



Parent/Guardian Handbook *Kayitz* (Summer) 2022

Welcome to Camp Ramah Darom!

We are thrilled you are sending your child to Camp Ramah Darom and we look forward to sharing an incredible kayitz (summer).

Camp Ramah Darom is a community of approximately 1000 people. Our policies and procedures, which reflect the values and mission of Ramah Darom, are designed to ensure a safe, healthy and exciting experience for all our campers. We ask for your cooperation in adhering to the regulations in this handbook.

Please read this handbook carefully and review the policies with your camper(s).

Atlanta Office

6400 Powers Ferry Rd Suite 215, Atlanta, GA 30339 • 404.531.0801

Summer Camp Office

70 Darom Lane, Clayton, GA 30525 • 706.782.9300

camp@ramahdarom.org

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General Information

COVID-19 Planning

We were fortunate to have a safe and healthy summer 2021. We recognize that our world is still different this year, and we will be transparent about how we're proceeding on the path towards a safe and successful summer 2022. We have already announced that all eligible campers, staff and visitors must be fully vaccinated against Covid-19. We will continue to review local and Federal guidelines and the recommendations of the Ramah Darom Medical Committee and of the American Camp Association. We will keep you informed about our plans via regular updates through email and virtual Town Hall meetings.

Eligibility, Application, Education

Eligibility

Children who have completed 1st grade are eligible for our 5-day Ta'am program. Children who have completed 2nd grade are eligible for our 2-week Garinim program, designed for first-time campers to give a taste of Ramah. Children who have completed at least 3rd grade are eligible to attend a single 4-week summer session. Children who have completed at least 5th grade are eligible to attend a Full Summer (8-week session). Returning campers entering 11th grade may apply for the [Geshar Leadership Development Institute](#) and are required to attend Camp for 8 weeks.

Through the Henry and Annette Gibson Tikvah Support Program, Ramah Darom supports campers with physical disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, Down syndrome, intellectual disabilities, communication disorders, ADHD, and anxiety disorders. Support is offered at no additional fee and is available to campers of all ages during 2, 4 and 8-week sessions upon acceptance and interview by our Tikvah Program Director.

Learn more about [Tikvah Support](#).

Application for Enrollment

By submitting your camper's application, you are accepting responsibility for payment of the full tuition for your camper's enrollment. Campers will be considered enrolled once their completed application and Camper Profile has been received and reviewed by our Camper Care team. Occasionally, it is determined that Ramah Darom is not the right fit for a child. If this should happen, the family will receive a full refund of any fees paid.

Jewish Education

Ramah Darom campers are immersed in Jewish living in a way that impacts their life outside of Camp. Connecting campers' experiences at Camp with their life outside of Camp will help to deepen and strengthen their Jewish identity. Participation in a program of supervised, formal Jewish learning to complement the summer is a critical component (day school, synagogue school, Hebrew High, online courses, etc). Therefore, we strongly encourage our campers commit to Jewish learning outside of the home beyond the summer.

Kayitz (Summer) 2022 Camp Session Dates

SESSION	DURATION	RIISING GRADE (FALL 2022)	2022 DATES
Session Aleph	4 Weeks	4th-10th	June 15-July 10
Garinim REIMAGINED!	11 Nights	3rd	June 22-July 3 July 13-24
Ta'am (Taste) of Ramah NEW!	5 Nights	2nd	June 15-20
Session Bet	4 Weeks	4th-10th	July 13-Aug 8
Nitzanim K'tzara (short) NEW!	18 Nights	4th	July 13-July 31
Full Summer* (Aleph + Bet)	8 Weeks	6th-10th	June 15-July 10 + July 13-Aug 8
Gesher	8 Weeks	11th	June 15-Aug 8

[Tikvah Support for campers](#) with disabilities is available during all sessions.

Changes & Cancellations

Ramah Darom staff work year-round to plan for a successful, fun and safe summer. Our refund policy reflects the fact that a significant portion of our expenses are incurred well before summer Camp begins. As a non-profit, Ramah Darom relies on tuition fees to fund our year-round operations.

The \$900 deposit per camper (\$250 for Ta'am, \$500 for Garinim) is fully refundable until January 1, 2022 (minus a \$100 administration fee per camper). See the

schedule above for cancellation policies after January 1st. Note that there is no tuition refund for voluntary withdrawals after May 1, 2022.

