

# 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](mailto:gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov), within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please **donot** 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: Chandler Smith
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR**  None  
b. Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
3. a. Dates: Departure: February 14 Return: February 22  
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR**  None
4. Departure City: Washington DC Destination: Tel Aviv Return City: Washington DC
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: AIEF
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: We attended meetings in about Israel's relationship with the US, their ongoing security risks, the realities after October 7th, and visited historical sites throughout the country.
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: Chandler Smith Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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: Rep. Guy Recchenthaler Date: 3/13/2020

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: American Israel Education Foundation, Inc. (AIEF)

2. Travel Destination(s): Israel

3. Date of Departure: February 14, 2026 Date of Return: February 22, 2026

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Chandler Smith

*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	\$7,124.05	\$2,396.89	\$1,462.93	\$5,751.19
Accompanying Family Member	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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:  Date: 3/6/2026 | 09:47 EST

Name: Rachel Hirsch Title: Chief Legal Counsel

Organization: American Israel Education Foundation, Inc. (AIEF)

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

Address: 251 H Street, NW Washington, D.C., 20001

Telephone: (202) 246-0519 Email: rhirsch@aiefdn.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](mailto: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: Chandler Smith

**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: Chandler Smith

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): \_\_\_\_\_

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): Rep. Guy Reschenthaler

Office Address: 2209 Rayburn House Office Building

Telephone Number: (202) 225-2065

Email Address of Contact Person: chandler@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](mailto:travel.requests@mail.house.gov).

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Chandler Smith
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: American Israel Education Foundation Inc. (AIEF)
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Israel
4. a. Date of Departure: February 14 Date of Return: February 22  
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 Legislative Director for Congressman Reschenthaler, I handle foreign affairs and defense policy. Participation in this trip will allow me to engage directly with Israeli officials, defense organizations, and policy experts, which will inform my role handling his position on the National Security, State, and Related Programs Appropriations Subcommittee and support the Congressman's oversight and legislative responsibilities in these areas.
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: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 01/14/20

# 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:  
American Israel Education Foundation, Inc.
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): \_\_\_\_\_  
**Please see attached.**
5. Yes  No  Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of Departure: February 14, 2026 Date of Return: February 22, 2026
7. a. City of departure: Washington, D.C. or home district  
 b. Destination(s): Israel  
 c. City of return: Washington, D.C. or home district
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:

AIEF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a charitable and educational mission which includes, among other things, educating policy makers and opinion leaders about the U.S.-Israel relationship. AIEF is solely responsible for recruiting, coordinating, executing, and funding all aspects of this 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: charter bus in Israel)
- c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:  
n/a

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): \$187.60

2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: \_\_\_\_\_  
The trip is in Israel to educate congressional staff about the U.S.-Israel relationship.

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

Hotel Name: Mamilla Hotel City: Jerusalem Cost Per Night: \$375  
 Reason(s) for Selecting: location and affordability

Hotel Name: The Dan Hotel City: Tel Aviv Cost Per Night: \$404  
 Reason(s) for Selecting: location and affordability

Hotel Name: Gomeh Hotel City: Tiberias Cost Per Night: \$343  
 Reason(s) for Selecting: location and affordability

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total <b>Transportation</b> Expenses per Participant	Total <b>Lodging</b> Expenses per Participant	Total <b>Meal</b> Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$6,711.33	\$2,461	\$1,313
For each Accompanying Family Member	N/A	N/A	N/A

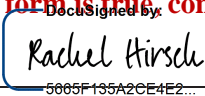
	<b>Other</b> Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$4,166.67	Please find attached.
For each Accompanying Family Member	n/a	n/a

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:  Date: 1/9/2026 | 15:21 EST  
DocuSigned by: 5065F135A2CE4E2...  
 Name: Rachel Hirsch Title: Chief Legal Counsel  
 Organization: American Israel Education Foundation, Inc. (AIEF)  
 Address: 251 H Street, NW, Washington D.C. 20001  
 Email: rhirsch@aiefdn.org Telephone: (202) 246-0519

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

**American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)  
Educational Seminar in Israel  
U.S. Congressional Staff  
February 14-22, 2026**

