



FIRE SCOUTS SPONSORSHIP FUND

The Fire Scouts, established in 1959 by Israel's Fire and Rescue Services, gives high school students the opportunity to fulfill their community service requirements by volunteering at their local fire stations.

The transformative program instills in its participants the value of helping others, shaping them into better citizens and better people. Volunteers learn that they are responsible not just for themselves but for their entire crew, their family at the fire station, and the residents of their community. They experience success and failure and understand what it means to be part of a team. Personal pride and motivation are stressed and every scout feels important. Numerous fire chiefs and high-ranking firefighters began their careers as scouts.

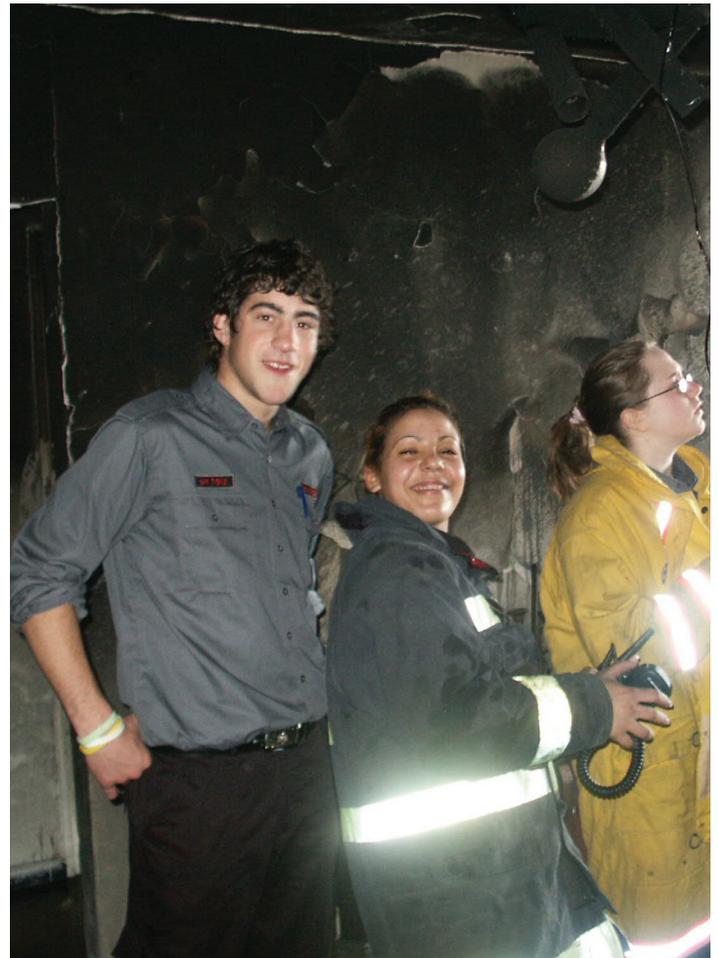
Sponsor a Fire Scout

Each volunteer must be outfitted with specialized protective gear, making the Fire Scouts program costly to run. It has therefore remained small—approximately 350 scouts are enrolled throughout Israel—despite the fact that many more students are interested in participating.

Jewish National Fund and Friends of Israel Firefighters have established a sponsorship fund in memory of Elad Riven, the 16-year-old fire scout who lost his life in the Carmel Mountain blaze, to support and expand the Fire Scouts program.

A contribution of \$1,800 will completely outfit one scout with state-of-the-art protective clothing that meets stringent safety standards, including coats, pants, heavy-duty suspenders, gloves, helmet, and boots.





Program Details

Volunteers devote about four hours a week after school to the program during 10th grade. They begin by assisting firefighters in the station; after completing a four-month fire and rescue training course and passing a written and practical exam they are allowed to accompany firefighters on small-scale emergency calls. Scouts are never taken into areas of danger and are forbidden from entering burning structures or buildings with individuals trapped inside. They remain at a safe distance and assist firefighters with water and equipment. Scouts also help secure large public events like Lag Ba'Omer and Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations.

The program places a high priority on academics. Scouts are not allowed to take time off from school to participate, but may come into the station on holidays as long as they receive written permission from their parents or guardians. At the end of the school year they receive a certificate and their overall performance grade goes towards their high school average.

Scouts who wish to continue after their first year are admitted into an advanced training program with



a focus on operating specialized equipment, shift management, public speaking, and teaching new scouts. Upon completion they receive their sergeant's badge and may continue volunteering until they begin their IDF service.

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For more information, visit jnf.org or contact your local office at 888-JNF-0099.
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