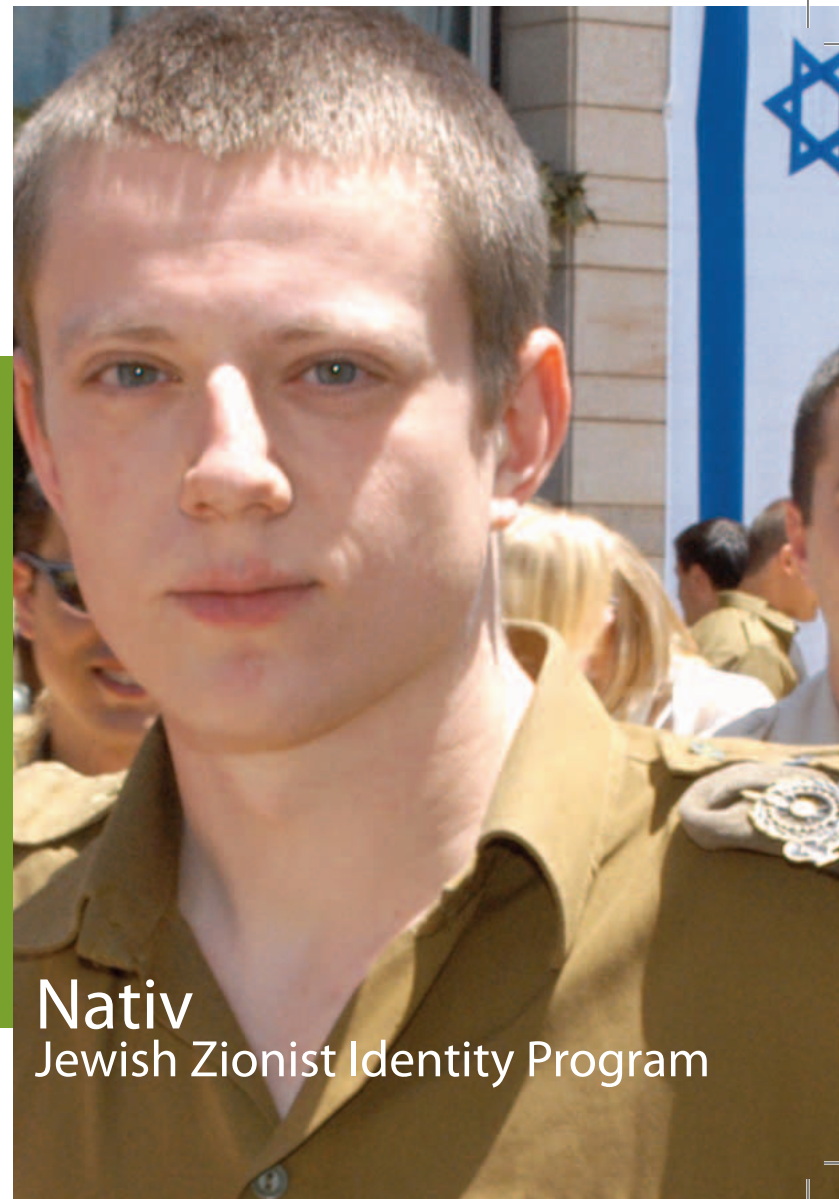




“When I went to get my Israeli identity card I was told that I wasn’t Jewish. What a shock. I grew up Jewish in Spain and led a Jewish lifestyle. Through the Nativ program, I am on the path to conversion, and learning so much about who I am and what it means to be a Jew.”

Maya Nahor,
Nativ participant

www.jewishagency.org



Nativ
Jewish Zionist Identity Program

Nativ

Since the gates of aliyah opened in 1989, the Jewish Agency for Israel has brought almost one million new immigrants from the FSU to Israel, a quarter of which are not actually Jewish according to Jewish law. Despite this fact, these immigrants want to strengthen and broaden their Jewish identities by learning more about Judaism and Israel.

The Nativ Jewish Zionist Identity Program was developed in order to ensure the full integration of new immigrants serving in the IDF into Israeli society. The program also constitutes a basic step in the conversion process for soldiers who are interested in becoming Jewish according to Jewish law.

Nativ's intensive education program deals with five major subjects: Bible, History of the Jewish people, Zionism and the State of Israel, Jewish philosophy, and Jewish practice. The program

combines practical studies with experiential activities, weekly tours, a week-long study trip in Jerusalem, Shabbat seminars and individual studies. Courses are given within the military framework and staff includes commanders from the IDF Education Corps and teachers from the Institute for Jewish Studies.

Program graduates who wish to convert to Judaism may complete the process of preparing for conversion by taking two additional seminars, each lasting two weeks. The purpose of these courses is to deepen participants' knowledge of Judaism and their familiarity with Jewish practice. When they complete the process, participants are referred to the military chaplaincy for conversion. Since its inception in September 2001, Nativ's impact has been tremendous: close to 5,800 soldiers have participated and more than 1,000 have completed conversion.

Cost: \$800 on average per soldier.

Forging a Stronger Jewish Identity

Nativ is a breakthrough educational program that forges stronger and deeper connections between immigrant soldiers and their Jewish identities. Through Nativ, participants learn about their Jewish heritage and peoplehood. Nativ also offers a supplementary course on Judaism for those immigrants interested in conversion.