



Ramah
YEAR-ROUND

FAMILY CAMP

Program Guide
May 27 - May 30, 2022



Shalom Families, Welcome to Ramah New England!

After three long years, we are so excited to welcome you to Family Camp 2022! Whether you’ve joined us at a previous Family Camp, or this is your first year, we have been eagerly awaiting your arrival. We are happy you have taken this opportunity to experience a Ramah-style *Shabbaton*.

We know it took lots of effort to get here – between planning, preparation, protocol review, and testing – but now the FUN begins! This weekend is Camp Ramah... For the WHOLE FAMILY!! We’ve planned numerous camp activities such as sports, arts, nature workshops, Gaga, singing and dancing. Through innovative Jewish learning, Family Camp provides special family activities, as well as separate programs for adults and children. And take advantage of our excellent childcare! We are offering daytime childcare for younger children, supervised day camp activities for older children, and nighttime supervision for all children.

This Program Guide has everything you need to know to make the most of your experience. Please take time to read through it and bring it with you wherever you go. We are always here to answer any additional questions you may have. Thank you for being a part of our Ramah New England family, and welcome home!

Kol Tuv,



Pamela Kekst
Program Director



Michelle Sugarman
Assistant Director

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P.S. If you ever need to contact either of us, we will always be in the Chadar Ochel during meal times!



Ramah Family Camp

A to Z

Accommodations: We understand that accommodations at camp can sometimes be rustic. If there is anything we can do to make your stay more comfortable, please do not hesitate to ask. We ask that you refrain from moving beds around inside the cabins.

Blankets: If you're feeling a little chilly in your bunk, you can request a blanket from Pamela Kekst or Michelle Sugarman.

Camp Map: Located on the last page of the Program Guide, please refer to the Campus Map, along with the Daily Schedule (starting on page 7) for the locations of programming. Let us know if you feel lost!

Candle Lighting: Tealight candles will be provided for Shabbat candle lighting in the *Chorsah* (grove) starting at 5:45pm on Shabbat afternoon.

Cell Phone Use: While there is cell phone service throughout camp, we encourage you to use this weekend as an opportunity to unplug. Additionally, we ask that you refrain from carrying your cell phone throughout camp on Shabbat.

Check-In: Check-in is open between 3pm and 5pm. Upon arrival, all guests must check in at the *O"CH* – the pavilion outside of the *Chadar Ochel* (Dining Room). During check-in, guests will receive the Family Camp Program Guide and any additional welcome materials. Our Welcome Staff can answer any questions you have and are happy to help you and your family settle into your bunks.

Clothing: The weather can be unpredictable here in Western Massachusetts and temperatures can drop quickly in the evenings and early morning. It is helpful to have layers of clothing and a raincoat with you. And no matter the weather conditions, comfortable walking shoes are a must!

COVID-19 Protocols: Ramah New England has required all eligible participants and staff to be up to date on their vaccinations. Ramah New England has also required all participants to submit two COVID test results via Google form; the first 72 hours prior to arrival; the second on the day of prior to arrival. We have asked every family to bring rapid antigen tests for their entire party to take on Sunday. Rapid antigen tests will be available for purchase during Sunday breakfast in the *Chadar Ochel* (Dining Room). Masking is optional at Family Camp. Those who elect to wear masks are welcome to do so.

Drinking Water: All water on our property is underground spring water – great for drinking! We encourage you to fill your reusable bottles at any of our water stations across camp.

Emergencies: In case of emergency, please call 911. Be prepared to state the nature of the problem and your location: 39 Bennett Street, Palmer, MA 01069. Please also notify a Ramah New England staff person of the situation.

Eruv (Shabbat Boundary): Ramah New England maintains an *Eruv*, checked by our *Mashgiach*, which allows one to carry items around camp on *Shabbat*. Please note: the hiking trails going out to the treehouse are outside the boundary of the *Eruv*.

Food Allergies/Dietary Restrictions: If you have any dietary concerns, please let us know. Chef Sean is happy to accommodate dietary restrictions and will be available to answer any questions throughout the weekend. Look for a list of major food allergens on the menu board.



Ramah Family Camp

A to Z



Food/Meals: We are a kosher, nut-free campus. Please help us maintain our *kashrut*. All your meals, snacks, and beverages are provided. Outside food is not allowed in the *Chadar Ochel* (Dining Room). All meals are self-serve buffets. Beverages and snacks will always be available between meals at the *O"CH* – the pavilion outside of the *Chadar Ochel* (Dining Room).

Gan (daycare): For families with children 5 and under, we are excited to offer a full menu of programming designed for little ones to play and explore. Feel free to drop your children off at the *Gan*, located at *Moadon Amitzim*, throughout the weekend or stay and join in with their crafts and games! Check the Daily Schedule to see when the *Gan* is open.

