RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp

Post Travel Filing Instructions: Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the Office of Public Records in 232 Hart Building. **This form is a public disclosure. The form and all attachments will be made publicly available.**

Certification: *In compliance with the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel, Senate Rule 35, and the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007, I certify that I accepted the following gift of privately sponsored travel:*

Private Sponsor(s):

U.S. Israel Education Association (USIEA)

Travel Dates:

March 28-April 5, 2024

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

N/A

Relationship to Traveler:

N/A

Total Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
$7,752.00	$3,070.00	$1,385.00	$4,885.40

I also certify that attached to this form are all required documents for post travel disclosure, including:

- **The final Employee Pre-Travel Authorization** (Form RE-1)
- The final **Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form** with all attachments
- The final invitation
- The final approved itinerary

Finally, I certify that all trip information reflected in the attachments above accurately reflects the travel that I accepted. If there were any changes to the trip after I received approval from the Committee, the changes are described in ATTACHMENT 1.

5/1/24
Date

Grace Higgins
Printed Name of Traveler

Grace Higgins
Signature of Traveler

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the Employee Pre-Travel Authorization form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.

5-1-24
Date

Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

RE-1 Employee Pre-Travel Authorization

Date/Time Stamp

Pre-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the **Select Committee on Ethics in SH-220.** Incomplete and late travel submissions will **not** be considered or approved.

Name of Traveler:

Grace Higgins

Employing Office/Committee:

Lankford

Private Sponsor(s):

U.S. Israel Education Association (USIEA)

Destination(s):

Jerusalem and Tiberius, Israel

Travel Dates:

March 28-April 5, 2024

NOTE: If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you **must** notify the Committee.

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties.

The itinerary and content of the trip (Israel, foreign policy, defense, Abraham Accords) is the portfolio that I work on for the Senator.

Do you have an accompanying family member or spouse on this trip? ☐ (signify "yes" by checking box)

Name and Relationship to Traveler:

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

3-11-24
Date

Grace Higgins
Signature of Employee

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER
(President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms, Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain)

I James Lankford (Print Senator's/Officer's Name) hereby authorize Grace Higgins (Print Traveler's Name)

an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.

I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate.

☐ (signify "yes" by checking box)

3/11/24
Date

Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

0000000004768 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: June 06, 2024

U.S. ISRAEL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Congressional Tour
Israel Itinerary

UPDATED: 4/10/24

Thursday, March 28 – Friday, April 5 2024

** all times are local **

( ) denotes education hours

Departure – Thursday, March 28, 2024: Travel

Grace Higgins Flights
6:08 AM EST DCA – JFK (DL5755)
1:30 PM EST Group Flight Depart JFK – TLV (DL7447)

Day 1 – Friday, March 29, 2024: Tel Aviv / Jerusalem (4 hrs.)

6:50 AM Arrive at TLV (DL7447)

8:45 AM-9:30 AM Transfer to the Ministry of Defense

9:45 AM-10:45 AM Briefing with Israel's Minister of Defense (1)

Speaker: Yoav Gallant, Minister of Defense
Topic: *Understanding the Current Dynamics of Middle East Security*
Description: A briefing on recent developments inside Israel's defense on all military fronts.

10:45 AM-11:30 AM Depart for Welcome Lunch

11:30 AM-12:30 PM Welcome & Orientation – David Citadel Hotel, Private Room (1)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association
Description: Explanation of the background and importance of the trip, specifically as it relates to each member's committee assignments, and overview to prepare for the important upcoming meetings.

12:30 PM-2:00 PM Depart for Jerusalem

2:00 PM-2:30PM Check into Hotel

2:30 PM-3:00 PM Depart for Mt. of Olives

3:00 PM-4:00 PM Mt. of Olives – Overlook of Jerusalem (1)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association
Topic: *Peace between West and East Jerusalem*
Description: A detailed understanding of the neighborhoods located inside of East Jerusalem, understanding the division between East and West Jerusalem, and the road to peace.

