

FLAT PACKAGE POLICY

We all agree that strengthening friendships, interacting with nature, and building a sense of community are hallmarks of camp. We continue to limit the ubiquitous use of technology in order to safeguard those sacred and impactful elements of the camp experience. Please read below for details about the new **No Package Policy** and reminders about our **Electronics Policy**.

Starting this summer, in addition to e-mails, postcards and letters, Camp Ramah WILL ONLY ACCEPT large flat envelopes up to 12"x15" for magazines, photos, or books. Small items such as stickers, pens, and silly bandz are permitted as long as they fit inside the flat envelope. Any package that is not flat or contains anything other than books will not be delivered to your camper.

BOOKS: For the avid readers among our camp kehillah, **we will** accept boxes mailed from Amazon containing BOOKS ONLY. Other items will be returned to the camper's family.



RATIONALE: Here's why: At Ramah we strive to maintain a clean, healthy environment. An abundance of packages creates unnecessary waste, increases the focus on "stuff" that we try to de-emphasize at camp, and raises issues of inequity, competition, and unnecessary social pressure.

NECESSARY ITEMS: Should your child forget an item (e.g., sunscreen, water bottle, or sandals), please be in touch with your child's Yoetzet. Often, camp is able to obtain these items for your camper avoiding the wait and hassle of shipping something to camp. If an item still needs to be sent, **after obtaining permission**, please address the package to:

Child's Name (Edah)
c/o Yoetzet

BIRTHDAYS: We understand the importance of celebrating birthdays at camp. For chanichim celebrating a birthday at camp, a package may be sent (no food or prohibited items) and should be addressed as follows:

Child's Name (Edah)
c/o Yoetzet (hold for birthday)

APPROVED PACKAGES: All approved packages and large envelopes will be opened by our office staff prior to distribution. Please **DO NOT SEND FOOD, CANDY, or GUM**. As always, any food contents will be donated.

If a package arrives that is not pre-approved, it will be returned unopened to the sender at the sender's expense.

SHARE: To avoid potential frustration, please share this policy with your camper and other family members and friends.

This new policy puts us in line with many other camps. We appreciate your cooperation as we implement this new policy. You may direct questions to Rabbi Joe rabbijoe@ramah.org or Ariella ariella@ramah.org.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Permitted Items:

- ✓ MP3 Player (music only)
- ✓ iPod shuffle (music only)
- ✓ iPod Nano (music only)
- ✓ iPod Classic (music only)
- ✓ Kindle/E-reader (books only)

*All other apps must be removed prior to camp. (No movies or t.v. shows on any device.)

Prohibited Items:

- Cell phones (even with sim card removed)
- Laptop computers
- iPad
- iPod Touch
- Gaming Devices
- Drones



No devices with
Wifi capability

TECHNOLOGY POLICY: It goes without saying that technology permeates all facets of life for adults and for children. Camp remains one of the few places throughout the year where kids can truly unplug and engage with peers and with their surroundings, without the distraction of devices, and focus on real in-person relationships and enjoy outdoor activities. That being said, we recognize the comfort that a personal music playlist can provide to a camper having trouble falling asleep at night and the ease with which a voracious reader can load twenty books on his/her e-reader and not worry about ever running out of something to read. Our current policy strives to limit technology in a way that allows the benefits of camp to have the greatest possible impact on your kids.

We appreciate your flexibility and partnership in this endeavor. We discourage campers from bringing electronic devices to camp; they can disrupt the community, break, or be left behind. If campers bring electronic devices that are permitted they may only be used during "down/quiet time." **Please consider sending your child to camp without any screens.**

- 1) All devices that connect to the Internet via cell towers capability, such as cell phones (even with sim cards removed) are strictly prohibited and will be confiscated. If your child is flying to/from camp and you would prefer they travel with a phone, it will be collected on the first day and kept safe in the office, and then returned at the end of the session.
- 2) Laptops, iPads, tablets, portable gaming devices, and DVD Players are strictly prohibited.
- 3) Personal music players and e-readers are permitted for use during "down/quiet time." Music devices and e-readers may not be loaded with video files (movies, TV shows, etc.) and may not have internet capability. Campers do not have access to the password protected wireless network at camp.
- 4) A digital or disposable camera is the best way for your child to capture photos from the summer. Be sure to pack enough memory cards and batteries! We encourage you to take an active role in your child's life online and help them to make good decisions about what photos are/are not appropriate to post on Facebook and other social media sites after the summer.
- 5) All drones are strictly prohibited and will be confiscated.