



# YAHAV NATANZON

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## 2024-25 CLEVELAND SHIN SHIN

Hello Cleveland!

My name is Yahav Natanzon and I'm going to be one of the ShinShinim that are coming to Cleveland next year. I'm super excited to be a shinshin and can't wait to meet you all, but before that let me tell you a bit about myself.

I'm 17 years old and I live in a small Kibbutz called Reshafim which is located in the Valley of Speings near the city of Beit She'an, (the partnership area with Cleveland). I have two amazing parents. My mother, Oshrit, is a middle school teacher and coordinator of special education at the regional school. My father, Uri, is a farmer. I also have three sisters. My older sister, Lior,

serves in the Israeli Navy (and is a former Shinshinit in Kishorit), and I have two sisters, Shira and Ella that are my age (we are triplets). Shira is going to be a Shinshinit in Aloney Yitzchak Youth Village in Israel, and Ella is going to do national service (in Hebrew, Sherut Leumi) at the President's House in Jerusalem. I come from a warm family and community where the values of Zionism and volunteering are important things to us. In school, my majors are biology and Arabic. I chose to learn biology because I'm very interested in protecting the environment, ecosystems, organisms and anatomy. I chose to learn Arabic because I like to learn new languages and through them meet new people.



I think that learning Arabic especially in our country and region is an important thing and I'm happy that I chose to learn it.

In my kibbutz, I have been a counselor in the youth movement (Bnei Hamoshavim) for 3 years.

During this time I guided different age groups, and with my good friend, organized activities and community events together. We went to seminars, youth movement trips, and created and guided fun and experiential activities.

In my school I participated in student leadership for 4 years. In the first two years I was chosen to be a representative of my school at the district leadership conference. A year later I was chosen to be the

secretary, and in my last year I served as the student leadership chairman at my school.

In my free time I like to hang out with my family and my friends. I like to hike with my family and ride my bike with my good friends. We go to the springs in the Valley and also I climb with them on Mount Gilboa. In general I like to travel around the country, see beautiful landscapes, meet new and interesting people and see new places. During my trips, and also in my everyday life, I like taking pictures of landscapes and the beautiful and special places I go to.

I also like to grow plants. I have a big yard, and in it I grow a lot of different plants and take care of the garden. I have a lot of plants in my room and I just really enjoy growing and taking care of them.

I like to cook, and to spend time increasing my knowledge of the world.

I have participated in our regional partnership programs (ICNEXT and TeenShinim) that connect youth from the Valley of the Springs, Beit She'an and Cleveland. During these programs I had the opportunity to fly to Cleveland where I got to know the amazing Jewish community, and the 2022-23 Shinshinim. I have met with two ICNEXT groups and have joined in with the Camp Wise trip here in Israel. All these experiences made me want to be a Shinshin in Cleveland, and here I am!

That was a little bit about myself. I can't wait to meet and start this year with you all!

See you soon in Cleveland,

Yahav

