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BJE MARCH OF THE LIVING 2022 **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Q: What is the BJE March of the Living Program and who participates in this experience?

A: BJE March of the Living is part of the single largest Jewish educational program for teens in the world. The March brings thousands of Jewish teens from all over the world to Poland for the week surrounding Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Day) and then to Israel for the week surrounding Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day).

Q: What is the program fee and cancellation policy and what kind of financial aid and grants are available?

A: The fee for this unique program, including round-trip travel from Los Angeles, room and board, tuition and varied social and cultural programs is \$6795. This is a subsidized rate through a generous grant from the Jewish Federation. First payment will be due in January. Prior to this time, BJE LA will share all the relevant details about the cancellation policy and refunds in the event that the COVID19 pandemic limits our ability to travel.

B: The BJE March of the Living experience is available to all Jewish teens, regardless of their family's financial status. There are individual subsidies, scholarships and grants available, as well as need-based assistance. Please mark the appropriate box indicated in the on-line application if you would like to receive more information. **For payment plans please contact Chen Bain at the BJE at (323) 761-8619.**

Q: What are the dates of the trip?

A: The dates of BJE March of the Living 2022 are: Departure from the U.S.A.: Sunday - April 24th; return from Israel: Friday morning, May 6th, 2022. *

Q: For whom (at what grade levels) is BJE March of the Living appropriate?

A: BJE March of the Living is open to students currently in grade 12. Be aware that this program requires emotional maturity due to the subject matter.

Q: Does BJE March of the Living conflict with the 2022 AP exams?

A: AP exams are scheduled to start on Monday, May 2, 2022. The International March of the Living can provide an official letter from the College Board granting extensions to any student participating on the program. Please email Monise Neumann at mneumann@bjela.org if you need a copy of this letter. Please note if you attend Milken Community High School or deToledo High School, the administration is well aware of this extension and will be making the necessary arrangements. Participants are not required to do anything to set this in motion.

Q: How do I apply for BJE March of the Living?

A: Potential BJE Los Angeles participants must apply online through the BJE Los Angeles website – www.bjela.org/motl. **Each delegation's forms and procedures are specific – please do not register or apply through any other delegation's website or through the March of the Living International office website, otherwise participants risk their applications being lost or misplaced.**

Q: How do I get excused from my public school classes to participate?

A: Contact Michal Kress at mkress@bjela.org for a letter to be given to your school counselor detailing the BJE MOTL experience. If there are further questions, a school official can contact her at (323) 761-8621

Q: Is security a program concern?

A: Throughout the March, security and safety are our top priority. MOTL delegations travel with at least one armed security guard per bus, and all site visits are checked and 'cleared' by security in the mornings and before groups

arrive. March of the Living International works with the highest levels of law enforcement and government in both Poland and Israel to ensure that the security of participants is top priority.

Q: What COVID19 protocols have been put in place to ensure the health and safety of BJE March of the Living participants?

A: The International March of the Living mandates that all participants be fully vaccinated. Proof of full COVID19 vaccination is required. The governments of Poland and Israel mandate that everyone entering their countries be completely vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine that is approved for use in the European Union- namely, Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson and Johnson. If no proof of vaccination is provided, travelers to Poland and Israel are required to undergo a mandatory 10-day quarantine. All participants will be required to take PCR and/or serology tests, as per the requirements of the destination and arrival countries.

Q: What religious practices or expectations are there; is the food kosher?

A: The program is set up to accommodate the religious needs of all its participants. All food in Poland and Israel is certified kosher.

Q: What are the requirements for acceptance to this program?

A: There are several steps to the application/acceptance process – The first step is for the teen. This first step entails answering several short questions. **Note:** Even if the family already has a CampMinder log-in from a previous program, their teen still needs to fill out a registration form.

B: Once that is submitted the parents/guardians will be emailed instructions explaining how to set up a family account and pay the application fee. Once parents/guardians have logged in they will have access to all supporting documentation, which includes: medical forms, releases, standards of behavior, community expectations and an arbitration agreement.

C: Additionally, a personal interview and a letter of recommendation and are required prior to acceptance.

D: Finally, prospective participants **are required** to attend all pre-trip programming.

Acceptance to BJE March of the Living, upon completion of these requirements, is at the discretion of the Program Leaders.

Q: My passport is expired, or I do not have a passport, what should I do?

A: A copy of the picture page of renewed passport must be received in the BJE office no later than **January 5, 2022**, in order to secure airline seats and participation in the program.

B: Passports can be renewed or applied for at your local post office, or by appointment at the Beverly Hills Library.

C: Applicants must have a valid passport with expiration date on or after **December 1, 2022**
A copy of the picture page of renewed passport must be received in the BJE office no later than **January 5, 2022**, in order to secure airline seats and participation in the program.

Q: What kind of staffing is provided?

A: The staff accompanying the students includes doctors, nurse, social worker/psychologist, educators, counselors, song leader. There is approximately a 1 to 10 staff ratio.

Q: What is the itinerary for the program?

A: The itinerary varies, but typically includes a week in Poland visiting Warsaw, Krakow, Auschwitz, and Birkenau, and Majadanek. The time in Israel, commemorating Yom Hazikaron (Israel Memorial Day) and celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day), includes visits to places of historical and contemporary significance.

Q: Is this a really depressing trip?

A: We have found that visiting the sites in Poland, while filled with emotion, is also quite uplifting and affecting in very positive ways, because there are thousands of Jewish teens from all over the world experiencing it together. A mental health professional accompanies the group. The Israel portion of the trip is powerful and inspiring, and students come away from BJE March of the Living knowing that they have experienced a life-changing event.

Q: Will I still be eligible for Birthright Israel if I participate in BJE March of the Living?

A: Currently, Birthright Israel participation is open to MOTL alumni between the ages of 18–26 years.

Q: If I have additional questions or concerns, whom should I contact?

A: You can contact Chen Bain at cbain@bjela.org, (323) 761-8619 or Monise Neuman mneumann@bjela.org (323) 761-8611 at the BJE March of the Living office. They will be able to help you or put you in touch with someone who can.