



Camp Ramah in New England

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Elevate Your Summer!

Update Regarding Ramah Intersession for *Kayitz* 2019

November, 2018

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 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.

There has been a growing pattern of parents picking up their own children and one friend or multiple friends for a special vacation. This creates real social conflict and feelings of exclusion among other campers. We've also heard from parents that they feel "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 creates feelings of homesickness as well as feeling left out. It puts pressure on families that live far away to spend intersession at nearby hotels.

When so many families pick up children for intersession it makes it very hard on those left behind. It becomes difficult to run the type of program that has 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 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 31st at 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