

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM Original Amendment

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the annual *Financial Disclosure Statements* of those employees required to file them. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House by email at gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please **do not** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Name of Traveler: Melissa Kelly
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ **OR** None
b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: 2/13/26 Return: 2/22/26
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ **OR** None
4. Departure City: Dulles, VA Destination: Israel Return City: Dulles, VA
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: U.S. Israel Education Assoc.
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: Met with Ambassador Huckabee, Prime Minister Netanyahu, various officials on the US/Israel relationship related to defense and economic development between our countries.
7. Attached to this form are **each** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box:*
 - a. a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
 - b. the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor **prior** to the trip, **including all** attachments **and** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
 - c. page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the employee; **and**
 - d. the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. *Signify statement is true by checking the box.*
b. If not, explain: _____

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

Signature of Traveler:  Date: 3/10/26

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Name of Supervising Member: C. Scott Franklin Date: 3/9/26

Signature of Supervising Member: 

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

Original Amendment

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated in the trip within 10 days of their return.** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House Rules and the Committee's Travel Regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: U.S. Israel Education Association (USIEA)

2. Travel Destination(s): Israel

3. Date of Departure: February 13, 2026 Date of Return: February 22, 2026

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Mr. Melissa Mrs. Melissa Kelly

Note: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if all information is identical for each person listed.

5. Actual amount of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Total Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	\$ 10,128.01	\$ 2,405.00	\$ 1,495.04	\$ 9,888.14
Accompanying Family Member				

6. All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. Signify statement is true by checking box.

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

Signature: Heather Johnston Date: 3/5/2026

Name: Heather Johnston Title: Founder & CEO

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

I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.

Address: 402 Office Park Drive, Suite 215, Birmingham, AL 35223

Telephone: 205-907-2756 Email: heather@usieducation.org

Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection.

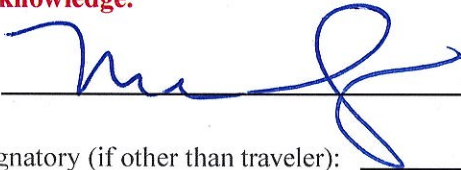
This form and any attachments may be submitted at 1015 Longworth House Office Building or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Your completed request must be submitted to the Committee no less than 30 days before your proposed departure date. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. **You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.**

Name of Traveler: Melissa Kelly

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

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

Signature: 

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): Rep. Scott Franklin

Office Address: 2301 Rayburn

Telephone Number: 202-225-1252

Email Address of Contact Person: melissa.kelly@mail.house.gov

Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet, the purpose of the trip is to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity, and these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 30 days before the trip departure date.

NOTE: You must complete all of the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.

KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM. Page 2 (but not this page) must be submitted to the Clerk as part of the post-travel disclosure required by House Rule 25. Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting paperwork for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If there are any questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or via email: travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Melissa Kelly
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: U.S. Israel Education Association (USIEA)
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Israel
4. a. Date of Departure: 02/13/2026 Date of Return: 02/22/2026
b. Yes No Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?
If yes, list dates at personal expense: _____
5. a. Yes No Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**
 - (1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: _____
 - (2) Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
 - (3) Yes No Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age?
6. a. Yes No Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?
b. **If yes**, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:

7. Yes No *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitation, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.
NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. **Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.**
As Chief of Staff, this trip will allow me to better advise Rep. Franklin in his duties on the appropriations committee with respect to issues related to the US-Israel relationship.

9. **Yes No Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**
10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member: _____

C. Scott Franklin

Date: 01/12/2026

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee's website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:

2. I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*
3. **Check only one.** I represent that:
 - a. The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**
 - b. The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**
 - c. The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.
If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: _____
4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary): _____
5. Yes No Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of Departure: _____ Date of Return: _____
7. a. City of departure: _____
b. Destination(s): _____
c. City of return: _____
8. **Check only one.** I represent that
 - a. The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**
 - b. The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**
 - c. The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. **Check only one of the following.**
- a. I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
 - b. I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
 - c. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
 - d. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted. _____
-

10. Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*

11. **Check only one of the following.**
- a. I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify the statement is true by clicking the box; OR*
 - b. *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.