4:00 PM-4:30 PM Depart for the Church of the Holy Suplechre

4:30 PM -5:30 PM Church of the Holy Suplechre (1)

Speaker: Roni Stern, Professional Guide
Topic: *Disputes Among Christian Denominations*

5:30 PM-6:00 PM Depart for Hotel

6:00 PM-7:00 PM Shabbat Dinner at Hotel

Overnight- David Citadel Hotel

Day 2 – Saturday, March 30, 2024: The South of Israel (8 hrs.)

7:30 AM-9:30 AM Breakfast – The David Citadel Hotel, Private Room (2)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association
Topic: *Overview and Timeline of Israel's History*
Description: Presentation on history of Israel to set the foundation of the trip and give an understanding of the past cultures, religions, and history, as well as the role the U.S. plays today inside the nation.

Speaker: Jonathan Conricus
Topic: *Israel's Military Operations*
Description: A private briefing on Israel's military operations in Gaza since October 7th and future plans to prosecute the war. What does Israel need from the U.S. government? How can Israel provide transparency to U.S. lawmakers in this process?

9:30 AM-12:00 PM Depart for the South (1.5)

Speaker: Chris Mitchell
Topic: *October 7th, 2023*
Description: Presentation on the timeline of events leading up to October 7th and what transpired on that day. Providing context for the rest of the day's briefings as the delegation travels south toward the Gaza border.

12:00 PM-2:00 PM Lunch at Moshav Dekel (2)

Speaker: Displaced Residents of Moshav Dekel
Topic: *Rebuilding the South*
Description: Stories from the displaced residents in a southern Israeli community that was on the second line of defense on October 7th. What will it take to rebuild the communities in the south? What does the United States need to know about the current security status for these communities?

Speaker: Lt. Col. Eran Massas (Res.)
Topic: *Testimony from October 7th*
Description: A firsthand account from an IDF responder on October 7th. The atrocities he witnessed as he encountered terrorists and victims.

2:00 PM-2:30 PM Depart for Nir Oz

2:30 PM-4:00 PM Tour Kibbutz Nir Oz (1.5)

Speaker: Professor Yonatan Dekel Chen
Topic: *The First Line of Defense*
Description: A detailed briefing on Hamas' infiltration of Israeli communities on the frontline of the Gaza border on October 7th .

4:00-4:15 PM Depart for Nova Festival Site

4:15 PM-5:15 PM Nova Festival Site (1)

Speaker: Nova Survivor
Topic: *Survivor Stories*
Description: Firsthand accounts from those that survived the brutality of the October 7th attacks and what occurred specifically at the Nova Festival site. Unique insight into what it was like to be there on that day.

5:15 PM-6:30 PM Depart for Dinner in Ein Karem

6:30 PM-8:00 PM Dinner in Ein Karem – No Speaker

8:00 PM-8:30 PM Depart for The David Citadel Hotel

Overnight- David Citadel Hotel

Day 3 – Sunday, March 31, 2024: Jerusalem (6 hrs.)

6:45 AM-7:00 AM Depart for the Garden Tomb

7:00 AM-8:00 AM Easter Service at the Garden Tomb

8:00 AM-8:30 AM Depart for The King David Hotel

8:30 AM-10:00 AM Easter Breakfast – The King David Hotel, Private Room

10:00 AM-10:30 AM Depart for the City of David

10:30 AM-12:30 PM City of David Walking Tour – Jerusalem's Newest Archaeological Site (2)

Speaker: Ze'ev Orenstein, Director of International Affairs, City of David Foundation
Topic: *The Founding of Ancient Jerusalem & The Restoration of Modern Jerusalem*
Description: A description of the neighborhoods and boundaries today and the strategic locations of landmarks inside each neighborhood. Discussion of military strategy including the many tunnels still located under the modern city and understanding who controls each section.

