

SUMMER PROGRAMS PRESS KIT

KALLAH

PITCH: This is your ideal place to discover your Jewish Identity and the Judaic bond that connects you to thousands of Jews around the world. Unmask the vast spectrum of Jewish thought, ritual, and culture by learning from top educators and Rabbis in a caring community that respects pluralism and the many different expressions of contemporary Judaism.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- Explore Judaism's perspective on real-life issues that affect you.
- Attend seminars and engage with some of the most prominent Jewish leaders and thinkers.
- Participate in Israeli song and dance, creative and dramatic arts and more.

PROGRAM CONTENT:

Leadership Training at Kallah

Although the principal focus of Kallah is found in its Judaism courses, you will experience an intensive leadership-training program as well. Kallah centers on the development of a knowledgeable Jewish identity as a vital component in assuming a leadership role in the Jewish community today. Kallah graduates become key programmatic resources back home. The leadership emphasis at Kallah is on the responsibility of a leader in the Jewish world to be informed on Israel, on techniques of programming, and on practicing responsible leadership behavior.

Taking Kallah home is a difficult task, and to expect you to recreate that feeling at a local program is impossible. However, there are many things we do expect Kallah participants to take home, such as: recognition of the Jewish communal professionals in your community. We also expect you to gain the basic knowledge and to share with others an understanding of new aspects, rituals, and ideas, and above all - a commitment to Judaic programming as an integral part of the BBYO experience.

Judaic Education at Kallah

The Kallah philosophy is based on the idea that to be a Jewish leader you need to:

- Have a basic understanding and knowledge of Jewish vocabulary, Jewish readings, and Jewish history and rituals
- Understand that at the core of one's Jewish beliefs is one's personal Jewish values and ethics
- Develop specific skills to become a more effective leader in the Jewish community by having a clear sense of how Judaism fits in your life.

Classes with the Rabbis and our Jewish educators

One of the most exciting aspects of Kallah is the opportunity to study and live with a team of rabbis and Judaic educators representing major movements in Jewish life today. You will attend classes with our staff who teach Judaism from various perspectives. You may find yourself planting flowers alongside a rabbi, seeking out some individual time with an educator to talk about your own thoughts, or chatting over dinner about Jews and baseball. By the end of Kallah, you will count these educators on staff amongst your Kallah friends.

Jewish Literacy and Knowledge

During Kallah you will have the opportunity to learn from a variety of Jewish readings and texts, and relate them to your every day life experiences. Also, discussions will be organized around different Jewish concepts, such as the difference between Tzedakah and charity.

Zionism

Another feature of Kallah is a multi-session look at Israel and you. As a leader in the Jewish community, you'll be challenged to define your relationship to the Jewish homeland. Israel-focused programs will raise questions on history, identity, politics, and religion. Zionism at Kallah includes both class sessions and special-event programming.

Jewish Life Cycle

We have sessions on customs and ceremonies regarding birth, bar/bat mitzvah, and marriage, as well as the traditions and customs regarding death and comforting mourners. When someone in our own Kallah community celebrates a real life cycle event it is cause for a real "simcha" (happiness) for the whole community. For those who choose to become B'nai Mitzvah at Kallah, we plan for anyone and everyone who wants to participate.

Jewish Values

At the core of one's Jewish beliefs are one's personal Jewish values and ethics. Each day, we will explore different value and Jewish concepts, which will be integrated into the daily life at Kallah. These values may be compiled into an attitude/value guide to be given as a resource at the end of the program.

Song and Dance

A spirit and enthusiasm for Jewish life can be created through music and dance. During Kallah, you'll participate in Shira (singing) and Rikkud (dance) sessions. We begin with the promise that every single person can dance and every single person can sing, no matter what his/her self-evaluation. You'll have a chance to dance in the evenings after sessions and programs during "Rikkudim". During Shira, you will learn a repertoire of Israeli and American contemporary/folk songs, as well as new melodies for Shabbat, including the study "Niggunim" (songs with words only). Our hope is that you'll bring home a storehouse of new songs and dances and that you'll serve as a resource on chapter, council and regional levels. Shira and Rikkud are treated as seriously as our education programs and 100% participation is expected.