Lost & Found: There is a Lost & Found table in the *Chadar Ochel* (Dining Hall) located near the main entrance. Please be sure to leave found items or check for lost items at this location throughout the weekend.

Maintenance Requests: If you encounter any facility or maintenance issues while at camp, please inform Pamela Kekst or Michelle Sugarman.

Masks: Masking is optional at Family Camp. Those who elect to wear masks are welcome to do so.

Mealtimes: Mealtimes are one of the few things at Family Camp that cannot be changed, so please make sure to attend meals on time. There are always people around to answer your questions, but here are a few guidelines:

- Before each meal, all guests must wash their hands when entering the *Chadar Ochel* (Dining Room).
- Guests can choose where to sit and with whom they are comfortable dining.
- Each table is asked to clear their dishes into the bus buckets at the end of the tables. When dishes are cleared, please roll up the trash and table paper, and dispose of it in the barrels provided.
- Please wait until we have said *Motzi* (blessing over bread) before entering the buffet line. The meal will conclude with *Birkat Hamazon* (grace after meals) and announcements.
- Please use a new plate for each visit to the buffet line or salad bar.
- All major food allergens are listed at each meal, and special dietary food needs will be served from the Allergy Station, located under the menu board TV screen.
- Lost & Found is located on a table by the main entrance of the *Chadar Ochel* (Dining Room).

Medical Care: For minor medical issues, a first aid kit and an AED are available at the *Chadar Ochel* (Dining Hall). There is a medical professional onsite during the retreat and can be reached at (339) 237-2256 if necessary. Our *Mirpa'ah* (Health Center), will be open during set times throughout the weekend. Check the Daily Schedule for hours.

Moadon Amitzim: The *Moadon Amitzim* is the location of the *Gan* (daycare). For families with children 5 and under, we are excited to offer a full menu of programming designed for little ones to play and explore.

Moadon Tzevet: The *Moadon Tzevet*, or staff lounge, is designed to be adult space throughout the weekend. Stop by each night for late night snacks, adult programming, or to hang out with other parents.

Nametags: Please wear your nametags throughout the weekend and ask your children to do the same. Nametags help us learn each other's names, identify children when they're not with you, and help keep camp secure.



Ramah Family Camp

A to Z



Participation: There are many ways to enjoy Family Camp, depending on what you think is most appropriate for your family. We have packed days of fun, camp-style activities! While there is some programming designed specifically for adults or children, most activities can be enjoyed by either or both! During all our *Shabbat Chugim* (elective activities), families are encouraged to participate together. We know you want to play hockey and Gaga just as much as your kids! Or, if you'd rather have some time apart from your kids, you can feel free to hang out with other parents, take a walk around camp, take a nap in your bunk, or take advantage of our sports facilities.

Ohel Kef: Located outside the *Bet Am Gadol*, the *Ohel Kef* (fun tent) is a gathering space designed for children throughout the weekend. Sometimes there will be staff present to run games, read books, and do puzzles with children. Other times, the *Ohel Kef* is a great place for you to take your child if they need some time away from organized activities or loud spaces. Feel free to use the *Ohel Kef* as much or as little as you would like.

Running & Walking: If you intend to run or walk outside of our property, please be aware that there are dogs in the area that might not be as friendly as we are at Ramah New England! If you'd like to stay on our property, you are invited to run or walk our hiking trails behind the *K'far* - just be aware of the rugged terrain and keep an eye out for wildlife!

Security: We have security guards on site throughout the weekend. If you see them around, wave hello! If you have any concerns regarding security, please bring them to Pamela Kekst's or Michelle Sugarman's attention.

Shabbat: *Shabbat* is a very special time of the week for our *Shomer Shabbat* community, and we offer meaningful *Tefillah* experiences for all ages. Everyone is encouraged to wear *kippah* and *tallit* if it is their practice. Out of respect for this value and our community, we ask that guests refrain from using electronics, technology, writing, and turning lights on or off in public spaces.

Shmirah (nighttime babysitting): We are excited to offer *Shmirah* (nighttime babysitting/supervision) throughout the weekend! Enjoy your kid-free evenings and check out our menu of adult programming. Ramah staff will be strategically placed around camp between the hours of 9:00 pm and midnight. If you leave your bunk, take one of the provided cards and hand it to the *shomer* or *shomeret* (guard or babysitter) who is sitting near your porch. This will indicate that they should periodically check in on your children and ensure they are still sleeping. When you return, take the card back to indicate that you are in for the rest of the night, and they should no longer look after the kids.

Smoking, Illegal Substances & Firearms: As a childcare facility in the State of Massachusetts, smoking is not permitted anywhere within the boundaries of Ramah New England. Firearms, illegal substances, and related paraphernalia are not permitted on campus.

Snacks & Beverages: Snacks and beverages are always available between meals at the *O"CH* – the pavilion outside of the *Chadar Ochel* (Dining Room).

