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...
  • 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
What is the VFI experience?

The adventure begins when you meet your group and your SAR-EL *madrichot* at Ben-Gurion Airport.
Live in a barracks with fellow volunteers.
(Conditions on base can be Spartan.)
Enjoy 3 Kosher meals a day
Wear your IDF-issued work uniform
Work performed by VFI volunteers varies from base to base...
EQUIPMENT REPAIR
BASE MAINTENANCE
A typical day on base...

- Wake up: 0600-0700
- Breakfast: 0700-0800
- Flag raising: 0800-0815
- Group Meeting: 0815-0830
- Work: 0830-1200
- Lunch: 1200-1300
- Work: 1300-1630
- Dinner: 1700-1800
- Group Activity: 1900-2000
Program Options...

- **One-, Two- and Three-week** programs are open throughout the year to all ages (at least 17 years of age; 16 if accompanied by parent)

- **The International Youth Program (IYP)** is an IDF-based summer program specially designed for young adults ages 17-25.
  - Volunteers live, work, socialize, and have fun with young Israeli soldiers and other volunteers from around the world during one or all of the 3-week sessions.

- **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** include ALL arrangements for your volunteer assignment: housing, transportation, airport transfers, private tours, professional guide, an air-conditioned bus, lectures, specialty guides, admission fees, food (except touring lunches), and tips. You are responsible only for round-trip air travel. For the first-timer or returning visitor.

- **VFI PLUS 9-day program** combines 5 days of volunteering on an IDF base with 4 days of fast-paced custom touring of unique sites.

- **VFI PLUS ADVANCED 17-day program** for the first-timer or returning visitor combines 9 days of volunteering on an IDF base + 8 days of private custom touring. Our deluxe itinerary features unusual and under-the-radar 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, 5 days at a professional dig site in the City of David (Jerusalem), and 4 days of custom touring to out-of-the-way locations in an air-conditioned bus.
• **Weekends** (Thursday afternoon to Sunday morning) are spent off the base. You can travel in Israel, visit with friends and relatives, or hang out with your new VFI buddies. There is so much to see!
There’s So Much To See With VFI

- Masada
- Bahai Gardens
- Dead Sea
- Bet She'an
- Sea of Galilee
- Dead Sea Scrolls
- Jerusalem
- Tel Aviv
- Caesarea
What does it cost?

Your costs include:

• VFI Application fee
  $ 125.00 for adults
  $ 55.00 for students

• Your weekend expenses

• Your airfare

(VFI is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit non-political, non-denominational organization, which means your application fee and some of your transportation costs may be tax deductible. Ask your accountant.)
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...
You’ll get more than you give, knowing you've made a personal difference to Israel and Israelis—and you'll have special memories to last a lifetime, too!

Give Israel your very best—You!
“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