



camp tel yehudah

Capital Campaign



“...the simple harmony of camp life with the lovely and gentle environment of the Delaware River and the apple trees in the New York mountains surely constituted an ideal that continues to resonate – and set a standard for the harmony that we need to reestablish between the Jewish people and their homeland.”

Dr. Alon Tal, Professor, Arava Institute for Environmental Studies; Founder, Israel Union for Environmental Defense; Recipient of the 2006 Charles Bronfman Prize



Who are we?

Camp Tel Yehudah is the national senior leadership camp of Young Judaea, the Zionist youth movement of Hadassah. For sixty years, it has been the summer home to thousands of Jewish teens from across the United States, Israel, and abroad. Tel Yehudah embodies all the core ideals of Young Judaea and Hadassah: instilling strong Jewish values and identity in youth, forging a life-long connection to Israel, and cultivating the next generation of Jewish leaders

Our Mission: Inspiring Change

Our mission at Tel Yehudah is to empower our campers to inspire change within their communities while having a memorable and fun experience. Through a dynamic combination of informal education, Jewish communal experiences, challenging outdoor activities, and creative and performing arts, Tel Yehudah campers deepen their Jewish identity, discover the wonders of Israel, develop an understanding of what it means to be a part of a community, and learn about themselves as individuals and as leaders.





Leadership and Social Activism

As the heart of our peer-led youth movement, Tel Yehudah cultivates young Jewish leaders who will return to their home communities inspired to make an active difference in the world. Whether focused on Israel or other Jewish or secular issues, every Tel Yehudah camper has the opportunity to engage in hands-on activism during the summer and develops the skills to work toward our ideal of *tikkun olam* (healing the world) throughout the year.

A Unique Pluralistic Community

As a camp committed to Jewish pluralism, Tel Yehudah brings together young Jews from a rich variety of religious, cultural, and political backgrounds, illuminating the beauty, complexity and diversity of the Jewish People. We reach out to all Jewish youth — Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist, and unaffiliated — and provide innovative opportunities for them to explore a wide variety of Jewish experience, expression and practice.

Tel Yehudah is a unique model of a living pluralistic community, dedicated to laying the foundation for strong, vibrant and diverse Jewish leadership.

Israel on the Delaware

At Tel Yehudah, our campers develop a deep and multi-faceted connection to Israel and a life-long Zionist connection. With a talented delegation of Israeli staff, a vibrant program of Israeli song and dance, and an infusion of Hebrew language into the camp culture, every aspect of life at Tel Yehudah is informed by our dynamic connection to our Jewish homeland.

Campsite

Tel Yehudah is located on the Delaware River in Barryville, New York, approximately 90 miles northwest of New York City. Nestled in the Upper Delaware River Valley, Tel Yehudah's beautiful 150-acre site features a breathtaking view of the valley; and the surrounding mountains mark the unique topography of our river-side campus. Whether you're sixteen or sixty, driving up the winding "Snake" road towards camp still evokes all the magic of Tel Yehudah.

Our Growth & Success

Tel Yehudah is proud to have touched the lives of thousands of young Jews over the last six decades. In nearly every major Jewish organization and countless secular institutions, you will find Tel Yehudah alumni who cite their experience at camp as their most formative Jewish and Zionist influence and a critical component in their growth as leaders and activists. We wish to offer the Tel Yehudah experience to the maximum number of Jewish teens in the future, with the goal of accommodating up to 600 campers each session.





Our Vision for the Future

As we envision Tel Yehudah's future, we are considering the diverse needs of our campers and our evolving program — physical, social, intellectual, and spiritual. Our goal is to enhance and modernize our existing facilities, while still maintaining the traditional feel of camp. We hope to take further advantage of the natural beauty and topography of our campsite in areas where new construction is planned. Our plans are also driven by an educational program that is becoming increasingly diverse in its offerings and that takes into account the growing trend toward providing more specialized opportunities for our campers.

MASTER PLAN

Camp Tel Yehudah



Tel Yehudah Capital Campaign

In order to meet the challenge of these expanded opportunities, we are announcing a campaign for the refurbishment, enhancement, and expansion of Tel Yehudah's facilities. This is the first significant work that will take place at camp since its foundation in 1948 and will be implemented in a multi-year, multiphase process. With this projected growth and gradual renovation, we seek to create a stronger sense of community across the Tel Yehudah site with shared program and administrative spaces as well as capacity for more specialized programs. A later phase of the master plan includes creating a central cluster of winterized buildings available for staff housing during the summer and for year round use as a retreat center for Young Judaea and other organizations.

The Planning Process

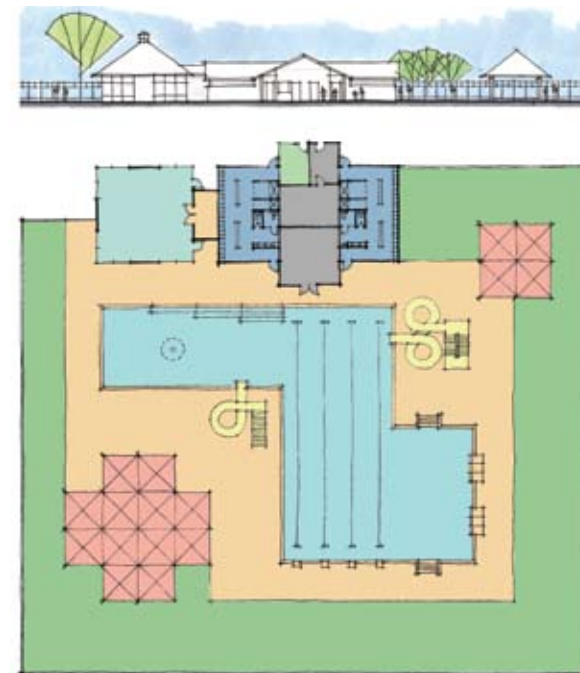
In the summer of 2005, we began the process of evaluating our current facilities, gathering data from campers, staff, alumni, and parents. We sought to identify the key challenges of Tel Yehudah's existing site and to anticipate the demands of the future. A Friends of Tel Yehudah committee was formed to help secure camp's continued success. This group, comprised of individuals who have all been moved by the magic of Tel Yehudah, has been meeting regularly with the mission of expanding and improving Tel Yehudah's facilities so that our camp can continue to engage and inspire Jewish youth while providing opportunities for innovation.

