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Why Camp is the Best Place in the World

There is nothing like camp. Nothing compares to camp's energy, passion, excitement, challenges, and people. Camp, unlike anywhere else, has challenge by choice, so you can challenge yourself as far and as much as you are willing to. At my camp, Ramah Outdoor Adventure, we do all sorts of outdoorsy things, such as hiking, climbing, mountain biking, and even river rafting. All this gains you closer to everyone around you, as there's nothing like being a cold and wet and tired and having to pick each other up and support each other. This encouragement creates inseparable bonds that are so unbreakable and strong. And sleeping in tents and having barely enough food really makes you rely on the people around you. I consider many of my best friends to be from camp. It also gives me a mental break from school, and my everyday life at home. It is such an amazing time, from jumping around and dancing on shabbat so screaming and singing and leading the whole camp in amazing Hebrew songs. And the parties on Saturday Nights on Havdalahs were absolutely crazy and magical. Having so much fun and creating so much unity are two of the things that make things that make camp so amazing. This quote from my friend Ben Levitt sums up camp and the essence of camp perfectly for me:

What is camp? Most people think of camp as a getaway from the real world, a break from all the

distractions and stress that can fill our minds during the rest of the year. People who think of camp as a break from the "real world" are missing out on the magic of camp. Camp is the real world in its simplest and most beautiful form. At Ramah, building a holy community, a kehilah kedoshah, is one of our core values; kindness and kavod flow through every wall of every tent. Ramah is a place where no one is judgmental and everyone is inclusive. Love for Judaism and appreciation of nature lie within the hearts of each and every unique and beautiful person. For me, Ramah is the real world.

It's been really incredible to have the opportunity to spend four amazing years here and personally it's been really important for selfgrowth, for learning about Judaism, for learning and experiencing nature, for being around all of you incredible people and I just want to thank everyone for giving me this incredible opportunity and I hope that as our kehilah kedoshah returns back to our homes, that we can all bring a little bit of the magic of camp back to our own communities.

This is exactly what makes camp so special to me. It is the real world in its purest and most beautiful form. People are nice to each other, they help and support each other, and they create unbelievable friendships. It may not be the real world in the traditional sense, but to me and Ben and lots of other people, camp represents the true spirit and meaning of what the real world should be and sometimes is. All in all, camp is the best place in the world because it has the best

surrounding environment, from the places to especially the people. And most of all, camp represents the essence and the beauty of the real world.