12:30 PM-2:00 PM Lunch – City of David (1)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association
Topic: *Jerusalem, also known as the City of David*
Description: Presentation of history from the original location of the city of Jerusalem and understanding the layout of the modern city today. Discussion of urban development issues and understanding economic consequences of the modern layout inside today's communities.

2:00 PM-2:30 PM Depart for Davidson Center

2:30 PM-3:30 PM Davidson Center (1)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association
Topic: *Discovering Ancient Jerusalem & Its Significance Today*
Description: Educational tour of recent developments in the archaeological center and how each period has affected the nation's disputes still going on today. Also provides a strategic view of the Dome of the Rock with an overview of the violence and conflict erupting there today.

3:30 PM-5:00 PM Walk to the Western Wall – History & Overview (1)

Speaker: Chief Rabbi Shmuel Rabinovitch, Chief Rabbi of the Western Wall
Topic: *Historical Perspectives & Modern Controversies*
Description: An understanding of the connection to Temple Mount, entry restrictions from the western side, and what lies behind the Wall today. Discuss the impact of

these restrictions, land disputes, and strategic consequences behind each military defending their locations.

5:00 PM-5:30 PM Guided Walking Tour to Dinner Through Old City (.5)

Speaker: Roni Stern, Professional Guide
Topic: *Understanding the Many Religious Sides of Jerusalem*
Description: Presentation on the intersection of three major world religions in Jerusalem and how this not only affects the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but is also a special point of interest for the rest of the world. Understanding the different arguments for land rights in Jerusalem based on religion.

5:30 PM-7:00 PM Dinner Debrief of Day – Mamila Restaurant (.5)

7:00 PM-7:15 PM Depart for The David Citadel Hotel

Overnight- David Citadel Hotel

Day 4 – Monday, April 1, 2024: Jerusalem (8 hrs.)

8:00 AM-9:00 AM Breakfast Briefing, The David Citadel Hotel – China Threat (1)

Speaker: Assaf Orion & Ariel Sobelman, INSS
Topic: *The China Threat*
Description: A background briefing on China as a national security threat to both the U.S. and Israel. Ways for both countries to reduce their dependence on China and look to each other and other allies to collaborate.

9:00 AM-10:00 AM Private Briefing on Artificial Intelligence, The David Citadel Hotel (1)

Speaker: Dror Bin, Chief Scientist, Israel Innovation Authority
Topic: *Israeli AI Prowess*
Description: A briefing on the emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) and Israel's leading work in the field. How can the U.S. tap into Israel's AI ecosystem and create healthy regulations without stifling innovation? How can AI transform the life sciences, health tech sector?

10:00 AM-11:30 AM Private Briefing on Israeli Life Sciences Industry (1.5)

Speaker: CEOs of Health Tech Startups from Our Crowd & IATI
Topic: *Israel as a Staging Ground for U.S. Friendshoring*
Description: An interactive briefing on the desire coming out of the Israeli health industry to have access to an FDA bureau in Israel. This would in turn benefit the U.S. by expediting Israeli items to the U.S. market and therefore diversifying and fortifying American supply chains.

11:30 AM-12:00 PM Depart for Lunch – Morning Debrief (.5)

Speaker: Ari Sacher, Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Israel Education Association
Topic: *Overview for the Morning*
Description: An overview of the morning meetings focused on the Chinese threat, AI emergence in Israel, and the opportunity for the U.S. to friendshore its critical pharmaceutical supply lines to Israel and the Abraham Accords nations. How do these three topics work together and how Israel and the U.S. can collaborate in the life sciences space?

12:00 PM-1:00 PM Lunch at the Israel Museum – Prep for Minister Meeting (.5)

1:00 PM-2:00 PM Depart for Prime Minister's Office - Security Brief & Check-In (.5)

2:00 PM-3:45 PM Private Meeting with the Minister of Strategic Affairs (1.5)

Speaker: Ron Dermer, Minister of Strategic Affairs
Topic: *Israel & the World*

Description: Briefing on Israel's relationship with the U.S. in light of the larger, global geopolitical factors. A time for the members to ask pertinent questions of the Minister on internal affairs, status in the region, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and major points of interest in the U.S.-Israel relationship.

