



Volunteer Information

History:

Yad Hashmona is a Moshav located 15 kms west of Jerusalem in the Judean Mountains near the biblical city of Kiryath Yearim. A Moshav is what you would probably call a small village. This Moshav was founded by a small group of Finnish Christians in 1971. Israeli Jews joined the Moshav in 1979 on the common ground of faith in Yeshua Ha Mashiah (Jesus the Messiah) and belief in the Bible as the inerrant Word of God and as our standard for faith and practice. Until some years ago, our Moshav used to be a cooperative-communal settlement, similar to a kibbutz in nature, but today, the here living families are living an independent life, enjoying the uniqueness of living surrounded by other believers in Jesus. Most of the members are now Israelis and the main day to day spoken language is Hebrew. Each member has his own income, some are working in Yad Hashmona, but most of them are working in regular working places close by. The settlement is supported by tourism: we are running a hotel both for tourists from abroad and Israeli guests.

Work:

Since the foundation of Yad Hashmona volunteers from all over the world would come to live with us and help establish the place. Our volunteer program provides places for 24 Volunteers at one time. Volunteers work five days a week, eight hours a day. Men usually work in the restaurant, in maintenance, security or gardening. Women work in cleaning, in housekeeping, in the restaurant or garden. The work is Physical and demands your will to do your best for the lord's kingdom! Please know that you are expected to do a good and faithful job and that you are to submit to our working managers in the different areas of work.

Volunteers receive two free days each week and two extra free days each month.

Benefits:

Volunteers receive full board. Each person shares a simple double or triple room. Meals are eaten in the Moshav dining room. Laundry facilities are included. Pocket money of 200 shekels, which is about 55 U.S. Dollars, is paid monthly. Upon prior request, volunteers may have guests to stay with them without payment for two days and two nights during each three months of your volunteering period (sleeping in your room and eating with the volunteers at the Moshav dining room). Beyond that, he/she will have to move to the hotel and pay regular.

Program:

Each month, one of our locals is organizing a trip to farther places in Israel for all the volunteers together. These trips are based on subjects from the Bible and history.

Volunteers can join in the Friday evening worship service and the Shabbat meetings on Saturday at 11 am. It is our hope that each person who comes as a volunteer will gain a deeper understanding of Israel, past and present, and also make friends from all over the world. This will enrich personal study of Scripture and widen horizons concerning what God is doing in different countries. Our desire is that each one of you will grow in their knowledge of God's Word and in their personal relationship with the Lord.

Conditions:

We ONLY accept volunteers between the ages of 18-40 and for a period of 3 or 6 months. A good knowledge of spoken English or Hebrew is **REQUIRED**. Those who apply must be ready to take part in all work that they may be called to do on the moshav and be willing to live as part of the community. They must also be prepared to abide by the standards of behavior, which we seek to live by and to accept the rules of the community.



Volunteers Life Policy

The use of alcohol and drugs is strictly forbidden. Smoking on the grounds of the Moshav is also forbidden.

Volunteers have to always dress modestly, both men and women. Especially for the ladies it is not appropriate to wear short shorts or skirts or sleeveless shirts, or shirts that are see through, or that are too short and show some of the stomach. When working outside, men may not go without a shirt on.

Improper sexual relationships are forbidden!!!. An intimate relationship between a believer and a non-believer is unacceptable at Yad Hashmona. It says in the Bible that it is unacceptable to God (2. Corinthians 6, 14-15).

If Volunteers start a serious relationship with another believer, the Volunteer coordinator must be informed.

Unless married- Men and women are not allowed in the rooms of the other gender at any time!!!. Volunteers have to show the greatest respect toward their roommates at all times.

There should be no public displays of affection in Yad Hashmona between unmarried couples. Kissing/pecking, holding on to each other, clinging or excessive bodily contact by unmarried couples is not in good taste, makes others feel uncomfortable, and can offend other volunteers, Moshav members and tourists.

Volunteers are to maintain the highest integrity at all times. Their testimony as believers has a powerful impact on other volunteers, Moshav members and their children, outside workers and tourists.