12. For **each** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip **and** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:

13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**
- a. Mode of travel: Air Rail Bus Car Other (specify: _____)
 - b. Class of travel: Coach Business First Charter Other (specify: _____)
 - c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:
- _____
-

14. I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

15. **Check only one.** I represent that either:
- a. The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
 - b. The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If "b" is checked:
 - 1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): _____
 - 2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: _____
-

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:

Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____

Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____

Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____

Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

17. I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee			
For each Accompanying Family Member			

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee		
For each Accompanying Family Member		

19. **Check only one:**

- a. I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
- b. *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. **I certify by my signature that**

- a. **I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;**
- b. **I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and**
- c. **The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature: Heather Johnston Date: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.



U.S. ISRAEL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

USIEA Congressional Tour

February 13-22, 2026

Confirmed Members

Representative Scott Franklin (R-FL)

House Committee on Appropriations

- *Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, Vice Chairman*

House Committee on Science, Space and Technology

- *Subcommittee on Environment, Chairman*

Representative John Moolenaar (R-MI)

House Committee on Appropriations

- *Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration*
- *Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education*
- *Subcommittee on National Security, Department of State*

House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, *Chairman*

Representative Jay Obernolte (R-CA)

House Committee on Energy and Commerce

- *Subcommittee on Communications and Technology*
- *Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade*
- *Subcommittee on Health*

House Committee on Science, Space and Technology

- *Subcommittee on Research and Technology, Chairman*

House Committee on the Budget

Representative Dale Strong (R-AL)

House Committee on Appropriations

- *Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, Vice Chairman*
- *Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development*
- *Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch*

House Homeland Security Committee

- *Subcommittee on Emergency Management and Technology, Chairman*
- *Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability*

Representative Tim Walberg (R-MI)

House Committee on Education and the Workforce, *Chairman*

House Committee on Natural Resources



U.S. ISRAEL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Congressional Tour Israel Itinerary

Updated: Friday, March 6, 2026

***Friday, February 13 – Sunday, February 22
2026***

** all times are local **

() denotes education hours

Departure – Friday, February 13, 2026: Travel

Group Flight: 10:40 PM EST- 4:30 PM IST, IAD — TLV (UA72)

Rep. Walberg Flights

10:40 PM EST- 4:30 PM IST, IAD — TLV (UA72)

Rep. Franklin Flights

11:35 AM EST- 1:59 PM EST, TPA — DCA (AA3103)

10:40 PM EST- 4:30 PM IST, IAD — TLV (UA72)

Rep. Moolenaar Flights

10:40 PM EST- 4:30 PM IST, IAD — TLV (UA72)

Melissa Kelly Flights

10:40 PM EST- 4:30 PM IST, IAD — TLV (UA72)

Arrival – Saturday, February 14, 2026: Tel Aviv / Jerusalem (1.5 hrs.)

4:30 PM Group Flight Arrives at TLV (UA72)

6:00 PM-7:00 PM Depart for Jerusalem

7:00 PM-7:30 PM Check into Hotel

7:30 PM-9:00 PM Welcome Reception & Orientation – Hotel, Private Room (1.5)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Founder & President, 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.

Overnight- David Citadel Hotel

Day 1 – Sunday, February 15, 2026: Jerusalem (7 hrs.)

8:00 AM-9:00 AM Breakfast with US Ambassador Mike Huckabee, The David Citadel (1)

Speaker: Mike Huckabee, U.S. Ambassador to Israel
Topic: *U.S.-Israel Relationship*
Description: Briefing from the Ambassador on the current status of U.S.-Israel relations, and the Administration's priorities in the region.

9:00 AM-10:00 AM Trip Overview, The David Citadel (1)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Founder & President, *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.

10:00 AM-10:30 AM Depart for Western Wall

10:30 AM-11:30 AM 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.

11:45 AM Walk to City of David

12:00 PM Lunch at the City of David

12:45 PM-3:15 PM City of David Walking Tour – Jerusalem's Newest Archaeological Site (2.5)

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.

3:15 PM-3:30 PM Depart for Davidson Center

3:30 PM-4:30 PM Davidson Center (1.5)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Founder & President, 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.

4:30 PM Depart for Hotel

4:30 PM-6:15 PM Change & Rest at Hotel

6:15 PM-6:30 PM Depart for Dinner

6:00 PM- 7:00 PM Dinner at Mamilla Restaurant

7:00 PM Depart for Hotel

Overnight- David Citadel Hotel

Day 2 – Monday, February 16, 2026: Samaria (7.5 hrs.)

Breakfast on Own

8:30 AM-10:00 AM Depart for Ariel – Regional Hub, Samaria (1)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Founder & President, 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.

