2017 TSS ISRAEL FELLOWSHIP FAMILY GUIDE FOR ISRAEL

WINTER OFFICE:
6735 Telegraph Road, Suite 380
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301
248-647-1100

SUMMER OFFICE:
4361 Perryville Rd.
Ortonville, MI 48462
248-627-2821

www.tamarackcamps.com
tamarack@tamarackcamps.com
WELCOME
Pages 3
Purpose of the Family Guide
History of Tamarack Camps
Federal Compliance
Goals

BEFORE THE TRIP
Pages 3-5
Expectations
Physical Preparation
Physical Expectations
Packing
Clothing for Shabbat and Religious Sites
Labels
Electronics
Shaliach Mitzvah
Trip Insurance

DURING THE TRIP
Pages 5-8
Luggage
Departure Day
Typical Day
Passports
Birthday Celebrations
Laundry
Spending Money and Currency
Guests
Security Guidelines
Last Day
Lost & Found

STAFF
Page 8
Staff Structure
Trip Staff

COMMUNICATION
Pages 9-10
Teen Phone Calls
Emergency Parent Concerns
Non-Emergency Parent Concerns
Camp Summer Office Information
Mail, Packages, Email and Fax
Photographs and Email Communication

HEALTH AND SAFETY
Pages 10-13
Completed Health Profile
Immunizations
Pre-packaged Medication
Medical Staff
Medical Insurance
Director of Health and Safety
Notification for Medical Circumstances
Emotional Preparation
Food Allergies

SUPPORT
Page 13
Gratuity/Tips

American Camp Association
Page 14
Purpose of the Family Guide
This packet is your reference for TSS Israel Fellowship in Israel. Please review the Camp Maas Family Guide for those participating in the second portion of the summer at camp. It includes helpful information for you and your teen prior to the summer and addresses policies and procedures that apply during the summer. Our number one priority is the safety and well-being of your children so please review this material with each TSS in order to ensure a successful experience for you and your teen.

We look forward to a fantastic summer!

History of Tamarack Camps
The Fresh Air Society was created as a committee of the United Jewish Charities by Blanche Hart and Ida Koppel, who recognized the need to provide recreational activities in the outdoors to immigrant women and children. To fulfill this dream, they began taking groups of mothers and children to Belle Isle. Carrying baskets piled high with food, they climbed aboard a chartered trolley for a day in the "fresh air."

Today, 115 years later, the Fresh Air Society is the umbrella organization for Tamarack Camps, which includes Camp Maas, Teen Travel Trips and Outpost Camps. Our paramount principles have endured the test of time, and are consistently the cornerstones of our summer goals: learn new skills, have fun, gain independence, thrive in group dynamics, and enjoy Jewish programming – all organized in a safe, positive, nurturing, and stimulating environment.

Federal Compliance
Rules for acceptance and participation in the program are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, sex, handicap, age, or national origin.

Goals
TSS Israel Fellowship is a leadership program for teens to step outside of their comfort zones, experience new adventures, meet new people and become a part of a special community. It is an opportunity for teens to explore Israel, through hiking and camping, learn and enhance their leadership skills, to practice "letting go" and to develop autonomy and a stronger sense of identification.

BEFORE THE TRIP

Expectations
The trip, like the rest of life, has high and low points. Not every moment of the trip will be filled with wonder and excitement. Encourage your teen to have a reasonable and realistic view of camp. Discuss both the ups and downs your child may experience.

Physical Preparation
This program will include physically challenging adventures and activities, but given proper preparation, it will not be beyond most teen’s personal physical limits. If you are already in good shape, keep it up. No previous outdoors experience is required, but a willingness to learn and work with others will assure you have a positive adventure in such a challenging environment. To help you have the best summer experience, it is necessary to be in an appropriate emotional and physical condition. Every minute you put in prior to your summer experience will pay off once you get out there. If you do not already engage in 30 minutes of aerobic exercise three times a week, we
recommend putting in the time to begin training now. Before a teen begins any exercise program, please consult with their physician.

The most important kind of training is aerobic fitness (running/jogging, bicycling, skating...), the kind which stimulates heart and lung activity for at least 30 minutes without stopping. You can also consider specific training techniques to prepare for the summer such as climbing stairs or walking around your neighborhood with weight in your backpack.

