

# IsraelNow Mishpacha (Small Group) Leader Responsibilities and Attributes

*Our mission is to connect second semester 8th grade teens to the people, land, and state of Israel, while building their Jewish self-confidence and expanding their Jewish social network through a week-long, pluralistic, inclusive, and immersive educational travel program. The IsraelNow platform will significantly increase engagement and participation in Jewish experiences during high school and beyond.*

## IsraelNow's Core Outcomes:

1. Expanded Jewish Social Networks and Connections.
2. Increased Jewish Self-Confidence and Knowledge.
3. Strengthen Connection for Israel and the Jewish People.

*Mishpacha* leaders must have a passion for working with teens, for Israel, and for the Jewish people. A background in Jewish education, formal and/or experiential (teaching, be camp counselor, youth group advising), is a definite plus. Clergy is most welcome! We are not looking for "chaperones." Rather we are looking for mentors and educators who can support teens from diverse backgrounds in a pluralistic setting. While all staff members have responsibilities with the entire group, *mishpacha* (family in Hebrew) leaders have direct responsibility for 6-8 teens, typically housed in 2-3 hotel rooms. *Mishpacha* leaders should interact with the teens with the core outcomes in mind during the trip. Must be 21 years or older and preference will be given to applicants with previous Israel travel experience.

*Note: This is an active trip; mishpacha leaders must be able to walk an average of 16,000 steps per day at a 14-year-old pace. The trip includes extensive walking, hiking, a climb up Masada, and some early mornings and late nights all while adjusting to the overseas time change.*

## Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

### 1) Supervision & Education

- Supervising and actively engaging with the teens in your *mishpacha* and on the trip.
- Recognizing and capitalizing on teachable moments.
- Providing safe space for teens to process, ask questions, and engage with their Israel experience, including, but not limited to daily reflections.

### 2) Health, Safety & Logistics

- Ensuring timely arrival at meals, bus departures, participant or staff meetings, and all trip activities.
- Holding and dispensing teens' medication at the appropriate times and in proper doses (in consort with trip physicians).
- Safekeeping teens' spending money, passports, and other important documents.
- Be attentive to messages sent by INEF staff, Shorashim, healthcare staff, and others.
- Taking pictures of teens for IsraelNow use.
- Keeping teens safely in their rooms at night.
- Being a trusted and approachable adult for teens who are struggling with social/emotional concerns; working with trip mental health clinicians as appropriate to support teens.

### 3) Professionalism

- Maintaining a positive attitude, promoting enthusiasm, and having a sense of humor.
- Participating in all activities, including Shabbat programming.
- Completing post-trip evaluation and assessing each teen in your *mishpacha*.
- Pre-trip calls to each family in your *mishpacha*.
- Attending pre-trip orientations and staff training.

*All tzevet (staff) will receive staff training before the trip and a handbook with detailed duties and instructions.*



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