



## Camp Ramah in New England

WINTER OFFICE: 1206 Boston Providence Highway, Suite 201, Norwood, MA 02062

(781) 702-5290, FAX (781) 702-5239

SUMMER OFFICE: 39 Bennett Street, Palmer, MA 01069

(413) 283-9771, FAX (413) 283-6661

Elevate Your Summer!

### Ramah Intersession Policy

October 2019

Shalom Full Summer Camp Families,

We are very excited that you have chosen to send your campers to camp for the whole summer. We believe this experience will have a huge positive impact on their Jewish identity and knowledge and deepen incredible connections to both counselors and campers. Thank you!

We are continuing our policy that we implemented last summer that worked well.

We would like all full summer campers to remain at camp during intersession, the period between visiting day (when our first session campers go home) and the arrival of second session campers. Intersession is a time that allows for the special programming and bonding geared towards full summer campers who have just said goodbye to some friends and are looking forward to greeting new friends.

Prior to our change in this policy last summer, there was a growing pattern of parents picking up their own children and one friend or multiple friends for a special vacation. This created real social conflict and feelings of exclusion among other campers. We also heard from parents that they felt "pressured" to allow their children to leave camp for these trips even though they'd prefer their children stay at camp.

Our catchment area is geographically spread out. For many full session campers, going home is not an option. Staying at camp and having multiple friends go home for intersession created feelings of homesickness as well as feeling left out. It put pressure on families that live far away to spend intersession at nearby hotels.

When so many families picked up children for intersession it made it very hard on those left behind. It became difficult to run the type of program that had the capacity to be both fun and allow for the special bonding and shared experiences of this unique part of camp life.

In light of the explanation above and the overall improvements to the intersession experience last summer after we implemented this policy, we ask that all full session campers enjoy visiting day with their families and plan to stay at camp during intersession.

As with most policies, we do understand that there are times when exceptions need to be made. (For example: campers who leave for doctor's appointments.) In these cases we expect that parents pick up only their own camper and make the arrangements before camp begins. **If you need to make this type of arrangement, please contact our Registrar/Office Manager, Marggi Shechanah, by May 31<sup>st</sup> at [marggi@campramahne.org](mailto:marggi@campramahne.org).**

We thank you for your cooperation in helping us to create a better experience for our entire community.

*L'hitraot B'Palmer,*

**Rabbi Ed Gelb**

**CEO, Camp Ramah in New England**

**Talya Kalender**

**Director of Camper Care**