



JCC Association
of North America



JCC
maccabi games

ISRAEL

JULY 5–25, 2023

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
MACCABI WORLD UNION

1. WHAT ARE THE JCC MACCABI GAMES®?

The JCC Maccabi Games are an Olympic-style international athletic competition for Jewish teens from communities across North America, Israel, and the globe. Since 1982, when the first Games were held in Memphis, TN, more than 150,000 teens and 500,000 more coaches, volunteers and spectators have participated in 85+ host communities across North America. Today, with 3,000 Jewish teens participating annually, the Games are one of the largest Jewish teen events in the world. In 2023, a special set of JCC Maccabi Games will be held outside of North America for only the second time in history!

More than just sport, the Games are played with a focus on “*rachmanus*” or sportsmanship with the intent to foster long-lasting friendships and connection the Jewish people and Israel. Six official JCC Maccabi *Midot* (values) guide the JCC Maccabi program, helping us remember the greater mission of the Games. We emphasize *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world), *Kavod* (respect), *Rina* (joy), *Ga’ava* (pride), *Lev Tov* (big hearted), and *Amiut Yehudit* (Jewish peoplehood). Throughout the program, each athlete participates in one of fifteen sports competitions, Olympic-style opening and closing ceremonies, exciting large-scale cultural and social events, community service, and creating friendships and memories that will last a lifetime.

2. WHAT DOES THE JCC MACCABI GAMES IN ISRAEL EXPERIENCE ENTAIL?

See the [sample itinerary](#) and check out this [JCC Maccabi Promo Video](#)

Highlights of the 3-week immersive experience include:

- A week-long JCC Maccabi Games in Haifa in partnership with Maccabi World Union. (Olympic-style sporting competition, sport practices, opening/closing ceremony, large cultural events, and more.
- A 12-day tour of Israel’s most culturally, religiously, and historically significant sites
- Exploring Israel through a sports lens, including opportunities to meet with influential Israeli speakers, coaches, and professional athletes
- Participating in volunteer service projects

3. WHAT IS THE ATHLETIC COMPETITION LIKE?

The competitive level of the participants will vary. There are teens that are elite athletes and then those that are there for the experience, the level of play is very diverse. Some of the sports will have different divisions based on skill levels. Throughout the week, players can

expect to play at least four round-robin games/matches before the play-off portion of the games begins. Gold, silver and bronze medals are awarded to the top three winners in each competition division. Although it is competitive, the JCC Maccabi Games emphasize the 'Rachmanus Rule', which is good sportsmanship and fair play. The experience is about more than just sports. It focuses on an all-around experience including building Jewish connections and friendships, travel, community service, and fun-filled social, cultural and educational experiences.

4. WHAT IS A DELEGATION?

Teens from across North America participate in JCC Maccabi representing their 'local' delegation. Typically, this is the delegation represent their home city/local JCC for example Team Atlanta, Team Philadelphia, Team Toronto etc. However, where there is no JCC forming a delegation in the city where a teen resides, they are invited to join the J-Team delegation (the continental delegation) which is comprised of teens who reside in locations across the US and Canada that also do not have a specific 'local' JCC delegation.

5. WHAT IS A MIXED TEAM?

A mixed team is comprised of athletes from multiple delegations. This is common and happens when a delegation does not have enough athletes to field a full team in any given sport. Where a delegation is unable to field a full team, athletes from two or more delegations will be combined to form a mixed team. A coach will be assigned and prior to the trip, teens will have the opportunity to meet and connect with the coach and each other via zoom/phone calls. Where geographically possible and within reasonable driving distance, optional practices might happen in advance and all teams will have the opportunity to practice together in Israel before competition begins. Being on a mixed team can be a great experience and foster lasting friendships with Jewish teens from a variety of locations across the continent!

