



SWUSY REGION
UNITED SYNAGOGUE YOUTH
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February 6, 2014

2013 - 2014/5773 - 5774
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Dear SWUSY Summer Program Applicants and Parents,

Each USY summer program is a formative educational and of course extremely fun program. USYers come home with incredible memories, new skills, and lifelong friendships. It is our goal that no USYer who wants to go on a summer program is unable to because of financial need.

We are pleased to offer for the first time ever, a combined application form for all regional and international summer program scholarships. This streamlined form will make your scholarship request simpler and will allow us to look at your individual need against the big picture of the available funds in our different regional and international scholarships.

All scholarship applications are due by **Thursday, April 3rd**. Regional scholarship award amounts will be shared with you before Passover (April 11th) and International decisions will be shared before the end of April. Please make sure that all of the required materials are in on time. Please note that all USY scholarships are primarily need based.

In addition to our scholarships, please make sure that you have researched other sources as well. Our website has some great information about other scholarship opportunities. Please check out [our list of places to ask](#), [Plant Your Way to Israel](#) (Pilgrimage only) and the [One Happy Camper](#) (Wheels only) sites. We strongly recommend setting up a meeting with your Rabbi and/or Youth Director to discuss options for financing your summer of a lifetime!

In order for your application to be considered complete, we must have all parts of the application. Below you'll find an application checklist, and the following pages include detailed information about each scholarship.

Scholarship Checklist

- Completed application form (with all signatures)
- Two (2) letters of recommendation (one from clergy or education director, one from youth advisor)
- Copy of 1040
- Paid Regional/International USY Membership

Additional Checklist for Herskowitz Scholarship

- Essay
- Project Proposal

Please do not hesitate to be in touch if you have any questions. We can't wait to hear about your amazing summer experience. Good luck!

Best,

Maury Jacobs

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RICHIE HERSKOWITZ SCHOLARSHIP Fund for USY Summer Programs

OVERVIEW

SWUSY Region is proud to offer scholarships from the **Richie Herskowitz Scholarship Fund** for SWUSYites attending **USY summer programs**. Established in 2012 in memory of Richie Herskowitz, past SWUSYite who passed away from Cystic Fibrosis in 2007 at the young age of 17, the Richie Herskowitz Scholarship Fund will be able to offer SWUSY participants financial assistance so that they may attend our life changing summer programs while honoring Richie's memory and spirit. Even with everything Richie was going through, he was always known to have a smile on his face and a strong spirit.

For the 2014 year, there will be **up to three (3) scholarships** awarded in the amount of \$500. Scholarships are primarily **need based**, but preference will be given to those who are active in their USY chapters and/or Jewish communities.

ESSAY

Applicants will need to complete a **500 word essay** reflecting on Richie's famous quote "**You only live once. Why miss the opportunity?**" In the essay applicants should discuss why they are interested in attending this program, the expectations for their experience, and how they think their experience will affect their Jewish identity.

PROJECT

Scholarship recipients will be expected to execute a **mini project** in Richie's memory **before your trip departs**. Please see a list of recommended projects on the next page. Please also submit a short **description of the project** you will complete if selected. Projects will be approved as part of the application process. Recipients are encouraged to meet with local Jewish educators (i.e. Rabbis, Cantors, Education Directors) to learn about the Jewish view on organ donation before executing their project. You can also learn more about Richie and Richie's Spirit Foundation (RSF) at www.richiesspirit.org.

PROJECT OPTIONS

Option 1 – YouTube Video

Create a 60-90 second video to upload to YouTube. The video should in some way promote and/or discuss organ donation. You may want to include a Jewish perspective on the topic. The video should include the Richie's Spirit Foundation logo and a link to their website. **If you choose this project**, please share the direction you would like to go with your video.

Option 2 – Teaching Your Community

Visit one or more religious school classes, USY events, or school classes, and teach about organ donation. If the organization is a Jewish one, please make sure to include a Jewish perspective. The impact should reach a minimum of 18 teenagers. Richie's Spirit Foundation will provide you with publicity materials to hand out, and you will need to collect names and emails to add to their mailing list. **If you choose this project**, please let us know which group(s) you will meet with, and what you would like to speak about.

Option 3 – Letter Writing Campaign

Write and send out a letter to at least 18 friends or family passing Richie's Spirit along and what it means to you to receive this scholarship. Pamphlets about Richie's Spirit Foundation will be provided and must be included in the mailing. **If you choose this project**, please share thoughts on what you will include in your letter.

Option 4 – D'var Torah

Write and give a D'var Torah (sermon) at your local Synagogue a Shabbat morning. The D'var Torah should discuss the Jewish view on organ donation. Pamphlets about Richie's Spirit Foundation will be provided and must be available during or after the service. **If you choose this project**, please share the direction you would like to go with your D'var Torah.