3:45 PM-4:00 PM Depart for the David Citadel Hotel

4:00 PM-4:45 PM Change Clothes

4:45 PM-5:00 PM Walk to the Notre Dame

5:00 PM-7:00 PM Dinner Briefing at the Notre Dame (1.5)

Speaker: Bassam Eid, Palestinian Media Personality
Topic: *Reforming the Palestinian Education System*
Description: A deeper briefing on the corruption of Palestinian aid entities and how new funding mechanisms can be created. How can the U.S. help reform the Palestinian education system to stop inciting terror and violence against Israel? Pathways to build future peace.

7:00 PM-7:15 PM Walk to The David Citadel Hotel

Overnight - The David Citadel Hotel

Day 5 – Tuesday, April 2, 2024: Jerusalem / Samaria / Galilee (7.5 hrs.)

8:00 AM-9:00 AM Baggage Pick Up / Check Out / Breakfast on Own

9:00 AM-9:30 AM Depart for the Knesset

9:30 AM-10:00 AM Private Meeting with Speaker of the Knesset Amir Ohana (.5)

10:00 AM-11:00 AM Abraham Accords Commemoration – Knesset (1)

Topic: *Commemorating the Signing of the Abraham Accords*
Description: An event hosted by the Abraham Accords Caucus in the Knesset with dignitaries representing each of the Abraham Accords nations. An update on the progress of the Accords since their signing, and the future of the Accords under the shadow of October 7th.

11:00 AM-12:30 PM Depart for Ariel – Regional Hub, Samaria (1)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association
Topic: *Survey of Demographic Realities, Samaria (Inside the Green Line)*
Description: An understanding of BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions), the divided land, and co-existence inside the green line.

12:30 PM-2:00 PM Lunch – Ron Nachman Pioneer Museum at the National Leadership Center (1.5)

Speaker: Avi Zimmerman, Co-Founder of the Judea & Samaria Chamber of Commerce
Topic: *Mutual Investment: Israelis & Palestinians in Joint Business*
Description: A briefing on Palestinians and Israelis working side by side in joint economics in the West Bank as a path toward peaceful coexistence. Insight into the challenges of the joint business vision in a post-October 7th world and how this affects existing U.S. legislation.

Speaker: Yair Chetboun, Mayor of Ariel
Topic: *Briefing on Ariel as the Capital & Regional Hub of Samaria*
Description: A history of the modern city of Ariel and its role as the capital of Samaria.

2:00 PM-2:30 PM Tour the National Leadership Center (0.5)

Speaker: Eran Glazer, Executive Director, Israel's National Leadership Center
Topic: *A New Generation of Leaders for Israel: Arabs & Jews Training Together*
Description: The role of the National Leadership Center and their key relationship with the Ministry of Education, the IDF, and the Arabs. A hands-on look at a unique program developing Israel's future leaders and rehabilitation efforts post-October 7th.

2:30 PM-3:30 PM Guided Bus Tour of Ariel (1)

Speaker: Avi Zimmerman, Co-Founder of the Judea & Samaria Chamber of Commerce
Topic: *Jewish Communities in the West Bank*
Description: A guided tour of the city of Ariel as a standard for Jewish communities inside of the West Bank. How do these communities operate and what are their security challenges in contrast to communities in internationally recognized Israel?

3:30 PM-4:00 PM Depart for Shiloh (.5)

Speaker: Ari Sacher, Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Israel Education Association
Topic: *Binational Foundations*
Description: Discuss the collaborative research success occurring at Ariel University and briefing on ways the U.S. government can work with Israelis under the BIRD, BARD, and BSF foundations, specifically geared toward life sciences.