Physical Expectations
TSS will be hiking around Israel throughout the summer in very hot temperatures. Teens should expect to hike every few days, for an average of 2-8+ miles. Some of the hikes throughout the summer will be steep, long and physically challenging, while others will be shorter and easier. Non-hiking days will be spent touring and walking around, which may add up to several miles of walking and include moving throughout the full day.

Teens will stop and rest and take breaks regularly throughout the hikes and do not need to be able to hike these distances non-stop. The breaks will range from 5-30 minutes, some for water, and others for a snack or lunch.

Packing
For TSS living in the metro Detroit area, there will be a packing meeting to review the general aspects of the trip, the itinerary, expectations of the TSS participating on the trip, as well as answer any questions you may have. During the meeting we will also review the clothing list, including what to pack and how to fit everything into one duffel bag, and discuss additional details of the trip including how much money to bring.

For TSS that live outside of the metro Detroit area, the Teen Programs Coordinator will send out a video that will include all of the information provided at the meeting. It will also review the clothing list (with video of suggested types of clothing), how to pack and how to fit everything into one duffel bag, and discuss additional details of the trip including how much money to bring.

Attending this meeting is mandatory for all TSS and parents. The date and time of the meeting will be emailed to parents soon.

Do not pack anything sentimental or expensive! No cell phones or knives of any kind are allowed at camp!

It is a long flight to Israel, so be sure to wear comfortable clothes and bring something warm in case it is cool on the plane. Bring your toothbrush as well as anything else that will make you feel better during/after the flight.

Clothing for Shabbat and Religious Sites
Shabbat is a very meaningful time in Israel. Teens should plan to dress up on Friday evenings. Appropriate attire for Shabbat is a dress/skirt and top for women or collared shirts and dressier shorts/pants for men.

At religious sites modest dress is required as a courtesy. Women must wear a skirt that covers their knees and a shirt that covers their elbows. Men must wear long pants and a kippah/yarmulke. We recommend lightweight clothing that can be held in their backpack when they are not at the religious site.
Labels
To minimize loss, we request that you mark all of your teen’s clothes and personal property with first and last name. You can use permanent marker or purchase nametapes. Please label all items. Please review with your teen what he or she has brought to camp and where in the bag they are located.

TAMARACK CAMPS WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY LOST, MISPLACED OR STOLEN ITEMS.

Electronics
CELL PHONES AND OTHER INTERNET-READY DEVICES MAY NOT BE BROUGHT ON THE TRIP. If cell phones or other electronic devices are brought on the program, a TSS may be sent home. Music devices that do not have access to the internet are allowed for communal use.

The electric current in Israel is 220 volts. In the United States, current is only 110 volts, so you may need a converter. Many electrical appliances, including some hair dryers, come with a dual voltage. You can check voltage capabilities with the manufacturer before the trip.

You will also need an adapter plug since the electrical outlets do not conform to our standard plug. In Israel, the plugs look like two round pegs. These items can be purchased at electrical or hardware stores, a travel supplies store, or online at amazon.com.

Shaliach Mitzvah
It is customary to give tzedakah money (usually one dollar) to a traveler before they embark on a journey. Tradition states that when a person is in the process of doing a mitzvah, they are protected from harm. Therefore, we send our friends and loved ones with money (shaliach mitzvah) to give to a tzedakah at the end of their journey, so that they will be protected as they travel. Thus, giving a person one dollar before a journey turns a traveler into a shaliach mitzvah, a mitzvah messenger.

Trip Insurance
Each teen participating in the TSS Israel Fellowship (excluding Camp Maas only) is required to obtain trip cancellation and interruption insurance that includes emergency evacuation and cancel for any reason benefits. Tamarack Camps recommends procuring this travel insurance through Travel Insurance Center (Israel), which was available for purchase as part of the camper application.

For those that purchased insurance through Tamarack’s recommended company, the plan enables you, the parent, to cancel the trip for any reason up to 48 hours prior to departure for a return of 75% of the trip costs - no matter what the reason. A complete 100% return of trip costs applies if the cancellation is due to a covered event. Please visit http://tamarackcamps.com/travel-insurance/ for more information regarding the policy.

