



Dear Camp Kalsman Families,

Can you believe your child is already a junior in high school? We know that campers at this age have many options competing for their time over the summer. We know that the skills your child learns at camp (independence, responsibility, team work...) are incredibly valuable especially since they are framed through a Jewish lens. There are things your camper can learn at camp that they won't learn anywhere else.

We believe that the Camp Kalsman Machon Counselor in Training Program is excellent preparation for leadership in and out of camp. The Machon program is designed to meet the specific needs of those campers entering their senior year of high school. It encourages leadership development, communication, collaboration, identity exploration, critical thinking and problem solving, mentoring, Jewish living, and fun! Machonikim have the opportunity to spend five weeks learning leadership skills through a Jewish lens, enjoying daily camp activities, engaging in all camp programming as participants and as leaders, spending time off camp on a group trip, and living for two weeks in a cabin with younger campers as a counselor in training. Machon campers have a dedicated Machon Director and two Machon advisors who guide them through their experiences at camp.

As the Machon program has developed over the last several years, we've been delighted with its continued growth and success. In order to ensure that our Machonikim have the best possible program, we are asking that all potential Machonikim campers complete an application process to ensure that Machon is the right fit for both your camper and the camp community.

Any camper interested in the Machon program must complete the following steps:

- 1) Register: Register online at www.campkalsman.org/register for Machon. The \$200.00 non-refundable deposit will not be charged until the camper has been accepted into the program.
- 2) Apply: After registering, you'll receive an email from us with a link to complete an application online. The application includes several short answer essay questions and must be completed by your camper in one sitting. In order to help with this process, we'll include the essay questions when we send you the link to the application.
- 3) Reference Form: The final step of the application process is for your camper to ask a Rabbi, Temple Educator, Youth Group or NFTY advisor, or another adult mentor in their life to complete an online reference form on their behalf. We highly recommend choosing an adult from the Jewish community to complete this letter. You will receive a link to this form upon submission of your application. The Machon application will not be complete until we've received a completed reference form.

After you submit the application and reference, you will be contacted by Abbey Bell (abell@urj.org), Machon Director, to schedule a follow-up call to discuss the program, expectations, and to do some goal-setting.

Acceptance into the program is based on a number of factors, including but not limited to: camper application, recommendation, history at Camp Kalsman and NFTY, and space availability. You can read more about the Machon program at www.campkalsman.org/summer/machon-counselor-in-training As always, please be in touch with any questions or concerns. We look forward to welcoming your family home again!

L'shalom,

The Camp Kalsman Team