



Army Preparation Program

Yedidim
Serving our People





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The Need

In previous years there has been a change in young people's motivation and desire to enlist in the Israeli Defense Force. The percentage of youth enlistment has been declining as time goes on and currently only 67% of youth enlist. This program has been designed to increase the motivation of young people who are 17 and 18 years old to serve their country. Studies have shown that a meaningful service in the IDF is a significant means to achieving social mobility and ensuring the future success of disadvantaged young people from the social and geographic periphery in Israel.

Program Goals

- Expose our young people to their options for army service
- To educate them about various pre-army programming
- To increase their motivation to experience a meaningful army service and contribute to Israel's continuity as a way of providing them with the tools to become responsible and moral adults

Goals

- To instill Zionist, Jewish, and social values
- To foster leadership by acquiring necessary tools and skills to be a strong leader

Target Population

11th and 12th grade students from Israel's social and geographic periphery

Program Components

- Weekly group activities during school hours
- Weekly staff meetings about every student to discuss how best to counsel and guide them
- Activities on both regional and national levels including leadership seminars, activities promoting teamwork, & army preparation
- Development of social responsibility and group volunteer work
- Professional and talented staff composed of: a group coordinator, personal mentors who support and guide the participants on an individual level, and the training staff for the challenging and experiential army preparation workshops

Achievements

A study that was conducted in 2013 amongst the participants of the 'Serving our People' program found that 85% of the alumnae stated that they will continue to additional army preparation programs as compared to a 27% positive response rate before commencing the program.

Founded in 1991, Yedidim's sole mission is working towards the betterment of Israeli society with the goal that all Israeli youth, regardless of their background, have the opportunity to fully realize their talents and potential. The results are transformative for participants and their families, mentors, professionals, and Israeli society at large. Yedidim, touches the lives of 6,000 children, teens and young adults each year throughout 120 communities across the country. To learn more: www.yedidim-israel.org