Participants who purchase insurance from another company must email proof of policy to the Teen Programs Coordinator.

DURING THE TRIP

Luggage
Unlike other programs, TSS should pack for Israel in a soft-sided/fabric rolling duffel bag, not a hard suitcase or a traditional camp duffel bag. Each teen will be responsible for loading/unloading the bag and transporting it throughout the summer. The duffel bag must not exceed 50 pounds and 62 inches
total diameter (height+width+length). Please note any overweight fees for bags over 50 pounds will be your financial responsibility.

Teens should bring their luggage to the airport on the first day of the program. Each teen is permitted to bring one duffel bag and a small backpack as a carry on.

**Departure Day**
TSS depart for Israel from the Detroit Metropolitan Airport. Domestic and international travel will be through United Airlines. The group will travel together, escorted by staff. The teens will be dropped off at the airport in morning of June 20th, will go through security as a group, and their flight will depart in the early afternoon. You will be advised as to exact departure and check-in times closer to the summer.

Tamarack Camps will send an email notifying you of the group’s arrival in Israel.

Please be sure to come to the airport on departure day with:
- ✓ A backpack loaded with a sweatshirt, long pants and airport materials (books, cards, games, etc.)
- ✓ A bag lunch. Dinner will be provided on the flight to Israel.
- ✓ Duffel Bag
- ✓ Passport (in your backpack)
- ✓ Spending Money

**Typical Day**
The TSS Israel Fellowship is unique in that there is no typical day on the trip; the schedule is very much dependent on location, weather conditions and group energy level. However, please use the below schedule as a close representation of a “typical day.”

7:15 am  wake up  
7:45 am  breakfast at the hotel  
8:15 am  load buses and depart  
Morning  hike  
12:00 pm  lunch – TSS will be given either boxed lunch or money to buy lunch  
Afternoon  tour Israel  
5:00 pm  back to guesthouse to shower, swim, and relax  
7:00 pm  dinner  
8:00 pm  free time/evening program  
11:00 pm  teens back to their rooms  
12:00 pm  lailah tov, good night

**Passports**
All participants must have a valid Passport and the Border Crossing Form, which must be signed before a notary. The Tamarack Camps office has several notaries on staff.

All passports must be valid until at least **December 20, 2017**. If your teen’s passport expires before then, you must apply for a new passport or they may not be allowed in to Israel.

Participants will not hold their passports while in Israel. They will be collected and locked in a safe in Israel until the end of the trip. Therefore, you must reduce the picture and signature pages of your
teen’s passport to wallet size and laminate them back-to-back to use as identification during the trip. This can be done at any copy shop. We encourage parents to keep a copy of the passport at home.

If you or your teen were born in Israel or were ever Israeli citizens, you must notify the Tamarack Camps office. Passport regulations are different for such circumstances and we must be aware of the situation in order to act accordingly. If your teen will be traveling with any other type of non-U.S. passport, please also contact our office.

**Birthday Celebrations**
If your teen’s birthday falls during the trip, the staff and other TSS will make your their birthday special for him or her. The celebration varies based upon where the group is during the birthday.

**Laundry**
Laundry will be done twice during the trip. Participants will pair up as a room when doing laundry. Be sure to label all clothing so that it is easier to separate once it returns from the laundry service. Tamarack Camps is not responsible for any clothing lost or damaged by the laundry service.

**Spending Money and Currency**
We suggest approximately teens bring $150-$250 in spending money. The amount varies depending on how many gifts and souvenirs each teen is interested in purchasing. The TSS Israel Fellowship will provide three meals each day along with snacks; however, TSS may spend their money on occasional snacks and meals. The staff are not responsible for teens’ money.

Israeli currency is the shekel (plural: shekalim), currently valued at 3.7 shekalim per dollar. It is not necessary to exchange money before the trip. We will arrange opportunities for participants to exchange money in Israel.