Creative Arts

We expect to have groups in Song Workshops, Dance, Choral Music, and Visual Arts. Other groups may include Yearbook, Creative Writing, Ceramics, Painting, Calligraphy, Video, the Camp Art project, and Newspaper. Part of our goal in the Creative Arts component of Kallah is to challenge the development of personal resources, to broaden horizons by doing things you've never done before, and to achieve excellence as part of a group effort, in addition to creating connections between art and Judaism. Final projects will be presented at the end of the program at Café Kallah.

Planning Groups

Participants meet together several times a week to form planning groups during Kallah. These groups are responsible for preparing for Shabbat (Friday night services, Sat. morning service, Havdallah, Shabbat atmosphere, D'var Torah, Shabbat Chofesh activities, Menorah lighting, Avoda).

Fun

Time for recreation, relaxation and fun is built into our schedule. This includes both organized athletic programs and informal activities during free time. The facilities at B'nai B'rith Perlman Camp that are available include swimming, canoeing, boating, baseball, volleyball, basketball, tennis, etc. We share these facilities with the staff and campers of Perlman Camp, so a detailed schedule will be announced. Make sure you bring your personal sports equipment such as tennis rackets, bats, gloves, softball, and tennis balls if you wish to play. Occasionally, special recreation and programs are planned for the evenings. Most days end with folk dancing, snacks and singing. We have arranged access to the waterfront and have planned several all-day programs that are active and spirited.

Bookstore

Over the course of Kallah's history, we have operated a Jewish bookstore where we also stock a variety of leadership titles and social issue reading. The bookstore is open during reading hour and Chofesh (free time). You are of course welcome to browse and shop. Your textbooks (not every class requires a text) for classes are ordered through the bookstore. However, you will probably want to make purchases from our huge selection of books at substantial discounts. It is our hope that you will begin a personal Jewish library or add to the one that you already have. While the bookstore will continue to exist at Perlman; we will be transitioning to a web-based bookstore over the coming summers. We may not have all of the titles you are looking for on hand, but we will carry quite a number of books and all else will be available via internet and will be sent directly to your house. Please make sure that you bring both cash as well as some type of credit or debit card to order any books you may want throughout the program. Each day when the bookstore is open, there will be a staff person available to help you with your questions and your purchase.

Shabbat

Shabbat is always special at camp. It is a day of rest and self-reflection in more ways than one. It's the one-day we take it easy, get up late, relax, pray, study, meditate, and enjoy the day of rest. Friday night and Shabbat morning feature services created by planning groups. On Friday nights we have a wonderful Shira session, followed by stories or outdoor meditation. Following services on Shabbat morning, Shabbat electives, informal study, or (occasionally) special programs are offered. We will encourage participants to offer Shabbat electives of their own. Shabbat afternoon is totally free! On Saturday evening, Motz'ei Shabbat, we will mark the end of Shabbat and the beginning of the new week with Havdallah services.

LOCATION: B'nai B'rith Perlman Camp- Kallah takes place in our own leadership village on the grounds of B'nai B'rith Perlman Camp in Lake Como, PA. The Pocono Mountains are a magnificent setting for this multi-purpose institution, which honors Anita and Louis Perlman. Various B'nai B'rith agencies and lodges use the camp for summer conferences or activities, and our programs are known within the B'nai B'rith family for inspiring confidence in the future. Perlman Camp itself is a highly successful residential summer camp serving Jewish youth from all over the eastern U.S. Kallah participants share campgrounds, fields, and facilities, and sometimes programs with B'nai B'rith Perlman Camp, campers and staff. As part of the B'nai B'rith family, Perlman Camp observes strict Kashrut, under rabbinical supervision.

KALLAH 2008 DATES: June 29 - July 20, 2008

TESTIMONIALS:

"Kallah wasn't like anything I've learned in school about Judaism but more like the spiritual side and the bigger meaning to everything. It was so interesting and it made you realize what's important to you and who you really are. It challenged everything I'd ever learned so I had to form my own beliefs not just what I was taught."

- Galina Kadosh (Washington, DC)

"I came home enriched in Jewish knowledge and I felt really prepared to take on new challenges involving my faith. Going into Kallah I was simply a Jewish person living in Columbia, South Carolina, but now I am a Jew who is fighting for the strength and survival of her religion."

- Marie Jacqueline McGwier (Columbia, South Carolina)

PICTURES:



