



PHOENIX
NCSY
&
JSU
ANNUAL REPORT

Connecting, inspiring and empowering more
than 1,000 Phoenix Jewish teens annually.



OUR MISSION IS: **TO INSPIRE THE JEWISH FUTURE**

NCSY is the premier organization dedicated to connecting, inspiring and empowering Jewish teens. NCSY has been engaging Jewish teens and reconnecting them with their heritage since its founding in 1954. Through the decades, NCSY has evolved and developed new ways to make Judaism relevant to the next generation. In 2000, Jewish Student Union (JSU) clubs were created as a forum for public school students to meet other Jewish teens while learning about their Jewish heritage in a fun and relaxed environment.

NCSY reaches over 20,000 teens from more than 200 cities across six countries each year. NCSY connects with Jewish youth through innovative, cutting-edge social and recreational programs. NCSY inspires Jewish teens through informal Jewish education, retreats and summer programs. With leadership development and guidance, NCSY empowers teens to become committed leaders of the Jewish community.

Take a look at some of our innovative programs and accomplishments from the past year. We hope you share in our inspiration and get involved today!

PHOENIX BY THE NUMBERS

300+ events

300+ unique teens participated in JSU clubs

60 teens attended Regional Shabbaton weekends in Southern California

8 schools run JSU clubs

Arizona JSU won Chapter-of-the-Year Award at West Coast NCSY's Spring Regional





ON THE FRONT LINES OF INSPIRATION:

Jewish Student Union (JSU) Clubs

With virtually all of Greater Phoenix Jewish teens enrolled in public or non-Jewish private high schools, classrooms have become the battleground for Jewish identity. JSU clubs provide Jewish teens with innovative programs that strengthen their Jewish identity and connection to Judaism. The clubs also serve as an entry point for teens to discover Jewish opportunities within the local Jewish community and college campuses.

JSU educators provide educational programming through interactive discussions, guest speakers and video presentations. Topics covered include (but are not limited to) Jewish holidays, Israel education, current events, leadership and anti-Semitism. By coming directly to where students spend most of their day, JSU clubs successfully reach hundreds of teens.

JSU CLUBS INCLUDE:

Brophy College Preparatory
Horizon High School
Chaparral High School
Desert Mountain High School
Tesseract High School
Saguaro High School
Pinnacle High School
Sunnyslope High School



I love JSU because it gives me the opportunity to connect with the Jewish community and meet other Jewish friends. I have learned about Judaism and I feel honored to be a part of such a giving and rewarding program. My Jewish identity was enhanced thanks to JSU.”

Chloe B.
Tesseract High School



WEST COAST REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CONVENTIONS



Shabbaton weekends inspire and educate teens in an atmosphere of Jewish pride and growth. They provide an opportunity for public school and private school students to interact together in a traditional Shabbat environment. Over the weekend, participants study Jewish topics that speak directly to the high school mind. For many teens, conventions are their first Shabbat experience.

"Going to public school means I'm not always surrounded by my religion. Attending NCSY events and regional conventions helps me connect and understand more about Judaism."

Sara P.
Metro Arts Institute

SUMMER PROGRAMS

NCSY Summer is more than just a few weeks away from home. It is one of the most meaningful and memorable experiences of a teenager's life. NCSY runs 12 unique summer programs in the US, Israel and Europe that cater to teens with different interests and backgrounds.



BILT

Boys Israel Leadership Training (BILT) is a leadership program for boys looking to challenge themselves and have an incredible adventure through the land of Israel.

CAMP SPORTS

Camp Sports, located in Baltimore, MD, focuses on recreational and highly competitive sports leagues.

EURO ICE

Euro ICE brings Jewish history to life by exploring Greece, a land full of rich Jewish culture and history. The trip culminates in Israel by visiting all the popular sites on this coed trip.

GIVE

Girls Israel Volunteer Experience (GIVE) is for exceptional high school girls looking to experience Judaism through the art of giving back in Israel.

GIVE WEST

GIVE West provides a select group of girls a fun and meaningful summer by giving back to communities across the West Coast.

ICE ISRAEL

ICE Israel takes boys and girls on an inspirational and exhilarating journey through the land of Israel.

JOLT

Jewish Overseas Leadership Training (JOLT) is for teens who want to become leaders.

