



NATIONAL RAMAH TIKVAH NETWORK PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN, TEENS, AND YOUNG ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Ramah Camping Movement is a pioneer in the field of inclusion for Jewish campers with a wide range of disabilities. Since the first Ramah Tikvah program opened in 1970, a variety of programs for campers with disabilities—overnight and day camp programs, vocational education programs, and family camps and retreats—now operate in Ramah camps across North America. *For additional information, please visit www.campramah.org or call contact Howard Blas, National Ramah Tikvah Network Director, at howard@campramah.org or 413.374.7210.*

OVERNIGHT CAMP PROGRAMS

Camp Ramah in the Berkshires (Wingdale, NY) • www.ramahberkshires.org

Breira B’Ramah is a four-week inclusion program for campers with mild to moderate learning, social or emotional challenges, such as ADHD, high-functioning autism, pragmatic, receptive and expressive language issues, and anxiety. This program is designed for campers entering fourth through seventh grades, although once a camper is accepted into the program and reaches eighth grade, a recommendation may be made that a camper stay for the full summer. Campers live in bunks with typical campers and are integrated into all activities, guided by dedicated, trained staff. Campers in the Breira program receive assistance in the areas of social skills, conflict resolution, communication, and frustration tolerance as well as support with organizational and sensory challenges.

Contact Rabbi Ethan Linden, Director, at breirabramah@ramahberkshires.org or 201.871.7262.

Camp Ramah in California (Ojai, CA) • www.ramah.org

The **Tikvah Program** serves children, teens, and young adults ages 10-23 with learning, emotional, and developmental disabilities. The **Amitzim** edah is for campers ages 10-17 and consists of two four-week sessions. Amitzim-ers participate in all camp activities and are included with their typical peers throughout the day. Program goals include teaching independent living skills and modeling appropriate peer relationships.

Contact Elana Naftalin-Kelman, Tikvah Director, at tikvah@ramah.org or 310.476.8571.

Camp Ramah in Canada (Utterson, ON) • www.campramah.com

The **Tikvah Program** is a six-week program for teens with developmental disabilities, ages 12-21. The program provides recreational, social, and educational experiences for campers. Campers in the Tikvah program enjoy swimming, hiking, sports, and arts and crafts, and also attend daily services, study Hebrew, and learn Jewish customs. Each camper is integrated into the ongoing activities of the camp according to his or her abilities.

Contact Casey Green or Adam Green, Tikvah Directors, at tikvahprogram@gmail.com or 416.789.2193.

Camp Ramah Darom (Clayton, GA) • www.ramahdarom.org

The **Tikvah Program** offers two four-week sessions for adolescents ages 12-17. Tikvah at Ramah Darom is the first program in the Southeast focused on providing a traditional and immersive Jewish summer camping experience to Jewish teenagers diagnosed with social and communication difficulties such as autism spectrum disorder, social anxiety, PDD, Asperger's Syndrome, and non-verbal learning disorders. Campers

will participate in camp activities such as sports, swimming, arts, boating, ropes course, and campfires, all within the warm environment of Camp Ramah Darom. The Tikvah program is designed to help campers build friendships, develop their social skills, and broaden their independent living abilities.

Contact Audra Kaplan, Tikvah Director, at akaplan@ramahdarom.org or 404.531.0801 x977.

Camp Ramah in New England (Palmer, MA) • www.campramahne.org

The **Tikvah Program** serves children, teens, and young adults ages 10-23. **Amitzim** is an eight-week overnight camping program serving 13- to 18-year-olds with a wide range of disabilities, including developmental and intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorders, and neurological impairments. Amitzim campers live in accessible bunks with specially trained counselors and participate in an extensive camping program with numerous formal and informal opportunities for inclusion. The **Inclusion** program is for camper-age children with disabilities who live in and participate in the daily activities of a typical bunk. Inclusion campers receive additional support and participate in the full range of camp activities.

Contact Bonnie Schwartz, Tikvah Director, at bonnies@campramahne.org or 781.400.0204.

Camp Ramah in Northern California (Monterey Bay, CA) • www.ramahnorcal.org

Camp Ramah in Northern California will open for its inaugural summer in 2016. The **Tikvah Program** is a one-week program for campers with mild to moderate intellectual and developmental disabilities. Campers in the Tikvah program experience the joy and magic of Camp Ramah and are included in all camp activities including the three specialty tracks: performing arts, ocean exploration, and adventure sports.