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SWUSY Tikun Olam Scholarship for USY Summer Programs

OVERVIEW

Thirty (30) percent of all monies raised by our Region through Tikun Olam becomes available for use as scholarship money for USY summer programs and NATIV. Therefore, the amount available for scholarship use varies from year to year. Due to the nature of this program, you will note that we will not be making any public announcements of scholarship recipients.

GUIDELINES

Recipients must be dues paying members of USY. (Kadima members are eligible for Wheels East scholarships when the program is offered).

The minimum amount of scholarship monies to be awarded to any individual can be no less than \$500 or 10% (whichever is less) towards the cost of the Program in which they are participating. The minimum amount of scholarship monies for NATIV participants can be no less than 5% of the cost of the program.

Tikun Olam scholarships are to be based upon need. That is not to say that those people who receive scholarships should not have the merit to receive them, however, if the decision is between two people, obviously, the person who is in greater need of financial assistance in order to participate in the summer program should receive primary consideration.

**SWUSY REGION
UNITED SYNAGOGUE YOUTH
601 SKOKIE BOULEVARD, SUITE 402
NORTHBROOK, IL 60062**

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL USY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

NOTE TO ALL APPLICANTS: All information indicated on this application, and any discussion of the applications, will be held in the strictest confidence. To help maximize the amount your child receives in financial aid, we will be sharing this information with the International USY office. Please make sure that you have read the combined scholarship guidelines and have completed all required items. Please mark all regional scholarships you are applying for below.

- SWUSY Richie Herskowitz Summer Program Scholarship
- SWUSY Regional Tikun Olam Scholarship / International USY Tikun Olam Scholarship

Which program do you plan to attend this summer? _____

I. NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
 PHONE () _____ AGE _____ GRADE _____
 E MAIL ADDRESS _____

II. PARENT 1 NAME _____
 PARENT 1 OCCUPATION _____
 NAME & ADDRESS OF BUSINESS _____

PARENT 2 NAME _____
 PARENT 2 OCCUPATION _____
 NAME & ADDRESS OF BUSINESS _____

MARITAL STATUS OF PARENTS:

Married_____ Separated_____ Divorced_____ Widowed_____

OTHER CHILDREN IN FAMILY, GRADE IN SCHOOL, NAME OF SCHOOL:

III. NAME OF USY CHAPTER _____
 PARENT'S SYNAGOGUE AFFILIATION _____
 NAME OF RABBI _____
 NAME OF YOUTH DIRECTOR/ADVISOR _____

IV. NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL _____
 EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES _____

V. DESCRIBE YOUR JEWISH EDUCATION:
 SCHOOL ATTENDED _____ GRADE LEVELS _____ YEARS _____

VI. LIST YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN YOUR LOCAL USY CHAPTER, REGIONAL USY PROGRAMS, OTHER JEWISH YOUTH GROUPS AND CAMPS, SYNAGOGUE LIFE AND THE JEWISH COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

VII. FINANCES

TOTAL COST OF PROGRAM: _____

PLEASE INDICATE FAMILY INCOME LAST YEAR: _____

PLEASE APPROXIMATE HOW YOU ARE PLANNING TO FINANCE YOUR TRIP:

	<u>AMOUNT</u>
YOURSELF	\$ _____
PARENTS & FAMILY	\$ _____
SYNAGOGUE SCHOLARSHIP	\$ _____
USY TIKUN OLAM SCHOLARSHIP (Regional & International)	\$ _____
FEDERATION SCHOLARSHIP (Israel) / ONE HAPPY CAMPER (Wheels)	\$ _____
RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND	\$ _____
SWUSY RICHIE HERSKOWITZ SUMMER PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP	\$ _____
OTHER (SPECIFY BELOW)	

WHICH SOURCE(S)? _____ HOW MUCH? _____

Please indicate on a separate sheet any additional personal or family information you feel may be helpful to the Scholarship Committee in evaluating your scholarship application.

By signing below, I consent that all information in this application is true to the best of my knowledge and that I support this USYer's request for scholarship.

USYER SIGNATURE _____ Date _____

PARENT SIGNATURE _____ Date _____

YOUTH ADVISOR SIGNATURE _____ Date _____

RABBI SIGNATURE _____ Date _____

Attached to this application must be a copy of your 1040 form and two (2) letters of recommendation, one of which must be from your rabbi, cantor, or educational director and the other from your youth director or youth advisor. Send to:

**SWUSY REGION
SUMMER PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP
601 SKOKIE BOULEVARD, SUITE 402
NORTHBROOK, IL 60062**

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 3, 2014