10:00 AM-11:30 AM Ron Nachman Pioneer Museum at the National Leadership Center (1.5)

Speaker: Avi Zimmerman, Co-Founder of the Judea & Samaria Chamber of Commerce
Topic: *West Bank History*
Description: A historical and geopolitical overview of the West Bank since Israel's establishment in 1948. Discussion on the impact of the Oslo Accords in the 1990s and the current division of the region between areas A, B, and C. What does this mean for future governance of the region and is a two-state solution possible given the demographics?

11:30 AM-12:30 PM Tour the National Leadership Center (1)

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.

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

1:00 PM-3:30 PM Lunch Briefing on Israeli Outposts in the West Bank, Settlers' Winery (2)

Speaker: Governor Yisrael Ganz, Leader of the Yesha Council
Topic: *A Future Peace Plan*
Description: Presentation of a possible future plan to solve the land disputes between Israelis and Palestinians living inside of the West Bank.

3:00 PM-3:30 PM Depart for Shiloh

3:30 PM-5:00 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?

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

5:30 PM-7:00 PM Dinner Debrief, Psagot Winery (.5)

Speaker: Joan Leslie McGill, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association

Topic: *Daily Debrief*

Description: Discussion and overview of the day's education and topics.

7:00 PM-8:00 PM Depart for The David Citadel Hotel

Overnight- David Citadel Hotel

Day 3 – Tuesday, February 17, 2026: Judea (7.5 hrs.)

Breakfast on Own

10:30 AM Depart for Meeting with Prime Minister

12:00 PM Private Meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu (1)

Speaker: Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister

Topic: *Briefing on the U.S.-Israel Relationship*

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

1:15 PM Depart for Hebron – Picnic Lunch on Bus (1)

Speaker: Roni Stern, Professional Guide

Topic: *History of Judea & Modern Geopolitical Dynamics*

Description: Understanding the difference in the security threat to the southern region of the West Bank inside the green line.

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association

Topic: *Israeli-Palestinian Integrated Business & The Role of the U.S. Government*

Description: Debrief of meeting and presentation on the formation of legitimized integrated business inside of the West Bank and how the U.S. government is already involved in this peace process.

2:00 PM Arrive at Gush Etzion and Switch into Vans

2:15 PM Depart for Tombs

3:00 PM Hebron Regional Center (1.5)

4:00 PM Depart for Gush Etzion Winery

4:30 PM Private Meeting with Ashraf Jabari and Palestinian Business Leaders (1), *Gush Etzion Winery*

Speaker: Avi Zimmerman and Ashraf Jabari, Co-Founders of the Judea & Samaria Chamber of Commerce, and other Palestinian Business Leaders
Topic: *Integrated Business Inside the West Bank*
Description: Providing first-hand accounts of integrated business inside the West Bank and its future, specifically as it relates to the Palestinian population and their government.

5:30 PM-7:00 PM Dinner Briefing — Gush Etzion Winery (1.5)

Speaker: Nir Barkat, Minister of Economy
Topic: *Palestinian Emirates Plan*
Description: Presentation on the possible plan for Palestinian hubs to defect from the Palestinian Authority and join the Abraham Accords.

7:30 PM Depart for David Citadel Hotel

Overnight- David Citadel Hotel

Day 4 – Wednesday, February 18, 2026: Jerusalem (7 hrs.)

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

Speaker: Assaf Orion, 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: Chaim Gelfand, Chief Compliance Officer, DECA

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-11:00 AM Private Briefing on Israeli Life Sciences Industry (1)

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.

11:00 AM-11:15 AM Depart for the King David Hotel

11:15 AM-12:15 PM Briefing with Israeli Military Expert, King David Private Room (1)

Speaker: Israeli Military Expert

Topic: *Understanding the Current Dynamics of Middle East Security*

Description: A briefing on recent developments inside Israel's defense on all military fronts, as well as points of U.S.-Israel collaboration.

12:15 PM-2:00 PM Lunch and Briefing with Foreign Minister, King David Private Room (1.5)

Speaker: Gideon Saar, Foreign Minister

Topic: *Understanding the Current Foreign Policy Landscape*

Description: A briefing on Israel's current challenges and opportunities inside global foreign policy.

2:30- 5:30 PM Depart for Walk Through Gethsemane / Mount of Olives / Old City (2.5)

Mt. of Olives, Overlook of Jerusalem (1 hr.)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Founder & President, 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.

