



CAMP RAMAH IN CALIFORNIA

At the Max & Pauline Zimmer Conference Center

A Journey for a Lifetime

November 2009

Cheshvan 5770

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Dear 2010 Mador & Madrega Candidate,

Hopefully you are enjoying a strong Fall season! You have already received preliminary information on our training programs, and we now invite you to apply. Please read carefully through the items contained in this packet to learn more about the training programs, summer dates (including info for LAUSD students) and the application process itself.

Two Exciting Training Programs!!!

Camp Ramah in California provides entering high school seniors with two incredible opportunities to grow as leaders. Participants in the Mador program serve as madrichim in an עדה (*edab*), while participants in the Madrega program serve as moomchim in an עני (*specialty department*). Through these training programs participants gain invaluable skills that can be used in any future professional and volunteer setting. Some of these skills are important for leaders regardless of whether their work is Jewish, such as communication, problem solving, teamwork, creativity and public speaking. Other skills are specific to leadership in the Jewish community such as Hebrew language, Jewish education, *t'fillah* and Israel advocacy. See inside this packet for some inspiring reflections from our alumni.

The opportunity to both learn and engage in hands-on professional work distinguishes Ramah's training programs from other camp leadership programs. Participation in either program includes a commitment to participate in workshops specially designed to teach the many skills listed above, and to give you the opportunity to further your own Jewish learning. In addition, each of you will be guided by a mentor (*yoetzet*) who will meet with you, both individually and in small groups, in an ongoing evaluation process aimed at continual self-reflection and improvement. You will also be directly supervised and supported both by the rosh of your training program and your area (עדה or עני) supervisor.

Within the larger camp, participants in either program are expected to be a positive role model, or דוגמה, at all times - from תפילות, to meals, to late at night on שמירה, and all of the time in between. In addition, each program comes with specific job expectations.

The Mador Young Leadership Program

For many who attended Ramah as chanichim, being a "Madornik" provides you with the opportunity to transform the fun you had into an incredible experience for the next generation of Ramah'niks on the bunk and עדה (*edab*) level. As exciting and challenging as that sounds (and is), the Mador program is also demanding. If accepted, you will have a wide range of responsibilities within your bunk and עדה, as well as within the larger camp program. In your own bunk, you will care for the health, safety, hygiene and general well-being of chanichim as young as eight and as old as twelve. In your עדה you will plan and implement *penot erev* and תפילות, and other activities.

The Madrega Specialist-in-Training Program

This program allows you to grow a specific skill set as you learn to work with *chanichim* as an educator and bring camp to life in a fun, engaging manner throughout the day. Many of you look back on your time at the pool, sports, art or other areas as meaningful ways to have fun in a Jewish setting, and would excel at passing these experiences on to our 2010 campers. In reflecting back on their favorite memories from 2009, 56% of our *chanichim* referenced a specific activity – an outstanding reflection on the strong quality of our specialty staff. This program is also both exciting and demanding. If accepted, you will have a wide range of responsibilities within your *קנא* (*department*), as well as within the larger camp program. In your specialty area you will work with a Rosh Anaf to set goals and design activities to enrich our campers' summer experience. Furthermore, you may have the opportunity to live with older Israeli and American staff, forming lasting relationships as highlighted by past participants.

Summer Dates

The 2010 season starts with staff training on June 16, 2010 and concludes 9-weeks later on August 18th. It is so important that our staff be present from start to finish in order to properly be trained, establish relationships with their *chanichim* and improve the quality of our program from one session to the next. Applicants must therefore prioritize their time at Ramah right after their academic school year.

Applicants who are in schools that end later than the start of camp (ex: LAUSD) will participate in pre-summer training at the end of May or start of June, and will likely be expected to be onsite at some point during the June 18 – 20th weekend of Shavuah Hachanah (Staff Week). Applicants who are in schools that start before the end of camp (ex: some schools in AZ) might be able to leave a few days early. We will make every attempt to accommodate school conflicts while also preserving the quality of the Ramah experience. Please contact Zach or Erika immediately if you know about a conflict.

Application Process

We invite you to apply to the Mador and/or Madrega programs. Space is limited and not everyone who applies will be accepted. **As you make the transition into a working professional please remember that it is your responsibility – not your parents – to follow through on all parts of this process.** We are looking for the most committed, responsible, mature, Jewishly minded applicants. Applications are due to our office **no later than December 28th**. Please see the enclosed application reminders to ensure you are fully clear on the components of the application packet and the way in which acceptance decisions are made. **We will inform you of the status of your application by March 17, 2010.** Please be patient throughout the process.

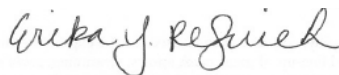
Unfortunately, we do not have enough room in the program for all the fine applicants we expect to apply as counselors. **Should we be unable to offer you a position in your top desired area, we will consider your application for a different position.** If you are not extended an offer to join our 2010 staff, we want to encourage you to explore one of the many Jewish travel programs to Israel or around the US, especially United Synagogue programs affiliated with the Conservative movement!

