

THE  
TOP 10

# Jewish Summer Camps

by Gary Drevitch

FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY, SLEEPAWAY CAMP HAS GIVEN JEWISH CHILDREN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES. HERE ARE 10 GREAT CAMPS, PLUS ADVICE ON PICKING THE RIGHT ONE



**S** CROLL THROUGH [WWW.RAMAH.ORG](http://WWW.RAMAH.ORG) AND YOU'LL find the names of 300 married couples who met as campers or counselors at one of the seven Ramah camps in the United States. Similar lists decorate the dining hall walls of Jewish camps nationwide—evidence, says Jerry Silverman, president of the Foundation for Jewish Camping, that “Camp is the best insurance policy available for parents who care about their children’s Jewish identification.”

Here, *Jewish Living* presents 10 terrific Jewish sleep-away camps, those that best combine a summer of fun with

strong reinforcement of religious and cultural identity. We compiled the list (in alphabetical order) after consulting with camp professionals as well as youth group, Hebrew school, and synagogue leaders, plus camp alumni. Our sources directed us to far more than 10, but we went with these because they represent every region of the country (and Canada) and the full spectrum of Jewish denominations. Each offers what one expects from a summer camp: swimming, obstacle courses, camp songs, and Shabbat services. What sets them apart are their different philosophies and approaches to instilling a love of Judaism. »

