

Ramah-NOAM Summer Camp

Jewish summer camp experiences are among the best ways to build Jewish identity and cultivate a generation of Jewish leaders. The **Ramah-NOAM Summer Camp** is the only overnight summer camp in Israel that emphasises religious pluralism.



Founded in 1988 by the Masorti Movement's youth branch NOAM (*No'ar Masorti* – Masorti youth), the programme is a camping experience for Years 8 to 11, with additional programmes including: the Bereshit Hands-On Training Programme for Year 12, the shorter camping programmes: Mahanon for Year 6 and Nitzanim for Year 7, the Netaim special needs education programme, and the Ma'ayan vocational programme for young adults with special needs.

Religious Pluralism in Action

Campers arrive from a broad spectrum of Israeli society, making Ramah-NOAM a unique Masorti experience. The "kehilla" formed at camp is a playful and creative living environment with learning opportunities to build self-confidence and a strong Israeli identity. The camp also provides for the older NOAM members to take part in leadership training courses while meeting peers from abroad, including the from the UK.

The camp day includes educational programmes, *tikkun olam* volunteer work, sports and other leisure activities such as

swimming, fencing, dance, photography, cooking, arts & crafts, music, archery, and hiking. Campers participate in daily *tefillot* and *midrash* (study) sessions. Shabbat is a spiritual experience from candle lighting to havdalla, in the special NOAM spirit.

The NOAM director, rabbi and senior staff oversee the programming run by the junior youth leaders. Guest Masorti rabbis and other visitors enrich the spiritual and educational aspects of the camp. TaMaR (*tefilla*, *midrash*, and *ru'ach* - prayer, study and atmosphere) staff are responsible for adding an experiential dimension to the religious aspects of camp, raising the campers' confidence in these areas.

Ramah-NOAM Scholarship Scheme

The Ramah-NOAM Scholarship Scheme provides an automatic subsidy for all children, as the price we charge for the camp is lower than the actual cost. Nevertheless, as many families are still unable to pay this "reduced" price, the scheme offers further scholarships to the more needy families, ensuring that all children who wish can attend camp.



Budget

The 2009 budget for Ramah-NOAM is CA\$375,000. This is a marked decrease on previous years, due to the global economic crisis, which led us to shorten the length of camp and make other cuts. Amounts raised above this will allow more children to attend camp.

“דרכיה דרכי נועם”

(משלי ג', י"ז)