Outside Expertise

With some generous preliminary gifts, we were able to hire the experienced camp architects, schmidtpelandparkerstevens (www.scpsohio.com), who have helped us develop a master plan for the long term physical development of Tel Yehudah (see preceding page). In addition, we have received significant support from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation (www.hgf.org) in the form of substantial matching grants as part of our fundraising efforts as well as the services of their expert camping and development consultants. The Harold Grinspoon Foundation's commitment to Jewish camping in general and Tel Yehudah in particular, is a key ingredient in the momentum already generated by our capital campaign.

A New Aquatics Center

During hot summer afternoons, there's no better place to cool off and chill out, than the swimming pool. The first project of the Friends of Tel Yehudah has been the construction of a new, state-of-the-art Aquatics Center, including on-site changing areas and bathrooms that can meet all of our campers' needs. Construction of a new 5,500 square foot pool, with plans for water slides, climbing walls, and other exciting features, was begun in October 2007 and will be ready for use in the summer of 2008.



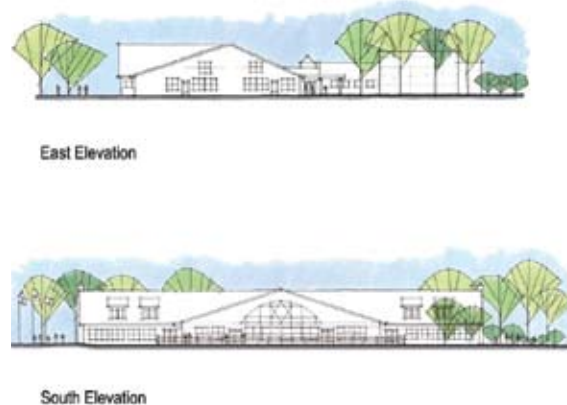




A New Chadar Ochel

If you have ever been to Tel Yehudah, you know that the Chadar Ochel (dining hall) is the heart of camp; we not only eat there, but also sing, dance, celebrate Shabbat, and learn there. The Chadar Ochel is used more consistently by campers and staff than any other building in camp, and is the key to creating the feeling of a dynamic, close-knit community for which Tel Yehudah is known. Tel Yehudah campers are currently divided into two mini-camps, each served by its own dining hall. Both dining halls are in need of significant repairs and neither is sufficiently large to accommodate our entire camp community.

As part of the master plan, we will be building a new, centrally-located Chadar Ochel that can serve both sides of camp, with a modernized Kosher kitchen, meeting and performance spaces, and a breathtaking view of the Delaware River. After the construction of a new Chadar Ochel, our existing dining halls will be renovated and reconfigured into much-needed activity spaces for our increasingly diverse programmatic offerings.



Beit Kneset/Amphitheater

Another key facility that is currently missing at Tel Yehudah is a Beit Kneset, a gathering place or outdoor amphitheater, in which our community can come together to pray, sing, and share in other performances and ceremonies. Campers currently pray in two separate sites; neither is large enough for the entire community to gather together and both are entirely exposed to the elements. Our plans include the construction of a covered amphitheater that will allow all of camp to join together to express our Jewishness and creativity through daily and Shabbat celebrations, music and art performances, and other special programs.

Refurbished Cabins

Among the first set of facilities that we wish to upgrade is our Aleph bunks. Many of our current cabins still do not live up to contemporary standards of residential camping and comfort, and require a trek across the bunk area to a communal shower house. One of the initial plans for refurbishment is to add individual showers to each cabin.

How You Can Help

In order to realize our vision for Tel Yehudah's future, we need the participation of the whole Tel Yehudah family — alumni as well as current campers, parents, staff, and friends. You, more than anyone else, understand the Jewish, Zionist, and humanist values that Tel Yehudah fosters in its campers and the impact that a summer at camp can make on a young person's life. This undertaking to expand and enhance Tel Yehudah's facilities and programmatic capabilities is an important step in ensuring that we can share the Tel Yehudah experience with thousands of teens to come and cultivate the future leadership of the Jewish people.

Tel Yehudah is friendship, learning, and laughter. It's about personal growth and community bonds; Israel, Judaism, Social Action, and Leadership. Tel Yehudah is all of these things and more.

Thank you for helping us to realize our common vision.

For more information about our capital campaign or to get involved in the Friends of Tel Yehudah committee, please contact us at friendsofTY@campTY.com.



“ I still remember word for word – and sometimes quote in lectures and articles – things I learned in camp. And I still am in touch with many people from my camp years, who remain my closest friends in the world. The best thing I can wish as a parent for my kids is that they have the same TY experiences I had, and then I know they will be blessed – and on their way to a happy and fulfilling life... ”

*Dr. Gil Troy, Professor of History, McGill University;
Author of Why I Am a Zionist and many other books.*



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*The National Senior Leadership
Camp of Young Judaea,
the Zionist Youth Movement
of Hadassah.*