

Seminar Manhigut (leadership) will complete the year. This seminar helps you to absorb all you have learned in the year and begin your journey back to your home community. It will help you to say goodbye to Israel and your group, and prepare you on your new paths to college, employment, leadership and future within Netzer and the Reform movement. Plus regular meetings with Israelis, other gap-year participants and participants of Progressive Israel programs, trips and hikes throughout Israel, cultural events and so much more!

FAQs

Do I have to join for the whole year?

Doing the whole 10 months is definitely the best way to get the most out of the program and Israel. There is an option to join just from September until December or from January until the end of the program in June.

When does the program start and finish?

Netzer Olami runs two programs. The Northern Hemisphere Shnat Netzer program runs from September to June. Participants join the program from Europe and North America. The Southern Hemisphere Shnat Netzer program runs from February to December. Participants join the program from Australia, South Africa and South America.

Detailed and final prices for the program will be given upon request, as they are subject to change. However, as a guide, the price is usually around US\$11,000- \$12,000.

This includes full room, board and tuition. It does not include flights or room and board during holiday periods (During Hannukah and Pesach all participants get 8 days holiday from the structured program)

Can I get a scholarship or financial assistance?

It is a policy of Netzer Olami that lack of funds should never be an obstacle to joining the program. There are many sources of funding available and we will be happy to refer you to them. There is also MASA (Journey), a new scholarship opportunity for participants on the Shnat Netzer program. MASA is a needs-based scholarship and is sponsored by the Israeli government. For more details contact Netzer Olami, your local Netzer branch or the MASA website www.masaisrael.org.

Will my studies suffer if I am away for a whole year?

Definitely not! In fact, a year away will be very beneficial and offer you valuable space and time to develop. Many colleges and universities actually prefer their students to take a year before embarking on a course of higher education. They reason that students who have been away for a while are more mature and can cope much better with the educational and other pressures of college life. Many employers also see a year abroad before college as an advantage and a builder of character.

What about when I come back?

Shnat Netzer is not just a year that sits in isolation within Netzer. It is seen as part of the process of growing up through the movement and the graduates of the program are a vital part of what keeps the movements running. Shnat Netzer should be seen in context of continued involvement in your Netzer branch as well as your local community.

How is the program staffed?

Netzer Olami employs a full time, dedicated, professional staff to work on the Shnat Netzer program. Each group has a madrich (leader) who accompanies it during the year and staff responsible for their welfare and educational content at each location. Shnat Netzer, unlike some other programs, does not have 'live-in' staff. We believe that the experience of the program will be more significant if the participants can be independent. Of course, there are rules and regulations that participants must agree to before joining, and abide by during the program, and our staff is available around the clock in the event of any situation.

What about Safety and Security?

We treat the safety and security of our participants as our number one priority, and take all precautions to ensure that the program is safe while maintaining its quality. Netzer Olami regularly receives information about all aspects of safety and security from the Jewish Agency and local authorities, and update all groups accordingly. Staff is available 24 hours a day to answer questions from participants should they have any concerns. Program changes will be made if security demands it.

Please be aware that the all information and details are subject to change as arrangements and numbers are confirmed with various agencies in Israel. Shnat Netzer continues to develop and expand over time to ensure that it is always a rewarding and satisfying experience.

For more information about the Shnat Netzer program please contact:

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Testimonies

▶ "We have been impressed with our son's experiences in Israel, and the program as a whole. He has gained so much and we know that this special year will stay with him for ever."
Parents of Participant, 2004

▶ "We are so delighted that our daughter chose to do this program and despite all our concerns for her, we can honestly now admit that it has been one of the best experiences she will probably ever have."
Parents of Participant, 2004

▶ "I loved the educational element of Etgar and the whole year challenged me to think about my Jewish identity and role as a Jew. I feel a lot more prepared for university."
Participant, 2003

▶ "Shnat Netzer made my gap year worthwhile. I have developed as a person."
Participant, 2004



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העולמי
ליהדות
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Netivei Shnat Netzer



What is Netzer Olami?

- ▶ Netzer Olami is the world-wide Reform Zionist Youth Movement
- ▶ Netzer Olami offers opportunities and challenges to over 18,000 young people from Progressive, Reform, Liberal and Reconstructionist communities in 40 different countries on all six continents of the world.

What is Shnat Netzer?

Shnat Netzer is a unique 10-month leadership training program for young adults in Israel that develops the skills and knowledge necessary for them to become madrichim (leaders) in the movement. It facilitates personal development, offers opportunities to study Jewish and Zionist ideals and provides a structured environment for learning about and experiencing Netzer's principles.

Shnat Netzer is an exciting, challenging and stimulating way to spend a year in Israel and to be part of a group/communal way of life. Participants experience:

- ▶ Adventure
- ▶ Excitement
- ▶ Independence
- ▶ Self discovery
- ▶ Leadership
- ▶ Learning Hebrew
- ▶ Volunteer service
- ▶ Reform Judaism and Zionism in practice

Shnat Netzer will broaden your horizons and offer an opportunity to discover yourself and what it means to be Jewish and live in Israel. You will be able to form life-long friendships both with your peers within the Shnat Netzer group and with other Jews from around the world whom you will meet throughout the year.

If you have been involved with a Netzer branch or if you have grown up in a Reform/Progressive Jewish community and you are wondering where to go from here, this is the natural way to continue that involvement. It's a chance to acquire a whole new range of skills and abilities and many wonderful memories.

