



CAMP RAMAH IN CALIFORNIA

At the Max & Pauline Zimmer Conference Center

A Journey for a Lifetime

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November 2011
Cheshvan 5772

Dear 2012 Mador/Madrega Candidate,

Hopefully you are enjoying a strong Fall season! You have already received preliminary information on our training programs, and we now invite you to apply. Please read carefully through the items contained in this packet to learn more about the training programs, summer dates (including info for LAUSD students) and the application process itself.

Two Great Tracks!!!

Camp Ramah in California provides entering high school seniors with an incredible opportunity to grow as leaders. Some participants will focus primarily on *wirj* as *madrachim* in an *עדה* (*edah*), while others will focus primarily as *moomchim* in an *ענף* (*specialty department*). Through these training programs participants gain invaluable skills that can be used in any future professional and volunteer setting. Some of these skills are important for leaders regardless of whether their work is Jewish, such as communication, problem solving, teamwork, creativity and public speaking. Other skills are specific to leadership in the Jewish community such as Hebrew language, Jewish education, *t'fillah* and Israel advocacy. This packet contains some inspiring reflections from alumni.

The opportunity to both learn and engage in hands-on professional work distinguishes Ramah's training programs from other camp leadership programs. Participation in either track includes a commitment to participate in workshops specially designed to teach the many skills listed above, and to give you the opportunity to further your own Jewish learning. In addition, each of you will be guided by a mentor (*yoetzev*) who will meet with you, both individually and in small groups, in an ongoing evaluation process aimed at continual self-reflection and improvement. You will also be directly supervised and supported both by the *rosh* of your training program and your area (*עדה* or *ענף*) supervisor.

Within the larger camp, participants in either track are expected to be a positive role model, or *דוגמה*, at all times - from *תפילות*, to meals, to late at night on *שמירה*, and all of the time in between. In addition, each program comes with specific job expectations.

The Madrega Specialist-in-Training Track

This track allows you to grow a specific skill set as you learn to work with *chanichim* as an educator and bring camp to life in a fun, engaging manner throughout the day. Many of you look back on your time at the pool, sports, art or other areas as meaningful ways to have fun in a Jewish setting, and would excel at passing these experiences on to our 2012 campers. This track is quite demanding. If accepted, you will have a wide range of responsibilities within your *ענף* (*department*), as well as within the larger camp program, while also participating in a full load of training workshops. In your specialty area you will work with a *Rosh Anaf* to set goals and design activities to enrich our campers' summer experience. Furthermore, new plans for this track will likely include a formal connection between you and a *bunk* of *chanichim* with whom you will establish a close relationship as you join in parts of their daily routine.

The Mador Madrich-in-Training Track

This program provides you with the opportunity to transform the fun you as chanichim 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. In your own bunk, you will care for the health, safety, hygiene and general well-being of chanichim as young as eight and as old as twelve. In your עדה you will plan and implement *peulot erev* and *tzrif*, תפילות and other activities.

Summer Dates

The 2012 season starts with staff training on June 13, 2012 and concludes 9-weeks later on August 15th. It is important that our staff be present from start to finish in order to properly be trained, establish relationships with their *chanichim* and improve the quality of our program from one session to the next. Applicants must therefore prioritize their time at Ramah right after their academic school year.

Applicants who are in schools that end later than the start of camp (ex: LAUSD) will participate in pre-summer training at the end of May or start of June, and will likely be expected to be onsite at some point during the June 15th – 17th weekend of Shavuah Hachanah (Staff Week). Applicants who are in schools that start before the end of camp (ex: some schools in AZ) might be able to leave a few days early. We will make every attempt to accommodate school conflicts while also preserving the quality of the Ramah experience. Please contact Zach or Amy immediately if you know about a conflict.

Application Process

Your days as a chanich at Ramah have ended, and the application process for our training program is quite competitive. Space is limited and not everyone who applies will be accepted. Therefore, we encourage you to give thought now to alternate plans you might make should this not work out. **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, Jewish minded applicants. The base application is available at www.surveymonkey.com/s/ramahmad2012, and must be submitted **no later than December 13th**. Please see the enclosed application reminders to ensure you are fully clear on the components of the application packet and the way in which acceptance decisions are made. We will inform you of the status of your application by March 7, 2012, and appreciate your patience throughout the process.

