



PHOENIX
JSU
ANNUAL REPORT

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



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

JSU is a program of NCSY, the premier organization of the Orthodox Union, 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.

JSU has over 1000 clubs around the country in 79 different cities. JSU connects with Jewish youth through innovative, cutting-edge social and recreational programs. JSU inspires Jewish teens through informal Jewish education, retreats and summer programs. With leadership development and guidance, JSU 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

200+ events

450+ unique teens participated in JSU clubs

40 teens attended Regional Shabbaton weekends in Southern California

8 schools run JSU clubs

3 new school clubs coming in 2016-17

15 Arizona JSU students going to Israel this year on TJJ





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



JSU has truly broadened my connections with my Jewish community. The network of Jewish peers I have become a part of is invaluable.

David L.
Chaparral HS JSU



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.

"Regional convention is meaningful to me because it gives me the opportunity to meet Jewish kids from different backgrounds and it allows me to be in a very comfortable place to observe Shabbat. The way that West Coast NCSY puts together the closing for Shabbat is extremely inspiring and really connects to my soul. I believe every Jewish teen should have this wonderful experience that I have every time I attend the NCSY regional."

Elana P.
Scottsdale, AZ

JSU'S COMMUNITY CELEBRATION



The event was graciously hosted by the Zeitser- Nach family. Over 150 teens, parents, community members and leaders came out to see firsthand the ways in which JSU clubs reach and educate hundreds of Jewish high school students in AZ. We raised over \$15,000 for JSU's 8 clubs and programming for our network of 450 teens - and growing!

JSU alumnus Yael Domb formerly Chaparral JSU President, spoke about her involvement with JSU, which lead her to her current leadership role at Chabad, and involvement with JAC, Hillel, and AIPAC.

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

JSU has sent more than 50 students to discover Israel for their first time, over the past couple of years

For More Information Visit: www.ncsy.tjj.org

Price: \$2,999 + \$400 Registration Fee





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

JSU Valley board empowers a couple of student representatives from each JSU club. The valley board gives teens the opportunity to build and exercise their leadership skills on a community level. From the 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 formed a specil committee to plan and run JSU's community event.



JR. PROGRAM

JSU's Junior 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.

This upcoming year Jr JSU will hold monthly social events and Ice Cream meet ups.

MEASURING SUCCESS AND MAXIMIZING YOUR INVESTMENT



A large part of JSU'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 ensure teens continue their Jewish journey.

JSU also maintains a database of Jewish opportunities on college campuses. JSU connects teens to these resources to help them advance in the next stage of their lives.

JSU is also able to advise students on Gap year programs or connect them to Jewish life on campus after they graduate High School. .

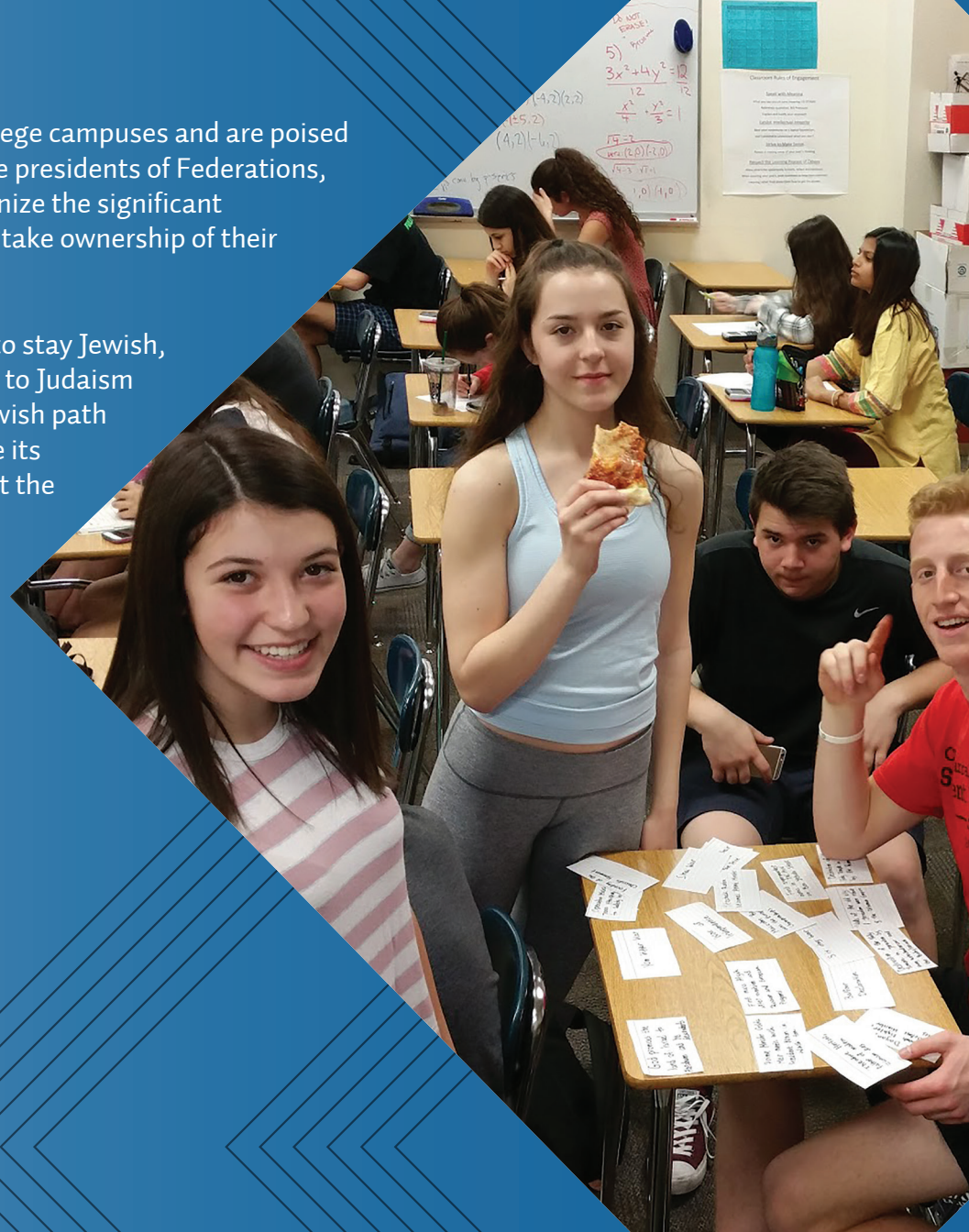
JSU teens are leaders in high schools then on their college campuses and are poised to become the ambassadors of the Jewish future as the presidents of Federations, local nonprofits and social service agencies. We recognize the significant influence our teen leaders have and empower them to take ownership of their Jewish identity and impact on their communities.

In a generation where there is an immense challenge to stay Jewish, JSU inspires and motivates teens to remain connected to Judaism and Israel. JSU looks at each teen and his/her own Jewish path individually. Not only does this enable JSU to measure its long-term goals and successes, but it also ensures that the investment made in a teen translates into Jewish involvement throughout a lifetime.

With 450+ teens involved in 8 public and private high school clubs, JSU has grown considerably in 2015-2016. Imagine, then, what we could do if we reached hundreds, or even thousands more. Imagine what the Arizona Jewish community of the future would look like if our teens became connected with their Judaism today.

**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.