Contact Rabbi Sarah Shulman, Camp Director, at sarah@ramahnorcal.org or 415. 688.4572.

Camp Ramah in the Poconos (Lakewood, PA) • www.ramahpoconos.org

The new **Tikvah Residential Program** at Ramah Poconos will open for a four-week session in summer 2016, along with a two-week **Taste of Tikvah** program. The addition of these two new programs, combined with the Tikvah track at Ramah Day Camp and the Tikvah Family Camp, means that Camp Ramah in the Poconos will now offer a continuum of experiences for children and families with special needs.

Contact Orlee Krass, Tikvah Director, at orleek@ramahpoconos.org or 215.885.8556.

Ramah in the Rockies (Deckers, CO) • www.ramahoutdoors.org

The two-week **Tikvah Program** serves adolescents ages 11-17 with mild to moderate intellectual and developmental disabilities, including Asperger's Syndrome and other autism spectrum disorders. Campers in the Tikvah Program receive staff support as needed and participate with their typically developing peers in all activities that Ramah Rockies offers. Activities include horseback riding, Jewish learning, rock climbing, wilderness survival, arts and crafts, agriculture, sports, aerobics, and mining as well as meals, activities, evening programs, and Shabbat services. In addition, campers in the Tikvah program go on a two-night *masa* (excursion) and a day trip. Ramah Rockies offers an inclusion track to campers who, with staff support, are able to be fully integrated into both the base camp and *masa* program.

Contact Elyssa Hammerman at tikvah@ramahoutdoors.org or 303.261.8214.

Camp Ramah in Wisconsin (Conover, WI) • www.ramahwisconsin.com

The **Tikvah Program** provides inclusion opportunities for children ages 11-18 with learning, social, and communication difficulties, including those who are higher functioning on the autism spectrum. Tikvah provides all the opportunities of the Ramah experience with additional staffing and support. Through individualized programming and supported by highly skilled staff, teens in the Tikvah program develop friendships, have fun, and learn in formal and informal Jewish settings. There is an introductory four-week program, "Taste of Tikvah," as well as the full eight-week session.

Contact Jacob Cytryn, Director, at jcytryn@ramahwisconsin.com or 312.606.9316 x221.

DAY CAMP PROGRAMS

Ramah Day Camp (Wheeling, IL - Chicago area) • www.ramahday.com

In partnership with **Keshet**, a Chicago-area program for Jewish children with special needs, **Ramah Day Camp** hosts a day camp experience for children ages 5-11 with a wide range of disabilities. Campers enroll through Keshet, but are fully integrated with Ramah campers. Children may attend camp for a four-week or eight-week session.

Contact Lori Stark, Director, at director@ramahday.com or 312.606.0444.

Ramah Day Camp in Nyack (NY) • www.ramahnyack.org

Ramah Day Camp in Nyack is committed to the value of inclusion, founded in the Jewish ideal that teaches that we are all created *B'tzelem Elohim*, in God's image. Campers with disabilities follow the regular camp schedule with support and accommodations as needed. Ramah Nyack has a camper care team on staff led by a school psychologist and a social worker who work closely with camp staff to provide the needed support to all campers. Enrollment of campers with disabilities is made on an individual basis to ensure that children can successfully be accommodated in the program.

Contact Rabbi Ami Hersh, Associate Director, at ami@ramahnyack.org or 212.678.8884.

Ramah Day Camp (Elkins Park, PA - Philadelphia area) • www.ramahdaycamp.org

Ramah Day Camp is committed to providing a Jewish summer camp experience for campers ages 4-13 with social and developmental disabilities such as autism spectrum disorders, ADHD, learning and processing differences, and anxiety disorders. Campers with disabilities follow the regular camp schedule with their peer group with support and accommodations as needed. Working in partnership with Laura Evak, M.A./CCC-SLP speech language pathologist from Communications Imaging, Ramah Day Camp's camper care team consists of educators, special educators, and psychologists who work closely with camp staff to provide the needed support and accommodations to all campers. These supports include social stories, picture schedules, behavior incentive plans and modeling. We maintain ongoing and consistent communication with the parents as an integral part of our team. Goals for each camper come from parent input and existing IEP information. Enrollment of campers with disabilities is made on an individual basis to ensure that children can successfully be accommodated in the program.

Contact Elana Rivel, Director, at elanar@ramahpoconos.org or Eileen Graub, Assistant Director, at eileeng@ramahpoconos.org or 215.885.8556.

