



A HOME THAT BELIEVES IN YOU



**Zoharim Youth
Village**

EDUCATIONAL THERAPEUTIC
YOUTH VILLAGE





KFAR ZOHARIM

An educational- therapeutic youth village established by Israel Prize recipient, Rabbi Yitzchak Dovid Grossman in 2012 for teenagers ages 14 to 18 from the Ultraorthodox sector, who are unable to find their place in the accepted Ultraorthodox frameworks. The youth village offers these boys a loving second home, guidance and tools for life, so they can become upstanding citizens when they reach adulthood, giving back to Israeli society.

Today's Youth The Citizens of Tomorrow

The Ultraorthodox world does not offer its teenagers an alternative, other than the conventional track of learning Jewish religious studies from childhood to adulthood. Many of these boys who do not succeed in adjusting to the dictates of the society into which they were born, do not find an alternative framework that will enable them to develop according to their paths and talents. They leave the educational frameworks, some of them sever ties with their families and the entire community. For many of them, the street becomes their home.

At Zoharim Youth Village, these boys find a warm home environment and a professional staff that lends them a helping hand. They receive the appropriate treatment and values-based education, which will help them embark on a new path of creativity, work and giving back to Israeli society and to the State of Israel.





A Reflection of Their Childhood Landscape

Zoharim Youth Village is located in the heart of the lush HaEla Valley in a quiet and rural setting. The youth village is surrounded by vineyards, fields and groves, and overlooks a breathtaking and spectacular green landscape. The youth village blends into the landscape as a rural gem that radiates tranquility onto everyone who enters its gates.

Map of the Youth Village

1. The School Compound
2. Psycho-Social Center
3. Offices
4. Alumni House
5. Counselors' Residence
6. Olive groves
7. Vineyards
8. Security and Control Room
9. Hydroponic Greenhouse
10. Synagogue
11. Carpentry Shop
12. Bayit BaGiva
13. Faculty Residences
14. Student Dormitories
15. Horse Ranch and Multipurpose Hall
16. Sports Complex
17. Dining Room



90%

of the Zoharim Youth Village graduates successfully complete their studies with a full matriculation



91%

of Zoharim Youth Village graduates are inducted into combat units and complete a meaningful service in the IDF



120

students ages 14 to 18 live and are educated at the Zoharim Youth Village



95%

of the youth village alumni reconnect with their families and serve as a source of pride and joy



70

professionals in the fields of education and auxiliary therapies help guide the youth village students

The Youth Village Staff

There are more than 70 educators working at the youth village. These educators feel that their work is a mission; and they provide the boys with a comprehensive solution for all their needs. The staff, most of whom live in the youth village together with their families, work night and day to help the boys, strengthen them and provide them an alternative supportive family framework and serve as a role model.

The youth village staff is comprised of 4 teams that together comprise a unique human tapestry:

- **The Psychosocial Staff** includes social workers, psychologists and therapists.
- **The Teaching Staff** is comprised of professional teachers, homeroom teachers, coordinators and guidance counselors.
- **The Educational Staff** features youth counselors (who work during the day and at night), grade coordinators and an adoptive family.
- **The Agricultural Farm Staff** is comprised of nature and agriculture teachers, animal farm managers, horseback riding instructors, gardeners and landscape architects.



“I have learned from all of my pupils”

The boys come to the youth village with a lack of basic knowledge and information related to core scholastic fields. The educational staff works to fill in this knowledge within a short period of time and prepare the boys for their matriculation exams.

Despite the scholastic gaps and failures that these boys have experienced in the Ultraorthodox educational frameworks, our curriculum lets each teenager select the course of study that best suits him, so he will ultimately be eligible for a matriculation diploma or alternatively a vocational certificate.



The Zoharim School

The youth village high school is run by the ORT School Network and offers 9th - 12th grade students at the youth village a rich and diverse theoretical and vocational curriculum that prepares them for the matriculation exams in core subjects such as English, mathematics, sciences, language, literature, Bible, Talmud, history, etc. The students can select one of two theoretical majors for matriculation: agriculture and computer processing.

The Agriculture Major

5 study units of practical and theoretical agricultural studies. In the theoretical unit, the pupils study in the agriculture laboratory; the practical units are held at the agricultural and animal farms.

The Computer Processing Major

5 study units in computer graphics. The pupils in this major can add courses to reach 7 study units and complete a technology matriculation diploma, in addition to their regular matriculation diploma.

