

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Sha'ar Philadelphia: A Hebrew Immersion Program

Q: *What is Sha'ar Philadelphia?*

A: *Sha'ar* Philadelphia is a Hebrew language immersion program at Ramah Day Camp. All aspects of the camp day will be conducted in Hebrew, giving the children an opportunity to gain proficiency as they participate in the myriad activities--swim, sports, arts and crafts, and more--that make the camp day so magical!

Q: *Can my child attend for one session only?*

A: In order to get the most from this immersive Hebrew experience, children must attend either the six-week session or the full camp season. Please call our office to discuss your specific situation further.

Q: *My child doesn't know any Hebrew. Can s/he participate?*

A: Yes! The program will include children at all ability levels. Your child can be a *Sha'ar* camper whether s/he knows only a word or two or s/he has already been in a Hebrew pre-school or kindergarten environment.

Q: *How will you determine who can participate?*

A: Anyone who is interested should complete the online interest form ([click here to access the form](#)). Once the general camp application is completed, along with the interest form, the *Sha'ar* Director or Ramah Day Camp Director will call for a follow up conversation and interview with your child.

Q: *Is there an additional fee for participating in Sha'ar Philadelphia?*

A: *Sha'ar* Philadelphia will have its own *Rosh Edah* (division head), a higher staff/child ratio and specialized training for the *Sha'ar* staff in order to ensure the most effective program. Therefore, there is an additional fee of \$250. **Please note, if you are applying for financial aid, this additional fee will be factored into your tuition and your award.*

Q: *What does Sha'ar mean?*

A: The word *Sha'ar* serves as an acronym for the Hebrew words "*Sfat Ivrit b'Ramah*" (Hebrew language at Ramah) and means "gate" or "portal." Talented Israeli and American counselors will be leading the way as these campers go forth--playing, running, singing, sliding, and scoring, *hakol b'ivrit* (all in Hebrew)!

Q: Who will be running this program?

Gili Bitan will be our *Rosh Sha'ar* (Sha'ar Director). In addition to working at Ramah Day Camp, Gili has taught in numerous area preschools and religious schools bringing Hebrew, Israel and Judaism to life. Working closely with Elana and with a network of camp professionals around the country, Gili will nurture the development of the **Sha'ar Philadelphia** program, bringing it to fruition this summer.

Q: I still have some questions. How can I find out more?

A: We suggest that you register your child if you think that s/he is likely to attend, as space is limited. If you have any pressing concerns or questions, you may email or call Elana Rivel, Director at elanar@ramahpoconos.org or 215.885.8556.