

MATANEL FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

Program:
Year: 2020

Please present your activity report according to the following lines. The whole rapport will not exceed 2 or 3 pages (as word document).

Name of the Program: Bnei David Mechina (Pre-army Preparatory) Yeshiva

Year of activity: 2020

Name of the report's writer: Lior Shtul

Function of the report's writer: CEO

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Website / Facebook address of the organization: www.bneidavid.org

Number of active participants in the program: 300

Estimated number of impacted participants: All the students complete the program with a strengthened sense of commitment to Am Yisrael, Eretz Yisrael, the State of Israel and to pursuing leadership roles in the IDF and later in Israeli civilian society.

Give the actual state of the program (where the program stands at the date of the activity report, no more than ten lines):

As of the date of this activity report, the program is operating as usual, within the restrictions of the Covid-19 regulations. Throughout the year all the classes continued as usual, initially via Zoom and afterward in person on Bnei David campuses when frontal learning conditions were defined – small groups, socially distanced and wearing surgical masks. The students managed to maintain their learning schedules and progress in their studies and preparations for their induction into the IDF

The main achievements during the last year of activity (main achievements, number of events, number of participants, etc.):

Bnei David's main achievement this past year was adapting to the restrictions and challenges of the Covid-19 crisis. Studies have been held throughout the school year.

We have invested significant funds in the upgrading the technology of the campus and the teachers, in order to shift classes to online learning via Zoom.

When students were not allowed to use public transport, we arranged for buses to bring them to the campus, so that they could learn in “capsules.” Another major achievement was the integration of the students into the volunteer work force to help farmers, when the country was in its first lockdown and the farmers faced serious hardships in harvesting their crops. This volunteer work in agriculture greatly benefited the State of Israel. On later lockdowns studies were held on campus, and additional Shabbat programs were held, as the students remained on campus for longer periods than in regular years – going home for Shabbat only once in four or five weeks.

The evaluation (methodology, results, comparisons with the precedent year, conclusions for the future...):

Bnei David adapted its methodology to the reality of the Covid-19 crisis. Creative thinking has resulted in marvelous solutions for activities that in previous years were held off-campus. For example – The pre-army navigation training course, instead of being held further afield (in the Negev or the Judean Desert) for a few days, various navigation exercises were held among the hills and neighborhoods of Eli, the multi-hilltop community where Bnei David campus is located.

Classes were held in smaller groups than in the past, with closed study groups, in capsules of 20 students, in order to minimize the risk of spreading Covid-19.

These small groups have resulted in closer and stronger relationships between the students and the teachers, with more personal attention to each student. These special circumstances of this year will help our students become better leaders in the army and afterward.

Provisional guide lines for the advancement of the program in the next year:

In the coming year we hope to be able to unite the small groups back into a unified class of a hundred or more students, as was the case in the past, when lectures were held in the main study hall. That will also advance the program’s objectives – strengthening the character traits of the students to work together as a group and to become good leaders.

Please attach to the Evaluation Report, the Financial Report and the list of the participants to the program (as **PDF documents**)

Please attach photos – as **JPG files** – and any link or any other document connected to the program which will seem to you relevant – as **PDF document**.

Please attach a 5-minute movie which presents your institution and the particular project supported by the Matanel Foundation. The movie should be accessible to the philanthropic world and to other potential donors.

The following link is to a 3-minute movie showing how Bnei David adapted to Covid-19 restrictions and regulations in order to continue our pre-army programs despite the many challenges involved.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqWeUB4OcjE>