

The Bronfman Fellowship Security Policy

We know that some of our Bronfman Fellows have traveled to Israel before -- with parents and with other groups. Some know their way around Jerusalem and other areas in Israel. On previous trips, some have had greater independence than The Bronfman Fellowship's program's guidelines will allow this summer. We find, however, that our guidelines not only address the issue of your child's safety, but also help to create group cohesion that further enhances the Bronfman Fellow's relationships as well as their security. We believe that reasonable rules followed responsibly are the keys to a safe summer.

It is imperative that you and your child accept the approach reflected in these guidelines. We trust that you have full confidence in their ability to respect instructions and follow directions such as these.

Any Fellow who shows disrespect or disregard to the participation guidelines, or any Fellowship rules, is subject to discipline and/or removal from the program at the sole discretion of the Executive Director.

The Current Situation in Israel

It is our hope that Fellows will have a safe and enjoyable experience. Our itinerary is designed to expose Fellows to Israel, a modern country with natural beauty, ancient and contemporary culture, and religious diversity to explore.

That being said, please be aware that the situation inside and around Israel has been volatile for decades. We are basing our plans for this summer on the assumption that the situation in Israel will continue to be so. Random terrorist attacks have been an ongoing fact of life in Israel. Missile attacks emanating from the Gaza strip in previous summers have threatened an increasingly wide radius in Israel. There may continue to be problems of various sorts, including missiles from the Gaza strip or Lebanon, rioting and protests in the West Bank (including East Jerusalem), and combinations or singular incidents of rock throwing or stabbing, and physical attacks on Israel Defense Force (IDF) personnel, Israeli residents and tourists.

Although these incidents are usually restricted to specific geographical areas that we will seek to avoid (see below), there have been incidents in areas of Jerusalem and other parts of Israel which have been perceived as safe at other times. For many years Israelis and tourists to Israel have faced rare and random acts of violence. Our summer planning tries to take into account the unpredictability of the situation in Israel.

Our security guidelines have been developed in consultation with our Security and Logistics Director. The guidelines under which we operate attempt to take the volatile aspects of living in Israel into account.

You may review the current [State Department Information for Israel](#) and [Travel Warning](#) (updated December 28th, 2018).

The Security and Logistics Director maintains liaison with the United States Embassy and the Israeli Security Operations Room which coordinates with the Israeli Police Department and the Israeli Army.

When in Israel, we will carefully review our itinerary in light of security considerations on an ongoing basis. Our itinerary will be cleared by the Security Operations Room that coordinates the activities of the Army, the Police and the Intelligence Services; they issue specific guidelines as to where it is safe to travel and the best

routes to use. Local security personnel are notified of our travel plans and will immediately notify the group in the event of incident or security risk.

If necessary, we will change our itinerary to reflect information we receive about any heightened risk or security concerns. Our current plans as to where we will base the group for much of the summer and what areas we will visit may change as a result of evolving developments. For security reasons, we will not distribute a detailed copy of this coming summer's itinerary to parents or Fellows in advance.

Geographic Restrictions for the 2020 Bronfman Fellowship Program:

- No travel in or near the Gaza strip.
- No travel in the West Bank beyond Israel Defense Force security barrier except on the main road (Route 90) to the Dead Sea and Masada.
- Travel within East Jerusalem is limited to accessing tourist sites therein, and with increased security.
- Fellows will never travel independently, except on homestays (see below). Whenever the Fellows travel as a group, they are accompanied by one or more staff members. While in the Goldstein Youth Village, they are in an enclosed, protected environment, within which Fellows may move freely, but which they are NOT allowed to leave on their own.
- In certain circumstances, Fellows will be allowed to go in small groups to certain designated areas once they have received permission from The Bronfman Fellowship staff to do so.
- When/if Fellows leave the group with a pre-approved visitor/relative, they are picked up by the visitor at Goldstein Youth Village and returned there before a pre-approved time.

Identification/Contact Cards and Cell Phones

All Fellows will be issued a personal identification card that includes faculty/staff contact information. This card must be carried by the Fellow at all times. All Fellows are required to have "non-smart" cell phones ordered through the Fellowship's preferred vendor.

Staff Supervision

When the Bronfman Fellows travel, our staff always accompanies them in order to supervise. We will also be accompanied by members of our security staff. Trips will be by chartered bus. The group will not use public transportation. All group travel plans are reviewed by the Security and Logistics Director.

Circumstances where Bronfman Fellows will travel without staff supervision:

There may be opportunities for small groups of Fellows to go to specific places on their own, but only after receiving permission to do so and according to our staff's instructions. Fellows will not be allowed to go outside of these areas.

The Fellows spend a weekend at homes of our Israeli Fellows. The majority of these homes are located in areas covered under the geographic guidelines above. Bronfman Fellowship staff will seek individual parental

approval before matching Fellows for homestay outside of those areas. Some homestays may be situated in the West Bank in large Bloc settlements.

Fellows travel to and from the homes where they are staying either by chartered bus or by a private taxi. While on the homestay, their local travel is supervised by the family hosting them. The Fellows are briefed before the trip on the homestay guidelines established by Bronfman's Security and Logistics Director.

Any picking up or dropping off of a Fellow by a relative or friend needs to **be done by someone 21 years old or over, and must be prearranged** with the administrative office before departure from the United States. A parent must fill in the visitor information form found in your Fellow Information packet. In the event of such prearranged activity, the program will not be responsible for Fellows until their return. Permission to visit a relative or friend will be subject to the summer schedule. **Fellows cannot miss organized educational sessions to visit with family or friends. Actual scheduling of such visits will be subject to the approval of the Security and Logistics Director in Israel.**