

MATANEL FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY REPORT

Program: Nitzan Matanel “Young Scientists” Summer Program
Year 2024

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: Nitzan Matanel “Young Scientists” Summer Program

Year of activity: 2024

Name of the report's writer: Anat Monastirsky

Function of the report's writer: Resource Development Coordinator

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Number of active participants in the program: 40

Estimated number of impacted participants: Drawing on past experience and participant feedback, we recognize that the program’s influence extends to family members. Children who participate often share their experiences with parents, fostering greater enthusiasm among parents to support their children’s Scientific-Technological Education. For this summer program, we estimate that approximately 80 additional individuals, beyond the direct participants, have been positively impacted.

Furthermore, we believe the program also inspires younger siblings and close friends to pursue an interest in science and technology, influenced by the participants’ enthusiasm. While we cannot quantify this secondary impact, we consider it an important aspect of the program’s broader reach.

Give the actually state of the program (where the program stands at the date of the activity report, no more than ten lines): The 2024 Nitzan Matanel “Young Scientists” Summer Program at Technoda was concluded successfully, with children experiencing being “scientists for a day” through interactive scientific-technological activities. Encouraged by the program's achievements, we plan to continue the program in 2025. The enclosed evaluation report provides comprehensive details of our outcomes.

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

In 2024, with support from the Matanel Foundation, Technoda provided a transformative summer program for 40 children from low socioeconomic backgrounds. The program ran over two months, with six weeks of activities in July and August. Each week, participants engaged in diverse activities, exploring fields such as medicine, chemistry, physics, astronomy, space, aviation, and more. Recognizing the importance of a safe and supportive environment during the summer break, the program provided a nurturing space where children could learn and grow through enriching educational experiences.

Our most significant achievement this year was a 21% increase in the number of participants considering careers in science and technology, from 40% to 61% by the end of the program. This highlights the meaningful and motivational impact of the Nitzan Matanel “Young Scientists” activities.

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

At the start of the program, we established three key goals for the project:

1. Providing children from low socioeconomic background with a safe environment during summer break, while they are not under the supervision of any formal system and their parents are at work.
2. Exposing the children in the program to science and technology.
3. Bridging social and economic gaps in the Israeli society by providing a supportive educational framework for children from weaker populations, with an emphasis on science and technology.

The evaluation of the program was conducted through questionnaires filled by the participants at the beginning and the end of the program. The results demonstrate that the goals we set have been successfully achieved. We examined both the social dimensions, like participants' enthusiasm and satisfaction, and the academic facets, focusing on their inspiration and interest in future scientific and technological career paths.

By the end of the program, 78% of participants reported that most topics were completely new to them, marking a significant breakthrough in exposing them to scientific and technological fields. The program successfully combined enjoyment with education, ensuring engagement for meaningful learning. Moreover, 77% of participants rated the topics as highly interesting, showing our success in making complex subjects accessible and engaging. Participants' enthusiasm is also evident: 90% expressed a strong desire to recommend the program, highlighting its impact beyond traditional education and making it a valuable experience they were eager to share with others.

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

Based on the positive feedback received this year, and the critical need to provide children from underserved communities from the social periphery with a safe and enriching environment during summer vacation, we aim to continue the program next year. Our focus will be on two groups: children who have previously participated, to further expand and deepen their exposure to science and technology, and new participants, to broaden the program's reach and provide more children with this valuable opportunity.

At the following link, you can watch a 5-minute film showcasing Technoda:

<https://youtu.be/vI8PXEgj5o4>