

Machaneh Ramah B'California
385 Fairview Road
Ojai, CA 93023



Hachanah L'Kayitz 2025

Dear Ramah Families,

I just returned from ten glorious days at *Machaneh* (Camp) Ramah for our Passover Camp. The magic was palpable, and it felt so special to spend that time with folks of all ages from all over the world. It struck me how everything we do at summer camp is recreated during just a few days over Passover. Everyone – from the toddlers in the Gan to folks in their nineties – builds connections and strengthens friendships. At the bus send-off each summer, so many parents tell me they wish they were the ones heading off for camp. Passover Camp is a great way to have a camp experience at any age!

In *The Anxious Generation*, Jonathan Haidt speaks about the challenges facing our youth today, as so many parts of childhood have moved from play-based to phone-based. In my coffee and Torah session over the *chag* (holiday), I shared how camp is the perfect antidote thanks to three key ingredients:

- Tech-free. At camp, we create an opportunity to shift from digital communication to face-to-face relationship building.
- Novelty. Each day is filled with the excitement of new experiences.
- Mentors. Camp is full of young, Jewish role models. The kind of young adults we hope our kids will grow up to be.

Every week, Shabbat offers us a chance to slow down and reflect on the past week. Camp is our “Shabbat” from the rest of the year. I hope you will see throughout the email below how we create this respite and “Shabbat” through our camper care, programming, policies, tech-free space, and other exciting initiatives.

Now that Passover has concluded, we’ve begun the annual counting of the Omer. And in my home, we also count the days left until camp at the same time. While we can’t wait to be back together in community soon, it is my wish that we make each of the days between then and now “count” as well.



Kol tuv,
Ariella Moss Peterseil
Camp Director



NEW PROGRAMMATIC ELEMENTS

Last *kayitz* (summer), we worked to elevate the programming at camp, and this *kayitz*, we are continuing to build on that momentum! We're excited to bring more new and engaging experiences that will allow every *chanich* (camper) to find their place at Ramah. Here is a sneak peek at a few highlights of what's to come:

- Beach days for all 4 week *chanichim* (campers)
- A revamped bunk bonding program, including unique ropes course experiences, expanded hiking opportunities, and a "sleepover in a box"
- New trails for mountain biking excursions
- *Yom Sport*, featuring inspiring Israeli athletes



CAMP RAMAH NEW CAMPER ORIENTATION

In-Person Orientation

May 1st at 5:30
in the Valley

Parents and Campers

Virtual Orientation

May 6th at 6:30
on Zoom

Parents Only

[Click to RSVP](#)



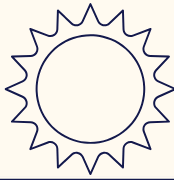
With questions, contact leah@ramah.org

SWIM SHIRT POLICY

Safety is always our first priority at camp. As research continues to show the dangers of sun exposure and extreme weather events have increased, Camp Ramah is making changes to help protect campers of all ages while they are in the water. This shift is consistent with many other camps in our region and this policy will be strictly enforced.

Please be aware of the following additions to our water activity requirements:

- Campers of all ages and all genders **must pack two swim shirts (or rash guards)**. Short and long -sleeved swim shirts are acceptable and may be worn over any bathing suit (1 piece, tankini, or swim shorts - no speedos or bikinis).
- Our younger **campers in 2nd-6th grades** (Shorashim, Gesher, Nitzanim, and Giborei) **must wear their swim shirts at the pool**. We are prioritizing younger campers as they often struggle to apply sunscreen thoroughly. However, protective swim shirts are recommended for campers of all ages.
- As has been our policy for many years, **ALL campers must wear swim shirts at any off-site, water-based activity** (beach, kayaking, etc.) where we are often in the sun for extended periods of time.



HOW TO STAY SAFE OUTDOORS

As so much of our daily programming takes place outdoors, we take sun protection very seriously at camp. Our staff is trained in the most effective sun protection techniques.

SUNSCREEN

There are built-in sunscreen application times in our schedule ensuring that campers apply sunscreen frequently throughout the day.

We recommend packing:

- a broad-spectrum sunscreen that provides protection against both UVA/UVB rays
- a sunscreen that has an SPF (sun protection factor) of at least 30 - 45.