**Addendum**

**4. List of Invitees**

1. Ariana Bhambhani, Senior Legislative Assistant, Office of the Honorable Rick Allen (R-GA)
2. Taylor Fairless, National Security Advisor, Office of the Honorable Jimmy Panetta (D-CA)
3. James Gomez, Foreign Policy Advisor, Office of the Honorable Jonathan Jackson (D-IL)
4. Dan Lemire, Military Legislative Assistant, Office of the Honorable Joseph Morelle (D-NY)
5. Lindsey Mosley, Legislative Director, Office of Scott Franklin (R-FL)
6. Chris Ringer, Legislative Director, Office of the Honorable Sheri Biggs (R-SC)
7. Rachel Salle, Operations Director, Office of the Honorable Brian Jack (R-GA)
8. Chandler Smith, Legislative Director, Office of the Honorable Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA)
9. Olivia Speno, Legislative Assistant, Office of the Honorable David Valadao (R-CA)
10. Colin Witman, Senior Legislative Assistant, Office of the Honorable Nick Langworthy (R-NY)
11. Eddie Zuckerbrot, Legislative Correspondent, Office of the Honorable Wesley Bell (D-MO)

**8. Breakdown of other expenses**

<b>Other Cost</b>	<b>Cost per participant</b>
Security	\$1,929.74
Speaker Fees	\$1,518.33
Room Rentals and Setup	\$568.25
Hotels for contract staff	\$531.65
Meals for contract staff and guests	\$490.23
Tour Guide	\$472.72
Airport Assistance	\$158.72
Photography	\$32.41
Transportation for contract staff and speakers	\$23.46
Entrance fee	\$15.47
Tips	\$10.21
<b>Total per participant</b>	<b>\$5,751.19</b>

**American Israel Education Foundation  
Educational Seminar in Israel  
U.S. Congressional Staff  
February 14-22, 2026**

**Saturday, February 14, 2026**

- 9:10 AM Amtrak #164 departs Union Station for Ariana Bhambhani, Taylor Fairless, Daniel Lemire, Lindsey Mosley, Christopher Ringer, Rachel Salle, Chandler Smith, Olivia Speno, Colin Witman, Edward Zuckerbrot
- 9:38 AM Amtrak #164 departs BWI for James Gomez
- 12:22 PM Amtrak #164 arrives Newark for Ariana Bhambhani, Taylor Fairless, James Gomez, Daniel Lemire, Lindsey Mosley, Christopher Ringer, Rachel Salle, Chandler Smith, Olivia Speno, Colin Witman, Edward Zuckerbrot
- 3:55 PM United #84 departs Newark for Ariana Bhambhani, Taylor Fairless, James Gomez, Daniel Lemire, Lindsey Mosley, Christopher Ringer, Rachel Salle, Chandler Smith, Olivia Speno, Colin Witman, Edward Zuckerbrot

**Sunday, February 15, 2026**

- 9:20 AM United #84 arrives at Ben Gurion Airport for Ariana Bhambhani, Taylor Fairless, James Gomez, Daniel Lemire, Lindsey Mosley, Christopher Ringer, Rachel Salle, Chandler Smith, Olivia Speno, Colin Witman, Edward Zuckerbrot
- Transfer to Jerusalem
- Check-in to the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem
- 12:15 –1:45 PM **Welcome Lunch and Orientation**  
Orientation with Gabi Duec  
Director, Educational Seminars, American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)  
-at Kitchen Brasserie restaurant, Jerusalem
- 1:45 – 2:15 PM Depart for the Old City, Jerusalem

2:15 – 4:15 PM      **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem, Part I: The Holy Basin**

Guided survey through the Old City of Jerusalem

- Old City of Jerusalem
- Western Wall
- Church of the Holy Sepulchre

-at the Old City, Jerusalem

4:15 – 5:00 PM      Depart for the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

5:00 – 6:00 PM      **State of the Nation: This Moment in Israel**

With Matti Friedman

Journalist and Author

-at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

6:00 – 6:30 PM      Depart for Joy restaurant, Jerusalem

6:30 – 8:00 PM      **Dinner and Discussion**

-at Joy restaurant, Jerusalem

8:00 – 8:45 PM      Depart for the City of David, Jerusalem

8:45 – 9:45 PM      **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem, Part II: City of David**

