Volunteers for Israel was founded in 1982 during the war with Lebanon. More than 600 Americans answered the call from General Aharon Davidi to help harvest crops in Israel while the workers were fighting for Israel.

That same volunteer spirit exists today as we help Israel shoulder her defense burden, show her we care – and have fun and an adventure while doing it.
The MISSION of Volunteers for Israel is to connect Americans ages 17+ to Israel through volunteer service and to promote solidarity and goodwill among Israelis, American Jews, and other friends of Israel.

You work on an IDF base performing non-combat, civilian support tasks alongside soldiers, base employees, and other volunteers from around the world. And make lifelong friends.
VFI volunteers benefit Israel

• Help maintain the readiness of the IDF to defend Israel
• Allow the IDF to allocate more of its scarce financial and manpower resources to essential military tasks
• Serve as informal ambassadors for Israel
• Boost morale within the IDF and Israel
What is the **VFI** Experience?

The adventure begins when you meet your group and your SAR-EL *madrichot* at Ben-Gurion Airport.
You live in a barracks with fellow volunteers. (Conditions on base can be Spartan.)
Wear your IDF-issued work uniform
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wake up</td>
<td>0600-0700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>0700-0800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flag raising</td>
<td>0800-0815</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Meeting</td>
<td>0815-0830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work</td>
<td>0830-1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>1200-1300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work</td>
<td>1300-1630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td>1700-1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Activity</td>
<td>1900-2000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Enjoy 3 Kosher meals a day
Work performed by VFI volunteers varies from base to base. No experience needed.
EQUIPMENT REPAIR
BASE MAINTENANCE
Flag raising

Evening programs

New Friends
Program Options

- **One-, Two- and Three-week** programs are open throughout the year to volunteers from age aged 17 (16 if accompanied by an adult) to active seniors.

- **VFI Campus Israel Discovery Program**, an **all peer experience** for young adults ages 18-28, combines volunteering on an IDF base, working alongside IDF soldiers and peers from all over the world, plus weekend touring to some of Israel’s most popular destinations. Offered during summer and January school break. Cost ($750) paid directly to Sar-El. Register with VI.

- **Add-on to Taglit-Birthright Israel tours**  Taglit-Birthright Israel participants can extend their trip and be Volunteers for Israel!*  *Special start date arrangements are available for Taglit-Birthright Israel extensions.

- All volunteers must be in good physical and mental health.
NEW! VFI PLUS Program Options—Volunteer and Tour Israel, too

- **VFI PLUS Programs are all-inclusive package tours** that include volunteering on an IDF base + private touring. Included are hotel accommodations, transportation, airport transfers, professional guides, an air-conditioned bus, lectures, admission fees, food (except touring lunches), and tips. You pay for round-trip air travel. Programs are ideal for the first-timer or returning visitor.

- **VFI PLUS ADVANCED 17-day program** combines 9 days of volunteering on an IDF base + 8 days of private custom touring. Our deluxe itinerary features specially chosen sites and experiences.

- **VFI PLUS ARCHAEOLOGY is a 14-day** on-site, hands-on, volunteer experience. The ALL-Inclusive program includes 5 days volunteering on an IDF base plus 5 days at a professional dig site in the City of David (Jerusalem), hotel and 4 days of touring to exciting locations in an air-conditioned bus.
Weekends

The work week on the base is from Sunday-Thursday. Thursday afternoon to Sunday morning is free time off the base. You can travel in Israel, visit with friends and relatives, hang out with your new VFI buddies--or select a VFI PLUS Program. There is so much to see!
There’s So Much To See In Israel!

- Masada
- Dead Sea
- Jerusalem
- Bahai Gardens
- Bet She’an
- Tel Aviv
- Sea of Galilee
- Dead Sea Scrolls
- Caesarea
What Does It Cost To Volunteer?

Your costs include:

- **VFI Application fee**
  - $125.00 for adults
  - $55.00 for students
  - $100.00 Sar-El fee

- Your weekend expenses

- Your airfare and (optional) VFI PLUS programs

VFI is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit non-political, non-denominational organization. Your application fee and some of your transportation costs *may be* tax deductible. Ask your accountant.
Special VFI Programming: VFI Educates
Free, Live Zoom Programs From Israel

Each Thursday at 2 p.m., VFI EDUCATES brings Israel live to 100s of viewers around the world.

• Original interactive programs transport you to archaeological digs, historic neighborhoods and homes, ancient cultural sites and bustling streets in the Jewish homeland – all led by VFI PLUS’ official tour guide, Julia Newman.

• Enjoy presentations from world-class experts in their fields, such as former Mossad agents, Brigadier Generals, scientists, artists, photographers, high-tech entrepreneurs and famed archaeologists.

Email vfivolunteer@gmail.com to reserve a spot for yourself or a friend and be notified of future events. Please include your name, state, and email address.

Access 100+ past programs at tinyurl.com/vfieducates2
Why Choose VFI?

1. By living and working with Israelis, you become an "insider" and discover the real Israel that tourists never see.

2. Our year-round programs are a travel bargain that fit your schedule.

3. You'll meet and form new friendships with people from all over the world.

4. Our experienced regional representatives have visited Israel many times. We are readily available to answer your questions and share tips about travel and sightseeing. All you have to do is ask!

5. We provide a take-along Program Handbook written for our volunteers. It will serve as a handy resource guide throughout your stay.

And...
Volunteers said...

“I will always remember the bonds created with the soldiers and other volunteers. Despite cultural differences, everyone got along and had a great time. Yes, the labor is hard, but you truly appreciate the mitzvah you are doing, and your love for Israel deepens.”

Elie Klien, New Jersey

“Living and working on an army base and interacting with the soldiers made me feel part of something bigger. I would recommend this program to anyone who wants to experience Israel in a non-traditional way, meet fascinating people, and help protect the State of Israel.”

Erin Spiegel, California
Our Base Commander said…
How To Apply

• Follow directions on our website: www.vfi-usa.org
• Complete the Application, get your doctor’s approval, etc.
• Send completed Application to your Regional Manager
• Arrange your interview.
• After you are approved by both VFI and Sar-El, send the application fee and signed waiver to Sar-El. Book your flights.
• Consult your take-along Program Handbook and ask questions.
When you volunteer on a VFI program you’ll get more than you give, knowing you've made a personal difference to Israel and Israelis—and you'll have friendships and special memories to last a lifetime.

Give Israel your very best—You!