CANCELLATION DATE	FEE
Before January 1, 2022	Full refund minus \$100 admin fee per camper
Jan 1-Mar 31, 2022	Full refund minus \$1,000 (Full Summer) \$600 (3 & 4 weeks) \$400 (2 weeks or less)
April 1-30, 2022	50% of tuition fees due
After May 1, 2022	No refund (full Tuition fees due)

Campers who withdraw prior to a session for documented health emergencies will be eligible for a full refund, less a \$500 administrative fee.

All cancellations or changes to enrollment status must be submitted on the family dashboard. Requests for changes made by phone or email will not be honored.

Requests for changes from one 4-week Session to another may be made without penalty pending available space. Changes from Full Summer to a single 4-week Session, a 4-week Session to a 3-week program or full cancellation, will be subject to the above non-refundable, non-transferable fees.

Refunds & Insurance

Refund Policy

There is no tuition refund for voluntary withdrawals after May 1, 2022. Each camper must arrive in good health and all campers must agree to Camp Ramah Darom's rules of behavior including those outlined in the *Camp Brit (Covenant)* found below.

If a camper is dismissed for a behavioral infraction, there will be no refund. In the event any camper is dismissed involuntarily from Camp as a result of a parent/guardian's failure to provide accurate or complete behavioral and or medical information, there will be no refund. There is no pro-rating of tuition for campers who need to arrive late or who depart Camp before the end of the session.

Campers who withdraw prior to a session for documented health emergencies will be eligible for a full refund, less a \$500 administrative fee. Campers withdrawn during a session for medical reasons will have a pro-rated portion of tuition refunded, after a \$900 withdrawal fee.

Trip Protection Insurance

We are fortunate to be able to offer our families a Safe Travels Voyager policy in partnership with AMSkier Insurance. This policy will enable you to recoup your lost investment for the unused, non-refundable Camp tuition if your camper cannot attend Camp or must leave Camp early for reasons such as illness/injury to the camper or an immediate family member or the death of a family member and more. [Learn more.](#)

Immunization Policy

Ramah Darom Vaccine Policy Statement for Campers, Retreat Attendees, Family Camp Attendees, Staff, Visitors and Guests

Among our most cherished Jewish values is the importance of preserving life and maintaining health. Reducing the risk of vaccine-preventable illnesses from entering any of our programs is the single most effective strategy we can take to protect the health and wellbeing of our community. This goal can only be accomplished through the appropriate vaccination of all those in residence at Ramah Darom. Despite the best precautions taken to reduce the spread of infectious diseases, a shared living and eating environment increases the risk of transmission. Appropriate vaccination of all individuals will help us protect all members of our community and specifically, the most vulnerable: those who are too young to be vaccinated, the elderly, and/or those who have compromised immune systems. While we respect that individual families may choose to defer vaccinations, we cannot and will not defer the safety of our community as a whole.

Vaccination Requirements

We require that all individuals, families and staff planning to attend a program at Ramah Darom adhere to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices (ACIP) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) or the Canadian Pediatric Society (CPS) as outlined in US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention's (CDC) Recommended Immunization Schedules.

[CDC Recommended Immunization Schedule for Age 18 Years and Younger](#)

[CDC Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule for Age 19 Years and Older](#)

If you are not sure which vaccines you or your child(ren) have received, please ask your health care provider.

Note: Not all states have the same requirements, but ALL CDC recommended immunizations are required at Ramah Darom.

Covid-19 Vaccination

New for 2022: All Ramah Darom campers, attendees, staff and visitors eligible to be vaccinated against COVID-19 are required to complete full vaccination at least two weeks prior to the start of the program they are attending. This includes the Covid booster where indicated. This new policy applies to all Camp and Retreat programs at Ramah Darom, and is consistent with the approach endorsed by the National Ramah Commission Medical Committee.