4:00 PM-5:30 PM Ancient Shiloh Archaeological Site (1.5)

Speaker: Roni Stern, Professional Guide
Topic: *Guided walking tour through ancient ruins of Shiloh*
Description: A look at the city of Shiloh and its recent historical findings through excavation. A look back over history in this region and why the years of hostility remains today. Can lessons be learned and changes be implemented with the involvement of U.S. leaders?

5:30 PM-6:00 PM Depart for Dinner

6:00 PM-7:30 PM Dinner at G'Vaot Winery

7:30 PM-9:00 PM Depart for The Scots Hotel

9:00 PM Check into The Scots Hotel

Overnight - The Scots Hotel

Day 6 – Wednesday, April 3, 2024: Galilee (6.5 hrs.)

8:00 AM-9:00 AM Breakfast on Own – The Scots Hotel

9:00 AM-10:30 AM Presentation on the Galilee Region – The Scots Hotel, Private Room (1.5)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association
Topic: *The History of the Galilee*
Description: Teaching on the historical, political, and spiritual background of the unique Galilee region and its importance in modern context.

10:30 AM-12:30 PM Bus Tour Around Galilee Region (1.5)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association
Topic: *The Galilee Region in Contrast to the West Bank*
Discussion: Discussion on the difference between traveling and life in Israel proper from the situation inside of the West Bank. A look at how Israeli life differs significantly depending on geographic location.

Speaker: Roni Stern, Professional Guide
Topic: *Briefing on Agriculture in the North*
Description: Briefing on Israel's agricultural challenges that created agricultural breakthroughs, and how the nation has created a "startup" culture around agriculture technology.

12:30 PM-1:00 PM Depart for Lunch

1:00PM-2:30 PM Lunch at Magdalena (1.5)

Speaker: Avicahi Stern, Mayor of Kiryat Shmona
Topic: *Northern Communities Post-October 7th*
Description: Lunch briefing with Mayor from leading northern community. An assessment of life in the north in a post-October 7th world, with insight into the future of the thousands of displaced Israelis. How will they be impacted by the protracted conflict with Hezbollah?

2:30 PM-3:00 PM Depart for Sea of Galilee

3:00 PM-6:30 PM Explore the Sea of Galilee – Bus Tour & Boat Ride (2)

Speaker: Roni Stern, Professional Guide
Topic: *The Sea of Galilee*
Description: The bus will begin at the lunch restaurant near Capernaum and travel south to Tiberius. The members will receive a briefing on the ancient history of these towns and their current importance in the context of the conflict in the north of Israel with Hezbollah. Then the members will embark on a boat in Tiberius and ride the boat back to the hotel. They will be briefed on the importance of this

ancient seaport and understand the history and the unique cross over of religions between the Jewish and Christian holy sites. How religion in the Galilee plays a different role in Israeli society, versus Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. The bus and the boat provide the best vantage points of the Sea of Galilee and the geography and topography along the shoreline.

6:30 PM-7:00 PM Depart for Hotel

7:00 PM Group Dinner – The Scots Hotel

Overnight - The Scots Hotel

Day 7 – Thursday, April 4, 2024: Galilee Region / Tel Aviv (8 hrs.)

7:30 AM-8:30 AM Baggage Pick Up / Check out / Breakfast on Own

8:30 AM-10:00 AM Morning Business Meeting (1.5)

Speaker: Joan Leslie McGill, Chief of Staff, U.S. Israel Education Association
Topic: *Debrief of the Congressional Tour with a Look to the Future*
Description: Discussion on major points of education on the tour, how these points specifically pertain to the members' role in the U.S. government, and how this information will impact the future of the U.S.-Israel relationship.

10:00 AM-11:15 AM Depart for Mt. Bental Overlook (1)

Speaker: Ari Sacher, Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Israel Education Association
Topic: *Looking to the North: Israel's Northern Fronts*
Description: Presentation connecting Israel's two northern fronts from Syria to Lebanon – how they are similar and how they differ, providing unique challenges and military readiness opportunities.

