.e. Going somewhere in the community to help, Making something to donate) \*\*sometimes these activities can be used for community service hours**
* **Lots of free time with your friends (i.e. Hang out time, Sports)**
* **A fun Saturday night program (i.e. a dance, JCC, etc)**
* **Meals and Services**
* **Other fun activities planned by Regional board members (Bonfire, Gameshows, Iron Chef competition, Scavenger Hunt)**

**A parent/USYer packet with final details and a packing list will be sent out a week before convention.**

**What is included in the convention fee?**

• For the most part our conventions are all inclusive. Included in the convention fee is all kosher meals during the convention, kosher snacks, lodging, all programming, and transportation to the convention.

• Teens are encouraged to bring spending money (for regalia – regionally designed items or snacks/food while traveling) and money for our Tzedakah initiatives, Tikun Olam.

**Who is eligible for conventions?**

• All 9-12 grade Jewish teens are invited to events in the Fall and 8th graders can join starting in the Spring! As in all USY events, participants even members of a synagogue to join us. They do however need to be a member of the chapter.

**What kind of supervision is there at these events?**

• The Regional Youth Director, Sandra Goldmeer, is the planner and facilitator of the regional conventions. Each chapter delegation is also required to send at least one staff person per nine participants. All staff members, paid or volunteer, go through a background check before staffing events.

**Is scholarship available for conventions?**

• In most cases, scholarship is handled through the local synagogues. In cases of extreme need, the region is sometimes able to assist financially as well, but please contact your synagogue before approaching the region for scholarship. There is a scholarship application available on the website at [www.tzafon.org](http://www.tzafon.org) and can be sent directly to Sandra at goldmeer@uscj.org