

JEWISH REVIEW

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Youth Foundation Seeks Members to Allocate Funds

Jewish Review

The Oregon Jewish Community Foundation has announced the third annual season of the Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation.

Last year, the program brought together 10 local students and five mentors from the pilot program in 2003. Through an actual allocation process, the students awarded \$5,000, raised personally and through matching funds, to 16 local Jewish and secular non-profit organizations. This year the program goal is to give away \$15,000.

The OJCYF is a tzedakah program in which a gathering of Jewish high school students from across our community have the opportunity to get an insider's view on how non-profits operate. As hopeful leaders of tomorrow, OJCYF board members directly experience the decision-making process that takes place in a philanthropic foundation.

They will experience first-hand the challenges, pressures, and rewards of sitting on the board of a non-profit foundation dealing with the responsibility of deciding how to give and who to give to. They will learn how to make the difficult decisions of evaluating charities and allocating funds to local Jewish and general community organizations.

The OJCYF is now accepting nominations for a maximum of 21 high school participants. Members may either self-nominate by visiting www.ojcf.org where they will find application materials, or be nominated by their rabbi or congregational educator. All nominees will be required to submit a 250-500 word essay describing why they should be included on the

OJCYF board. Former members who would like to continue will be considered welcome nominees.

OJCYF is looking for mature, articulate, high-school students (grades 9-12) who have a knowledge of and appreciation for tzedakah demonstrated by active involvement in synagogue, youth group, or community-wide social action projects. They must be able to commit to attend the meetings as scheduled below (most are the second Sunday's of each month). These meeting dates are tentative and may change in the near future: Sept. 25, Oct 9, Nov 13, Dec 11, Jan 8, Feb 12, March 12, April 9 and May 14. All meetings are scheduled between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Students should be mature and articulate as they will be interviewing prospective grantees from the community; and be willing to contribute a minimum of \$36 of their own money (i.e. allowance, bar/bat mitzvah gift, baby-sitting, paper route, etc.). This amount may be enhanced by contributions from the participants and/or their parents, grandparents, and available matching funds.

They should also be willing to share their experiences with their classes, youth groups, congregations and the Jewish community.

Applications must be received no later than Sept. 16. Educators, parents and students may contact John Moss at 503-248-3928 for more information or an application. There will be a planning meeting for the upcoming year of the OJCYF at the OJCF office on Aug. 29 at 4 p.m. Interested students are welcome to participate.