We look forward to receiving your applications. Please call or e-mail Zach at zach@ramah.org if you have any additional questions or would like more information about these programs.

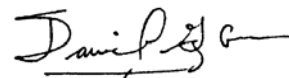
B'shalom,



Dr. Zach Lasker
Camp Director



Erika Resnick
Program Director



Rabbi Daniel Greyber
Executive Director

An opportunity to develop long lasting leadership skills awaits...

Ramah Mador/Madrega Alumni Share the Lasting Impact of Their Experiences...

The Mador program was an essential component of my camp career, illuminating my passions, abilities, and larger goals relating to Jewish camping and informal Jewish education. Amongst so many things, I learned what it means to collaborate with a team to accomplish a common goal. I cannot convey enough how invaluable these skills for program planning and team work have been. Every day when I plan classroom lessons for students or work on school initiatives with my colleagues, I think back to the methodology, format, and ways of engagement which I learned as a Mador.

- **Jenna Metson**, Mador 2002, Columbia University School of Education, Rosh Machon '08

"During my Mador summer I began to see that I had skills that were unique...This was a total revelation, and I came back to high school a changed person. The Mador program is a blank canvas where you really get to figure out how you work and function. It is a simulation of how you'll do when there is no yellow brick road, when its just an expansive meadow. Today I take that creativity and apply it to many different aspects of my professional life. I think creatively and out of the box in terms of the research I do, in which I apply my social science back ground to distinctly medical subjects. This is directly due to Mador."

-**Max Kates**, Mador 2001, Mt. Sinai Medical School, researched at Harvard University in Health Economics

"The Mador program was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. As much as I loved being a camper at Ramah, being a counselor was so much more fulfilling. I can't believe the amount of responsibility that was bestowed upon me as an incoming high school senior. I now have a leadership position ... in Project Sunshine, working with the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Without my experience as a Mador, my job for the project would not be as easy as I find it to be."

-**Gabby Nourafchan**, Mador 2006, University of Pennsylvania Junior

"Being a part of the Madrega program was a wonderful experience. As a lifeguard and swim instructor I interacted with campers in every age group, and I had free time in the evenings to join with an edah or a tent with which I felt close. The Madrega program emphasizes leadership while being able to work well in a group setting, I ended the summer feeling more confident in myself as well as in my lifeguarding abilities."

- **Emily Kallen**, Madrega 2005, USC Senior studying Kinesiology & Neuroscience

I learned how to pay attention to the needs of 16 little individuals, how to cater to their vocalized and their hidden concerns, desires and thoughts. I learned patience and how to truly put myself and my own needs at the bottom of a long list of others. As a counselor, you are immediately elevated to the position of parent, older sibling, teacher, role model, event planner, leader and the "coolest person" in a little kid's life I learned that the most enjoyable experience in the world is being a role model for my campers. And once you sign up, you are a role model for life. You can never quit from being a counselor.

- **Sammy Schatz**, Mador 2008, Princeton Freshman

"Working with campers made me a more attentive listener and gave me counseling skills that have been useful in many areas of my life. By giving me the chance to have substantial responsibilities in a supportive environment, the Mador program gave me valuable skills that I still use today."

-**Rena Stern**, Mador 2003, Columbia Law School, Intern at Protection Project at John Hopkins, Washington, D.C.



Mador/Madrega 2010 Application Process

Our application process is very comprehensive, the following criteria will be considered in selections:

- The thoughtfulness and depth of your answers on the written application and at the interview so please take these components seriously
- Your current participation in a program of Jewish study, involvement in Jewish life and visits to Israel
- The recommendations made and/or reservations expressed by those who complete a recommendation
- Your maturity, enthusiasm, and sensitivity
- The content (text, photos, etc.) of your social networking, weblog or other public internet domain. Many of these sites are publicly accessible and our staff members represent Ramah in the community, any content deemed inappropriate for working with children (e.g. offensive to camper parents or is in conflict with camp policy on foul language, alcohol/drug use, etc.) may result in termination of candidacy.
- The balance of talents and strengths of all applicants to best match our diverse camper population

While filling out your Mador/Madrega application please be sure to send the enclosed Recommendation Forms and reply envelopes to three individuals (non-family members or friends) who are most familiar with your abilities and potential for the program. Please select these people as follows:

- A Jewish Educator or Rabbi familiar with your current participation in Jewish study (required)
- An individual familiar with your abilities as a leader (i.e. youth advisor, teacher, etc.)
- A staff member from any 2009 summer program you may have participated in
- An individual who has supervised you in a work environment

They will have the option of filling out the form in writing or on-line via our website. The forms should be submitted to our office no later than December 28, 2009.

The Ramah office will be in touch once we receive your application with information on setting up an in person or over the phone interview. Should you have any questions throughout the application process please be in touch with Zach, zach@ramah.org, or Erika, erika@ramah.org or call (310) 476-8571.