6. HOW DOES COMMUNITY SERVICE PLAY A ROLE IN JCC MACCABI?

Community Service is a key component to the JCC Maccabi Games experience. Each set of Games includes a 'JCC Cares' project and every athlete and coach takes time away from their sport schedules to participate. Through hands-on experiences, participants explore the Jewish values of *Tzedakah* and *Tikkun Olam* and give back to the host community in Israel through service-based activities.

7. WHAT IS THE FEE FOR THE JCC MACCABI GAMES?

The all-inclusive fee for the 3-week experience is \$4500* (with RootOne Voucher) **OR** \$7500 (without RootOne Voucher)

**Please note: This is a highly subsidized trip price made possible thanks to the generosity of several philanthropic donors and RootOne, seeded by a generous gift from The Marcus*

Foundation and powered by The Jewish Education Project. To be eligible for a RootOne Voucher, athletes may not have previously received a RootOne voucher and will be required to complete approximately 8-10 online education hours. Athletes who do not complete the requirements by May 1st will be required to pay an additional \$3,000.

8. WHAT DOES THE FEE INCLUDE?

JCC Maccabi is an all-inclusive experience. Program fees include Games registration fees, transportation during the Games, uniform, gear/SWAG, adult supervision and coaches, practices, meals, social events/team activities, and all other accommodations throughout the program. It includes flights to and from Israel and the 2-week tour following the week of competition.

9. DOES MY TRIP INCLUDE INSURANCE?

Medical Insurance:

JCC Maccabi program fees include basic medical insurance that covers treatment and medication while on the ground in Israel; however, it will not cover any pre-existing medical conditions. This means that the policy covers treatment for issues like a stomach bug, broken limb, or dehydration, without any out-of-pocket expenses or paperwork. The policy does not cover any medical conditions for which a teen is already being treated or for which treatment has been received in the past. This exclusion rule also applies to all psychological care. For this reason, teens are required to come on the program with their own medical insurance policy, which includes coverage for short-term travel abroad. If a teen needs to be treated for a preexisting condition during the program, the parents of the teen will be solely responsible for any associated costs. The Teen Travel Insurance may cover pre-existing conditions, which is why we encourage families to take that out separately.

Travel Insurance:

JCC Maccabi has partnered with Teen Travel Insurance to provide a low-cost, group travel insurance options specifically designed for teen travel. While travel insurance is optional, we strongly encourage families to purchase travel insurance to protect their investment and plan for the unexpected. For U.S. based participants, the Student Deluxe Plan is about \$121 and the Student Deluxe + Cancel For Any Reason Plan is about \$182.

Registration fees for the JCC Maccabi Games in Israel are non-refundable, due to this program being heavily subsidized and the many recoverable upfront costs that are being covered on behalf of the participants. As such, we strongly advise all families to purchase Travel Insurance from their teen as soon as possible. Travel Insurance adds protection for families in case something unexpected occurs, such as changes to travel, loss of luggage, and/or cancellation of the trip due to unforeseen circumstances (i.e. acts of war, teen injures themselves and is not able to travel prior to trip, teen is injured on trip and needs to leave early). This is the best way to insure your investment in the Israel trip and covers pre-existing medical conditions.

- [U.S. based participants](#)

- [Canadian participants](#)

The Student Deluxe + "Cancellation for Any Reason" (CFAR) policy must be purchased prior to final payment for all related nonrefundable trip costs and is unavailable for New York residents (see notes in [FAQ](#)). All policies must be issued before your final payment is made. JCC Maccabi is not licensed or authorized to answer questions regarding your teen's travel insurance policy or options. Our team is happy to answer general questions for our families, but all questions regarding any insurance matters must go directly through the contact form on the Teen Travel Insurance Website or email them directly at info@teentravelinsurance.com.

10. ARE THERE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE?

We strongly encourage you to reach out to your local Federation, Jewish Community Foundation, and synagogue to enquire about local funding opportunities. Many communities have subsidy funds to support participation in teen travel programs to Israel

Limited scholarships are available through JCC Association of North America for families in need of financial assistance. All funding is need-based, and you can apply through a confidential process. Please visit [this link](#) for more information on the [Richard Cohen Memorial](#) JCC Maccabi scholarship.