T'fillot: All participants are invited to join in daily prayer services. Times for services can be found in the Daily Schedule section of this guide. Please bring your own *tallit*, *tefillin*, and *kippah* to wear if it is your custom.

Valuables: Ramah New England is not responsible for any missing or lost items. There is a Lost & Found table in the *Chadar Ochel* (Dining Room) near the main entrance.

Ramah Family Camp

A to Z

Vehicles: The speed limit on campus is 5 mph. Please only park in the approved parking locations after you settle into your bunk. We ask that you leave your vehicle parked for the retreat duration. Guests are not permitted to drive through campus at any time.

Waterfront: Waterfront activities, such as swimming and boating, are allowed only during designated hours, while lifeguards are on duty. At other times, please enjoy the view of our *Agam* (lake) from a distance.

Wildlife: Ramah New England is fortunate to be located on almost 100 acres of nature and we share our beautiful property with a variety of local wildlife. Please keep your eyes open, particularly when walking at night, and let a member of our staff know if you spot any wildlife that could pose a threat to our guests.

Wireless Access: There is limited access to Wifi throughout camp. If you need internet connection, please let a staff member know and we will be happy to help you.

Workout Room: For safety reasons, only guests 16 and older are welcome to use our workout room, however, guests 15 and younger are welcome under supervision of their parent/guardian. It is located along the far end of the *Beit Am Gadol*. The workout room is equipped with stationary bikes, treadmills, elliptical, bench press, cross fit equipment, a multipurpose weight machine, medicine balls, gym bands, and yoga mats. Please keep all gym equipment inside the workout room.

This is by no means an exhaustive list of things to know about Family Camp! If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to let us know.

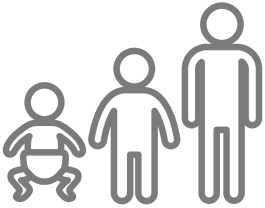




Ramah Family Camp Daily Schedule



*In the upcoming pages you will find the Daily Schedule!
Here are some tips as you navigate through it.*



Children are Divided by Age!

Over the weekend, children are divided into four groups by age. *Gan* (0 - 5 years old), *Perachim* (6 - 7), *Shemesh* (8 - 9), and *Nozitzim* (10 - 13).

Refer to the Camp Map!

Check out the Camp Map on the last page of your Program Guide to find the locations of events.

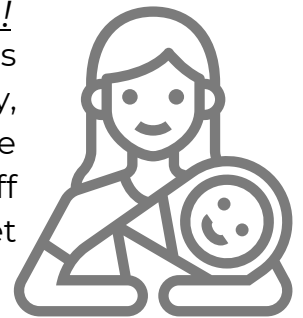


Questions? Ask us!

If you are unsure what a program is, or where or when it will be, ask a staff member. We are thrilled to help you!

A Message from Our Gan!

Our goal is to make this weekend a wonderful experience for both kids and adults! *Gan* activities are designed to give kids a great place to play, and are intended to allow everyone to have messy fun!! Parents are welcome to join children in these activities or leave them with our staff and take some well-deserved "me" time. And don't forget to come meet our *Rosh Gan*, Emma Gelb, on Friday afternoon!



Feeling Hungry?

Whether it's that mid-afternoon snack, or those middle of the night munchies! Snacks and beverages are always available between meals at the O"CH – the pavilion outside of the Chadar Ochel (Dining Room).



Ramah Family Camp Daily Schedule



Friday, May 27th

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
3pm - 5pm	Check-In Welcome to Family Camp! At check in, join us for Shabbat-o-gram making, Family Challah Braiding, or to stay, play, and eat some snacks!	O"CH (outside of the Chadar Ochel)
3:45pm - 4:30pm	Come meet our Rosh Gan, Emma Gelb	Moadon Amitzim
4:30pm	Family Portraits Smile for the camera! Photos will be printed and distributed before the end of Family Camp! Optional activity.	Chorshash (Grove)
5:30pm - 6pm	Pre-Shabbat Family Dinner Families with young children are invited to a small pre-shabbat dinner before <i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i> .	Chadar Ochel
5:45pm	Mincha Candle lighting available.	Chorshash (Grove)
6pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Ramah Style!	Chorshash (Grove)
	Kabbalat Shabbat JCA Style!	Beit Knesset (Synagogue)
6:15pm - 6:45pm	Tot Shabbat For Gesher and Shorashim aged children and their parents.	Bet Am Bet
6:45pm - 7pm	Family Camp Community All participants welcome! Meet our Family Camp community, Ramah New England Staff, and hear about important safety information for the weekend.	Chorshash (Grove)
7pm - 8pm	Shabbat Dinner Enjoy a Ramah style Shabbat dinner followed by shirah (singing).	Chadar Ochel
8pm	Peulat Erev An evening activity for Shemesh and Nozitzim	Bet Am Gadol
9pm - 12am	Shmirah Nighttime supervison/babysitting for children, see pg. 5 for details.	Tzad Bet
9pm	Adult Oneg Join us for joy, happiness, snacks and beverages!	Moadon Tzevet
9:30pm	A Twist on Bechukotai & How We Understand Mitzvot The Parasha lays out a series of rewards and punishments. How does that sit with us? How else can we understand the system of Mitzvot? Join Rabbi Mike Werbow to hear more!	Moadon Tzevet