Spare time:

Volunteers have a club house ("Moadon) with books and instruments. There is also a TV, DVD, computer for everyone, and a small kitchenette. The club house has a wireless internet connection, so you can bring your own Laptop computer with you. A swimming pool and fitness room are available on the neighboring Moshav. We encourage everyone to attend one of the local Messianic congregations, either the Moshav's gathering (every Sabbath at 11:00 a.m.) or in Jerusalem. On weekdays (every day except Shabbat) there is a direct bus line to and from Jerusalem several times a day.

Health insurance and Visa:

Once we accept you as a volunteer in Yad Hashmona, you need to submit your details to KPC (Kibbutz program center). We as a Moshav are not able to apply directly for a Volunteers visa for you. That's why we need to work through the KPC to be our legal representative to the government. A volunteer cannot stay in Yad Hashmona unless he has a valid Volunteers visa in his or her passport. The visa needs to be applied for at least about one month prior your arrival.

All volunteers are also required to buy the KPC health insurance that covers all medical expenses for the time they will be here. KPC works with the Klalit health insurance. You must bring with you extra money for health expenses and medications.

Visa and health insurance for the first 3 month will cost 1050 shekel. This amount you will need to pay in cash to the KPC immediately after your arrival.

The KPC is able to renew your visa for another 3 month till up to 9 month. Each renewal costs 500 shekels.

Insurance for work accidents is provided by the Moshav.

Due to many illnesses that we see, **WE ONLY TAKE VOLUNTEERS WITHOUT HEALTH OR MENTAL PROBLEMS.**



General info:

* Every volunteer needs to have a volunteer visa, which must be applied for before their arrival here. You must have a volunteer visa to be here. We cannot receive volunteers here on the basis of a tourist visa.

* It is advised to bring extra money with you for traveling, shopping, etc.

* The weather in the mountain area can be cold and wet in the winter time. It is strongly advised to bring warm clothing if you come from September to April.

Summer months are quite hot and most locals wear t-shirts and shorts (knee length) or long pants.

It is also advised to bring clothes and footwear that you can wear during the field trips.

* You can bring your own lap-top computer. We have a free wireless access at the volunteer's club room.

We would be happy if you bring along a musical instrument (apart from a piano :), or any special talent that you might be willing to share with the other volunteers.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What are your beliefs, and practices?

We believe in Yeshua as the Messiah and the Son of God. Our faith comes **strictly** from the Bible as the holy word of God and **no additions** what so ever. We do not follow any Jewish thoughts and practices other than what comes directly from the Bible.

If you are viewing yourself as "Jewish religious", "Rabbinical rules follower" and so on, please inform us of that in your application form.

We consider each case individually and might choose not to accept applicants who have ideas and tendencies that are foreign to our beliefs in Yeshua.

Are you affiliated with any specific organization or group?

No. We are very active with anything that takes place in the Body of Believers in Israel. Almost all conferences, Youth meetings, yearly childrens camps, take place in Yad Hashmona, but we do not belong to any organization.

How much business do you do on the Sabbath? Are you hassled because of this?

We do cater to those that are staying at our hotel also on Shabbat and we serve meals in the dining room. If you consider yourself a Shabbat observer, DO inform us about that! We will not allow volunteers to automatically be excluded from Shabbat shift unless we are informed prior to your acceptance.

What are your practices over the holidays? What times of the year are you in the most need of volunteer aid?

We keep the holidays as God demanded but have shifts of workers to take care of the people that are staying in the Hotel.

We need volunteers all year long but mainly from March to October. This is when we host the most tourist groups and also Israeli guests.

Are there any costs for travel, etc, and how much would they be?

Volunteers buy their own tickets back and forth, health insurance and visa for their stay. Any traveling and shopping they plan to do while in Israel is their own expense too.

We pay 200 Shekels allowance per month and give room and 3 meals per day.

Bring extra money for shopping.



I am allergic to dust and suffer from some chronic diseases, can I volunteer?