To apply please email Program Director, Sam Lefkowitz s.lefkowitz@jcca.org

11. WHAT DOES REGISTRATION ENTAIL?

Registration includes submitting the completed registration, personal contact info, a \$1500 non-refundable deposit paid upon signing up, and agreement to the non-refundable remainder of the payment to your JCC. Additional registration steps are required at later dates including medical forms, online registration with t-shirt and uniform sizes, roommate requests etc. Your delegation head will supply detailed information about those next steps.

12. HOW WILL MY CHILD GET TO AND FROM THE GAMES?

The trip includes roundtrip airfare to Israel. Parents will be responsible for bringing athletes to a designated local airport and ensure teens either meet with a designated group adult chaperone at that location OR in the case where there is a domestic connecting flight to meet the group at a hub city airport, parents will ensure their teen get on their flights safely. The delegation head will communicate the logistics plan based on which teens are from which areas.

13. ARE THERE ADULT CHAPERONES AT JCC MACCABI?

There is a mandatory ratio of 1:8 adults to teens during the week of JCC Maccabi. This includes a delegation head, coaches and chaperones. Every athlete is assigned to a coach/chaperone

whether they are on a team sport, individual sport, or a mixed team. Head coaches are all over 21 and have passed background checks.

14. WHERE WILL MY TEEN STAY?

In **Israel**, all participants will stay in a combination of hotels, dorms, and hostels.

15. CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT SECURITY AT JCC MACCABI?

Safety and security is a top priority at the JCC Maccabi Games. Background checks are utilized for all adult chaperones involved. Participants, spectators, coaches, volunteers, and staff are required to wear a credential to access any JCC Maccabi facility. We work closely with all levels of law enforcement to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all.

We take a number of precautions to reduce security risks on our program: We travel on a private coach bus, stay at accommodations with dedicated security, plan our itineraries to avoid areas of concern, travel with an armed guard, and are registered for monitoring through Israel's Situation Room and Ministry of Tourism.

16. OUR FAMILY KEEPS KOSHER AND IS OBSERVANT - WILL MY TEEN'S NEEDS BE MET AT JCC MACCABI?

All food served at the JCC Maccabi Games is kosher and all official programming will be Shabbat observant.

17. CAN I USE MY SON OR DAUGHTER'S SCHOOL OR CAMP MEDICAL FORM FOR JCC MACCABI?

No. Maccabi Central will only accept the JCC Maccabi Medical Form which will be provided during the registration process.

18. WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE IS A MEDICAL EMERGENCY?

In the case of a medical emergency, the Delegation Head will act as the participant's guardian, will communicate with the parents and ensure teens receive any treatment necessary. Information such as the parent/guardian's birth date and social security number is sometimes necessary to utilize insurance.

19. CAN PARENTS BE SPECTATORS AT THE JCC MACCABI GAMES?

Yes! Parents, family members, and friends are welcome to attend the Games as spectators. Each spectator is required to register online in advance and purchase a spectator pass (\$40 earlybird/\$60 after May 15). A spectator pass gives access to the opening ceremony and sport events. No one will be admitted to a Games site who is not wearing an approved credential. In the coming weeks, your delegation head will share additional information regarding options for spectators who would like to book accommodation through official JCC Maccabi hotel room blocks, opt-in to a variety of tours and special event for spectators and/or sign up for the official [JCC Maccabi Spectator Experience Family Tour](#) which will be an

8-day tour of Israel that will start after the final sport competition is played and once the athletes transition from their time at the Games in Haifa to their own teen tour schedule.

20. CAN MY CHILD ROOM WITH HIS/HER FRIEND?

Athletes will be able to request someone they would like to room with. JCC Maccabi will make every effort to accommodate these requests, but may only be able to guarantee one of the requests in each location, since we will move to different accommodations with a different number of beds in each.