Garden of Gethsemane and Guided Walking Tour Through Old City (1.5)

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 also is 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—Hotel Notre Dame (.5)

Speaker: Joan Leslie McGill, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association

Topic: *Daily Debrief*

Description: Discussion and overview of the day's education and topics.

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

Overnight - The David Citadel Hotel

Day 5 – Thursday, February 19, 2026: Travel to the Galilee Region (6 hrs.)

Baggage Pick Up / Check Out / Breakfast on Own

10:00 AM-11:00 AM Depart for Helicopter Pad in Ein Karem

11:00 AM-5:30 PM Helicopter Rides to the North (5.5)

Speaker: Roni Stern, Professional Guide (2)

Topic: *Ariel Briefing on Israel's Borders*

Description: A briefing from the air to effectively view and assess all of Israel's strategic borders and the challenges faced on each front. This will include a briefing over the Golan, Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian borders as well as a sea vantage point from the Mediterranean.

Speaker: Ari Sacher, Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Israel Education Association at Rafael Industries (2)

Topic: *Emerging Missile Defense and Military Technology & Lunch*

Description: Presentation from one of Israel's top defense industry leaders on emerging military technology that could benefit the U.S. military.

Speaker: Ilan Shulman, IDF Intelligence Officer, at Mt. Bental (1.5)

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.

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

6:00 PM-7:30 PM Dinner Debrief, Golan Heights Winery (.5)

Speaker: Joan Leslie McGill, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association

Topic: *Daily Debrief*

Description: Discussion and overview of the day's education and topics.

7:30 PM-8:00 PM Depart for Hotel

8:00 PM Check into the Galei Kinneret Hotel

Overnight – Galei Kinneret Hotel

Day 6 – Friday, February 20, 2026: Galilee Region (8 hrs.)

9:00 AM-10:30 AM Breakfast Meeting, The Galei Kinneret (1.5)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Founder & President, 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-1:00 PM Bus Tour Around Galilee Region (2)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Founder & President, 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.

1:00 PM-2:30 PM Lunch Briefing at Magdalena (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.

2:30 PM-5:00 PM Explore the Sea of Galilee – Bus Tour & Boat Ride (2.5)

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.

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

6:00 PM-7:30 PM Dinner Debrief, The Scots Hotel (.5)

Speaker: Joan Leslie McGill, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association

Topic: *Daily Debrief*

Description: Discussion and overview of the day's education and topics.

Overnight – Galei Kinneret Hotel

Day 7 – Saturday, February 21, 2026: Galilee Region / Tel Aviv (6.5 hrs.)

Baggage Pick Up / Check Out / Breakfast on Own

10:00 AM-11:30 AM Business Meeting (1.5)

Speaker: Joan Leslie McGill, Executive Director, 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.

11:30 AM-1:00 PM Depart for Mt Carmel – Picnic Lunch on Bus

1:00 PM-2:00 PM Mt. Carmel (1)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Founder & President, 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.

2:00 PM-3:00 PM Depart for Caesarea

3:00 PM-5:30 PM Ancient Archeological Park Caesarea, Walking Tour (2)

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.

5:30 PM-7:30 PM Farewell Dinner - Helena Restaurant, Private Room (2)

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

7:30 PM-9:00 PM Depart for Tel Aviv, Ben Gurion Airport

9:00 PM Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport, Flight Check-In

Arrive Home – Sunday, February 22, 2026: Travel

12:20 AM IST- 5:55 AM EST Group Flight TLV – IAD (UA73)

Rep. Walberg Flights

12:20 AM IST- 5:55 AM EST Group Flight TLV – IAD (UA73)

Rep. Moolenaar Flights

12:20 AM IST- 5:55 AM EST Group Flight TLV – IAD (UA73)

Rep. Franklin Flights

12:20 AM IST- 5:55 AM EST Group Flight TLV – IAD (UA73)

10:01 AM EST- 12:38 PM EST; DCA— TPA (AA2524)

Melissa Kelly Flights

12:20 AM IST- 5:55 AM EST Group Flight TLV – IAD (UA73)

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Mark DeSaulnier, California
Ranking Member

Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Ashley Hinson, Iowa
Nathaniel Moran, Texas
Brad Knott, North Carolina

Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland
Sylvia R. Garcia, Texas
Suhas Subramanyam, Virginia



ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Jordan Downs
Chief of Staff to the Chairman

