

NOAM

Masorti's Youth Movement

Many Israelis feel disassociated from Jewish heritage and religion. To combat this, Masorti has decided to give high priority to engaging the younger generation in social and educational activity which cultivates a love and appreciation for Judaism and natural leadership for Masorti in the years ahead. **NOAM** members, or "NOAMistim," are empowered to make positive changes in Israel and become active Masorti leaders in their kehillot.



NOAM (acronym for No'ar Masorti – Masorti Youth) provides an environment that strengthens the youngsters' Jewish and Zionist identities and leadership skills. Designed for Masorti youth, NOAM also appeals to children from Orthodox, Reform and secular homes. At NOAM's 20 branches, almost 1,500 young Israelis meet and interact regularly

Programming

NOAM runs programmes for 8-21 year olds, including weekly branch activities, shabbatonim (weekend events), hikes, seminars, *tikkun olam* projects and a programme for army service (Garin). Educational programming focuses on Jewish identity, Zionism and youth leadership.

From 9th grade, many NOAM members serve as youth leaders in their local branch. High-schoolers enjoy activities throughout the year on local, regional and national levels. The pinnacle of the annual activities is the Ramah-NOAM Summer Camp, an overnight camping experience for children from Years 5 to 11, staffed by NOAM's older

members, alumni and members of Marom, Masorti's on-campus programme.

Leadership

NOAM is led by a dedicated group of professionals and volunteers. Years 11 to 13 NOAMistim are youth leaders for the younger age groups. Garin members, NOAM graduates and Marom members lead the older tracks.

On finishing school, many members join a NOAM army Garin, spending three to four years together, a period longer than the standard obligatory service. This framework allows them not only to fulfill their national service obligations but also to engage in community work and continue to develop their identity as a Masorti kehilla.

Since the first Garin was established in 1983, hundreds of young people have participated in this unique framework. And, as hoped, a good number of these people have taken on professional and lay leadership positions within the Masorti world.



Budget

The 2009 NOAM budget was increased to CA\$720,000 (excluding camp), stressing Masorti's commitment to Israel's younger generation. Raising funds above this amount will allow us to open new branches, develop leadership training and expand programming.

“דרכיה דרכי נועם”

(משלי ג', י"ז)