Our recommendation is that each participant have an American ATM card or Prepaid Credit Card to access their spending money in Israel. You may want to consider opening a teen checking account for spending money in Israel, allowing for deposits as the parent feels is appropriate. If your ATM card has a Visa, MasterCard, Star, Cirrus, or Maestro logo imprint, there should not be a problem withdrawing money at Israeli ATMs. PLUS cards will not work in Israel. We encourage you to check with the bank issuing the ATM card to ensure use in Israel. There is a surcharge (depending on your bank) for all ATM transactions.

Participants will hold their own ATM or credit cards. You may want to consider bringing a duplicate ATM card with the same PIN number in case one is lost. Cards and PIN numbers should not be kept in the same place.

Please notify your credit card company that the card will be used in Israel. This will prevent the credit card company from putting a temporary hold on the account due to the international usage. Parents should keep copies of all credit card numbers and their 24-hour Customer Service phone numbers.

**Guests**
If you would like your teen to visit with family members or friends who are in Israel, you must arrange this prior to departure. The contact information must be provided in writing (see “Visitor Form” online with the Camper Information Form). Guests must travel to the location of the group only on Shabbat, between 1:00 and 5:00 pm. Participants must stay on the premises for the visit. Drop in guests will not be permitted.
Security Guidelines
For the security and safety of our flights, please review the following with your teen:

- Refrain from borrowing baggage or electronic devices from people you do not know well.
- Do not accept anything from anyone whom you do not know well. This refers to any object which someone might ask you to deliver to Israel, such as packages, letters, medicine, bags, etc.
- When purchasing items for our trip, do not mention that you intend to take them to Israel.
- In the airport, do not leave your belongings unattended at any time.
- Airline security officers may ask you the following questions. Be prepared to give honest answers. This is very serious and teens must not joke around with security officers.
  - What is the purpose of your trip?
  - Did you pack your own luggage?
  - Have your bags been in your possession since packing them?
  - Did anyone give you anything to pack?
  - Are you Jewish?
  - Do you speak Hebrew?
  - Where were you before coming to the airport?

Last Day
Upon arrival home from Israel, please greet your teen in the baggage claim area. Please hold the afternoon of July 14th as arrival day. You will be advised as to exact arrival and pick-up times closer to the summer.

Lost and Found
Throughout the summer, staff will work to return all lost items directly to the teens. If, after returning home, items are found, families will be notified of all lost & found items.

STAFF

Staff Structure
The trip will be led by the a staff team including the Teen Programs Coordinator, a community rabbi, a tour guide, 2-3 counselors, a trained medic/security guard, and a bus driver.

Rabbi Josh Bennett from Temple Israel will be with the group for the first half of the trip and Rabbi Michael Moskowitz from Shir Shalom will join for the second half of the program.

Trip Staff
Your TSS’s staff are college students and graduates, who have camp work experience or other informal education experience in settings working with teens. Staff members report to camp one week before the trip departs for highly-focused training facilitated by our professional staff and rabbis. Our staff training provides our counselors with the necessary tools to be able to handle teen issues, and when necessary, to bring challenging situations to a superior. Also, our counselors are trained on emergencies procedures, and to seek additional support when necessary. Staff training includes sessions on leadership, Tamarack values, camper security, how to motivate teens, and how to spot and handle incidents of abuse by and among their TSS and other staff.
COMMUNICATION

Teen Phone Calls
Teens will call home approximately once a week. Teens will be provided with a camp cell phone to call home to talk to parents for a few minutes. Because teens will not have their own personal cell phones, we encourage parents to write down important phone numbers (cell, home, etc.) for the teens to keep with them.

**As previously noted, teens are not permitted to bring cell phones on the trip.**

Emergency Parent Concerns
In case of emergency, parents will always be able to contact Jackie Yashinsky, Teen Programs Coordinator directly, who will be on the ground in Israel with the teens. All emergency contact phone numbers will be provided before departure.

Examples of Emergency Situations (call Israel):
- Family health or bereavement emergency requiring booking of immediate return flight home
- Urgent medical or safety situation

Examples of Non-Emergency Situations (call camp):
- Concerns over teen’s fatigue or social adjustment
- Requests for flight extensions
- Email confirmation requests
- Security concerns in Israel (Parents will be notified through email in case of security situation)

*Please remember Israel is 7 hours ahead of Detroit. If it is noon in Detroit, the time is 7:00 pm in Israel.*

Non-Emergency Parent Concerns
If you need information, have concerns or would like to relay an important message to your teen at a time other than during the phone call days, please call the Camp Maas office and leave a message with one of our office staff. They will forward the message to Jason Charnas, Director of Teen & Family Programs. Jason is in regular contact with Jackie Yashinsky, Teen Programs Coordinator, checking in on the teens, staff and trip, and is also able to pass important messages to the group and their campers. Non-emergency concerns can also be emailed to Jackie Yashinsky at jyashinsky@tamarackcamps.com.

