

Meeting Points for IDF Soldiers and their Families

As one of its many projects for the benefit of IDF soldiers throughout the country, KKL-JNF, together with its Friends worldwide, establishes family meeting places near army bases, many of which are located in distant areas. These are pleasant, shady spots, with picnic tables where families can meet their loved ones doing their military service.



In Israel, every boy and girl, upon reaching the age of 18, is drafted into the army for a 2 - 3 year period of compulsory military service. In most cases, they serve far from home and often do not see their families for extended periods of time.

KKL-JNF mobilizes its Friends throughout the world to help provide optimal conditions for Israel's soldiers. We landscape IDF camps, provide them with exercise facilities and construct pleasant shady corners where parents can meet and sit quietly with their sons and daughters who are serving in the army.

KKL-JNF incorporates the IDF in its educational activities, such as planting ceremonies and International Cleanup Day – a worldwide event organized in Israel by KKL-JNF and joined by 40 million people all over the world.

KKL-JNF dedicates woodlands and other sites to military units and to the memory of fallen soldiers. Major memorials have been erected in memory of fallen members of moshavim (in Azrikam Forest) and kibbutzim (in HaZorea Forest). In Yaar HaMeginim ("Defenders' Forest") we have preserved numerous memorials to those who died in Israel's wars. In Haruvit Forest, an entire park equipped with disability-accessible paths and recreation areas has been dedicated to disabled IDF veterans: Park HaLohem (Disabled Veterans' Park).



Photo: KKL-JNF Photo Archive

KKL-JNF has played a role in the green development of the new IDF training-base city that is currently being established in the Negev. This activity accords well with KKL-JNF's objective of changing the community map of the Negev, where it is involved in a number of turning-point projects designed to attract a young quality population to the area.

To the IDF with Love

Families travel long distances to see their children during family visiting days on weekends, but many bases do not have the facilities to accommodate them all. With the support of its Friends from around the world, KKL-JNF has established pleasant, shady meeting points with greenery and picnic tables so that families can visit with their loved ones comfortably and enjoyably.

The following is a selected list of facilities in IDF camps provided in recent years by KKL-JNF and its Friends at home and abroad:

Southern Israel:

- **Ovda** – Recreation area; children's playground; meeting point for soldiers and parents
- **Gvul Yarden** (Jordan Border) – Pergolas for security observation points
- **Tlalim** (anti-aircraft) – Meeting point for soldiers and parents
- **Hatzerim** – Landscaping and planting; playground; meeting point for soldiers and parents; squadron area landscaping; recreation area; pergolas
- **Ein Yahav** (Arava regional brigade) – Landscaping; planting; seating areas
- **Raviv** – Relaxation area; meeting point for soldiers and parents

Accessibility

- **Sayyarim** – Meeting point for soldiers and parents
- **Nevatim** – Meeting point for soldiers and parents; recreation area
- **Sde Ramon** – Meeting point for soldiers and parents; seating area; park
- **Eilat (Navy)** – Seating areas and pergolas
- **Ashdod(Navy)** – Seating areas
- **Hatzor** – Seating area and pergola
- **Plugot** – Meeting point for soldiers and parents
- **Shizafon** – Meeting point for parents and soldiers
- **Gadna Sde Boker** – Exercise facilities

Central Israel:

- **Merkaz LeMoreshet HaModiin** (Intelligence Heritage Center) – Amphitheater; venue for ceremonies and other events
- **Ein Shemer** – Soldiers' and parents' corner
- **Yaar HaMeginim** (Defenders' Forest) – Recognition site for soldiers without families
- **Latrun** – Shiryon Park
- **Training Base 12** (Tzrifin) – Awnings and seating areas
- **Training Base 7** (Tzrifin) – Meeting point for soldiers and parents
- **Palmahim** – Meeting point for soldiers and parents; relaxation areas; recreation area
- **Tel Nof** – Meeting point for soldiers and parents; relaxation areas; landscaping
Mahaneh Adam – Meeting point for soldiers and parents; recreation area; dog-training facilities
- **Yaar Haruvit** (Haruvit Forest) – IDF Disabled Veteran's Park; disabled-accessible footpaths and recreation areas; exercise facilities; sports ground

Northern Israel:

- **Biriya** – Meeting point for soldiers and parents
- **Mehva Alon** - Soldiers' and parents' corner
- **Bat Galim Training Base** – Sports ground; meeting point for soldiers and parents
- **Bat Galim (operational)** - Meeting point for soldiers and parents; exercise facilities; seating areas
- **Havat HaShomer** – Meeting point for soldiers and parents
- **Gadna Tzalmon** – Meeting point for soldiers and parents
- **Livnim** – Meeting point for soldiers and parents
- **Nabi Yusha** – Meeting point for soldiers and parents
- **Utzvat Barak** – Meeting point for soldiers and parents
- **Shayetet 13** – Exercise facilities; promenade; pergolas
- **Plugat Siyur 7** – Memorial heritage trail
- **Meishar (Tzfat)** – Soldiers' and parents' corner
- **Gibor** – Meeting point for soldiers and parents
- **Ramat David** – Exercise facilities; picnic area; air-crew quarters (at planning stage); pergolas; soldiers' and parents' corners

- **Ramat HaGolan** – Meeting point for soldiers and parents
- **Shomera** – Meeting point for soldiers and parents
- **Elyakim** – Picnic area and exercise facilities (at planning stage)

To IDF Soldiers and their Families with Love: A Slideshow

A small taste of KKL-JNF's work in preparing pleasant meeting spots for soldiers and their families.



Ashdod Naval Base

KKL-JNF has built a family meeting point at Zikim in the Ashdod Naval Base, thanks to Friends of [KKL-JNF in Mexico](#). The meeting point is equipped with picnic tables, shade pergolas, water taps, paths and other picnic facilities. Another meeting spot is being developed in another part of the base, with the support of [KKL-JNF in France](#).

1 to 6 items out of 6 are displayed

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