David Arrojo
Counsel to the Ranking Member

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328
Telephone: (202) 225-7103
<https://ethics.house.gov>

February 11, 2026

Ms. Melissa Kelly
Office of the Honorable Scott Franklin
2301 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Kelly:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Israel,¹ scheduled for February 13 to 22, 2026, sponsored by U.S. Israel Education Association.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$525 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House employees may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act (FGDA), gifts "of minimal value [currently \$525] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of minimal value received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

¹ Please be aware that the Committee's review of the proposed trip does not extend to either the security situation in the destination country or security related to foreign travel in general. We recommend you contact the Office of House Security (OHS) for a safety and security briefing prior to your departure. OHS may be reached at (202) 226-2044 or ohsstaff@mail.house.gov. House travelers should also register for the U.S. State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at <https://step.state.gov>.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,



Michael Guest
Chairman



Mark DeSaulnier
Ranking Member

MG/MD:tn



U.S. ISRAEL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Congressional Tour Israel Itinerary

***Friday, February 13 – Sunday, February 22
2026***

** all times are local **

() denotes education hours

Departure – Friday, February 13, 2026: Travel

Group Flight: 10:40 PM EST- 4:30 PM IST, IAD — TLV (UA72)

Rep. Walberg Flights

10:40 PM EST- 4:30 PM IST, IAD — TLV (UA72)

Rep. Franklin Flights

11:35 AM EST- 1:59 PM EST, TPA — DCA (AA3103)

10:40 PM EST- 4:30 PM IST, IAD — TLV (UA72)

Rep. Moolenaar Flights

10:40 PM EST- 4:30 PM IST, IAD — TLV (UA72)

Rep. Strong Flights

10:40 PM EST- 4:30 PM IST, IAD — TLV (UA72)

Rep. Obernolte Flights

10:40 PM EST- 4:30 PM IST, IAD — TLV (UA72)

Melissa Kelly Flights

10:40 PM EST- 4:30 PM IST, IAD — TLV (UA72)

Will Burns Flights

10:40 PM EST- 4:30 PM IST, IAD — TLV (UA72)

Arrival – Saturday, February 14, 2026: Tel Aviv / Jerusalem (1.5 hrs.)

4:30 PM Group Flight Arrives at TLV (UA72)

6:00 PM-7:00 PM Depart for Jerusalem

7:00 PM-7:30 PM Check into Hotel

7:30 PM-9:00 PM Welcome Reception & Orientation – Hotel, Private Room (1.5)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Founder & President, 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.

Overnight- David Citadel Hotel

Day 1 – Sunday, February 15, 2026: Jerusalem (7 hrs.)

8:00 AM-9:30 AM Breakfast Meeting, David Citadel (1)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Founder & President, 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.

9:30 AM-10:00 AM Depart for City of David

10:00 AM-1:00 PM City of David Walking Tour – Jerusalem's Newest Archaeological Site (2.5)

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.

1:00 PM-2:00 PM Lunch at the City of David

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

2:30 PM-4:00 PM Davidson Center (1)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Founder & President, 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.

4:00 PM-4:15 PM Walk to the Western Wall

4:15 PM-5:15 PM 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.

5:15 PM-5:45 PM Depart for Hotel

5:45 PM-6:15 PM Change & Rest at Hotel

6:15 PM-6:30 PM Depart for Dinner

6:30 PM-8:00 PM Dinner with US Ambassador Mike Huckabee, 1816 Restaurant (1.5)

Speaker: Mike Huckabee, U.S. Ambassador to Israel

Topic: *U.S.-Israel Relationship*

Description: Briefing from the Ambassador on the current status of U.S.-Israel relations, and the Administration's priorities in the region.

8:00 PM-8:15 PM Depart for Hotel

Overnight- David Citadel Hotel

Day 2 – Monday, February 16, 2026: Samaria (7.5 hrs.)

Breakfast on Own

8:30 AM-10:00 AM Depart for Ariel – Regional Hub, Samaria (1)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Founder & President, 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.

10:00 AM-11:30 AM Ron Nachman Pioneer Museum at the National Leadership Center (1.5)

Speaker: Avi Zimmerman, Co-Founder of the Judea & Samaria Chamber of Commerce
Topic: *West Bank History*
Description: A historical and geopolitical overview of the West Bank since Israel's establishment in 1948. Discussion on the impact of the Oslo Accords in the 1990s and the current division of the region between areas A, B, and C. What does this mean for future governance of the region and is a two-state solution possible given the demographics?