Ramah Family Camp

Daily Schedule



Saturday, May 28th

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
7am	Early Morning Adult Jog	Meet at Bet Am Gadol
8am - 8:30am	Shabbat Breakfast	Chadar Ochel
8:30am	Edah Meetings Meet your <i>Rosh</i> after breakfast!	Meet in the Chadar Ochel
9am	Shacharit - Ramah Style Family service for kids and adults in he Bet Am Bet - Traditional service in the Beit K'nesset - Tot Shabbat for Gan kids and parents in the Ivrit Classrooms - Meditation on the Guest House back porch	Various locations
9:30am - 12:30pm	Open Play at the Gan Join for field games, baby field games, and balloon play!	Meet at Moadon Amitzim
11am	Kiddush	O"CH
11am - 12pm	Mirpa'ah (Health Center) is Open	Mirpa'ah
11:15am - 12:30pm	Shabbat Chugim and Gan Open - Ohel Kef - Hockey on the Hockey Court - Drama Games on the Bet Am Gadol Stage - Basketball and Knockout in the Bet Am Gadol - Minute to Win It in the Bet Am Bet - Soccer on Tzad Aleph Migrash - Story Time on Tzad Bet Tennis Courts - Water Play on Macheneh Gimel - Magic the Gathering card game in Sifriyah - Parachute Games on Machaneh Gimel	Various locations
12:30pm - 1pm	Shabbat Lunch	Chadar Ochel

Ramah Family Camp

Daily Schedule

Saturday, May 28th

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
2pm - 3pm	Mirpa'ah (Health Center) is Open	Mirpa'ah
2pm - 3pm	Shabbat Chugim and Gan Open <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ohel Kef - Ultimate Frisbee on Tzad Bet Migrash - Gaga in Tzad Bet Gaga Arena - Tennis on Tzad Bet Tennis Courts - Nature Walk to Treehouse, meet at the Bet Am Gadol - Water Play on Macheneh Gimel - Magic the Gathering card game in Sifriyah - Family Story Time on Tzad Bet Migrash - Reverse Talent Show on Bet Am Gadol Stage 	Various locations
2pm - 6pm	Open Play at the Gan Join in for an afternoon scavenger hunt and sensory play time!	Meet at Moadon Amitzim
3pm - 4pm	Edah Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gesher and Shorashim in Moadon Amitzim - Perachim in Tzad Bet Gaga Arena - Nozitzim at Tzad Bet Migrash - Shemesh on Tzad Bet Tennis Courts 	Various locations
	Adult Programming - Learning with Rabbi Ed Gelb Join for learning and discussion with Ramah New England CEO	Bet Am Bet
	Unblemished? Thinking about Disability Inclusion in Torah and Jewish Community How can wrestling with Torah passages about sacred service and physical perfection help us to think about the issue of disability inclusion in contemporary Jewish communities? Come join Rabbi Ben Weiner, spiritual leader of the Jewish Community of Amherst, MA, where he is working with disabled and allied community leaders on creating a culture of "Non--Exclusion."	Sifriyah
	Pick up Basketball	Bet Am Gadol
4pm - 5pm	Family Peulat Shabbat	Tzad Bet Migrash
5pm	Mincha or Rest Time	Beit K'nesset
6pm - 7pm	Seudah Shlishit	Chadar Ochel



Ramah Family Camp Daily Schedule



Saturday, May 28th

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
7pm	Kavannah Activities <i>Saying Goodbye to Shabbat!</i> - Singing at Medurah next to Bet Am Gadol - Parsha Dramatics at Tzad Bet Tennis Courts with Ravid Tilles - Fainting Goat Tag at the Tzad Bet Migrash - Yoga on Tzad Bet Migrash (be sure to bring a towel!) - Reverse Talent Show on Bet Am Gadol Stage	Various locations
8pm	Shower Time/Free Time	Various locations
9pm	Ma'ariv and Havhallah	Chorshash (Grove)
9:15pm - 12am	Shmirah	Tzad Bet
9:30pm	Medura Campfire with S'mores! Kids allowed with parent permission	Next to the Bet Am Gadol
	Trivia Night for Adults <i>Test your knowledge in a variety of categories during this spirited competition! The adult lounge is open until midnight!</i>	Moadon Tzevet