11:15 AM-12:15 PM Briefing at Mt. Bental Overlook (1)

Speaker: Ilan Shulman, IDF Intelligence Officer
Topic: *Israel's Syrian Border*
Description: Presentation on the security situation at Israel's Syrian border, including the implications of a Russian presence and how that affects current geopolitical dynamics.

12:15 PM-1:45 PM Depart for Kfar Vradim for ALMA Briefing – Picnic Lunch on Bus

1:45 PM-3:15 PM Kfar Vradim - The Lebanese Front (1.5)

Speaker: Lt. Col. (Res.) Sarit Zehavi, CEO & Founder, ALMA
Topic: *The Hezbollah Threat & Israel's Lebanese Front*
Description: Briefing on the current state of Lebanese affairs and how this affects Israel and the world at large. What is the US government's role in these situations? Discussion of the northern border as a strategic security front.

3:15 PM-4:15 PM Depart for Mt. Carmel

4:15 PM-5:15 PM Mt. Carmel (1)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association
Topic: *Strategic Vantage Point & Final Overlook of the Northern Region*
Discussion: Presentation on the historical viewpoints on this location and how it serves as another strategic security point for Israel in its northern regional dynamics.

5:15 PM-6:30 PM Depart for Caesarea

6:30 PM-7:00 PM Ancient Archeological Park Caesarea, Walking Tour (0.5)

Speaker: Roni Stern, Professional Guide
Topic: *Ancient Caesarea & Israel's Sea Border*
Description: Presentation on the history of ancient Caesarea and the importance of Israel's ports and waterfront for trade and security.

7:00 PM-9:00 PM Farewell Dinner - Crusaders Restaurant, Private Room (1.5)

Topic: *Members Debrief*
Description: Final discussion and overview of trip. Members highlight major focus points for U.S. government interests and actionable outcomes moving forward.

9:00 PM-10:00 PM Depart for Tel Aviv, Ben Gurion Airport

10:00 PM Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport, Flight Check-In

Arrive Home – Friday, April 5, 2024: Travel

1:00 AM IST Group Flight Depart TLV – JFK (DL7424)

5:50 AM EST Group Flight Arrives at JFK

Grace Higgins Flights

9:55 AM EST JFK - DCA (DL5739)

0000000004782 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: June 06, 2024

U.S. ISRAEL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

February 22, 2024

Dear Ms. Higgins,

I would like to extend an invitation for you to join us for an innovative tour to Israel from **March 28 - April 5, 2024**. U.S. Israel Education Association (USIEA) leads Congressional Delegations on advanced fact-finding missions for Senior Members and their staff. These tours travel through Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) and investigate the prominent demographic issues related to security and economy. You will meet the Israeli and Palestinian leaders who are forging an integrated economic development plan, even in the face of war, as well as engage directly with Israel's top leaders in government, business, defense, and visit both the Northern and Southern conflict zones.

This privately sponsored trip will provide all meals, accommodations, and travel expenses. A private security staff will escort the tour for the length of your time in Israel. The number of tour participants is intentionally limited to maintain an atmosphere that strengthens relationships and encourages participation in dialogue.

To accept our invitation, your office is required to submit travel documents to Congressional Ethics for approval. If you wish to accept our invitation, we kindly ask that you begin the submission process now with our office in order to make reservations and organize necessary travel arrangements.

We would be honored to have you join us on this unforgettable trip at an historical time.

Every Blessing,

Heather Johnston

Heather Johnston
Founder & Executive Director
U.S. Israel Education Association

Trip Name: USIEA Congressional Tour to Israel

Organization Information

Organization Name:
U.S. Israel Education Association (USIE

Is your organization classified as a §501(c)(3)?
(●) Yes ( ) No

If Yes, §501(c)(3) Organization Type:
[ ] Private Foundation [✓] Public Charity

Address:
402 Office Park Drive, Suite 215

City, State, Zip:
Birmingham, AL, 35223

Phone Number:
205-907-2756

Organization URL:
usieducation.org

History of Congressional Travel

Describe your organization's history of sponsoring congressional travel.