11:30 AM-12:30 PM Tour the National Leadership Center (1)

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.

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

1:00 PM-3:30 PM Lunch Briefing on Israeli Outposts in the West Bank, Settlers' Winery (2)

Speaker: Governor Yisrael Ganz, Leader of the Yesha Council
Topic: *A Future Peace Plan*
Description: Presentation of a possible future plan to solve the land disputes between Israelis and Palestinians living inside of the West Bank.

3:00 PM-3:30 PM Depart for Shiloh

3:30 PM-5:00 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?

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

5:30 PM-7:00 PM Dinner Debrief, Psagot Winery (.5)

Speaker: Joan Leslie McGill, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association
Topic: *Daily Debrief*
Description: Discussion and overview of the day's education and topics.

7:00 PM-8:00 PM Depart for The David Citadel Hotel

Overnight- David Citadel Hotel

Day 3 – Tuesday, February 17, 2026: Judea (7.5 hrs.)

Breakfast on Own

9:00 AM-12:00 PM Depart for Walk Through Gethsemane / Mount of Olives / Old City (2.5)

Mt. of Olives, Overlook of Jerusalem (1 hr.)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Founder & President, 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.

Garden of Gethsemane and Guided Walking Tour Through Old City (1.5)

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 also is a special point of interest for the rest of the world. Understanding the different arguments for land rights in Jerusalem based on religion.

12:00 PM-1:30 PM Depart for Hebron – Picnic Lunch on Bus (1)

Speaker: Roni Stern, Professional Guide

Topic: *History of Judea & Modern Geopolitical Dynamics*

Description: Understanding the difference in the security threat to the southern region of the West Bank inside the green line.

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association

Topic: *Israeli-Palestinian Integrated Business & The Role of the U.S. Government*

Description: Debrief of meeting and presentation on the formation of legitimized integrated business inside of the West Bank and how the U.S. government is already involved in this peace process.

1:30 PM-2:30 PM Private Meeting with Ashraf Jabari and Palestinian Business Leaders (1)

Speaker: Avi Zimmerman and Ashraf Jabari, Co-Founders of the Judea & Samaria Chamber of Commerce, and other Palestinian Business Leaders

Topic: *Integrated Business Inside the West Bank*

Description: Providing first-hand accounts of integrated business inside the West Bank and its future, specifically as it relates to the Palestinian population and their government.

2:30 PM-3:00 PM Depart for Hebron Regional Center

3:00 PM-5:00 PM Hebron Regional Center (1.5)

Speaker: Rabbi Simcha Hochbaum, Hebron Director of Tourism

Topic: *Hebron as the Home of the Patriarchs & its Role in the U.S.-Israel Relationship*

Description: An up-close look at the changes this city is undergoing due to the current disputes, violence, and claims to control over Hebron and the location of the nation's patriarchs.

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

5:30 PM-7:00 PM Dinner Briefing — Gush Etzion Winery (1.5)

Speaker: Nir Barkat, Minister of Economy

Topic: *Palestinian Emirates Plan*

Description: Presentation on the possible plan for Palestinian hubs to defect from the Palestinian Authority and join the Abraham Accords.

7:00 PM-8:00 PM Depart for Jerusalem

Overnight- David Citadel Hotel

Day 4 – Wednesday, February 18, 2026: Jerusalem (7 hrs.)

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

Speaker: Assaf Orion, 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: Chaim Gelfand, Chief Compliance Officer, DECA

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-11:00 AM Private Briefing on Israeli Life Sciences Industry (1)

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.

11:00 AM-11:15 AM Depart for the King David Hotel

11:15 AM-12:15 PM Briefing with Defense Minister, King David Private Room (1)

Speaker: Israel Katz, 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, as well as points of U.S.-Israel collaboration.

12:15 PM-2:00 PM Lunch and Briefing with Foreign Minister, King David Private Room (1.5)

Speaker: Gideon Saar, Foreign Minister

Topic: *Understanding the Current Foreign Policy Landscape*

Description: A briefing on Israel's current challenges and opportunities inside global foreign policy.

2:00 PM-3:00 PM Depart for Prime Minister's Office

3:00 PM-4:00 PM Private Meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu (1)

Speaker: Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister

Topic: *Briefing on the U.S.-Israel Relationship*

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

4:00 PM-5:00 PM Depart for Hotel, Change

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

5:30 PM-7:00 PM Dinner Debrief—Hotel Notre Dame (.5)

Speaker: Joan Leslie McGill, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association

Topic: *Daily Debrief*

Description: Discussion and overview of the day's education and topics.

