

CAMPING

It's Not Too Early to Think about Summer Camp

Summer Camp: A child's Shangra La. A place to learn, grow, make friends and have fun. Simply put — an experience of a lifetime for a child.

Over the years, the camp industry has grown to new heights. Children from all over the world spend their summers in American camps. The number of camps to choose from can be overwhelming to a parent. They look for help. The dual-career household, the modern American family, can no longer provide the care and recreational needs of their children to fill the long, hot days of summer after the last 3 o'clock bell has rung

in June. They seek a viable alternative — summer camp.

A good camp, whether it be a day camp, a sleepaway, travel camp, or a wilderness program, has the potential to offer a child many positive and rewarding experiences. A camp experience can be fun, healthy, relaxing, and an opportunity to develop skills, whether they be athletic or interpersonal. It offers youngsters a chance to become more responsible and independent. Consequently, because a camp experience may have a significant impact on a child's life, it is important for parents to learn how to make a well

considered decision when choosing a camp.

Basic considerations are those of your child's needs, interests, goals and expectations, as well as your own. Then think about the type of camp and the size of the camp. Another thing to consider is the location, but more important than distance are questions involving environment, security, medical facilities and accessibility. Important also are the programs and activities offered by the camp. Another consideration is the cost; take time to think about what you can reasonably afford.

Think of a good camp experience as a long-term investment; your child could take away many benefits that may stay with him/her throughout his/her life.

The Charlotte Jewish Community Center offers "the best" in a variety of day camps for every age group plus a wilderness camp and teen travel camp. Besides the excellent out-of-town camps advertised on this page, there are many others which might fit your needs. For more information on camps call The National Camp Association, 1-800-966-2267.

Prepare yourself for the best summer ever! We had new and exciting programs last summer and this summer we have even more to offer.

Every camp we offered last summer will be back for the 1991 season. We are adding Camp Tinok, Camp Yameeya and Wilderness Camp. **Camp Tinok** is a camp for 2-year-olds. This camp will provide our youngest camper with a sample of the things to come as they progress through the years with the JCC Camps. **Camp Yameeya** is a

camp for fourth through tenth graders. This camp is a waterfront/boating camp. We will be using the Davidson College waterfront site at Lake Norman. Each week our campers will be introduced to a new small craft. **Wilderness Camp** is for seventh through ninth grade students. This camp is for the outdoor enthusiasts. Learn how to enjoy the outdoors as a safe, unimposing and beautiful environment. We are anxious to begin our summer programs and look forward to seeing you at camp this summer.

JCC Summer Wilderness Camp

What could be better than sitting around a campfire, breathing fresh, crisp air, and listening to a creek slowly trickle in the night air? How about 2 weeks worth! The JCC summer camp is offering a two-week camping program beginning Monday, July 29 and ending Friday, August 9.

The first week of camp will include outdoor awareness and educational seminars from the United States Forestry Service and the Fish and Game Service; the second week of camp will be

a four-night, five-day camping trip in one of North Carolina's national forests.

Jay Snyder, the JCC Health & Physical Education Director, will be directing this camp. Jay has experience leading backpacking trips for children and adults in the White Mountains of New Hampshire and North Carolina's Cherokee National Forest.

For more information about the summer wilderness camp contact Nina Arten at the "J," 366-5007.

Camp: A Jewish Phenomenon

By Jeffrey Solomon
Executive Director, NCA

Summer camp brings to mind many things — wood, mountains, hiking, swimming and outdoor life. It has become an important source of enjoyment and recreation for a great many children.

Surprisingly, organized summer camp can trace its roots to the immigration of Jews to urban America. The concentrated areas of Jewish population, the first "ghettos," offered little in the way of recreation for children. Jewish families felt the need to provide an alternative for their children during the summer months where two major objectives could be achieved — to have fun in a safe, recreational environment and to perpetuate the Jewish faith and culture. A parcel of land on a shimmering lake nestled in the forested mountains of the Catskills was purchased. Several cabins, not dissimilar to those early pioneers lived in, were built. A boat, a bat and ball, a fishing rod, and thus, the first summer camp was born.

Since its inception, camp has remained the same in many ways and has evolved in many exciting

ways. Programs have expanded into specialty camps, and teen and travel programs. Besides recreational programs, there are programs for learning disabled, mentally retarded, and weight loss. There are academic programs, some of which take place on college campuses. As the settings and activities vary from camp to camp, so do philosophies. Varying degrees of competitiveness, religion and other perspectives are as diverse as the society in which we live.

As camp has evolved, so has the population it serves. The great predominance of camps today are non-sectarian, attracting children of all faiths; however, a disproportionate number of these camps are Jewish owned and Jewish populated, suggesting that what began as a Jewish phenomenon is still a Jewish phenomenon.

Editor's note: Jeffrey Solomon, executive director of the National Camp Association, began his career in camping as, what else...a camper. He has a Master's Degree in Social Work and a wealth of experience working as a counselor, teacher and administrator of summer and year-round programs.

CAMP GAN ISRAEL—See page 11

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Teen Travel Camp New England Here We Come!

The JCC is excited to announce the Teen Travel Camps program for the summer of 1991. Three sessions of travel camp will be offered for teens entering grades 7-10. The Mobil Unit will make up the first two sessions starting on June 17. Each session will be three weeks in length. These camps will include day trips to sights in the Charlotte and surrounding areas. Some trips may include the Emerald Point Water Park, Carowinds, Discovery Place and the North Carolina Zoological Park.

On Monday, July 29, we will head out on our long distance

trip, the New England Clippers. This two-week trip will take us as far north as Boston. The current tentative trip will be from Charlotte to Richmond, on to New York City and then to Boston. From Boston we will be returning through Cherry Hill, NJ and Philadelphia and then through Washington before returning home on Sunday, August 11.

Watch for further details concerning the Teen Travel Camps or call Shelah Mendelson, director of Teen Travel Camps, 366-5007.

1991 JCC Summer Camp Programs



Camp Tinok Age 2
Camp Katan Age 3,4 (5 optional)
Camp Maccabee Grades K-3
Camp Ruach (sports) Grades 2 and 3
Camp Chai (Lifetime Sports) Grades 4-6
Camp Harpatkah (Adventure) Grades 4-6
Camp Yameeya (Waterfront/Boating) Grades 4-6, 7-8, 9-10
Chaverim Computer Camp Grades 2-6
Gifted and Talented Camps Grades 1-6
Wilderness Camp Grades 7-9
Teen Travel Camps Grades 7-10

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