

SHAREK YOUTH FORUM

>>> THE YOUTH VILLAGE <<<



FROM A DREAM TO REALITY



The Youth Village is an environmental village built by Palestinian youth volunteers and with Palestinian resources. It is a haven for Palestinian youth to express themselves and share with their peers and others, ideas and topics that are the focus of their interests and inspiration. The Youth Village has succeeded in being a purely Palestinian natural and social environment that seeks to develop youth in several aspects, socially, culturally, and nationally. The Youth Village is located on lands threatened with confiscation from settlements, especially on Jabal Al-Raisan in Kafr Nima. The presence of young people in this village is in itself a peaceful resistance that seeks to strengthen by all means and with various youths. Volunteer work such as agriculture, human chains, recycling, and other national and cultural activities, events and youth initiatives that take place in the youth village are an important and major part of strengthening the link between youth, the Palestinian land, and the village.

THE PATH OF HOPE CONFERS HOPE

One of the major achievements for Sharek was the construction of the Hope Road. As the village is surrounded by Israeli settlements and a winding road that can be proven dangerous due to settler attacks and if not driven with caution. The building of the Hope Road was an initiative undertaken to be accessible, safe, and shorter to travel for all, demonstrating youth resistance and determination. The road was fully funded by the Palestinian private sector through fundraising, donations and built by Palestinian citizens. The Hope Road allows for youth groups to reach the village safely as well as, connecting the village to neighbouring lands and farmers to their lands. The Hope Road also works to provide a safe and accessible passage for farmers to reach their farms and lands safely mitigating risk to their health and safety.

»»» THE POWER OF WOMEN

In addition to the Hope Road, a mural was installed called, "The Mural of Life", at the entrance of the village. The mural, embodies and depicts the challenges of women who face issues that are rooted in lack of freedom and self-determination. The mural highlights the positive participation of women, as they are the primary engines in all aspects of society from, political, economic, social, and cultural. Women often must struggle with forms or repression, violence, and discrimination from many aspects of society. Therefore, it is necessary to highlight the concept of gender equality and the roles related to the terms of behaviour, language and phrases used through the visible depiction of our greatest warriors, women.



ACTIVITIES:

There have been many events and activities that are held at the Youth Village that are used both internally by Sharek and opened externally for other organisations to use. Some of the recent programs and events that were held at the Youth Village this summer were:

TAMAYYAZ INITIATIVES OUTLIVES THE MOUNTAINS

Tamayyaz an economic empowerment program funded by the European Union (EU), held a three-day camp training youth on technical life skills, business education and even English training and interview skills. Tamayyaz is a crucial project that builds on the capacity of youth to go out and engage their learned skills and apply in the real world, whether obtaining jobs or becoming entrepreneurs. Tamayyaz teaches real world skills for youth to become productive citizens of the future.

LET'S ALL BE ACCOUNTABLE

Integrated schools were a three-day joint program in partnership with Coalition for Integrity and Accountability - AMAN. It was implemented at the Youth Village which focused on training on the principles and values of integrity, transparency, and accountability using both practical and theoretical practices. This camp equipped young people in recognizing their role in their community participation while building their leadership skills, supporting them in community accountability.



SUPPORTING FUTURE PALESTINIAN YOUTH AS LEADERS AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Model United Nations - MUN, is the epitome of cooperation and diplomacy across the world. Similarly, two conferences were held for young Palestinians in both the West Bank at the Youth Village and in Gaza. The youth were able to get an insight and understand how the mechanisms of the United Nations works through the understanding of International Law and Human Rights Conventions. Participants were able to gain crucial critical thinking and analytical skills, negotiation, public speaking, and UN resolutions. This gave a chance for students to understand the structures of foreign policy and to gain the ability of how diplomacy works for them to become active international citizens and one day become part of the diplomacy at the United Nations.

YOUNG DIPLOMATS OF THE FUTURE

Young Diplomats was an aim for Sharek to train five student councils in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on the skills that aid young people in becoming advocates, decision makers and future leaders and diplomats. The outcome gave the high



THE YOUTH VILLAGE HOSTS JENIN CAMP CHILDREN

Jenin Kids from Jenin refugee camp were invited for a three-day camp held for them. As children who are innocent and vulnerable can suffer post-traumatic stress disorder – PTSD especially in the aftermath of the Jenin attack by the occupation forces, it had a psychological and mental effect on them. The camp was implemented at the Youth Village with a wide range of activities and games that were designed to promote healing, resilience, and emotional well-being. Specialists in mental health such as psychologists were invited to interact and engage with the children in fostering a sense of comfort for them.

BETWEEN HISTORY AND CULTURE

Al-Hakawati / The Storyteller, was a successful camp that engaged in Palestinian filmmaking instructed by Dr. Suhail Dahadal who is a distinguished Palestinian director and filmmaker. The camp focused on the preservation and celebration of Palestinian culture through, creating short films and reels. It was an immersive three-day camp for 25 participants that engaged in a diverse array of activities. These activities included the entire spectrum of filmmaking, from scriptwriting, to directing and editing. This camp allowed for participants to interact and engage within their communities by taking them on a journey between of the rich history and national culture of Palestine.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

PALESTINIAN YOUTH SUMMER

One of our upcoming events is the Palestinian Youth Summit 2023, which will be launched on September 22 and 23, 2023 at the Youth Village. This summit will be in partnership with UNFPA and the European Union Representative Office in Jerusalem and ENABEL. The summit aims to be an immersive and engaging platform for 200 Palestinian youth across East Jerusalem, Gaza, and the West Bank, connecting peers through physical and virtual platforms. The theme of the summit is, "Ushering Palestinian Youth into the Future". It aims to empower participants through interactive discussions, skill-building workshops, networking opportunities, and practical activities ensuring diverse representation of voices are heard.

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

BRAVE1ST CONTEST

Our other most exciting and pulse-pounding events coming up on October 6th is for those who crave excitement and thrills. Organised by PalAthletic for Sport, we present "Brave1strace," an adrenaline-fueled obstacle course race offering cash prizes, set amidst the vibrant atmosphere of the Youth Village. The event calls on all groups and individuals from all over Palestine to come join in this race to prove what their made of. It will be as a festival celebrating excellence and bravery with delicious food and DJ music. Prepare to conquer a variety of challenges, from climbing to navigating barbed wire and conquering monkey bars. This spirited event beckons all adventure seekers to join in the action, race to victory, and partake in a day filled with exciting activities.

www.brave1st.com

Sharek's Youth Village is not just a safe space for Palestinian youth to engage with, it is also meant to be multi-dynamic in nature. It focuses on current sustainable issues and looks towards the future of the struggles of our youth in today's day and age. The Youth Village fosters cooperation, high levels of engagement as well as built as a support system through the staff and volunteers.

