



CAMP RAMAH IN CALIFORNIA

At the Max & Pauline Zimmer Conference Center

A Journey for a Lifetime

JULIE PLATT
Board Chair

RABBI DANIEL GREYBER
Executive Director

ZACHARY LASKER
Assistant Director

CAROL ABRAMS
Director of Development

DAV CAMRAS
Business Director

ELIE MECHALY
Director of Operations

RABBI BRADLEY SHAVIT ARTSON
Dean, Ziegler School of
Rabbinic Studies

November 2008
מר חשוון 5769

Dear 2009 Mador & Madrega Candidate,

Hopefully you are enjoying a strong Fall season! We are eager to hear your tales from last summer, be they travels through Israel or the US, summer school or other adventures. You already received preliminary information on our training programs, and we now invite you to apply. Employment will run - uninterrupted - from June 18 – August 19, 2008.

The Mador Young Leadership Program

This program is Ramah's intensive counselor-in-training program that runs over the course of the 9-week summer season. For many who attended Ramah as campers, being a "Madornik" provides you with the opportunity to transform the fun you had as a camper into an incredible experience for the next generation of Ramah'niks on the bunk and עדה (*edah*) 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 campers as young as eight and as "old" as twelve. In your עדה you plan and implement programs, תפילות and other activities. Within the larger camp, you will be a positive role model, or דוגמה, at all times - from תפילות, to meals, to late at night on שמירה, and all the time in between.

While you are getting hands-on experience, you will also attend workshops specially designed for the Mador program in child development, הדרכה (leadership) skills, תפילה and Judaica. While the Rosh Mador will oversee the whole program, each of you will be supported and 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.

The Madrega Specialist-in-Training Program

This program also runs over the course of the 9-week summer season, and allows you to grow a specific skill set as you learn to work with campers as an educator. Many of you look back on your time at the pool, sports, art room or other areas as meaningful ways to have fun in a Jewish setting, and would excel at passing these experiences on to our 2008 campers.

This program is also both exciting and demanding. If accepted, you will have a wide range of responsibilities within your ענף (*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. Within the larger camp framework, you will be a דוגמה, at all times - during תפילות, activities and late at night on שמירה, and all the time in between.

The Madrega program includes two notable components in addition to the hands-on experience. First, you will be engaged in workshops on child development, הדרכה (leadership) skills and Judaica, guided and taught by senior staff. Second, you will have the opportunity to live with older Israeli and American staff, forming lasting relationships as highlighted by past participants.

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. Step one is to submit the enclosed application to our office **no later than December 26th**. Please do not forget your picture! Step two is 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 2008 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.

With these pieces in place, the interview process will begin and your application will be reviewed. The following criteria will be considered in selections:

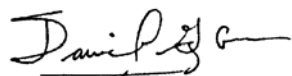
- The thoughtfulness and depth of your answers on the written application and at the interview
- Your current participation in a program of Jewish study, involvement in Jewish life and visits to Israel
- The recommendations made and/or reservations expressed by those who complete a recommendation
- Your maturity, enthusiasm, and sensitivity
- The content (text, photos, etc.) of your social networking, weblog or other public internet domain. Because 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

We will try to inform you of the status of your application by March 18, 2009. Please be patient and understanding 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 2009 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.

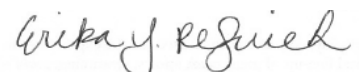
B'shalom,



Rabbi Daniel Greyber
Executive Director



Zachary Lasker
Assistant Director



Erika Resnick
Program Coordinator

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

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

"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

"My experience as a Mador gave me an incredible opportunity to be a leader. The leadership experience that I gained during my Mador summer prepared me to take on leadership positions later in life. The opportunity to help shape the lives of young Jewish campers, in a supportive and loving environment, provided me with a strong foundation to make change on my university campus."

-**Oren Gabriel**, Mador 2003, past Student Body President University of California, Berkeley

"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 Sophomore

"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 Junior studying Kinesiology & Neuroscience

"The amount of responsibility I was given from the first day of staff week was pretty extraordinary for someone with no experience as a counselor, but ... I had my co-counselors, Rosh Edah, and Mador staff looking out for me every step of the way. I loved being a camper at Ramah – but I never could have imagined that being a counselor would be even more fun. [I learned to] have fun while working hard. To this day I tackle every leadership role with that mentality, and I think it has been a big part of my success so far."

- **David Ashkenazi**, Mador 2003, University of Pennsylvania Senior, Wharton School of Business

"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.



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

POSITION

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

PERSONAL

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: _____

CERTIFICATIONS & SKILLS

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

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

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