Camp Summer Office Information
Phone: 248-627-2821

Office Hours:
- Sunday through Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday: Closed in observance of Shabbat

Mail, Packages, Email and Fax
It is not possible for mail, packages, emails or faxes to be sent to the TSS in Israel.
Photographs and Email Communication
Pictures from the trip, along with an email blog will be posted almost daily for family and friends to get a taste of the adventure. Information regarding how to view the pictures will be available closer to the program. The email blog will be emailed to you.

HEALTH AND SAFETY
For all health-related information, Tamarack Camps uses CampDoc.com, a secure, online health management system. To submit your teen’s health information, you will receive an email invitation from CampDoc. If you are a new family, instructions for creating your username and password will be included. If you are a returning family, use your same email address and password from the previous year.

Completed Health Profile
Your teen’s health profile consists of several different components, including questions you answer directly into the system, documents to print and upload when completed (Healthcare Provider Form, etc.), as well as additional required items (a copy of your teen’s insurance card, for example). It is an easy-to-follow process which updates your progress as you complete the components. As every profile must be reviewed by our medical staff, your camper’s profile is due by April 21, 2017.

Please answer the questions in this health profile honestly and completely. The information we ask for will be used in our efforts to create a safe and successful summer for everyone.

Note that all campers must have a current (completed yearly) Healthcare Provider Form on file with us which contains vital health information from a physical examination completed and signed by your teen’s physician within the last 12 months. We understand that your teen’s physical might not be scheduled by April 21 and, therefore, the Healthcare Provider Form may not be complete. However, please complete all other components by April 21, and upload the signed Healthcare Provider Form as soon as it is complete. Healthcare Provider Forms will not be accepted at the airport. DUE TO MICHIGAN BOARD OF HEALTH REGULATIONS, CAMPERS WHO DO NOT HAVE A COMPLETED HEALTH PROFILE WILL NOT BE PERMITTED ON THE PLANE.

Immunizations
The Tamarack Camps immunization policy requires everyone to be fully immunized according to the recommendations of the CDC (Centers for Disease Control), State of Michigan, and AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics). Tamarack Camps full policy can be viewed at http://tamarackcamps.com/immunization/.

Pre-Packaged Medication
As industry leaders, Tamarack Camps continues to set our standards high. Pre-packaged medications are the safest and most secure way to administer medications. We are proud to announce our partnership with Savon LTC Pharmacy, a locally owned and operated pharmacy. Savon is committed to providing pre-packaged medications for Tamarack campers along with their exceptional customer service.

All TSS who take medications are required to use Savon LTC Pharmacy’s pre-packaged medication system to obtain all medications that will or may be taken on a daily or as needed basis during a Tamarack Camps summer program. This pre-packaged medication program includes:

- All medication taken daily (prescription and over-the-counter)
- All medication taken as needed (prescription and over-the-counter)
From CampDoc, you will follow the link to Savon to complete some routine registration forms. Have your doctor e-scribe or write prescriptions to Savon (to cover the length of the program) at least 30 days before your child’s program begins. If the program is longer than 30 days and the medication is a 30 day only prescription, have your doctor send two prescriptions.

There is a per participant (not per prescription) service charge of $10.00 to pre-package the medications, in addition to any co-payments required by your health insurance. A late fee of $30.00 will be imposed if the prescriptions are sent in less than 30 days before your teen’s program begins. The cost to you for a 30 day supply of some common over-the-counter medications are: Cetirizine 10 mg tablet (Zyrtec generic) $2.79 and Loratadine 10 mg tablet (Claritin generic) $2.79.

For routine questions regarding pre-packaged medication, please email Savonltc@savondrugs.com. Emails will be responded to within 24 hours. For emergencies only, call 888-722-5579.

