

FAQ for Prospective Staff

What is Camp Ramah in Wisconsin?

Camp Ramah is 150 acres of magical space, tucked away in the heart of Wisconsin's Northwoods. Within this space, campers and staff from throughout the Midwest and Israel unite each summer to form a very special Jewish community. Together, they experience the joy of overnight camp while leading vibrant Jewish lives. Ramah is a second home where young people learn new skills, gain independence, make lifetime friendships and explore what Judaism can mean in their lives.

What is Jewish Life like at Camp?

Few settings can match the power of Camp Ramah to transmit a love of Jewish life. Campers and staff experience Kabbalat Shabbat by the lake, Havdalah under the stars, Birkat Hamazon and singing in the dining hall and Jewish text and Hebrew language classes while lounging beneath the trees. Ramah campers and staff observe Kashrut, participate in daily services with friends and improve their conversational Hebrew. They develop strong ties to the State of Israel through fun and innovative programs and friendships with Israeli staff. At Ramah, Judaism is woven into every aspect of ethics to help resolve a conflict on the basketball court, softball field or cabin. Art, music and dance classes incorporate Jewish concepts and culture. And every summer, campers in each aida bring Broadway shows to the stage - entirely in Hebrew!

What is Ramah Wisconsin looking for in its staff?

The ideal Ramah staff member has a robust Jewish identity and is eager to see themselves as a Jewish educator and team player in the camp context. Energetic, friendly, thoughtful, intellectually curious, and courteous staff members are our most successful. Staff members at an overnight camp embrace a huge responsibility: taking care of other people's children. Staff members are responsible for the physical, social, emotional, and spiritual well being of campers. Similarly, they are responsible for creating an environment that helps build self-esteem that is warm, welcoming, friendly, and completely inclusive. At Ramah, we do that while fostering a holistic Jewish environment and transformative educational experience. An openness to (if not mastery of) the camp's commitments to Jewish practice (including prayer, Shabbat, and Kashrut, among many others), study, and spoken Hebrew are essential.

What kinds of positions are available?

We are currently hiring for all positions. In general, we prefer to hire staff who are brand new to camp as specialists. We have particular needs in: outdoor education (camping, nature, and ropes course); waterfront (swimming and boating); and a day-camp program that serves pre-school and elementary-aged children of staff members. If your skill sets and background lie in other areas, we also encourage you to apply.

I am a Junior Counselor candidate who went to camp or veteran Ramah staff member – where do I apply?

We emailed all eligible JC and veteran candidates the instructions and link to complete the application process. If you did not receive the information, please be in touch with Sarah Gold at sgold@ramahwisconsin.com. JC's: To complete the process, you will need to create an account in our data base, fill out an application, submit

three references, and then schedule an interview. If you live in Chicago or the Twin Cities, interviews will be in person. All other interviews will be over skype or the phone. Veterans: You will need to update your contact information in your UltraCamp account and fill out the returning staff application. We will then be in touch with you to set up an interview.

What are the camp dates for the 2012 summer?

Staff week begins on June 5th and the campers arrive on June 12th. Staff members are required to be present for the entire summer. If you request to miss any part of the summer, permission must be given by the Director. Although we prioritize hiring staff that will be present for the whole summer, permission is usually granted for people to leave for college orientation, family s'machot, and school obligations. The full camp season runs from June 5th-August 6th. Almost all staff at Camp Ramah in Wisconsin is hired for the entire nine-week season (staff week + eight weeks of camp). We do, on occasion, hire a limited number of college-aged for shorter periods of time. We also bring a variety of visiting professionals to camp for anything from a short visit to the entire summer.

Are there any age limits on staff members?

Camp Ramah in Wisconsin hires people who are current high school seniors or older.

How does the process work if I am Israeli?

There is a contingent of Israeli's that work at Camp Ramah in Wisconsin every summer. With the exception of individuals who grew up as campers at Ramah in Wisconsin, we hire Israelis exclusively through the **סוכנות** and their **אגף לנוער**. Please go to their website at www.jafi.org.il for more information. Please note that we only hire Israelis post-army or national service.

I grew up a different Ramah camp, can I work at Ramah Wisconsin?

If you grew up attending a different Ramah Camp and are of junior counselor age (current high school senior), you must apply to work at your own Ramah Camp. If you grew up going to another Ramah Camp and you have not been on staff at that camp for a few years, please submit an inquiry on the staff page of our website and send your resume and cover letter (complete details below) to our Assistant Director, Jacob Cytryn. You may only apply to a single Ramah camp at a time.

OK – I'm still interested; What's the application process?

Please submit an inquiry on the staff page of our website. A confirmation email will explain what to include in your cover letter and resume. Please send these to our Assistant Director, Jacob Cytryn at jcytryn@ramahwisconsin.com. Once we receive your cover letter and resume, we will be in touch with you to continue the application process.