

Camp Ramah NOAM in Israel

Camp Ramah Noam, located at the Hodayot Youth Village in the Lower Galilee, is a unique overnight camping experience for Israeli and overseas *Masorti* (Conservative) youth. The camp is part of the Noam's (acronym for *No'ar Masorti*) yearlong activities. Beginning with 100 campers in the summer of 1988, the number of both participants and programs has grown every year. This past summer close to 500 campers and 130 staff members participated in our various programs at camp.

One of our main goals at camp is to have **FUN!** We are committed to instilling a commitment to liberal Jewish values in a non-coercive, open atmosphere. We try to enrich the knowledge and appreciation of both the campers and the staff for the *Masorti* (Conservative) way of life. Values of tolerance, absorption of new immigrants, democracy, pluralism and Zionism are all part of our educational programs. Leadership training and social action are both emphasized and encouraged as part of what we see as the next generation of Jewish leaders.

Our campers come from all strata of Israeli life: *Masorti*, Reform, Orthodox, Reconstructionists and Non-affiliated; from European, North African, Middle Eastern, Asian as well as North and South American; new immigrants, Sabra's (Israeli born); Kibbutzniks, city dwellers.

Camp Ramah Noam offers several programs:

- A three-week camp session for campers in the 7th - 10th grade. (July 13th through August 2nd)
- "*Nitzanim*," a one week encampment for children entering the 6th grade. This program takes place at a camp site in the Lavi Forest Camp (some 5 minutes from Hodayot). (July 25th through August 1st)
- "*Mahanon*," a four-day encampment for children entering the 4th and 5th grade. Also takes place in the Lavi Forest Camp. (July 12th-15th)

The Camp Ramah NOAM senior staff includes professionals in the fields of Jewish education, sports, camping, hiking as well as a camp Rabbi and camp advisor. Our staff is comprised of young adults most of whom have grown up in NOAM and are themselves camp alumni. The junior counselors are teens in their final years of high school who are members of NOAM all year long.

Each age group at camp focuses on a special educational theme relevant to them and adapted to their needs and desires. The themes are developed over the camp session with the use of informal educational activities, study sessions, the use of drama and arts, field trips and social action projects. In addition, there are daily specialty activities (*Hugim*) including Jewish art,

photography, archery, dance, camping, cooking, juggling, self-defense and music.

Additional **field trips** are part of the camp program that enable the campers to be better acquainted with the archaeology, history, nature and an appreciation for the land of Israel. Overnight trips give the campers an opportunity to acquire camping and survival skills. Each unit participates in *Yom Ta'aleh*, a day devoted to social-action projects, to strengthen the connection and responsibility of the campers to Israeli society.

International campers participate in camp as regular campers. This year we do not have any special programs for international campers although we do see a special importance in the attendance of campers from abroad. In past years, the presence of these campers has enriched the camp socially, culturally and religiously. The positive force that these campers bring to camp is unrivaled. Many international campers have remained in contact with their Israeli fellow campers over the years, and they continue to visit Israel.

All camp programs are held in Hebrew; therefore, it is essential that overseas campers are fluent enough in Hebrew to participate in discussions and activities. Please bear this in mind when you consider your child's application to Camp. Please note that Camp Ramah NOAM is not able to take care of flight arrangements or accommodations before and after camp.

The *Masorti* atmosphere at camp is important to us. *Kashrut*, *Shabbat* observance, *t'fillah* and the study of Jewish sources are integral components of the camp's daily routine. Each day begins with morning prayers and ends with a Midrash study session and evening prayers. The blessings before and after meals are recited at meals. *Shabbat* is a joyful celebration at camp with a relaxed pace and special programming. All of our prayer sessions are egalitarian.

Each camper's well-being is of primary concern throughout the summer. A nurse is on duty on the premises at the Hodayot Youth Village twenty-four hours a day. A doctor visits camp daily. Appropriate medical and security personnel accompany all trips outside of camp.

We are committed to the personal growth of our campers and staff at Camp Ramah NOAM. We strive to meet our goals and objectives in an enriched experience of daily Jewish life and tradition.

Camp Ramah NOAM is a non-profit organization. It is sponsored by the Jewish Agency, the *Masorti* Movement, UJC- New York Federation, the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit and other private contributors.

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide scholarships to International Campers, as all scholarship funds are geared towards Israeli campers, especially families in-need and new immigrants. If you are in need of financial assistance we suggest that you turn to local Federations or synagogues.

Information for the summer of 2004

(Tentative; date are subject to change)

Program	Dates	Price
Camp Ramah NOAM (grades 7 through 10)*	Tuesday, July 13 th to Monday, August 2 nd	\$1580
<i>Nitzanim</i> (grade 6)*	Sunday, July 25 th - Sunday, August 1 st	\$485
<i>Mahanon</i> (grade 4-5)*	Monday, July 12 th - Thursday, July 15 th	\$165
<i>Bereshit</i> - Leadership Program ** (entering 10 th grade)	Tuesday, July 6 th - Tuesday, August 3 rd	\$720

* The grades refer to the following school year.

** Acceptance to the Bereshit Leadership Programs requires an interview in Hebrew.

For more information, please contact:

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