**The Hadar Program**

**With you along the way!**

**The Hadar Program**

**Accompanying Premilitary Academy and Yeshiva Graduates during Their Military Service**

**Spiritual Guidance/ Working to Bring Hadar Goldin Home**

**The Hadar Program—Social and Spiritual Guidance for Premilitary Academy and Yeshiva Graduates**

**Hadar Goldin, May God Avenge His Blood—Dedication and Responsibility**

**Lieutenant Hadar Goldin, may God avenge his blood**, was an award-winning officer in the Givati Brigade’s reconnaissance unit killed on Operation Protective Edge’s last day. The Hadar Program’s founders chose to name their program after him, because he was a figure who embodied and represented the values that they wanted their program to emphasize and adherence to which they wanted to direct its graduates. Hadar left behind a legacy of excellence, persistence, torah spiritualism, voluntarism, kindness to others, and joie de vivre. With all his might, he tried to bring Israelis, similar and yet so very different, both religious and secular, together.

Hadar used to say**—“You have two options—you can take care of yourself or you can make a better world.”**

**Why the Hadar Program?**

Parents’, educators’ and high school students’ shared sense that various challenges that come along with military service, including personal, religious, physical, spiritual and cultural ones, needed to be addressed, and premilitary academies’ spiritual obligation to support their graduates, especially during their military service, a period when social and spiritual support can aid soldiers in completing their military service to the best of their ability, served as the impetus for the Hadar Program.

**How Does It Work?**

Registration for this unique program takes place before enlistment in the IDF. Participants are divided into groups of seven to ten people who are assigned a yeshiva instructor who will accompany them over the course of their military service.

The yeshiva instructor accompanies his assigned group and his primary role is to be available and attentive to each and every student/soldier during his military service, especially when guidance is needed. Besides regular communication with the yeshiva instructor, accompaniment includes group study sessions with rabbis, visits to the units where the students serve, and sabbaths celebrated together with other program participants at guest houses.

**Spiritual Tranquility**

Participation in the program gives parents state of mind, since they know that besides familial support each son/soldier receives social/study support that offers them an additional familiar and inclusive safety net.

The yeshiva instructors invest serious time and energy maintaining regular communication with participants, especially during challenging periods and periods of crisis. When the boys transform from students into soldiers, when they are dispersed to different army units, and even when they need “rabbis” less than they need “older brothers,” the escorts know how to lift their spirits and provide them with useful advice about how to deal with the challenges that military service places before them.

**Some History**

**Rabbi Pinchas Etzion** of the premilitary academy in Eli founded and manages the Hadar Program. It coordinates the joint efforts of the **Bnei David** premilitary academy and yeshiva in Eli, its branch in Ma’ale Efraim, the **Otzem** premilitary academy in Nave, the Keshet Yehuda premilitary academy in Keshet, the **Magen Shaul** premilitary academy in Nokdim, and the **Ma’oz** premilitary academy in Lod. Additional premilitary academies and yeshivas are expected to start taking part in the program’s blessed activities in the coming year.

**The Hadar Program** got underway in 2019-2020. Its first group of participants is currently serving in the military, and, up until this point, its feedback about the program has been highly positive.

**Escort Training**

The escorts undergo training and are supplied with relevant professional materials that assist them in their work with program participants. The things they learn about include:

* How to lead groups
* Techniques employed by professional coaches
* Identification of suicidal ideation and suicide prevention
* Strengthening values

**Program Pride**

By giving token gifts and holding activities for program participants, we look to brand the program and publicize it:

* Fleeces
* Garments embossed with “The Hadar Program”
* Unique prayerbooks and study materials for program participants
* Sabbath visits at escorts’ homes
* Sabbath stays at guest houses
* Mobilization and demobilization conferences for program participants, etc..

**Weekly Program**

Designated study material appropriate to the challenges facing soldiers at different stages throughout their military service

**A Bet Midrash for Premilitary Academy Graduates**

An array of weekend classes designed for program participants

**First and Foremost, Dedication to Personal Connection**

Placement of participants in small groups of seven to ten young men individually overseen by a group escort

**The Hadar Program** does not just satisfy the need for the premilitary academies to maintain their connection with their graduates. It pressures our state to do what is necessary responsibility so that Hadar can receive proper burial.

You’re invited to join us and take part in

**the important mission of the Hadar Program**

**Support** an institution

**Support** a Shabbat

**Support** a mobilization party

**Support** three escorted groups

**Support** distribution of tzitzis to soldiers

**Support** the distribution of prayerbooks to soldiers

**Support** a demobilization workshop

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