Education is Our Second Nature

The youth village pupils take an active part in working the land at the youth village and are completely involved in its maintenance and upkeep. The students learn to appreciate the surroundings in which they live, taking care of the environmental needs. They receive guidance and employment training and take the agricultural matriculation exams.

In this framework, they develop the agricultural farm, working in the vineyards, hydroponic greenhouse and horse ranch and helping with the maintenance of the youth village.

Agricultural work is an integral part of Zoharim. The youth village students irrigate, develop, fertilize, harvest, hoe and nourish the land and its crops. In this way, the students cultivate a love of their country and learn about the wonderful fruits one can reap from diligence, giving, love and tolerance.

- A moving and important experience of success for the students, many of whom have become accustomed to failure.
- Increasing environmental awareness due to their acute attention to the needs of the flora and fauna.
- Employment experience in a modern agricultural environment and professional internship.
- Theoretical and practical studies as part of the agricultural matriculation curriculum.
- Gaining business knowledge for the management and marketing of products and merchandise marketing and sales processes.





The Hydroponic Greenhouse

The youth village boasts a productive greenhouse that grows crops using the hydroponic method – on platforms of recycled water. The students are introduced to a modern agricultural method that enables the maximal utilization of our limited water resource. The economical method is an application of the sustainability values that we teach these students.

The Horse Ranch

At the therapeutic horse ranch, students take part in therapeutic horseback riding, which helps develop their personal skills, improve their self-confidence and self-image, strengthen personal security, increase motivation, and helps them cope with difficulties, fears, failure and success.

The horse ranch provides students with unique professional training as therapeutic riding instructors which they may use in the future, and offers personal empowerment and a solution for a wide spectrum of educational, social, emotional and behavioral aspects.





The Zoharim Vineyard

The first students at Zoharim Village planted an organic vineyard, which in recent years has begun to bear fruit, which is currently being used by the students to produce a series of wines in cooperation with well-known wineries. The students are part of a professional vintner training program – from work in the vineyard to wine production.

Landscape Architecture

Landscape planning, development and maintenance at the youth village. The youth village is lush with vegetation. The gardens are planted by the students with the assistance of professionals. The upkeep of the youth village gardens is handled by the students as part of their required maintenance duties at the youth village.







The Carpentry Shop

The Zoharim carpentry shop provides students with carpentry training, using timber and executing precision carpentry jobs. The carpentry work is executed with the assistance of professionals; and together, they create kitchens, cabinets and institutional and garden furniture. This manual labor, which results in useful and attractive products, fosters a love of creativity and a sense of satisfaction and self-esteem.



Business Entrepreneurship

The Young Entrepreneurs Project, in cooperation with UNISTREAM is designed to foster social economic leadership in Israel by training young adults, who are not exposed to opportunities, to break through the glass ceiling, and enter business and social projects to maximize their potential and change their life path and the face of the State of Israel.



Challenge in the Desert

The youth village students take part in a therapeutic trip that offers them a 'glimpse' at their 'inner selves'. They spend an entire week in the desert, cut off from civilization. The trip provides the students with 'small victories' when coping with difficulties and challenges that they previously avoided or fled in their daily lives. These victories help improve their self-image and sense of competency by coping with and facing ongoing and increasing difficulty.

The trip's main message – "I am responsible for what happens to me and I create my own reality."

Trip to Poland

Zoharim's 12th graders travel to Poland on a trip designed to strengthen their sense of nationalism and affiliation to Israel's history and heritage, as well as teaching universal lessons. The delegation focuses on the Holocaust, its history and the destruction it created, imparting lessons of the Holocaust, both Zionist and universal in nature.





Lectures

Weekly lectures on a wide variety of topics: the army, history, personal difficulties, Aliyah, devotion, etc. The goal is to enable the students to internalize the fact that all the necessary strengths for healthy development are found within them; and they must find these strengths within themselves. Every week, the boys meet inspiring and interesting lecturers, who open a window to various fields and subjects for these boys.

Extracurricular Activities

The youth village students benefit from a series of extracurricular activities designed to build their skills and strengthen their belief in their own abilities. The students take part in a variety of activities such as: marital arts, painting, educational outdoor activities, jewelry making, photography, drama, cinema, conversational Arabic, 3d lab, bicycling.