Ramah Family Camp

Daily Schedule

Sunday, May 29th

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
7am	Morning Lake Swim An invigorating way to start the day!	Tzad Aleph Agam
7:30am - 9:30am	Coffee Hut Open!	O"CH
7:30am	Shacharit Experience a Ramah-Style <i>Shacharit</i>	Bet Am Bet
8am - 8:30am	Breakfast	Chadar Ochel
8:45am	Group Photo! <i>Everyone is encouraged to join us for the Group Photo to capture the memories of the weekend!</i>	Meet outside the O"CH
9am - 10am	Mirpa'ah (Health Center) is Open	Mirpa'ah
9:15am	Edah Meetings Meet your <i>Rosh</i> after breakfast!	Meet in the Chadar Ochel
9:15pm - 1pm	Open Play at the Gan Paint with sidewalk chalk, play some parachute games, and join the bubble dance party!	Moadon Amitzim
10am - 1pm	Ohel Kef - Fun Tent is Open!	Outside Bet Am Gadol
10am - Rotation 1 11am - Rotation 2 12pm - Rotation 3	Sunday Morning Peulot (Activities) <i>Each activity is offered three times. You will receive your family's personalized Sunday Morning Activity schedule at breakfast!</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Boating at Tzad Aleph Agam - Apline Tower at Machaneh Gimel - Indoor Cooking in Ivrit Classroom - Omanut (Arts) Clinic in the Bet Am Bet Water Color, Friendship Bracelets, Fimo Art, & Fabric Decorating! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ultimate Frisbee Clinic on Tzad Bet Migrash - Basketball Clinic in Bet Am Gadol - Outdoor Cooking Clinic in the Pinat Teva (Nature Corner) - Rikud on Machaneh Gimel Migrash - Gardening Crafts in the Chorshah (Grove) - Science - Fun with Slime at the Classrooms 	Various locations



Ramah Family Camp Daily Schedule



Sunday, May 29th

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
1pm - 1:30pm	Lunch	Chadar Ochel
1pm - 2pm	Coffee Hut Open!	O"CH
	Alpine Town Open! For those who did not get a chance during the rotations	Machaneh Gimel
1:30pm	Prospective Camper Tour Learn about Ramah New England's Summer programs. Meet Day Camp Directors Rabbi Jill Levy (Greater DC) and Leora Kimmel Greene (Greater Boston). We will also offer tours of CRNE!	Meet at O"CH
2pm - 3pm	Mirpa'ah (Health Center) is Open	Mirpa'ah
2pm	Get Ready for Yom Sport (Color War)!! Go back to the bunks and get dressed up in your team color!	Bunks
2pm - 6pm	Open Play at the Gan Painting, kickball, circle time, playdough, and more!	Moadon Amitzim
2:15pm	Yom Sport Begins! Time to show your <i>Ruach</i> (spirit)! Report to your team Moadon, learn team cheers, and paint your face! - Adom (Red) in Beit K'nesset - Kachol (Blue) in Moadon Bogrim	Various locations
2:45pm	Sports! - Ohel Kef - Perachim: Kickball on the Tzad Bet Softball Field - Shemesh & Noitzim: Capture the Flag on Machaneh Gimel - Team Banner Making in the Bet Am Bet	Various locations
	Adult Programming: Good Friends, Better Enemies Join Rabbi Ravid Tillles to learn about the dramatic story about two of our great sages who discover that there can be love in hate.	Moadon Tzevet
	Adult Programming: Fly Fishing Learn the basics of Fly Fishing with our very own Chef Sean!	Tzad Aleph Agam
	Adult Programming: Climb the Alpine Tower Come and see Marc to find out what the excitement is all about!	Machaneh Gimel
3:30pm	Sports II! - Perachim: Double Dare 2000 at Bet Am Gadol - Shemesh & Noitzim: Kickball on the Tzad Bet Softball Field - Team Banner Making in the Bet Am Bet	Various locations



Ramah Family Camp Daily Schedule



Sunday, May 29th

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
3:30pm	Adult Programing: For Heaven's Sake of For the Sake of Heaven: Judaism and the Art of Disagreement <i>Maklochet</i> , or sacred argument, is a centuries old Jewish value. Join Rabbi Jill Levy and explore classic rabbinic texts and commentaries to gain practical skills for dealing with difficult conversations.	Moadon Tzevet
	Adult Programming: Boating Relax and enjoy time spent floating around the <i>Agam</i> !	Tzad Aleph Agam
	Adult Programming: Climb the Alpine Tower Come and see Marc to find out what the excitement is all about!	Machaneh Gimel
4:30pm	See, Run, Build Yom Sport for the Whole Family!	Bet Am Gadol
5:15pm	Z'man Chofshi (Free Time) and Shower Time	Various locations
6pm - 7pm	Dinner Yom Sport Winners will be Announced!	Chadar Ochel
7pm	Peulat Erev (Evening Activity) For Perachim, Shemesh, and Nozitzim	Macheneh Gimel
8pm	Z'man Chofshi (Free Time) and Shower Time	Various locations
8:30pm	Special Peulat Erev (Evening Activity) Movie night for Shemesh and Nozitzim campers!	Synagogue
9pm - 12am	Shmirah	Tzad Bet
9:30pm	Casino Night for Adults Roulette, Blackjack, Poker and more! Casino-styles hors d'oeuvres will be on hand!	Moadon Tzevet





