



The March of the Living

Preserving the memory of the Holocaust. To teach the moral and ethical response to prejudice, hatred and indifference for the benefit of humanity.

Established in 1988; is an international two-week study mission, focusing on Holocaust history and the emergence of the modern Jewish state of Israel. Not just a Holocaust program, but, even more about repairing the world (Tikun Olam.)

- Provides Jewish teens an intense educational experience beyond textbook readings
- Addresses how to perpetuate Holocaust learning after the survivors are no longer here to tell their stories
- Representation from over 47 countries
- Tour of significant Jewish sites in Poland, primarily those associated with the Holocaust
- Travel to Israel represents the rebirth and achievements of the Jewish people
- Observance in Israel on Yom Hazikaron (Israel Memorial Day) by visiting memorials to fallen Israeli soldiers
- Celebration in Israel with the entire state on Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day)

BBYO is the only youth group that has participated on this trip since its beginning. This spring, BBYO teens will again join thousands to retrace the footsteps of their ancestors as they walk the symbolic "March of Death" arm in arm, from Auschwitz to Birkenau, the same path that hundreds of thousands of Jews were forced to take on their way to annihilation. The solemn two-mile procession occurs on Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, and concludes with a memorial service held in the very confines of the death camp. BBYO also tours cities in Poland that were once vibrant centers of Jewish life and learning, including Warsaw, Cracow and Lublin; and in addition to Auschwitz, they visit the death camps of Treblinka and Majdanek.

In 1994, a special BBYO program was adapted to renovate and restore the Warsaw Cemetery, which suffered severe devastation over the last sixty years.

- Established in 1806, the cemetery consists roughly of 300,000 tombs and burials.
- The BBYO delegation spends a day in the cemetery cleaning away debris, polishing headstones, and setting stones upright.
- This project helps the teens understand the rich Jewish culture that existed before the Holocaust and provides them an opportunity to do something physically and emotionally constructive amidst destruction.

High school students from North America comprise the BBYO delegation, a broad mix of teens, coming from a variety of diverse backgrounds and every level of religious observance. Many have direct personal connections to the Holocaust - relatives who perished or survived. Participants are expected to share their experiences with their communities upon their return.

The goal of the trip is to educate Jewish teens about the richness of our past, to keep that past alive, and to perpetuate our Jewish future. From statistical evaluation, March of the Living International has determined that past participants maintained their level of commitment: returned to Israel, sought Jewish life on college campus, were active in human rights causes, continued their Jewish studies, and have married within the Jewish faith.