Past participants have described their JOLT experience in Poland, Austria and Israel as having a transformational impact on their Jewish identity.

KOLLEL

NCSY Kollel is an unforgettable summer for boys with interactive learning, intense sports and great trips in Israel.

MICHLELET

Michlelet is an extraordinary program for teenage girls looking to spend their summer in a productive way by learning Torah and touring Israel.

TJJ - THE ANNE SAMSON

JERUSALEM JOURNEY
The Anne Samson Jerusalem Journey (TJJ)

is the most affordable Israel trip for public school teens. Teens tour Israel and develop an appreciation for its history.

THE ANNE SAMSON TJJ AMBASSADORS

The Anne Samson TJJ Ambassadors combines the best of touring with social action, political advocacy and Torah study in Israel for public school teens.

THE ANNE SAMSON TJJ AMBASSADORS POLAND

On The Anne Samson TJJ Ambassadors Poland (TJJ AP), public school teens spend a week in Poland before traveling to Israel and touring the land through the lens of Jewish thought, history and leadership.

THE ANNE SAMSON JERUSALEM JOURNEY (TJJ)

The Anne Samson Jerusalem Journey (TJJ) is NCSY and JSU's premier Israel experience for public school and unaffiliated teens. The four-week trip to Israel prides itself on its educational programming, quality of staff and individual attention towards each participant. The trip

is highly subsidized by generous donors ensuring every Jewish teen the opportunity to experience Israel firsthand. In Phoenix, The Harold & Jean Grossman Teen Israel Experience Scholarship Fund awards \$1,000 to every teen visiting Israel for the first time on TJJ.

TJJ VITAL STATS

95% stated that marrying a Jew is important to them

94% attended a Passover seder last year

92% identified as being emotionally attached to Israel

88% fasted on Yom Kippur

61% participated in Jewish learning at least once a week

With over 30 teens attending NCSY Israel programs in 2014 and 2015, Phoenix JSU sends more students to Israel per summer than any other organization in the valley.

"Before TJJ, I was bullied for being Jewish. Post TJJ, things changed. I am now a confident and secure teen with a strong Jewish identity. I have developed a newfound love for Judaism that I cannot thank you enough for."

Daniel P.

Horizon High School





SOCIAL EVENTS

Phoenix JSU offers weekly and monthly events for teens across the Valley to meet other Jewish teens and explore the Jewish world. Examples of programming include: boating, laser-tag and Latte & Learning.

CHAPTER BOARD

Chapter boards give teens the opportunity to build and exercise their leadership skills. From initial stages of brainstorming to fully implementing their ideas, teens work together in the fields of education, social action, communication and outreach. This past year, teens ran a Purim carnival for special needs children and adults.

JR. NCSY

Jr. NCSY unites 6-8th graders through social events, educational programming and Shabbaton weekends. This enables teens to enter high school with a group of supportive Jewish friends.

In December, 20 Phoenix Jr. NCSYers traveled to Las Vegas for a joint Shabbaton weekend with more than 60 teens in attendance.

MEASURING SUCCESS AND MAXIMIZING YOUR INVESTMENT



A large part of NCSY's success is due to an emphasis on data collection. The data allows us to keep track of where we are being successful and where improvements can be made. It helps NCSY make sure that it is helping teens continue their Jewish journey.

NCSY's senior educators tour more than 30 gap-year programs every year in Israel to gather research on how teens are enjoying their experience. This allows them to help graduating high school students find the best program for them. Additionally, it allows the staff to see potential advisors in action and gives them the opportunity to recruit the best advisors.

NCSY also maintains a database of Jewish opportunities on college campuses. NCSY connects teens to these resources to help them advance in the next stage of their lives. Not only does this enable NCSY to measure its long-term goals and successes, but it also ensures that the investment made in a teenager translates into Jewish involvement throughout a lifetime.

NCSY & JSU students represent the Jewish leaders who today may be in high school and on a college campus, but will soon be the presidents of our federations, local non-profits and social service agencies of the future.

Imagine, then, what we could do if we reached hundreds, or even thousands more. Imagine what the Jewish communities of the future would look like if our teens fell in love with being Jewish.

**INSPIRE THE JEWISH FUTURE
BY PARTNERING WITH US TODAY!**

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NCSY is the international youth movement of the OU. NCSY is open to teens of all backgrounds and affiliations.