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

Overnight - The David Citadel Hotel

Day 5 – Thursday, February 19, 2026: Travel to the Galilee Region (6 hrs.)

Baggage Pick Up / Check Out / Breakfast on Own

10:00 AM-11:00 AM Depart for Helicopter Pad in Ein Karem

11:00 AM-5:30 PM Helicopter Rides to the North (5.5)

Speaker: Roni Stern, Professional Guide (2)

Topic: *Ariel Briefing on Israel's Borders*

Description: A briefing from the air to effectively view and assess all of Israel's strategic borders and the challenges faced on each front. This will include a briefing over the Golan, Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian borders as well as a sea vantage point from the Mediterranean.

Speaker: Ari Sacher, Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Israel Education Association at Rafael Industries (2)

Topic: *Emerging Missile Defense and Military Technology & Lunch*

Description: Presentation from one of Israel's top defense industry leaders on emerging military technology that could benefit the U.S. military.

Speaker: Ilan Shulman, IDF Intelligence Officer, at Mt. Bental (1.5)

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.

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

6:00 PM-7:30 PM Dinner Debrief, Golan Heights Winery (.5)

Speaker: Joan Leslie McGill, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association

Topic: *Daily Debrief*

Description: Discussion and overview of the day's education and topics.

7:30 PM-8:00 PM Depart for Hotel

8:00 PM Check into the Galei Kinneret Hotel

Day 6 – Friday, February 20, 2026: Galilee Region (8 hrs.)

9:00 AM-10:30 AM Breakfast Meeting, The Scots Hotel (1.5)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Founder & President, 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-1:00 PM Bus Tour Around Galilee Region (2)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Founder & President, 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.

1:00 PM-2:30 PM Lunch Briefing at Magdalena (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.

2:30 PM-5:00 PM Explore the Sea of Galilee – Bus Tour & Boat Ride (2.5)

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.

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

6:00 PM-7:30 PM Dinner Debrief, The Scots Hotel (.5)

Speaker: Joan Leslie McGill, Executive Director, U.S. Israel Education Association

Topic: *Daily Debrief*

Description: Discussion and overview of the day's education and topics.

Overnight – Galei Kinneret Hotel

Day 7 – Saturday, February 21, 2026: Galilee Region / Tel Aviv (6.5 hrs.)

Baggage Pick Up / Check Out / Breakfast on Own

10:00 AM-11:30 AM Business Meeting (1.5)

Speaker: Joan Leslie McGill, Executive Director, 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.

11:30 AM-1:00 PM Depart for Mt Carmel – Picnic Lunch on Bus

1:00 PM-2:00 PM Mt. Carmel (1)

Speaker: Heather Johnston, Founder & President, 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.

2:00 PM-3:00 PM Depart for Caesarea

3:00 PM-5:30 PM Ancient Archeological Park Caesarea, Walking Tour (2)

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.

5:30 PM-7:30 PM Farewell Dinner - Helena Restaurant, Private Room (2)

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

7:30 PM-9:00 PM Depart for Tel Aviv, Ben Gurion Airport

9:00 PM Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport, Flight Check-In

Arrive Home – Sunday, February 22, 2026: Travel

12:20 AM IST- 5:55 AM EST Group Flight TLV – IAD (UA73)

Rep. Walberg Flights

12:20 AM IST- 5:55 AM EST Group Flight TLV – IAD (UA73)

Rep. Moolenaar Flights

12:20 AM IST- 5:55 AM EST Group Flight TLV – IAD (UA73)

Rep. Franklin Flights

12:20 AM IST- 5:55 AM EST Group Flight TLV – IAD (UA73)

10:01 AM EST- 12:38 PM EST; DCA— TPA (AA2524)

Rep. Strong Flights

12:20 AM IST- 5:55 AM EST Group Flight TLV – IAD (UA73)

Rep. Obernolte Flights

12:20 AM IST- 5:55 AM EST Group Flight TLV – IAD (UA73)

Will Burns Flights

12:20 AM IST- 5:55 AM EST Group Flight TLV – IAD (UA73)

Melissa Kelly Flights

12:20 AM IST- 5:55 AM EST Group Flight TLV – IAD (UA73)