Prior to the start of your teen’s program, the clinic staff will receive and review the medications and bring them to the airport on the day of departure.

Please keep in mind that Tamarack Camps stocks the most common over-the-counter items, such as Tylenol, Advil, Benadryl, etc. That being said, if your teen uses them on a daily or routine basis, please use Savon’s pre-packaged system to these medications. Tamarack Camps will not accept or administer Gummy Medications/vitamins.

Medications are dispensed at breakfast, lunch, dinner and/or at bedtime, unless specifically written on the prescription. You are responsible to ensure that your teen’s prescriptions specify exactly how and when each medication is to be dispensed.

**No medication will be accepted at the airport on departure day without prior approval by Roberta Blumberg, Director of Health and Safety.**

Medications in pill form are individually packaged and sealed according to date and time of administration and identified by camper name. Each individual packet may contain one or more pills prescribed for that particular dose time. Liquid and inhaled medications will also be provided. This will allow our staff more time to devote to the rest of your teen’s experience.

We are confident in the quality and reliability of Savon Drugs, and know they will assist you in any way they can to facilitate the process for you. Those choosing not to use the pre-packaged medication process will be assessed a $100.00 fee, unless you have received prior approval from Roberta.

**Medical Staff**
Your teen’s health and safety is our absolute, number one priority. Doctors and nurses at the Camp Clinic are accessible by phone at all times. Every precaution is taken to safeguard the health of each and every camper. In addition to the clinic staff, a licensed social worker is available for consultation. The trip is supplied with a listing of the nearest medical facilities and pharmacies for each of their hotels and consult with the Camp Clinic throughout the summer.

**Medical Insurance**
The TSS Israel Fellowship program fee includes basic medical insurance that covers treatment and medication of any non-pre-existing medical conditions. This means that the policy covers treatment for issues like a stomach bug, a broken bone or dehydration without any out of pocket expenses or
paperwork. The policy does not cover any medical conditions for which a participant is currently being treated or for which treatment has been received in the past. This exclusion rule also applies to any psychological care. For this reason, all participants are required to have their own medical insurance policy which includes coverage for a short term travel abroad.

When needed, a doctor will visit our hotel to care for our participants, which is covered under insurance. If teens need to be seen by a doctor or clinic, they will be escorted by a staff member.

In the event that a participant needs to be treated for a pre-existing condition during the program, the parents/guardians will be solely responsible for any associated costs. Reimbursements for these circumstances are dependent on your personal health insurance plan.

**Roberta Blumberg, Director, Health and Safety**

It has been 20 years and I’m still blessed to spend my summers in what some might say is “the greatest place on earth, Tamarack Camps.” I’ve been a nurse for almost 40 years and have worked in many different areas, including emergency and orthopedics. In my role as Director of Health and Safety I’ve had the opportunity to see my children and yours begin their experience at camp with delight, and return each summer growing, maturing and making lifelong friends while experiencing Judaism in an informal and beautiful setting. I work closely with TSS staff to ensure that each teen is cared for on an individual basis. I train all staff to recognize and identify medical and emotional issues that can occur among their TSS. From bug bites to bullying, any issues relating to physical and psychological health come directly to me and my staff. The safety and wellbeing of each TSS is my highest priority, and the clinic is dedicated to providing the very best care we can. The clinic is a busy place and a hub of activity during camp. Many of our doctors and nurses went to Tamarack as kids and now return committed to use their expertise to provide our campers and staff with first class medical care in a warm and welcoming setting. Thank you for entrusting your most precious treasures with us. We will care for your children as if they were our own and throw in a few popsicles along the way!

**Notification for Medical Circumstances**

Parents will be contacted by a staff member in Israel or medical staff if a child must see a doctor.

Parents will not be notified if child receives treatment by the staff for cuts, colds, insect bites, stomach virus or headaches, rashes, sore throat, vomiting, etc.