Allergies have been a big reason among **some** volunteers to avoid work hours or not show-up to work at all, same for illness and sickness. We do understand that every volunteer can get occasionally sick. However, if a volunteer is sick or cannot work at needed areas frequently, we will have to reconsider their stay at Yad Hashmona. Do rethink your coming if you tend to develop skin rash, breathing problems and health issues. Volunteers that are repeatedly sick will have to end their **stay here**.

What is the nature of work I will be doing on a daily base?

Even though we have a lot of volunteers that are very professional in their abilities and talents, most volunteers are helping in the technical work of Yad Hashmona: cleaning, serving, gardening, and so on. The reason for the most part, is the lack of knowledge in Hebrew and the rapid change in the work force.

If you are experienced in any of the mentioned work, had some practical experience with serving, cleaning, electricity or gardening, please mention it in your application form. It will help us to better place you in the work areas.

I have a friend who wants to visit me, what are the conditions?

As you read in the information papers, you have 2 days off every week and 2 extra days off per month, one of which is the volunteer's trip. You can save your free days for the time when your guest is here and use it with him/her. Do plan in advance! You will have to give us the exact days you plan to take as a vacation.

You cannot accumulate more than 1 week off.

Your guest can stay at your volunteer's room, on a mattress, or if there is an available empty bed he/she can use it.

Your guest can join you for the volunteer's monthly trip. (His/her price for the trip is 100 Shekels, including all meals, bus and guide expenses).

Is there a trial period for volunteers? Can I decide in advance that I am staying for 6 months or more?

We consider the first 2 weeks of **EVERY** volunteer, a trial period! For any strange habits, inability to follow rules or any inappropriate behavior, the volunteer will be asked to leave Yad Hashmona. After about 2 weeks stay in Yad Hashmona, we evaluate each volunteer if we would like him to stay with us based on our experience with him in the past 2 weeks. It is up to us as Moshav members and committee to decide that a volunteer is not fit to stay longer. Most volunteers are wonderful and we are happy to have them with us for 3 and even 6 months of time, but every once in a while we run into difficulties that force us to inform you, prior to your coming, that we do keep the right to tell a volunteer to leave under certain circumstances.

If you know yourself to be a reliable person, trustworthy and friendly to an international environment of people as Yad Hashmona is, you can go ahead and buy a ticket for 6 months time, after we approve you. If the option of an open ticket is not too expensive, do take that one. It will give you the freedom to choose the length of your stay.

What to say at the airport when I enter the country?

When you arrive at the airport in Israel you will already be in their computers as a volunteer. Please show the officers your approval page from KPC. Your visa will either be processed immediately or you will be given a tourist visa which KPC will later change for you.

If they ask you for what purpose you are coming, say that you are planning to volunteer here in Yad Hashmona, and that we have already applied for your visa ahead of time.



We pay from the first moment the volunteer's insurance for work accidents and notify the authorities that you are a volunteer, so don't worry; we do not do anything that is illegal.

Please always take the exact address of Yad Hashmona and my name and telephone number with you and show them if they ask. It is always better that they see that you know where you are going and that we expect you.

In case they want to speak to one of us as a referral to who you are, please give one of the phone numbers that is at the head of your papers:

02-5942000 -0(reception)

054-2573857 (volunteer coordinator)

So far, we never had any technical problem with any volunteer that came into the country. Unless you have a criminal record in your country, you will enter without problems. Welcome!

READ CAREFULLY!

Health insurance

The Kibbutz organization of Israel (KPC), that over the years had tens of thousands of volunteers, had struggled in numerous cases with volunteers who come with different illnesses and medical needs. Some were developed here under normal conditions such as: flu and cold, infections, broken arm or leg, dental emergency need and others. Some were "brought from home": diabetes, pregnancies, heart problems and so on...

Since these cases place an enormous expense load on the volunteers who many times cannot pay, the Kibbutz had to pay for the volunteer and thus entered into unwanted expenses that were not the Kibbutz responsibility.

The Israeli citizens ALL must be covered by the national health insurance companies.

So a law was made, forcing **EVERY** volunteer to be **fully insured** for all medical needs that might rise while he is in the land. So all volunteers must be medically insured by the Klal Health insurance. Yad Hashmona does NOT take part in the payment or the expenses or any medical bills.

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