USIEA has been leading advanced fact-finding missions to Israel since 2011. We have successfully completed 7 privately sponsored trips in that time period.

Educational Activities

Describe the educational activities performed by your organization other than sponsoring congressional travel.

In addition to Congressional tours, USIEA also facilitates educational briefings on Capitol Hill. These briefings are organized for individual members and committees, and equip Congress with information on subjects related to the U.S.-Israel relationship. USIEA also works with individual offices and staff on an ongoing basis to provide up-to-date information on timely issues.

Lobbyist and Foreign Agent Registration Information

Lobbyist Registration Status (Select one):

(●) I certify that the sponsor is not a federally registered lobbyist and does not retain or employ a federally registered lobbyist.

( ) I certify that the sponsor is not a federally registered lobbyist but does retain or employ one or more federally registered lobbyists.

Foreign Agent Registration Status (Select one):

(●) I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal and does not retain or employ an agent of a foreign principal.

( ) I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal but does retain or employ one or more agents of a foreign principal.

Foreign Government Involvement

Foreign Agent Registration Status (Must select all):

[✓] I certify that the sponsor is not a foreign government.

[✓] I certify that the sponsor is not an entity that is owned or operated by a foreign government.

[✓] I certify that the sponsor does not receive funding from a foreign government.

Purpose and Details

Provide a brief description of the trip.

USIEA will lead members of Congress and their staff on an advanced fact-finding mission in Israel. The delegation will travel through the West Bank, gathering firsthand knowledge of the geopolitical dynamics on the ground. The delegation will also meet with top leaders in government, business, military, and science. Finally, the delegation will receive briefings on the events of October 7th and visit both the Southern and Northern conflict zones in Israel.

Explain how the purpose of the trip relates to your organization's mission.

USIEA is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to educating senior government leaders and their staff on the U.S.-Israel relationship. USIEA fosters communication between U.S. and Israeli leaders and experts across government and all industries. This trip will provide members and their staff with the education necessary to make informed legislative decisions.

Is your organization the only sponsor for this trip?

(●) Yes ( ) No

If No, describe your organization's role in planning the trip.

N/A

If there are multiple sponsors, each sponsor must submit Organization Information (Page 1 of the Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form) and a Signature Page Form.

Grantmaking Organizations (Optional)

If you have a Grantmaking Organization, you must attach a Grantmaking Organization Certification Form.

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. N/A

With or Without Regard to Congressional Participation (Select one):

- ○ The trip is arranged or organized without regard to congressional participation.
- ◉ The trip is arranged or organized with regard to congressional participation.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Involvement in Planning, Organizing, Requesting or Arranging

- ☑ The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal, other than de minimis involvement.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Financing (Must select all):

- ☑ The trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.
- ☑ No funds or in-kind contributions were earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Accompaniment

Complete if all sponsors are §501(c)(3) organizations (Select one):

- ◉ The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- ○ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and one overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip
- ○ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and two overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

Complete if any of the sponsors is not a §501(c)(3) organizations (Select one):

- ○ No sponsor retains or employs a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principle, the trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- ○ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and one overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip
- ○ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and two overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

Required if selecting the third option in either column - Please explain why the second overnight stay is practically required and necessary to accomplish the purpose of the trip.

N/A

Certification of No Recreational Activity and No Alcohol (Must select all):

- ☑ Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for recreational activities.
- ☑ Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for alcohol, except as permitted by the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel.

Invitees list

- ☑ A list of all Senate invitees is attached to this form (required).
- ☑ Members and staff from the House of Representatives will also receive invitations.

Travel Details (Submit additional pages as needed)

Trip Start Date/Time:	⇄	Trip End Date/Time:
March 28, 2024		April 5, 2024

Will the traveler be accompanied by a family member for whom the sponsor will pay travel expenses?