Sounds of Victory

At Zoharim Youth Village, there is a music room equipped with dozens of musical instruments, including guitars, drums and piano and more. In the music lessons offered at the youth village, students learn to write and compose music, play instruments and sing. Through the composition and singing, the students express the personal process they experienced, the difficulty, longing, and chance for a better life. Their singing bursts from deep down in their souls and helps them express themselves and become empowered.





A Healthy Soul in a Healthy Body

At the Zoharim fitness room, students attend athletic activities and training designed to impart them with values such as perseverance, exertion and achievement. The activity in the fitness room gives them a sense of great satisfaction; and while their body becomes healthy and developed, their self-confidence also grows. In addition, there is a weekly running group and some of its members take part in official races, from time to time, such as the Har Shoshanim and Dror Weinberg races.

Time for Recreation

After they complete their practical and school tasks, the students visit the social club for some recreation. There they can play billiards and ping pong, watch movies, read books in the library, use the computer, etc. The students have a rich social life; and this meeting place is where they can enjoy themselves with their fellow students.





Preparing for Military Service

The Army Preparatory Program is designed for 11th and 12th graders; and it helps train the boys for the physical and mental challenges they will encounter in their military service. The program fosters a sense of success and competence in the boys and develops leadership and command skills needed in the IDF. The boys undergo combat fitness training, tour IDF bases, meet with key IDF figures and learn about the opportunities available to them, prior to their induction into the army.



The Adopt a Combat Soldier Program

The youth village students learn about the importance of giving back to others and to society, based on a philosophy whereby every citizen must give back to his country, contribute and become a partner. Most of the students are inducted into combat service and serve in the IDF's elite units. During their military service, the students take their first steps toward independence; and for the first time in their lives, they experience achievement and success after considerable failure, such as dropping out of yeshiva or being cut off from their communities.

The Adopt a Combat Soldier Program is designed for Zoharim graduates who are inducted into the IDF and require assistance and financial support.



The Alumni House

The Alumni House serves as a warm home environment to which our graduates can return at any given time. The house provides the alumni with a sense of belonging and security, with the knowledge that the youth village and executive staff continues to support them throughout their service as a 'family', for all intents and purposes. It's their home and they can always return to it.

The Alumni House serves as an anchor of stability, as they leave the youth village to continue their lives as adults, from their induction into the IDF until their discharge, as they enter academic institutions, select a profession and build a family and home in Israel.

As part of this program, the youth village staff supports its alumni on a number of levels:

- Contact with IDF departments – from their first call up until they complete their military service – based on the individual needs of each alumni.
- Assistance and guidance in various situations, based on the individual needs of each alumni: An available hotline for contacts and consultations on various subjects.
- Assistance for alumni/lone soldier apartments – Help with moving and furniture, visits and help with running the household.
- Consultation and guidance meetings in a time of crisis.
- Making connections and contacts with various institutions in the community that provide services to young people with no support and assist the alumnus with the various processes.
- Consultation and guidance prior to discharge with regard to fields of study, employment, housing, etc. Referral to the various institutions that provide assistance in these fields within the community.
- Strengthening the relationship and sense of belonging to the Zoharim through special alumni weekends at the youth village – for all alumni, or for a specific class.
- Strengthening the relationship with the youth village and support during the army service – attending ceremonies, sending packages, etc.
- Alumni House – A physical structure that provides alumni with a warm home environment in which to live, when necessary, or when alumni wish to spend time at the youth village for a period of time.

Family Ties

The youth village students who could not adjust to the dictates of the Ultraorthodox society into which they were born, encountered great distress and had no one or no place to turn to. Some of them severed ties with their families and the entire community, and even wound up living on the streets, with all that this entails. Beyond offering a home that instills values and quality education, Zoharim has set as its goal to reconnect these boys with their families and to strengthen the family ties.

The parents and family members are exposed to the changes in their son's personality and get to know the person their son has become, who is more independent and self-confident.





A man with a long white beard, wearing a black suit and a black top hat, is seen from behind, looking towards a group of children riding horses in an outdoor setting. The children are wearing white shirts and helmets. The background shows a wooden building and a line of trees under a clear sky.

**“Educate the child according to his way,
and even when he grows up he will not
depart from it”**

Proverbs 22:6



Zoharim Youth Village

מפעלות
הרב גרוסמן



משרד החינוך