Ramah Family Camp Daily Schedule



Monday, May 30th

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
7:20am	Shacharit Experience a Ramah-Style <i>Shacharit</i>	Beit K'nesset
7:30am - 9:30am	Coffee Hut Open!	O"CH
8am	Breakfast	Chadar Ochel
9am - 10am	Mirpa'ah (Health Center) is Open	Mirpa'ah
9am - 10am	Open Play at the Gan Last chance for free play before the Carnival!	Moadon Amitzim
9am	Edah Meetings Meet your <i>Rosh</i> after breakfast!	Meet in the Chadar Ochel
10am	Carnival!! Fun for the whole family at our annual Family Camp Carnival. Have your phones ready, there will be plenty of amazing photo opportunities!	Machaneh Gimel
12pm	Lunch	Chadar Ochel
12pm - 1pm	Coffee Hut Open!	O"CH

Lehitraot

UNTIL NEXT YEAR!



Ramah Family Camp

Special Thanks

*Thank you to our incredible session facilitators, counselors,
support staff, and year around staff. Without you,
Family Camp would not be possible!*

Sarah Binney

Counselor

Aaron Bruce

Counselor

Josh Czik

Assistant Registrar

Lauren Dembo

Counselor

Karen Dupre

Housekeeping

Josh Edelglass

Assistant Director

Samantha Edelheit

Counselor

Rena Edery

Counselor

Amy Erlanger

Counselor

Natan Fandel

Counselor

Emma Gelb

Rosh Gan

Maddie Gelfand

Support Staff

Mindy Goldstein

Director of Annual Campaign & Alumni

Karl Gran

Maintenance

Sarah Hasson

Counselor

Grace Hitchcock

Cookin' Crew

Marc Israel

Support Staff

Oren Israel

Counselor

Enrique Jimenez

Maintenance

Talya Kalender

Director of Camper Care

David Kieval

Camper Support Specialist

Joe Libera

Site and Facility Manager

Bogi Marki

Cookin' Crew

Laci Matyika

Cookin' Crew

Ken Milgram

Finance Associate

Sarah Monderer

Support Staff

Annie Mozer

Counselor

Martin Nachtigal

Cookin' Crew

Emma Neusner

Rosh Nozitzim

Jonathan Orelowitz

Counselor

Rick Pardo

Maintenance

Rhonda Parker

Development & Campaign Director

Jen Ramirez

Cookin' Crew

Keren Rhodes

JCA Partner

Scott Richter

Maintenance

Elizabeth Richter

Cookin' Crew

George Riopel

Cookin' Crew

Jason Rivera

Cookin' Crew

Noa Robinson

Counselor

Shayna Rockmore

Counselor

Sharon Rosenberg Safra

Assistant Director, D.C. Day Camp

Sarah Rosenfeld

Counselor

Ben Rosenfeld

Support Staff

Rabbi Ravid Tilles

Adult Educator

Olivia Santos

Cookin' Crew

Joey Sawicki

Maintenance

Leah Schatz

Rosh Shemesh

Marggi Shechanah

Registrar/Office Manager

Bonnie Schwartz

Tikvah Director

Ianne Sherry

Counselor

Quinn Smith

Cookin' Crew

Danny Soyer

Maintenance

Bruce Stanger

Support Staff

Naomi Stoll

Counselor

Hannah Stoll

Counselor

Tovah Tolub

Support Staff

Avi Torres

Counselor

Shari Traiger

Counselor

Rich Traiger

Cookin' Crew

Veronica Tucker

Housekeeping

Rabbi Benjamin Weiner

Adult Educator

Jonathan Weinreich

Rosh Perachim

Rabbi Mike Werbow

Adult Educator

Joshua Young

Counselor

Lisa Zelermyer

Registrar & Operations Coordinator,

D.C. Day Camp

Ramah Family Camp

Meet Our Team



Rabbi Ed Gelb
CEO

Rabbi Ed Gelb (he/him) has served as director of Camp Ramah in New England since September of 2005, and C.E.O. since October of 2018. Ed joined CRNE after a successful five-year tenure as director of Camp Alonim, which is affiliated with the Brandeis Bardin Institute in California. Raised in Wyoming, Ed is a longtime Ramahnik, having served on the staffs of Ramah California and Ramah Canada for many years. Prior to becoming director of Camp Alonim, Ed was a teacher, administrator, and basketball coach at Yeshiva University High School in Los Angeles. Ed received his ordination from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies at the University of Judaism and graduated from UCLA with a BA in History. He lives in Sharon, Massachusetts with his wife, Tami, and their children, Yoni, Emma, Tova, and Zachary.

