



Summer youth movement activities in the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic

July-August 2020

About us

The Federation of Working and Studying Youth is one of the three largest youth movements in Israel and certainly the most diverse, with some 90,000 youth members of all backgrounds throughout the country – including marginalized communities such as low-income neighborhoods, immigrant communities, Arabs, Druze, Circassian, and Bedouin communities, and more. The youth movement aims to simultaneously promote each member on a personal and moral basis as well as promoting the cohesiveness and social resilience of Israeli society. The movement centers throughout Israel run a broad variety of educational activities, including seminars, after-school programs, and camps and excursions, alongside local daily activities – all emphasizing social and community involvement. Youth movement alumni have gone on to become social, political, military and cultural leaders in Israel, including the late former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and former President and Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Summer program

This summer, the youth movement is faced with an unprecedented challenge: creating activities to help kids have fun, learn new things, spend time outdoors and make new bonds and friendships like we do every summer, while adhering to the Ministry of Health COVID-19 guidelines aimed at keeping us as safe as possible. This year, Israelis – like many around the world – are facing the added challenge of the pandemic’s economic toll, which has put millions out of work, and making families’ ability to cover the costs of the usual summer camps that much more difficult.

Therefore, we have re-designed our youth movement summer programs as follows:

- Provide a fun and informal outlet for Israeli youth who have experienced the stress, uncertainty and isolation of the COVID-19 lockdown.
- Continue our flagship leadership-development program with thousands of youth participants from all Israeli population groups, who will serve as junior counselors the following year.
- All activity is local and in small consistent groups, in order to avoid spreading the virus from community to community.
- Though the Health Ministry has forbidden long-term large group overnight activities, all local groups will experience a 3-day overnight hiking and camping trip in accordance with guidelines.
- The usual attractions like water parks, amusement parks, etc. (all now closed) will be brought to the local groups in creative ways.

We are facing an unprecedented summer and the future is uncertain. Help us provide some stability and an outlet for Israeli kids and teens of all backgrounds, which is important this year more than ever.

The average summer program full cost is \$250 per child. We are expecting some 10,000 kids to take part.

Your contribution of \$54,000 will support 720 families (\$75 per child).

Thank you!

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