Visit to an archeological excavation site

-at the City of David, Jerusalem

9:45 – 10:30 PM      Depart for the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

10:30 PM              Overnight at Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

### **Monday, February 16, 2026**

7:30 AM              Breakfast on own  
-at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

8:15 – 9:15 AM      **The Changing Middle East: Regional Strategic Overview**

Briefing by Brig. Gen. (Res.) Nitzan Nuriel

Former Director, Counter-Terrorism Bureau at Prime Minister's Office

-at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

9:15 – 10:00 AM      Depart for the Yad Vashem: The World Holocaust Remembrance  
Center

- 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM **The Israeli Psyche, Part I: The Significance of the Holocaust**  
Guided visit to Yad Vashem: The World Holocaust Remembrance Center
- 12:00 – 12:45 PM Depart for Luciana restaurant, Jerusalem
- 12:45 – 2:00 PM Lunch  
-at Luciana restaurant, Jerusalem
- 2:00 – 2:15 PM Return to the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem
- 2:15 – 3:30 PM Break at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem
- 3:30 – 4:30 PM **Israeli Politics 101**  
With Yossi Garr  
Senior Director, Educational Missions, Educational Seminars,  
American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)  
-at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem
- 4:30 – 5:30 PM Depart for the Knesset, Jerusalem
- 5:30 – 6:00 PM **Israeli Democracy in Action, Part I: A View from the Opposition**  
Meeting with the Honorable Shelly Tal- Meron  
Member of Knesset, Yesh Atid Party  
-at the Knesset, Jerusalem
- 6:15 PM – 6:45 PM **Israeli Democracy in Action, Part II: A View from the Coalition**  
Meeting with the Honorable Ohad Tal  
Member of Knesset, Religious Zionism Party  
-at the Knesset, Jerusalem
- 6:45 – 7:00 PM **Visit to the Plenary**  
-at the Knesset, Jerusalem
- 7:00 – 7:30 PM Depart for Andalucia restaurant, Jerusalem
- 7:30 – 9:30 PM **Politics and Policy in Israel**  
Dinner with Liat Margalit  
Head of Section, the Knesset Foreign Affairs Department  
-at Andalucia restaurant, Jerusalem
- 9:30 PM Depart for the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem
- 10:00 PM Overnight at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

**Tuesday, February 17, 2026**

- 8:00 AM Breakfast on own  
-at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem
- 9:00 –10:00 AM **Israel’s Standing in the International Arena**  
Meeting with Haviv Rettig- Gur  
Political Correspondent, Times of Israel  
-at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem
- 10:00 –10:45 AM Depart for the American Colony Hotel, Jerusalem
- 10:45 –11:45 AM **The Palestinian Perspective, Post-October 7**  
Meeting with Kamel A. Hussein  
Chief Strategic Engagements & Relations Officer, Bank of Palestine  
-at American Colony Hotel, Jerusalem
- 11:45 –12:15 AM Depart for the Mount Herzl Military Cemetery
- 12:15 AM –1:15 PM **The Israeli Psyche, Part II: The Cost of War**  
Visit to Mount Herzl Military Cemetery  
-at Mount Herzl Military Cemetery, Jerusalem
- 1:15 –1:30 PM Depart for lunch at Hatzer Ein Karem restaurant, Jerusalem
- 1:30 – 2:30 PM Lunch  
-at Hatzer Ein Karem restaurant, Jerusalem
- 2:30 – 3:15 PM Depart for the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem
- 3:15 – 4:00 PM Break at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem
- 4:00 – 5:00 PM **Inside the U.S.-Israel Relationship**  
With the Honorable Mike Huckabee  
U.S. Ambassador to the State of Israel  
-at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem
- 5:00 – 5:45 PM Break at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem
- 5:45 –7:00 PM **Minority Activism in Israeli Society**  
Panel Discussion with:
- Naftali Aklum, CEO, Yerus Project
  - Jonathan Elkoury, LGBTQ+ Activist and Public Diplomacy Advisor
  - Naama Moshinsky, Co-CEO, Hashomer Hatzair Life Movement
- at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

