



# Orel Regev

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SHALOM CLEVELAND!

My name is Orel Regev (pronounced 'Or-El'), and right now I'm so excited to write this letter to you, but I know that I'll probably become even more enthusiastic as our airplane lands in Cleveland. But hey! It's still 3 months away, so in the meantime let me tell you just a little bit about myself.

Soon I'll turn 18 years old and so I really hope that my two older sisters, Danielle (25, a student in Ben-Gurion University of the Negev) and Yuval (21, an officer in the IDF) will stop calling me those little-brother-awkward nicknames - but I guess that I'll always stay the baby boy of my parents, Ronen (my dad) and Dorina (my mom). We're all very close and enjoy spending time together, especially when my sisters are home on Friday nights. We always have a wonderful time

We all live together in Binyamina, a peaceful town between Haifa and Hadera. Living here, or being a 'Binyamini', is a big part of who I am. It means always being surrounded by



a very special community at school, in the streets, at community events and anytime really. It's also one of the most beautiful areas of Israel in my opinion, and did I mention that it's only a few miles away from the shores of the Mediterranean Sea?

Speaking of the sea, if I'm not home – I'm probably at the beach, either working a part time job as a waiter (where I meet lots of Clevelanders, by the way... ) or just laying out in the sun with friends. I also spend a lot of my time in the local scouts tribe, our 'shevet', where I used to be a counselor and a unit head, and today I'm leading a special project of counseling less-fortunate kids from families that are of lower socioeconomic status. In addition, I like traveling, photography, cooking, listening to music and spending time with friends. I'll even admit that I don't really hate doing my homework: physics, computer science and cyberspace, my majors. But my biggest hobby without any doubt would be sports. I used to play basketball professionally and I'm a true NBA fan (go Cavs!). I'm really counting the days until the next Olympic Games, but to be honest I'm counting down the days until Cleveland even more!



So, I can't wait to meet you all, to share with you 'my Israel' and to start this amazing journey with you.

See you soon,

Orel Regev