Our staff is available to help our younger campers apply sunscreen and provide reminders to all campers. We stock additional sunscreen at the Marp, the pool, and throughout several other areas around camp. Additionally, there is always sunscreen available on days out of camp and on overnight trips.

PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

We require campers 2nd-6th grade to wear rash guards, and we highly recommend it for older campers.

We require rash guards to be worn on trips to the beach and on overnights for water activities.

We strongly encourage campers to wear hats throughout the day and to bring sunglasses to protect their eyes from the sun.

HYDRATION

Please be sure to pack two water bottles and label them with your camper's name and edah (age group).

There are water bottle filling stations located throughout camp and our staff provides frequent reminders for campers to refill throughout the day.

SUN BREAKS

Throughout the day, campers take frequent breaks from the heat and the sun by utilizing our many indoor and air-conditioned spaces around camp.

INSECT REPELLENT

As camp tends to get buggy during the summer, we highly recommend packing insect repellent. Our staff will remind campers to apply it in the morning and throughout the day as necessary.



NEW KAYITZ NEW MERCH

We are excited to announce the launch of the official Machaneh Ramah B'California store! Make sure to stock up on all the fun camp merch before the kayitz!



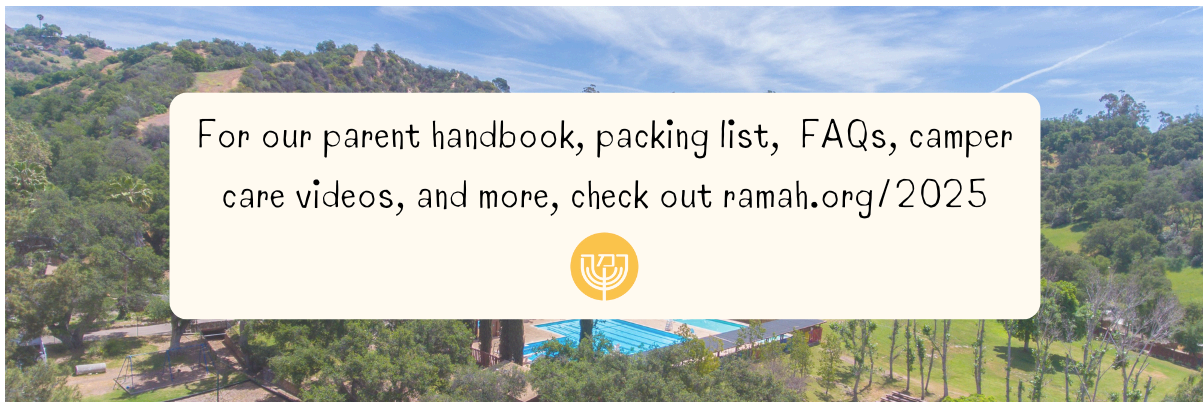
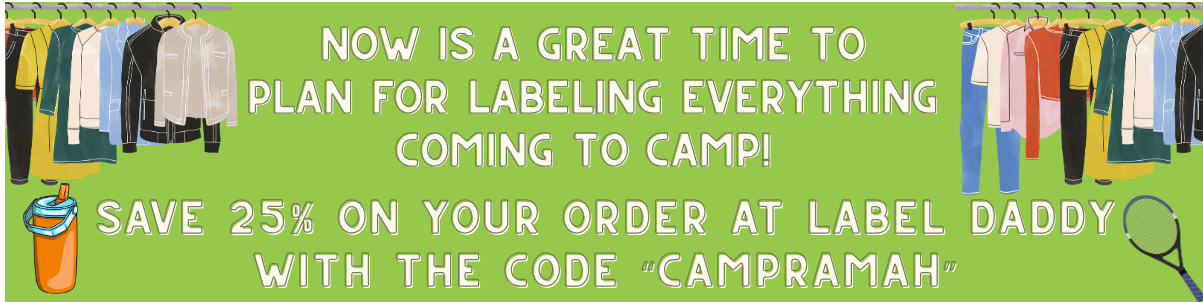
WWW.RAMAH.ORG/STORE

**CLICK THE BUTTONS BELOW FOR
IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO HELP YOU
AND YOUR CHILD PREPARE FOR THE BEST
KAYITZ (SUMMER) YET!**

MEDICATIONS



PACKAGE POLICY



www.ramah.org | Phone: 310-476-8571
6505 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 440 | Los Angeles, CA 90048