- 7:00 –7:15 PM Depart to dinner at Happy Fish restaurant, Jerusalem
- 7:15 – 9:15 PM **Dinner and Discussion**  
Dinner with:
- Naftali Aklum, CEO, Yerus Project
  - Jonathan Elkoury, LGBTQ+ Activist and Public Diplomacy Advisor
  - Naama Moshinsky, Co-CEO, Hashomer Hatzair Life Movement
- at Happy Fish restaurant, Jerusalem
- 9:30 PM Overnight at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

**Wednesday, February 18, 2026**

- 12:20 AM United #73 departs Tel Aviv for James Gomez
- 5:55 AM United #73 arrives Dulles for James Gomez
- 7:00 AM Breakfast on own  
-at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem
- 8:00 –10:00 AM Depart for Sderot
- 8:30 – 9:00 AM **Enroute Briefing: The History of Gaza, 1948-October 6**
- 10:00 –11:00 AM **October 7, Part I: Bearing Witness**  
Experience October 7 through the eyes of Israeli survivors  
-Israel-Is, Sderot
- 11:00 –11:15 AM **The Proximity: Lookout into Gaza**  
-at Tatzpit Kobi, Sderot
- 11:15 –11:30 AM Depart for Reim
- 11:30 – 12:15 PM **October 7, Part II: The Nova Party**  
Visit the site of the NOVA music festival massacre  
with Remo Salman El- Hozayel, Nova Massacre survivor  
-at Reim Forest
- 12:30 PM Depart for lunch at Haimos restaurant, Sderot
- 1:00 – 2:00 PM Lunch  
-at Haimos restaurant
- 2:00 – 2:45 PM Depart to the Civilian-Military Coordination Center, Kiryat Gat

- 2:45 – 4:15 PM      **Gaza: The Day After**  
Briefing with CMCC representatives  
-at the Civilian-Military Coordination Center (CMCC), Kiryat Gat
- 4:15 – 6:00 PM      Depart for Tel Aviv
- 6:00 – 6:30 PM      Check-in to the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv
- 6:30 – 7:30 PM      **The Threat from Iran**  
Interview with Yonah Jeremy Bob  
Author and Journalist  
-at the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv
- 7:15 – 9:45 PM      **Citizen-Soldiers: The IDF in Israeli Society**  
Dinner with IDF Reservists
  - Captain (Res.) Sharon Stern
  - First Sergeant (Res.) Yoav Tzivoni
  - Captain (Res.) Noga Ventura
-at the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv
- 9:45 PM              Overnight at the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv

**Thursday, February 19, 2026**

- 7:30 AM              Breakfast on own  
-at the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv
- 8:00 – 9:00 AM      Depart for the Alfei Menashe overlook
- 9:00 – 10:30 AM     **The West Bank Up-Close: A Situational Assessment**  
Briefing and Overlook with Noa Schusterman- Dvir  
Senior Researcher at MINDIsrael,  
-at the Alfei Menashe overlook
- 10:30 – 12:30 AM    Depart for lunch at Hamudi-Tarshiha restaurant, Ma'alot Tarshiha
- 12:30 – 1:30 PM     Lunch  
-at Hamudi-Tarshiha restaurant, Ma'alot Tarshiha
- 1:30 – 2:00 PM      Depart for Ma'a lot

- 2:00 – 3:00 PM      **Shared Society in Times of Crisis**  
Meeting with Ibrahim Abu Ahmed  
Arab-Israeli Activist and Writer  
-at Ma'alot, Matnas
- 3:00 – 4:00 PM      Depart to Kibbutz Malkiya
- 4:00 – 5:30 PM      **Israel's Northern Front, Part I: Lebanon**  
Strategic Briefing Strategic Briefing and Overlook  
by Lt. Col. (ret.) Eyal Dror  
-at Kibbutz Malkiya
- 5:30 – 6:30 PM      Depart for the Gomeh Hotel, Tiberius
- 6:30 – 7:00 PM      Check-in to the Gomeh Hotel, Tiberius
- 7:00 – 9:00 PM      **Dinner and Discussion**  
-at Gomeh Hotel, Tiberius
- 9:00 PM              Overnight at the Gomeh Hotel, Tiberius

**Friday, February 20, 2026**

- 7:00 AM              Breakfast on own  
-at the Gomeh Hotel, Tiberius
- 8:00 – 8:15 AM      Depart for the Christian Holy Sites, Sea of Galilee
- 8:15 – 9:45 AM      **Historical Significance of the Sea of Galilee**  
Guided Survey of Christian Sites
- Mt. of Beatitudes
  - Capernaum
- 9:45 – 10:45 AM      Depart for Merom Golan
- 10:00 – 10:30 AM      **Enroute Briefing: The History of Hezbollah**
- 10:45 AM – 12:00 PM **Israel's Northern Front, Part II: Syria**  
Strategic Briefing by Maj. (Res.) Ilan Schulman  
-at Merom Golan, Moadon
- 12:00 – 12:45 PM      Lunch  
-at Moadon

12:45 – 1:15 PM Depart for the Quneitra Overlook

1:15 – 2:00 PM **Strategic Survey of the Syrian Border**  
Overlook Briefing by Maj. (Res.) Ilan Schulman  
-at the Quneitra Overlook

2:00 – 5:00 PM Depart for Tel Aviv

5:00 – 7:00 PM Break at the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv

7:00 – 7:30 PM Depart for Sabbath Dinner, Tel Aviv

7:30 – 9:30 PM **Reflections on the Sabbath**  
Traditional Sabbath Eve dinner  
Hosted by Hana and Aviad Friedman  
-at their home, Tel Aviv

9:45 – 10:00 PM Depart for the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv

10:00 PM Overnight at the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv

**Saturday, February 21, 2026**

8:00 AM Breakfast on own  
-at the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv

9:00 – 10:00 AM **Israel as a Jewish State: Religion, Peoplehood, and Nationality**  
With Dr. Einat Wilf  
Author and former member of Knesset  
-at the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv

10:00 – 10:30 AM Depart for the Florentin Neighborhood, Tel Aviv

10:30 – 11:30 AM **Israeli Society Through Artists' Eyes**  
Guided Survey of Israeli Street Art  
-at the Florentin Neighborhood, Tel Aviv

11:30 – 12:00 PM Depart for Tel Aviv

12:00 – 1:00 PM **Understanding the Roots of the Israeli Ethos**  
Guided Survey of Independence Trail

1:00 PM Depart for lunch at Raisa restaurant, Jaffa

1:30 – 2:30 PM      Lunch  
-at Raisa restaurant, Jaffa

2:30 – 4:00 PM      **The Israeli Mosaic**  
Explore how Jewish and Arab citizens co-exist in the Jewish state  
-at Shuk Hapishpashim, Jaffa

4:00 – 4:30 PM      Depart for the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv

4:30 – 7:00 PM      Break at the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv

7:00 – 7:45 PM      Depart for dinner at Pizza Porto, Giv'atayim

7:45 – 9:30 PM      **Closing Dinner: Reflections on the Week**  
-at Pizza Porto, Giv'atayim

9:45 – 10:00 PM     Depart for Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv

10:00 PM             Arrive at Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv

**Sunday, February 22, 2026**

12:20 AM             United #73 departs Tel Aviv for Ariana Bhambhani, Patricia Clarke, Taylor Fairless, Daniel Lemire, Lindsey Mosley, Christopher Ringer, Rachel Salle, Chandler Smith, Olivia Speno, Colin Witman, Edward Zuckerbrot

5:55 AM             United #73 arrives Dulles for Ariana Bhambhani, Patricia Clarke, Taylor Fairless, Daniel Lemire, Lindsey Mosley, Christopher Ringer, Rachel Salle, Chandler Smith, Olivia Speno, Colin Witman, Edward Zuckerbrot

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

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*Counsel to the Ranking Member*

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February 12, 2026

Ms. Chandler Smith  
Office of the Honorable Guy Reschenthaler  
2209 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Smith:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Israel,<sup>1</sup> scheduled for February 14 to 22, 2026, sponsored by American Israel Education Foundation.

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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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](mailto: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:nl