**Emotional Preparation**

In all of our programs, we take our job as loco parentis (“in place of a parent”) extremely seriously. We strive to provide the same quality of care for your children as we do our own. Therefore, along with preparing your teen emotionally for the challenges of an Israel trip, we want you to prepare your children for the realities of being away from home, as we would do with our own children. As you may know, physical abuse, neglect and sexual abuse of children is an ongoing problem in our society. As such, we extensively screen all staff members with background checks and interviews. We also require all staff to participate in a sexual abuse prevention training. Be assured that our staff has the skills necessary to spot, stop, and prevent child abuse. We have reporting procedures in place which require staff that see, hear, or suspect abuse to report immediately to their supervisor or to any senior staff member. We then report all incidents to the appropriate authorities. However, parents, we need your help to keep our trip as safe as possible. We implore you to educate your child on what is and what is not appropriate while they are on the trip, be it amongst their friends or with their counselors. We inform our staff at training that all campers come prepared with this knowledge. Skilled counselors and knowledgeable campers help to ensure a safe camping experience for everyone. If
you would like additional resources to aid in your child’s emotional preparation for camp, please visit our website or contact our office for helpful tips for this important discussion.

As caretakers for your children, are we responsible for their complete safety while in our care. Like your children’s teachers at school, we are mandatory reporters under Michigan law. This means we are required to report any allegations or signs of child abuse occurring at home to the appropriate state authorities. We are prohibited from notifying parents until permission is given to us by the state should such an event occur. For more information regarding mandatory reporter responsibilities, please visit the state of Michigan, Department of Human Services website or contact our office.

**Food Allergies**

Increasing numbers of children have food allergies and we will gladly work with families to provide alternative menu items or special foods for most teens with allergies. If, however, your child has a life-threatening or airborne food allergy, the TSS Israel Fellowship may not be the right place for him or her.

The TSS Israel Fellowship is not a nut-free program. Nuts are served at many of the hotels where we will be eating. Counselors are notified of children with significant allergies, including when and how to use an Epi-Pen. The counselor and/or teen will carry an Epi-Pen at all times:

We cannot guarantee that:
1. everyone will follow the above guidelines.
2. there will not be food fights at your child’s meal.
3. campers eating peanut butter will not touch each other or objects at meals.
4. campers will not purchase items containing nuts.

Our goal is to provide a safe and healthy environment for every participant. There may be circumstances when our program will not be appropriate for an individual child. If your teen has a severe, life-threatening allergy to nuts, a nut-free program is recommended. Our Director of Health and Safety, Roberta Blumberg is happy to answer any questions or concerns.

**SUPPORT**

**Gratuity/Tips**

While we certainly aspire to hire staff members that warrant your positive recognition, Tamarack Camps and the ACA (American Camp Association) prefer a contribution to the camp in honor of a staff member. If you make a contribution to Tamarack Camps, the staff member(s) will be notified and recognized appropriately.

Tamarack Camps depends upon the generosity of families like yours. You can volunteer to help with camp projects during the year. You can open your home and invite others to hear about camp at a “parlor meeting” with some of our directors. You can bring your professional expertise to camp as a doctor, nurse, psychologist, social worker or administrative assistant. You can provide funding for a special program or initiative. You can make a contribution to the Tamarack Camps Send a Kid to Tamarack fund in order to provide financial assistance for other children to attend camp.

By doing one or a number of the above, you will make a positive and meaningful difference! Please contact CEO Steve Engel for more details. Thank you so much for your generosity.
American Camp Association

ACA Accreditation means that Tamarack Camps cares enough to undergo a thorough (up to 500 standards) review of its operation — from staff qualifications and training to emergency management. American Camp Association collaborates with experts from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Red Cross, and other youth-serving agencies to assure that current practices at your child’s camp reflect the most up-to-date, research-based standards in camp operation. Camps and ACA form a partnership that promotes growth and fun in an environment committed to safety. ACA helps Tamarack Camps provide:

- Healthy, developmentally-appropriate activities and learning experiences
- Discovery through experiential education
- Caring, competent role models
- Service to the community and the environment
- Opportunities for leadership and personal growth

As always, please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or comments.

It’s going to be a great summer at Tamarack Camps!

We can’t wait to see you this summer!

6735 Telegraph Road, Suite 380  ●  Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301
(248) 647-1100  ●  Fax (248) 647-1493
www.tamarackcamps.com  ●  tamarack@tamarackcamps.com

NOTES