The year is spent with participants from all over the world, including South Africa, Australia, Argentina, North America, the Former Soviet Union and Europe. Together you will be able to develop skills and share experiences to help you become experienced and knowledgeable youth leaders.

The Shnat experience changes lives

"I loved every minute of it and got so much out of it." (South African participant, 2002)

- ▶ "The year has been amazing and I am going back to England with a passion for Netzer and for Israel. The group and staff have been incredible!" (English participant, 2003)

Netivei Shnat Netzer is Netzer's 'new look' program. It means 'Shnat Netzer Paths' and offers you more choices and opportunities for a fulfilling and exciting Israel experience.

rationale of the year process and explanation of the components

The Netivei Shnat Netzer program enables participants to gradually immerse themselves into Eretz Israel and Israeli society.

▶ **Orientation** The year begins with a month long in-depth orientation to Israel, Netzer Olami and the program. During this first stage participants will learn and experience all they need to know to follow through to the next stages of the year.

▶ **Making a difference** The next stage of the year is spent either volunteering in different locations around Israel or travelling across the length and breadth of the land of



Israel. If you choose the Volunteering path you will be immersed in, and able to contribute to, Israeli society in a unique way and in the spirit of tikkun olam (repairing the world).

▶ **Adventure and Independence** If you choose the Travelling path you will have a rugged outdoor voyage.

▶ **Choice** The year ends with a choice of two four-and-a-half month intensive study programs. (See next page for details.) During this stage participants will acquire skills and knowledge to reinforce their leadership and Jewish identity.

▶ **Journey** But don't worry! That's not all! Each section of the year is bracketed by seminars, on varied themes, which will help you process your experience as an individual and as part of a group.

Explanation of the components

▶ Nativ 1:

For the first stage of the year you will have to choose to go down one of two new and exciting netivim (paths), Shnat B'ir (Shnat in the City) or Shvil Yisrael (Israel trail).

Shnat B'ir

For six to eight weeks you will live and work together in a development town and every day you will go out individually or in small groups to volunteer in different locations of the community. The work could be getting your hands dirty in a community garden, teaching English to new immigrants, running a drama workshop with youths, assisting young people with special needs or many other options to enable you to contribute to the society around you and ultimately develop your skills and character.

Shvil Yisrael

This is your chance to have a real old-fashioned adventure out in the wild. Shvil Yisrael is an established hiking route that threads through the length and breadth of the country which hundreds of Israeli's complete each year. The group will walk and camp throughout Israel while visiting Reform communities and sights of interest along the way. You will also learn about Israel's nature, eco-travel and ecologically friendly lifestyles, accompanied the whole time by a qualified trail guide.



▶ Nativ 2: Kibbutz

The Kibbutzim of Yahel and Lotan in the Arava Desert have been a long and successful component of Shnat Netzer. Volunteers work on the kibbutz while learning about the Reform Zionist community. You will also learn about the ecologically sustainable lifestyle that Kibbutz Lotan maintains and about the history and theory of the Kibbutz movement.

▶ Nativ 3: Machon or Etgar

4 months of the year is spent on either Machon or Etgar. Participants choose which they want to go on before arrival in Israel. Both programs have a specific focus on hinuch (education), with Machon more centered on intensive learning, and Etgar on community living.

Etgar (Challenge)

This program began in 1994 and is unique to Netzer. In this 'Real World Israel' type program, the group lives together in an apartment in Jerusalem and combines study with living and volunteering in Israeli society. Together you will work towards building a Reform Zionist community – one that lives, works, plays, prays and studies together. In your community, you will set up cleaning, cooking and shopping routines, making all decisions together and sharing the weekly budget.

Three days each week are spent learning about spirituality, community, leadership and peoplehood, both in and out of the classroom as well as learning Ivrit (Hebrew), and Hadracha (leadership skills). From exploring Judaism, Jewish and Zionist history and contemporary Israeli society, you will be able to decide how you want to implement this in your community and personal lives. The rest of the week is spent in a mixture of siurim (day trips out), individual community work placements, communal group projects and community-building activities.



Machon

The Jewish Agency's Machon l'Madrichei Chutz l'Aretz (the Institute for Youth Leaders from Abroad) based in Jerusalem has been running programs for Zionist youth movements since 1946. Classes are five days a week from 8:00am, and are taught by lecturers of the highest caliber with knowledge on subjects such as Jewish history, Israel, Zionism, Judaism, Leadership and Hebrew. Machon operates in a pluralist atmosphere where all views and ideologies from the different movements are accepted and encouraged, as is sharing and learning from each others' differences, in the classroom, at mealtimes and in your dorms. Both Etgar and Machon include trips and hikes around the country and both groups meet regularly for joint activities.

▶ Seminars:

During the year there will be four seminars.

Seminar Kehilla (community) will be at first 4 weeks at the beginning of the year. It will facilitate the group members' introduction to each other, the program, Netzer Olami, Israel, the rules and regulations of the program and will be a chance to brush up on your Hebrew.

Seminar Am (People), held after the Shvil Yisrael/Hitnadvut periods finish, explores the theory and practice of Reform Zionism.

Yisrael/Hitnadvut) and third Nativ (Kibbutz). Traditional Jewish texts will be used in Jewish learning frameworks to explore different themes. You will also learn how to use Jewish texts, such as the Tanach and Talmud, in your own leadership.

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