
Formerly Friends of Yemin Orde



ImpactIsrael

Elevating education and lifting lives the Village Way

YEMIN ORDE GRADUATES SIGNIFICANTLY SURPASS ISRAEL'S NATIONAL AVERAGE FOR MILITARY SERVICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-Bethesda, MD - ImpactIsrael (formerly Friends of Yemin Orde) announced that a recent study of high schools across Israel found that graduates of Yemin Orde Youth Village far surpass Israel's national average for military service. The study was conducted by the Israel Defense Forces in conjunction with Israel's Ministry of Education. The study also examined data of participation in one of Israel's pre-military gap-year leadership programs prior to active service for this same group of high school students. Pre-military gap-year leadership programs in Israel,



called Mechinot in Hebrew, are voluntary and can strengthen academic, social and leadership skills prior to military service. In Israel, military service or national volunteer service are mandatory for Israeli citizens over the age of 18.

Israeli military officials were reportedly "extremely impressed" with Yemin Orde's outcomes, especially considering its at-risk population. The statistics reflect the success of the Village Way educational methodology in helping Yemin Orde's graduates truly integrate into Israeli society as young adults.

This study is important to high schools across Israel with an eye toward making an important impact on their students, as well as seeing where they have achieved success relative to their graduates' army service.

Participation in Israel's military or national volunteer service provides young adults with important life experience, job skills, problem-solving skills and leadership ability, as well as introduces young soldiers to the diversity of Israel's social fabric of today.

The study looked at specific years of graduates, 2016 to 2018, and then compared that data to national statistics.

1. For the **2016** male graduates of Yemin Orde Youth Village, 92 percent served their mandatory military service. The national average for this time period was 71.9 percent. Only 6.7 percent of Yemin Orde's male graduates were unable to serve in the military because of health related reasons. This means that almost all of the young men who graduated in 2016, who were physically able, served. For the 2016 female graduates, 71.4 percent went on to serve in the military. The national average for this time period was 58.1 percent.
2. For the **2017 and 2018** male graduates, 45.4 percent and 46.9 percent went to gap-year leadership programs. The national average in 2018 was only 6.6 percent. For women graduates of Yemin Orde, 22 percent went to gap-year leadership programs in 2018. This is significantly higher than the national average of 7.1 percent considering the challenging backgrounds of the Village's at-risk population.

For Yemin Orde's graduates, a majority who are immigrants, these numbers are especially impactful and inspiring. It demonstrates that the effectiveness of the Village Way educational methodology in helping at-risk youth connect to Israeli society, form bonds with those from other backgrounds and build lifelong networks, both personally and professionally.

The graduate program at Yemin Orde Youth Village assists its graduate-soldiers throughout their military service. Staff and

teachers attend special military ceremonies, soldiers without family members in Israel receive care packages from the Village's youth, and Yemin Orde's graduate home is open to soldiers for Shabbat, holidays and time off from active duty. The promise is that "Yemin Orde is always there for you" has great impact on its graduates and is one of the unique elements of the Village.

About Yemin Orde Youth Village and Village Way Educational Initiatives

Yemin Orde Youth Village is home, school and safe haven to 430 at-risk youth from around world. It's teens live in a safe and loving home environment, have a top-rated education and are surrounded by positive adult role models. The Village operates 24/7, 365 days a year, and offers exceptional extra-curricular programs and therapeutic services not typically offered at other youth villages and schools in Israel. Its successful educational methodology, called the Village Way, is a model of excellence in Israel and enables fragile youth to develop leadership skills, self-esteem, cultural identity and hope for the future. Graduates remain connected to the Village for life.

Village Way Educational Initiatives (VWEI) was created to extend Yemin Orde's successful educational methodology to other youth villages and public high schools in Israel, including schools in Israeli-Arab communities. Today, VWEI partners with 55 educational communities in Israel and has touched the lives of 22,000 youth and 2,500 educators. The goal is to expand to 91 educational communities by 2026 and reach 55,000 youth and 4,100 educators.