○ Yes ◉ No

Transportation (Member/Officer/Employee: $7,752 Accompanying Family Member: $_____)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Air	Premium Economy	$6,337.00
Bus	Charter	$1,415.00

Details (optional)

Lodging (Member/Officer/Employee: $3,070 Accompanying Family Member: $_____)

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country
3/29/24	4/2/24	The David Citadel Hotel	Jerusalem		Israel
Nights	**Cost/Night**	**Cost Exceed Per Diem (Yes/No)**	If Yes, please explain why expenses over the per diem rate are reasonable and necessary.		
4	$550.00	Yes	Inflated prices due to war.		

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country
4/2/24	4/4/24	The Scots Hotel	Tiberius		Israel
Nights	**Cost/Night**	**Cost Exceed Per Diem (Yes/No)**	If Yes, please explain why expenses over the per diem rate are reasonable and necessary.		
2	$435.00	Yes	Inflated prices due to war.		

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country
Nights	**Cost/Night**	**Cost Exceed Per Diem (Yes/No)**	If Yes, please explain why expenses over the per diem rate are reasonable and necessary.		

Meals (Member/Officer/Employee: $989 Accompanying Family Member: $_____)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem (Y/N)
3/29/24	$0	$85	$146		$231	Jerusalem		Israel	Y
3/30/24	$0	$35	$50		$85	Jerusalem		Israel	N
3/31/24	$70	$55	$157		$282	Jerusalem		Israel	Y
4/1/24	$0	$65	$73		$138	Jerusalem		Israel	N
4/2/24	$0	$35	$0		$35	Tiberius		Israel	N
4/3/24	$0	$73	$0		$73	Tiberius		Israel	N
4/4/24	$0	$35	$110		$145	Tel Aviv		Israel	N

If costs exceed the federal per diem, please explain why expenses over the per diem rate are reasonable and necessary.

Costs exceed the federal per diem due to inflated prices in Israel related to the war. USIEA chose all meals, meeting rooms, and incidentals with the federal diem in mind and attempted to get rates as close as possible.

Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses

(Member/Officer/Employee: $4,891 Accompanying Family Member: $_____)

Expense Type	Amount	Notes
Security	$4,035.00	* all amounts are per person
Site Entrance Fees	$403.00	
Private Meeting Spaces	$283.00	
Misc. (Whispers, Notebooks, Adapters)	$170.00	

Additional Details (optional)

Daily breakfast costs reported at $0 reflect breakfasts that are included in the hotel rate.
Daily dinner costs reported at $0 reflect dinners that included in the hotel rate.

0000000004788 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: June 06, 2024

PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL

SPONSOR SIGNATURE PAGE

I hereby certify that the information submitted in connection with the trip listed below is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Trip Name: USIEA Congressional Tour to Israel

Travel Date(s): March 28-April 5, 2024

Travel Destination(s): Jerusalem & Tiberius, Israel

Sponsor: U.S. Israel Education Association (USIEA)

Heather Johnston — *(printed name of sponsor representative)*

Founder & CEO — *(title)*

Heather Johnston — *(signature of sponsor representative)*

02/20/24 — *(date)*

ATTACHMENT 1 – CHANGES FROM APPROVED PRE-TRAVEL

Note: Material changes to a trip that occur after the Committee has issued an approval letter may invalidate the Committee's approval. Please contact the Committee with any questions regarding changes to an approved trip.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved travel expenses? (Transportation, Meals, Lodging, Other)?

(●) Yes ( ) No

Expense Change	Revised Amount	Explanation
Meals	$1,385.00	Amount increased due to briefings scheduled over meals.
Other	$4,885.40	Amount decreased due to reduction in security price.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

(●) Yes ( ) No

Explanation:
Yes, please see attached updated itinerary. The itinerary shifted due to the changing nature of Israeli government leaders' availability. This caused shifting in the rest of the itinerary to accomodate their schedules.

Were there any additional changes to the pre-approved trip?

( ) Yes (●) No

Explanation:
No other changes were made to the pre-approved trip.