Unfortunately, we do not have enough room in the program for all the fine applicants we expect to apply. 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 2012 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,



Dr. Zach Lasker
Camp Director



Amy Mendelsohn
Program Coordinator



Rabbi Joe Menashe
Executive Director

Mador/Madrega 2012 Application Process

Our application process is very comprehensive, the following criteria will be considered in selections:

- **WRITTEN APPLICATION:** The thoughtfulness and depth of answers shared through the online application—www.surveymonkey.com/s/ramahmad2012. Please take this component seriously.
- **INTERVIEW:** The ideas and goals you share with us during an interview
- **JEWISH & LEADERSHIP INVOLVEMENT:** Your current participation in a program of Jewish study, involvement in Jewish life and visits to Israel
- **RECOMMENDATIONS** and/or reservations expressed by those who complete a recommendation on your behalf and who have recently worked with you through Ramah
- **MATURITY:** Your maturity, enthusiasm, and sensitivity
- **ONLINE PROFILE:** The content (text, photos, etc.) of your social networking, weblog or other public internet domain. Many of 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.
- **TALENTS/STRENGTHS** you demonstrate that are relevant to the job you will assume at camp

While filling out your Mador/Madrega application please be sure to send the enclosed Recommendation Forms and reply envelopes to two 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
- An individual familiar with your abilities as a leader (i.e. youth advisor, teacher, etc.)
- A staff member from any 2011 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 via our website. The forms should be submitted to our office no later than December 16, 2011.

The Ramah office will be in touch once we receive your application with information on setting up an in person or over the phone interview. Should you have any questions throughout the application process please be in touch with Zach, zach@ramah.org, or Amy, amy@ramah.org or call (310) 476-8571.

We look forward to getting to re-connecting with you during the application process!



A Summer for a Lifetime



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

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

I learned so much about how to communicate with others and how to solve problems, with both kids and co-workers. I know that I will use the skills I have gained this summer daily and in any professional setting.

- **Rachel Wolf**, Madrega 2008, New York University

Mador summer completely changed me as a person. Camp became about how I could give the chanichim that same crazy, fun, and Jewish experience that I loved about camp. It was the most rewarding and engaging summer I have ever had and the skills I gained will stick with me throughout college and the rest of my life. Being a staff member is a job. I learned how to meet deadlines, create program write-ups, and budget my time. For any job I have in the future, I can use these skills to push myself ahead and make sure I am successful.

- **Gil Chen-Zion**, Mador 2009, Columbia/JTS Freshman

The Mador program offered more than just a different perspective of camp and another amazing Ojai summer. Being a Mador also meant the start of being a young Jewish leader. Leading services, being a role model to young Jews, and being in an environment rich in knowledge and faith helped me grow into the confident Jew I am today. Knowing how old I seemed to my chanichim inspired me to make the right choices and be the best person I could be. Being this person to my wonderful chanichim required patience, listening, problem solving skills, and a sense of humor. Specifically with the youngest kids at camp, my Mador summer required me to think outside of the box and learn how to be a madricha before a friend while also balancing authority and a spunky, easy going personality.

- **Marissa Freeman**, Mador 2009, University of Washington

I learned how to pay attention to the needs of 16 little individuals, how to cater to their vocalized and their hidden concerns, desires and thoughts. I learned patience and how to truly put myself and my own needs at the bottom of a long list of others. As a counselor, you are immediately elevated to the position of parent, older sibling, teacher, role model, event planner, leader and the "coolest person" in a little kid's life I learned that the most enjoyable experience in the world is being a role model for my campers. And once you sign up, you are a role model for life. You can never quit from being a counselor.

- **Sammy Schatz**, Mador 2008, Princeton University

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

The Mador program was an essential component of my camp career, illuminating my passions, abilities, and larger goals relating to Jewish camping and informal Jewish education. Amongst so many things, I learned what it means to collaborate with a team to accomplish a common goal. I cannot convey enough how invaluable these skills for program planning and team work have been. Every day when I plan classroom lessons for students or work on school initiatives with my colleagues, I think back to the methodology, format, and ways of engagement which I learned as a Mador.

- **Jenna Metson**, Mador 2002, Columbia University School of Education

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 Senior studying Kinesiology & Neuroscience