Pamela (she/her) joined Ramah New England in 2019 after growing up at several Ramah camps and working as a Rosh Edah at Ramah Day Camp in Nyack, NY. Pamela earned her BA in Psychology from the University of Maryland, where she also minored in Jewish Studies. Pamela is currently working towards her MSW at Columbia School of Social Work as well as an MA in Jewish Professional Leadership from the Jewish Theological Seminary. She is a Nachshon Project Graduate Fellow through which she has grown her love for Jewish community. Pamela loves to read, craft, and explore NYC.



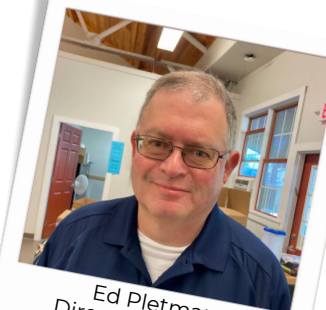
Pamela Kekst
Program Director



Michelle Sugarman
Assistant Director

Michelle Sugarman (she/her) is thrilled to be joining the Camp Ramah New England team. Originally from Scranton, PA, she was a long-time camper and staff member at Camp Ramah in the Poconos, spending 26 summers there, including 12 as the Assistant and then Associate Director. Prior to starting at Camp Ramah New England, Michelle was the Director of the North American Office of Academic Affairs of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She completed her BA in Jewish Studies and MSW at Temple University. Michelle brings with her a love of camp, a wealth of experience, and a plethora of innovative and creative ideas that will continue to make Ramah New England a leader in Jewish camping. When not watching the Eagles, Michelle is reading books, hanging out with family & friends, or watching The Office.

Ed Pletman (he/him) joined Camp Ramah New England as the Director of Finance and Operations in July 2012. Prior to that Ed worked professionally at the Director of Informal Education at the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston, the Director of Camp Tevya (Cohen Camps) and for many years at the Jewish Community Centers of Greater Boston. Ed completed his BS in Psychology at Union College and his MSW at Boston University. For many years Ed has also volunteered as a Standards Accreditation Visitor with the American Camp Association. During the offseason Ed lives in Stoughton Massachusetts.



Ed Pletman
Director Finance &
Operations

Ramah Family Camp

Meet Our Team



Rabbi Jill Levy joined the Camp Ramah in New England staff in September 2019. Rabbi Jill joined CRNE after five years as Rabbi at the Evelyn Rubenstein JCC in Houston, where she also served as Director of their largest day camp, Camp Kaleidoscope. Rabbi Jill spent three summers on staff at Ramah Darom and one summer on staff at Ramah Nyack. She received her ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary in 2011. While in rabbinical school, she was a Wexner Graduate Fellow and served as student rabbi in several different congregations. In addition, she completed a summer of clinical pastoral education at St. Luke's and Texas Children's Hospitals in Houston. Rabbi Jill also earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Washington and a Master of Public Administration from Columbia University. She currently lives in Rockville with her husband, Matt, and two daughters (and eager campers), Nava and Miri. In her free time, you can find her running or bike riding on one of the many trails in the D.C. area.

The Boston Day Camp pilot program will be led by Leora Kimmel Greene, an energetic, detail-oriented event and project manager with a deep love and commitment to Camp Ramah and the Boston Jewish community. Leora is the founder of One28 Strategic Events, and she spent 11 summers at Camp Ramah New England, including several years as part of the Camp Ramah New England year-round leadership team. She and her husband met at Camp Ramah New England in beautiful Palmer, MA, and currently live in West Roxbury with their two daughters. When the opportunity arose to join Ramah to help launch the new day camp, she could not say no. Leora says: "Selfishly, I am thrilled for my own children to have the unique Ramah experience here in Boston and see this as critical growth for the Ramah overnight experience."



Jackie Romito-Carey
Events Manager, Palmer

Born and raised in the food business, Jackie Romito-Carey believes the only way to a person's heart is through their stomach. She feels she created her dream job at Camp Ramah New England in 2021. During the summer months she works in the Chadar Ochel making sure everyone eats well, and in the off-season, she helps plan and organize special events and retreats held in Palmer. When she's not planning events, Jackie loves spending time with her family, practicing yoga, hiking, and reading.