We look forward to getting to know you during your application process!



A Summer for a Lifetime

PHOTO

CAMP RAMAH IN CALIFORNIA

15600 Mulholland Drive ° Los Angeles ° CA 90077
Phone (310) 476-8571 ° FAX (310) 472-3810
www.ramah.org

FOR OFFICE USE

Date rec'd _____

Position: _____

Hon/Trv _____

Contract rec'd _____

New Staff Application Entering 12th Grade



NAME:

_____ Last

_____ First

_____ Middle

_____ Hebrew

I am applying for the position of:

Mador Counselor

Madrega Specialist: _____
Indicate specific area of specialty

___ Sports ___ Lifeguard ___ Art ___ Outdoors
___ Gan ___ Media Arts ___ Office ___ Cultural Arts

Please consider my application for:

Session I & II

Tikvah Family Camp

POSITION

Applicant Information:

Permanent Address: _____

street

city/state

zip

Home

Phone: () _____

Cell Ph.: () _____

e-mail: _____

Date of Birth (opt.) _____ Age: (opt.) _____ Soc. Sec.# _____

School: _____ Year in School: _____ T-shirt Size (adult sizes): _____

PERSONAL DATA

Certifications

**please include a photocopy of your current certification*

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------|
| ___ First Aid * | ___ Lifeguard * | ___ Archery * | ___ Other * |
| ___ CPR * | ___ WSI * | ___ Martial Arts * | |
| ___ EMT * | ___ Fencing * | ___ Ropes Course * | |

Skills

Please describe your level of proficiency by circling one:

- 1 - *not so comfortable*
- 2 - *comfortable*
- 3 - *very comfortable*
- 4 - *proficient*

JUDAIC:

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Reading Torah | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Leading Torah Service | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Leading Shabbat Shachrit | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Reading Haftorah | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Leading Weekday Services | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Hebrew | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

MUSIC:

- Piano Guitar
- Drums Voice
- Other _____

Describe your hobbies, talents, special interests, etc.: _____

Driver's License

Number: _____ State: _____ Expires: _____ Do you have CLASS B License? Yes No

CERTIFICATIONS & SKILLS

Education

| | School, City | Dates Attended | Major | Degree |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|-------|--------|
| High School | | | | |
| Jewish | | | | |

I am currently enrolled in this program of Jewish Studies: _____

Camping Experience

Camps attended as a camper and/or as a staff member (please list camper and staff years separately):

| Camp Name | Dates | Day or Resident Camp | Position |
|-----------|-------|----------------------|----------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Work Experience (Please list most recent work experience first or attach resume)

| Employer | Position | Dates | Supervisor | Phone |
|----------|----------|-------|------------|-------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Volunteer/Lay Experience (Please list most recent experiences first)

| Organization | Dates | Position/Job |
|--------------|-------|--------------|
| | | |
| | | |

Israel Experience

Program(s) attended and date(s) attended: _____

With what age group do you have experience working? _____ Doing what? _____

With what age group do you prefer working? _____ Why? _____

Are you a vegetarian? Yes No

Do you have any other dietary needs/restrictions? _____

Do you have any conditions that would interfere with carrying out your camp duties _____

Have you ever been convicted of any criminal charges? Yes No If yes, please explain. _____

Do you have a clean driving record (no more than one moving violation in the past three years)? Yes No

Please explain: _____

Please take a few minutes to complete each of the following statements:

- 1) I (will) love Ramah because _____
- 2) A prominent Jewish figure that I identify with is _____
because _____
- 3) Describe your work ethic. Give an example from a project or job on which you worked: _____
- 4) Most meaningful camp memory: _____
- 5) A challenge I recently conquered: _____
- 6) A challenge I would like to conquer: _____
- 7) One thing I would change about me: _____
- 8) I value this characteristic about me most: _____
- 9) If I could create one activity at camp, it would be _____
- 10) If I had \$10 to spend at Target, I would buy: _____
- 11) My greatest achievement is _____

In case of emergency please contact:

Name _____ Address _____
 Relationship _____ Home Phone: () _____ Day Phone: () _____

Health Insurance Information

I UNDERSTAND THAT THE CAMP INSURANCE DOES NOT SERVE IN ANY INSTANCE AS PRIMARY COVERAGE. THE CAMP CARRIES EXCESS HEALTH INSURANCE FOR CERTAIN MEDICAL COSTS NOT COVERED BY MY INSURANCE COMPANY. I AUTHORIZE THE CAMP TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH MY HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY, WHICH IS

Name of Insurer: _____ Policy No. _____

Address of Company: _____

Name of Policy Holder: _____ Phone: () _____

APPLICANTS UNDER AGE 18, PLEASE HAVE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

I hereby give permission for my child _____, to leave camp grounds for
 unsupervised, but authorized time off and/or day (s) off. _____

Parent Signature

