

NATIONAL YOUNG JUDAEA
381 Fourth Avenue
New York 16, N.Y.

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1948
FIRST NATIONAL YOUNG JUDAEAN CAMP COMPLETES SEASON

Tel Yehudah — An Experiment in Creative Jewish Living

Tel Yehudah, the first national camp of Young Judaea, has successfully completed its first season of operation. Functioning on a model and experimental basis, Tel Yehudah has succeeded in creating a dynamic Jewish community of young people between the ages of 14 and 17. The camp was located in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains at Brandeis Camp Institute of the South, in Hendersonville, North Carolina. A select group of 99 campers with a staff of 20 members under the direction of Norman Schanin, the Executive Director of National Young Judaea, formed the Tel Yehudah community. The campers came from many parts of the country and represented a cross-section of American Jewish youth.

Tel Yehudah was an experiment in creative camping and Jewish living. The program offered the young people an opportunity to direct their energies, abilities, and interests along creative Jewish lines. The camp experience utilized the best products and techniques of the American Jewish community, of Israel, and American democracy. Work, supervised study, organized and free play, creative arts, and self-government were the areas explored by the Tel Yehudah camp experiment.

The camp functioned in a cooperative and democratic spirit. The campers and staff shared the responsibility of operating and maintaining the camp through self-labor. The supervised study program presented contemporary Jewish life and its problems. An understanding of Israel, its importance in modern Jewish affairs, and its positive relationship to the American Jewish community provided a major interest in the study program. The excellent physical facili-

ties of the Brandeis Camp enabled Tel Yehudah to carry on an extensive recreational program during the entire season. The creative energies and interests of the campers were given expression in the arts program of Tel Yehudah, which featured music, dance, dramatics, and crafts. Original material was produced at camp in each of these artistic fields. The outstanding accomplishment of Tel Yehudah was its self-government. A camp council, representing each cottage or bunk, the counselors, and the administration, met periodically to discuss camp problems and procedures. Tel Yehudah was truly an experiment in democratic Jewish living.

The program content was Hebraic in character. Tel Yehudah was an English speaking camp that used a maximum of Hebrew terminology and vocabulary. More than eighty percent of the campers voluntarily attended Hebrew study groups during their free time. No camper left Tel Yehudah without a fluent reading knowledge of Hebrew and a familiarity with conversational Hebrew.

Tel Yehudah, the first national camp of Young Judaea, has succeeded in setting the standards to be followed by other Young Judaea camping programs throughout the country.

8/11/48