Ramah Day Camp of Greater Washington, D.C. (Germantown, MD) • www.ramahdcdcamp.org

In keeping with Camp Ramah in New England's longstanding commitment to inclusion, the **Ramah Day Camp of Greater Washington** will work with families on a case-by-case basis to accommodate campers with disabilities. Enrollment of campers with disabilities is made on an individual basis to ensure that we can successfully accommodate the child within the camp program. As the day camp grows in years to come, we are committed to expanding opportunities for campers with disabilities.

Contact Sharon Safra, Assistant Director, at dcdcamp@campramahne.org or 301.500.8251.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Camp Ramah in California (Ojai, CA) • www.ramah.org

Ezra is a vocational training program for young adults ages 18-23. Participants are staff at camp and receive job training experience in a number of service areas both in and outside of camp. Program goals include preparing young adults for independent living and teaching them employment-related skills. Camp provides an ideal setting for participants in the Ezra program to grow and thrive with peers under adult supervision in a Jewish setting.

Contact Elana Naftalin-Kelman, Tikvah Director, at tikvah@ramah.org or 310.476.8571.

Camp Ramah in Canada (Utterson, ON) • www.campramah.com

The **Tikvah Program**, which provides recreational, social, and educational experiences for children and teens with developmental disabilities, includes a vocational education component for young adults ages 18-21.

Contact Casey Green or Adam Green, Tikvah Directors, at tikvahprogram@gmail.com or 416.789.2193.

Camp Ramah in New England (Palmer, MA) • www.campramahne.org

Tochnit Avodah (“Voc Ed”) offers vocational training, socialization and a group living experience to young adults with disabilities. Through close communication with participants’ parents and year-round support professionals, a summer program is individualized for each participant’s needs, focusing on goals in the areas of social skills, job skills, and independent living skills. The camp also offers summer employment with necessary supports to a select group of graduates of Tochnit Avodah.

Contact Bonnie Schwartz, Tikvah Director, at bonnies@campramahne.org or 781.400.0204.

Camp Ramah in Wisconsin (Conover, WI) • www.ramahwisconsin.com

Atzmayim (Hebrew for “independent”), the Tikvah Vocational Program, is designed to strengthen social and vocational skills in participants who are high school graduates ages 18-21. It is intended to assist in transitioning to an independent living environment such as a college campus or developing the ability to select and engage in leisure activities at home.

Contact Jacob Cytryn, Director, at jcytryn@ramahwisconsin.com or 312.606.9316 x221.

FAMILY CAMPS AND RETREATS

Camp Ramah in California (Ojai, CA) • www.ramah.org

Camp Ohr Lanu is a week-long camp for families who have children with disabilities. Families come to camp to experience support from other families, get respite, and learn, while enjoying activities such as swimming, hiking, sports, and climbing.

Contact Elana Naftalin-Kelman, Tikvah Director, at tikvah@ramah.org or 310.476.8571.

Camp Ramah Darom (Clayton, GA) • www.ramahdarom.org

Camp Yofi is a nationally acclaimed program for Jewish families with children with autism spectrum disorder between the ages of 6 and 13. Camp Yofi is open to all Jewish families; siblings and grandparents are welcome. The program is held at Ramah Darom’s Kaplan Mitchell Retreat & Conference Center, a 122-acre facility in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Contact Susan Tecktiel, Camp Yofi Director, at campyofi@ramahdarom.org or 404.531.0801.

Camp Ramah in New England (Palmer, MA) • www.campramahne.org

The **Tikvah Family Shabbaton** is a “Taste of Tikvah” for the entire family, and includes programming designed specifically for parents, children with disabilities, and their typically-developing siblings. This creates a unique, supportive community where everyone is not only accepted, but truly celebrated.

Contact Bonnie Schwartz, Tikvah Director, at bonnies@campramahne.org or 781.400.0204.

Camp Ramah in the Poconos (Lakewood, PA) • www.ramahpoconos.org

The **Tikvah Family Camp** is a five-day overnight program for families with children ages 4-13 with developmental disabilities and/or social learning disabilities. This program incorporates Jewish learning, recreation, spiritual reflection, and fun in the beautiful natural environment of Ramah Poconos.

Contact Adena Sternthal, Family Camp Director, at tikvahfamilycamp@ramahpoconos.org or 267.648.5211.