Sean Carey has been Chef at Camp Ramah New England since 2010. A graduate of Johnson and Wales University, Sean has worked in a variety of food service operations including higher education, casinos, and fine-dining restaurants. In his free time, Sean loves fresh water and salt-water fishing, traveling the country with his wife, dog, and cat, and exploring different local cuisines everywhere he visits – next stop, flats fishing in the Everglades! Fresh Snook Tacos anyone?



Sean Carey
Chef Manager



Ramah Family Camp Summer Programs



**Ramah
Day Camp**
GREATER BOSTON

August 15th -
August 19th!

Be with us from the start! Announcing Ramah Day Camp Greater Boston. The inaugural one-week program will run August 15th - August 19th at Gann Academy with the very best Jewish camping experience. This well-rounded program will expose kids to sports, arts, outdoor education, and more! Your child is bound to come home happy, tired, and ready to share all about their day. Email leorakg@campramahne.org to learn more about this exciting new program!



**Ramah
Day Camp**
GREATER DC

June 27th -
August 12th!

At the Ramah Day Camp of Greater Washington, DC, we provide children entering grades K-5 with the very best camping experience in a setting of love, friendship, wonder and discovery, and a place where Judaism is integral to daily activities. We will offer three two-week sessions and a final add-on week. Of course, we love when families take advantage of our full summer discount and enroll their child(ren) for all 7 weeks! Email dcdaycamp@campramahne.org to learn more about our 2 week sessions and full session.



**Camp
Ramah**
NEW ENGLAND

June 28th -
August 21st!

For families who want their kids to love being Jewish, Camp Ramah is THE Jewish overnight camp! At Ramah New England, campers love being Jewish. We weave together fun and meaningful Jewish experiences with all the activities kids love – all in a welcoming, inclusive environment, where kids make life-long friends. We offer unparalleled camper care and inspiring role models. Campers have the option to come for the full summer or can take advantage of one of our 4-week sessions. We also offer a Mini-Kochavim session and a Mini-Amitzim session. Email info@campramahne.org to learn more about any of our sessions!



Ramah Family Camp Safety & Security

SAFETY & SECURITY

Ramah New England has developed comprehensive safety and security protocols in consultation with the Palmer Police Department and Security Experts and Consultants. Highlighted below are key elements of our protocols. We ask all guests to review this document at the beginning of your stay.

Every building has an emergency exit plan posted and is equipped with fire extinguishers. **PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF EMERGENCY EXITS WHENEVER YOU ENTER A BUILDING.**

Note that there is always a security officer on-site throughout the weekend.

MEDICAL EMERGENCY

A first aid kit and AED are available at the *Chadar Ochel* (Dining Room).

In the Event of a Medical Emergency:

- IMMEDIATELY DIAL 911.
- Give location, sex, and approximate age of victim and if possible, the type of emergency.
- Then alert a Ramah New England staff person of your emergency.

Stay with the injured person until help arrives. Try to calm, reassure, and stabilize the person. Never move an injured person with a suspected neck or back injury. When medical staff arrives at the scene, summarize the situation and answer questions.

FIRE

If you spot a fire:

- Leave the building and do not re-enter to remove personal property.
- IMMEDIATELY DIAL 911. Give location, and if possible, type of fire (grease, electrical, paper, etc.). Then alert a Ramah New England staff person of your emergency.
- If a phone is not accessible, sound the closest fire alarm.
- If a campus-wide fire alarm is sounded, all guests should proceed immediately to the *Machaneh Gimel* (field in between the *Bet Am Gadol* (Gym) and Alpine Tower) and remain there until the “all clear” signal has been given.
- If the fire occurs on or near *Machaneh Gimel*, all guests should proceed to the Tzad Bet field in between the B-Side Tennis Courts and Little House.

SEVERE WEATHER

Thunder and/or Lightning:

Gather your family/group and move to a safe area (large indoor facility, bunk porch or common room) until the weather has passed.

Tornado Warning:

Head immediately to one of the following designated emergency locations: Library Basement, Guest House Basement, or Bunk 80 Basement. When at location, stay away from windows. Stay at designated emergency location until the “all clear” has been given.

ACTIVE SHOOTER

- First and foremost: **EVACUATE** if at all possible, leaving the area by the quickest route available. If necessary, leave the campus grounds. Leave your belongings behind.
- Call 911 as soon as it is safe to do so.
- If you are not able to evacuate, **HIDE OUT** in an area out of the active shooter’s view. Block entry to your hiding place. If possible, lock the door. Silence your cell phone (including vibrate mode) and remain quiet.
- **TAKE ACTION** only as a last resort and only when your life is in imminent danger. Attempt to incapacitate the shooter. Act with physical aggression and throw items at the active shooter.
- When law enforcement arrives, remain calm and follow the officers’ instructions. Immediately raise hands and spread fingers. Keep your hands visible at all times. Avoid quick movements toward officers whenever possible.



CAMP RAMAH NEW ENGLAND

מחנה רמה בניו אינגלנד

