

GA Student Info Session

I. Welcome

- a. We are excited to have over 270 students joining us at the GA in Denver, CO November 6-8, 2011
- b. It should be an exciting, interesting and stimulating conference!

II. What is the GA?

- a. **The GA:**
 - i. “The General Assembly (GA) is the premier annual North American Jewish conference, attracting key Federation lay leaders, donors and professionals as well as the leadership of JFNA's partner organizations and other important national Jewish organizations. The GA plenaries, forums and workshops feature top speakers from the political, business and non-profit realms.”
 - ii. This year's theme is The Original Jewish Social Network
 - iii. This is an amazing opportunity to network and make business connections (global Jewish leaders will be there)

III. What is JFNA?

- i. The Jewish Federations of North America represents 157 Jewish Federations and 400 Network communities, which raise and distribute more than \$3 billion annually for social welfare, social services and educational needs. The Federation movement, collectively among the top 10 charities on the continent, protects and enhances the well-being of Jews worldwide through the values of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), *tzedakah* (charity and social justice) and *Torah* (Jewish learning)
- ii. Many of your local Federations will be in attendance. You should contact both your hometown and collegiate Federation to introduce yourself!

IV. What is My Role?

- a. **Student Involvement:**
 - i. The GA is an opportunity for you, the Jewish leaders of this generation, to participate in the conversations – you are there as FULL delegates
 - ii. Be a part of the discussion on current events and hot button topics happening within the Jewish Community
 - iii. Network with one another
 - iv. Share experiences and stories with those of other generations

V. Demeanor and Dress

- a. The expected attire for GA attendees is business clothes. Most GA delegates will be wearing formal business-wear. Suits or blazers for women and suits or sport jackets with ties for men are recommended. Please remember appropriate shoes to match your business attire. After GA programming has ended for the day, casual clothes and “going out” clothes are of course acceptable.
- b. The weather in Denver in November ranges from a low of 20 degrees to highs in the 50s, so please keep this in mind while packing
- c. All of the GA will be held inside the hotel, so bring layers
- d. We will be providing a packing list

VI. Schedule

- a. Student Schedule
 - i. Created specifically for students
 - ii. The following sessions are required

Sunday 3-4:30 pm	Opening Plenary Session
Sunday 6:30-8pm	Dinner in Exhibit Hall
Monday 8-9 am	Career Networking Breakfast
Monday 5:15-8 pm	Dinner with Wayne L. Firestone and Phillip H. and Suzy Rudd Cohen Exemplar of Excellence Awards
Tuesday 7:30-8:30 am	Hillel Student Breakfast
Tuesday 1:30-2:30 pm	Closing Plenary Session

- b. Additional Sessions
 - i. Get the most out of the GA!
 - ii. We provided ancillary sessions that we deemed interesting as young adults but it is up to you to use your time as you see fit and to select sessions that will enhance your experience; please become familiar with the [full schedule](#)

VII. Logistics

- a. Off the plane, now what?
 - i. You should get off the plane and go to the [Sheraton Denver Downtown](#) (1550 Court Place) off of the 16th Street Pedestrian Mall (go straight to registration)
 - ii. The airport is 25 miles away from the hotel, so the drive can take 45 minutes to an hour. A cab from the Denver Airport to the Sheraton Denver Downtown will cost a \$55 flat rate per ride (and cabs can accommodate up to 4 passengers). SuperShuttle is \$22 per person, with shuttles leaving the airport every 15 minutes between 5 a.m. and 5 p.m. during which time reservations are not required (from 5 p.m. to 5 a.m. reservations are recommended; you can make a reservation at 800-258-3826 or [supershuttle.com](#)). **Talk to your friends and school mates and see if you can travel from the airport together.**
 - iii. You can use the [Facebook event](#) to try and coordinate ride shares
- b. What is the deal with meals?
 - i. All meals provided at the GA will be under the kosher supervision of International Kosher.
 - ii. Meals included with GA registration are a light dinner Sunday evening, and continental breakfast on Monday and Tuesday.
 - iii. East Side Kosher Deli will set up a Kosher Cafe from Nov. 6 through Nov. 8 at the Sheraton Hotel.

VIII. Important Note about Daylight Savings Time

- a. Daylight Savings Time 2011 ends in the United States on Sunday, November 6. Before going to bed on Saturday, November 5, turn back your clocks one hour

IX. GA Insider Tips

- a. Some tips from student evaluations after the 2010 GA:
 - i. Students appreciated the space allotted physically and in the program for interaction with peers.
 - ii. Students scored the plenary sessions as the best sessions during the GA.
 - iii. Students found the networking beneficial and the most significant part of the experience
- b. Look at the full conference schedule in advance to get a feel for which sessions will be most interesting to you and whether there are any particular people you want to meet
- c. Bring a notebook and pen to take notes and get contact information
- d. Bring business cards if you have them, and in general take the time to connect with other students as well as lay leaders and professionals who will be there

X. Communication Invitation

- a. If you are interested in blogging or writing from the GA, please let us know by emailing GA@hillel.org.
- b. Take the opportunity to tweet and update your Facebook statuses to share your thoughts and let people know you're at the GA! Use #JFNAGA as your hashtag when you tweet about the GA conference.

XI. Questions?

- a. Contact GA@hillel.org or call Nadine Levyfield, Bronfman Fellow, at 202-449-6550