



Camp Ramah
in Wisconsin

...where the best of Jewish life meets the joy of camping

מחנה רמה בוויסקונסין

Shalom Ramah Families,

This is an exciting time for Ramah Wisconsin. We initiated a new priority enrollment program for the 2010 season and already almost one hundred families have reserved a place for their camper(s). A huge Todah Rabbah to all these families!

The priority enrollment deadline has been extended to Friday, August 14. All campers enrolled during priority enrollment receive an embroidered fleece blanket with the Ramah logo! [Click here to print a priority enrollment form today](#). Be sure to reserve your camper's space for next summer!

During the final five days of the season I sit with small groups of staff every half hour to say thank you to these amazing folks and to share feedback from the summer. These staff then take turns speaking with each camper about his/her summer experience. These feedback conversations are an important part of the summer. Taking time to reflect back and share stories help all of us gain perspective about the summer.

With each of the cohorts - cabin counselors, teachers, activity counselors - I ask for stories about campers succeeding. The music staff shared stories about campers who started a new instrument this summer. They also told about campers who took their first voice lessons this summer. The staff were music mentors for the campers.

I heard about swimmers, basketball players, potters, and painters. I heard about campers who pushed themselves to speak Hebrew and others who engaged in hevruta learning to engage classic Rabbinic texts. I heard about campers who made new friends and others who learned to advocate better for themselves. Some campers read Torah for the first time since their Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Others learned to chant new trope and lead campwide readings of Eichah and Shir Hashirim.

There is a very warm feeling across camp about having made possible another wonderful Ramah summer together. Ultimately it is about the kids and staff having great fun together.

The Solelim boys and girls discovered "Diablo." Every day another camper seems to master this delicate balancing art of sticks, string, and an oddly shaped disk. On Thursday, seventy campers swam about half a mile round trip from camp to the nearby island and back. Two girls in Bogrim gave a dvar Torah Thursday night to about fifty friends attending the Mishmar. They sang and told stories to begin welcoming Shabbat. This was after an evening of Israeli dance performances at our campwide Rikudia festival followed by an hour of Israeli dancing with the entire camper and staff community.

Fifty campers studied Israeli art history and each made a poster celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of Tel Aviv. These posters reflect their personal thoughts and feelings about celebrating this event. At the exhibit opening each camper introduced his/her poster. A film crew from the I-Center (an Israel Education Center that sponsored this project) recorded the event.

I love to hear the stories about campers from small Jewish communities making new friends and having great success finding their place at camp. I love to hear about campers from day schools and campers from afternoon religious schools meeting each other and becoming friends. I love to hear about campers who had some challenges last year now having very successful summers.

Kids grow up at camp. It is exciting for everyone to be a part of this.

I will share some of my own thoughts about transitions next week but for now just imagine what it must be like for over 650 staff and campers preparing for one last Shabbat together this summer.

There will be a lot of hugs after the davening! They have to last for a while.

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi David Soloff, Director

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