



CAMP RAMAH IN CALIFORNIA

At the Max & Pauline Zimmer Conference Center

A Journey for a Lifetime

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ERIKA RESNICK
Program Coordinator

RABBI BRADLEY
SHAVIT ARTSON
Dean, Ziegler School of
Rabbinic Studies

"From day one of staff week, I realized that I would have to grow emotionally and mentally this summer through the training program. I know without a doubt that I came out of Kayitz 2009 a stronger person. This summer gave me the opportunity to start understanding the person I am and who I am becoming."
-2009 Mador Counselor

September 29, 2009
11 Tishrei 5770

Dear Ramah'nik:

Shalom and *chag sameach!* We hope you enjoy the Jewish holidays we are fortunate to celebrate, and that your school year is off to a good start. After time spent as a camper in Ojai you are now eligible to apply for a position in one of our two staff training programs (cue fanfare!). Applications will be sent to you in November. In the meantime, this letter provides some important information on the programs and application process so that you can decide whether or not you intend to apply.

What Are the Training Programs?

Camp Ramah offers two training programs for entering 12th graders that run from **June 16th – August 18th, 2009***:

- **Mador** – a training program for *madrachim* (counselors)
- **Madrega** – a training program for *moomchim* (specialty instructors) in sports, swim, visual/media/performing arts, Gan (day camp program for children 2 – 6 years old) and other areas

Both programs include a large amount of time in the field with our *chanichim* (campers) where you will work hard to plan fun activities aimed to increase skills/knowledge in Jewish and recreational areas. Mador and Madrega participants also enjoy workshops focused on skills in leadership, programming, problem solving and youth development, along with opportunities for adult-level Jewish learning. Applicants must be prepared to focus equally on work and learning.

Please note, applicants can apply to both programs and multiple positions, but will ultimately be offered the position Ramah feels is best suited for your strengths.

**If you attend a public school that does not end until the week of June 21, 2010 you are still invited to apply. You will be required to participate in at least one mandatory pre-summer training workshop, and to be in residence during the weekend of our staff training week from June 18 – 20th.*

Why Apply?

"I learned so much about how to communicate with others and how to solve problems, with both kids and co-workers. I know I will use the skills I have gained daily and in any professional setting."
-2008 Madrega Staff Member

Joining Camp Ramah as a staff member through a training program is an outstanding opportunity to grow skills that will last you a lifetime in professional and personal environments. After a summer in these programs, many participants report using their experiences as the foundation for college essays, in building a resume and at interviews. When surveyed, last year's participants listed the following skills gained: patience, communication, organization, responsibility, time management, problem-solving, program planning and creativity. These are valuable skills to be used when you transition to college or any other professional environment.

Mador and Madrega also provide an excellent way for you to continue on your own Jewish journey. Those hired are engaged in Jewish learning with Ramah senior staff members, scholars and rabbis-in-residence and through the great thoughts and revelations from *chanichim*. Plus, these programs offer you a way to give back to the Jewish community in which you were raised.

Application Process

The application process to these programs can be quite competitive, as we always receive more applications than we have jobs. Applications will be mailed out in November. Applicants respond in writing to questions, submit letters of recommendation and participate in a group and individual interview. Also reviewed is your participation in past Ramah programs and other Jewish communities in which you might be active.

It is up to you, not your parents or guardians, to steward the application process.

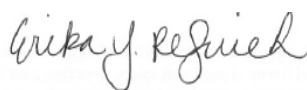
In order to demonstrate that you are ready for a summer caring for children, you must guide yourself through this process. Therefore, if you have questions about these two programs please phone Zach Lasker in our office directly or e-mail him at zach@ramah.org.

At the end of the 2009 summer one Mador staff member commented, "This summer was an amazing experience that I'm thankful for and deeply appreciate." Another stated, "I feel that I went from being a boy into a young man." The Mador/Madrega year is the first of many summers we hope to work together. *B'hatzlacha* with everything until we meet at the interview.

B'shalom,



Zach Lasker
Camp Director



Erika Resnick
Program Director