

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

find out what our students think about the program

We recently gathered a few of our star students with the intention of obtaining a better understanding of what changed for them after becoming a part of the Leaders of the Future (LOF) youth program.

We asked them to reflect for a moment about what life was like before starting the program and what life is like now. Students were asked to share about whether or not anything has changed for them with regard to academics, self-esteem, aspirations, and whether their perspective regarding academics and life in general had changed. Students were also prompted to imagine for a moment that they were approached by a friend who wanted to know more about LOF, we asked students to describe the program in their own words and whether or not they would recommend it. Finally, we wanted to hear the most important thing they learned from Leaders of the Future.

We hope you enjoy hearing from our students and getting a better understanding of how the Leaders of the Future (LOF) youth program has impacted them!

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~Ofek Eivarkan

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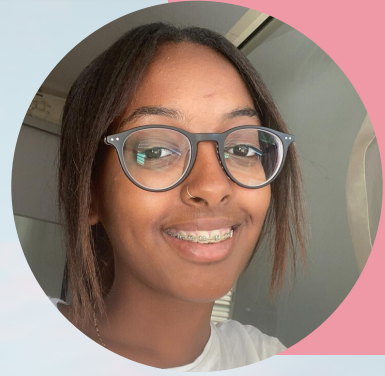
HODAYA TASMA

My name is Hodaya Tasma, I was born in Haifa and currently live in Kiryat Shmuel, I've been a part of the Leaders of the Future youth program for five years, I'm sixteen and in the eleventh grade. I'm the oldest of four siblings (all girls). With regard to my dreams for the future, I'm not sure exactly sure what I want to study, but my goal is to attend the Technion.

Before joining Leaders of the Future, I didn't worry about my future or think about what I would like to do when I grow up. After 5 years with the program, I can say unequivocally that my future and my studies are the things occupy my mind the most. From the moment I joined the program my entire way of thinking changed, I realized that there are people out there that care about my future and are willing to invest in it so there is no reason why I shouldn't do the same. I began to invest more time and effort in my studies and improve areas where I was struggling.

If I was approached by a friend who wanted to know about the program, I would tell them that Leaders of the Future is a program that seeks to bring excellence to Ethiopian children so they can be accepted into academic institutions. The program provides academic support in math and English combined with activities and social days such as field trips, workshops, a roots journey, connection to Ethiopian culture, history, and more. Classes are divided into levels so that each student can learn according to their appropriate level and succeed. Most importantly, there is a teacher who goes above and beyond for every student. I would strongly recommend joining the program because beyond the help in achieving academic aspirations and success, the program provides an attentive ear, support and help in every area, a second family and a place to meet friends for life.

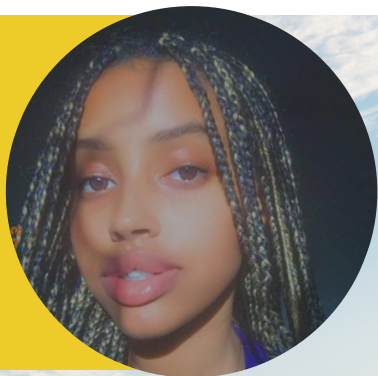
During the past five years, the most important thing I learned is not to give up and always believe that I can. I now understand that when I invest my time and effort, there are results.



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ADI KIBERTI

My name is Adi Kiberti and I live in Kiryat Bialik, I've been a part of the Leaders of the Future program for three years and I'm in the ninth grade. I'm fourteen years old and the youngest of five siblings. My favorite subjects at school are English and Sports. My hobbies include cooking, baking and computer games. My dream for the future is to obtain a university degree, and work in high-tech or maybe even start my own business!

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Before I started the program, I didn't dream big, I didn't think about the future or what I wanted to do with my life in the same way I do today. Today, after being in the program for some time, I allow myself to dream and fly with those dreams. Leaders of the future has really elevated my confidence and allowed me to dream big. Since starting the program, I have made many good friends and achieved so much, both academically and socially.

If I was approached by a friend who wanted to know about the program, I would tell them that it would help them with their studies and support them in achieving excellence. We don't just study the materials, we are exposed to different methods of learning and studying that allows us to take our abilities and education to a higher level. The program helped expand my perspective of the future, and helped me recognize that I can achieve anything I aspire to if I put forth the effort. In my opinion, any Ethiopian student who is a high achiever should try and get accepted into this program, they don't have to be a genius, they only need the desire to learn and improve themselves.

The most important thing I learned from the program is- never give up! Even when you face hard times or fail, you should always keep trying and work to correct your mistakes along the way, keep working on improving and the results will come alone.

OFEK EIVARKAN

My name is Ofek Eivarkan, I'm fourteen and now moving on to the ninth grade. I've been a part of the Leaders of the Future program for two years. My hobbies include reading, singing and dancing. I'm passionate about singing and dancing and love being on a stage and performing, so I would love to work as a musician or performer. I'm also passionate about medicine and helping people so being a doctor is another option.

Before joining Leaders of the Future, my academic performance was terrible, I would not study for any tests and barely passed them. When I started the seventh grade, I decided to pull myself together and start working on my grades. Thanks to the program, I was able to get amazing scores in math, scores I never thought I could achieve! I even went up a rank and was transferred to an advanced math class.

Before the program, I never thought about my future and really don't like thinking about it. I like to enjoy the moment and focus my effort on doing what I love- another thing I never knew I could do. In the future, I would like to do something that makes me smile and gives me a reason to wake up every morning, the program has opened my eyes to new possibilities and areas of study that I love. I could not be more grateful!

If I was approached by a friend who wanted to learn more about the program, I would tell them that the program helps Ethiopian Israelis learn and advance by studying math and English twice a week. It may sound unnecessary at first but in the end you will learn so much and appreciate the opportunity. The teachers I studied with are nice and really amazing teachers. Personally, the program helped me make progress in my studies and gain a new perspective on myself and the world around me.

So far, the most important thing I learned from the program is that learning is not so bad, math is not that hard and that everyone can do whatever they want, if they just try.



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