Vaccination Exceptions

There are exceptions to the Ramah Darom vaccination policy, but they are extremely rare. We recognize that individuals who have had a documented allergy or severe adverse reaction to a particular vaccine may not be able to complete the immunization schedule outlined by the AAP and the CDC. Additionally, individuals with medical conditions such as congenital immunodeficiency or HIV, cancer and who are receiving chemotherapy, transplant patients, and persons receiving immunosuppressive drugs and chronic steroids also may not be able to receive certain vaccines. In these extremely rare circumstances, current documentation from a Physician (MD or DO), or a Pediatric/Family Practice Advanced Practice Nurse (ARNP or PNP), describing the reason for exemption from immunization must be furnished to Ramah Darom. We are happy to discuss case by case management of these extremely rare circumstances of medical contraindication to partial or complete vaccination.

All requests for exemption will be reviewed by our Medical Chair, in consultation with the National Ramah medical committee.

Travel

Below is general information about travel, families will receive more specific details via email in February.

Travel Registration

It is vitally important that we know exactly how your camper will be traveling to and returning home from Camp this summer. **We ask you to provide this information in your family dashboard by April 15, 2022** and to keep us informed of any changes to your travel itinerary. It is your responsibility to ensure that we have the most accurate information regarding your travel arrangements.

Arrival & Departure

The information below is based on full session arrival and departure days. If your child is attending a shorter session, please visit [registered-camper-family-resources](#) for more specific information.

Car Travel

Drop-off: To avoid long waits in Clayton, we strongly encourage all families to drop off their camper(s) at the Marriott Gateway Hotel near the Atlanta airport, where counselors will greet campers and take them on coach buses to Camp. Please note that families may drive to Camp to drop off their campers on arrival day but will not be able to enter campus.

Please plan to arrive at the Marriott Gateway Hotel or Camp based on the age of your youngest camper:

Rising 7th - 11th Grade: 11:00am - 12:00pm **Rising 2nd - 6th Grade: 12:00pm - 1:00pm**

Pick-up in Atlanta: Families can pick their camper(s) up at 11:30am from Congregation B'nai Torah in Sandy Springs or at noon from the Atlanta airport. If the bus cost of \$75 each way is cost-prohibitive for your family, please contact Deanne Brown at dbrown@ramahdarom.org.

Pick-up from Camp: Families can drive to Camp to pick up their camper(s) between 10:00am - 12:00pm on departure day.

Bus Travel

We are excited to offer round-trip coach buses on the routes listed below! Please note that if we do not reach a minimum number of campers registered for a specific bus by April 15, we will call those who have signed up to help make alternative travel plans. If the buses are cost-prohibitive for your family, please contact Deanne Brown at dbrown@ramahdarom.org. Please visit [registered-camper-family-resources](#) for more information about the Atlanta, GA, North Carolina, Jacksonville, FL and Nashville, TN buses.

Air Travel

All campers flying to Atlanta must land between 11:00am and 1:30pm on arrival day. Flights must depart between 1:30pm and 4:30pm on departure day. If a camper is traveling without a parent/guardian, a counselor or chaperone will accompany them to and from their gate. The cost for busing from the airport is \$75 each way. Please visit [registered-camper-family-resources](#) for more information, including recommended and chaperoned flights, and email travel@ramahdarom.org if you have any questions.

Luggage

Each camper is allowed two soft trunks or duffel bags, not to exceed a total of 60 inches (L + W + H) and a weight of 50 lbs per bag.

Our goal for this summer is to have most campers' luggage delivered to their cabins before arrival so campers can immediately begin settling in when they arrive. This will also allow all our counselors to entirely focus on welcoming your kids to Camp! Here are more specific details for your area:

Atlanta and surrounding suburbs:

This year, Atlanta-based families will be required to drop off their luggage on Sunday, June 12 (Session Aleph) or Sunday, July 10 (Session Bet) between 1:00 - 3:00 pm at Congregation B'nai Torah in Sandy Springs. At the end of each session, campers' luggage will be loaded onto the coach buses back to Atlanta as in previous years.

Florida:

We are excited to announce our new partnership with Camp Trucking, a door-to-door luggage service with no duffel size or weight limits! Please read [their letter](#) for more information (including a special subsidized Ramah Darom rate) and [register here](#). This service will be required for all campers flying from Florida. We strongly encourage Florida campers driving or busing to use the service.

This service is planned around dates for 4- and 8-week campers. Nitzanim K'tzara campers from Florida are required to use this service to Camp (see their one-way fees), but families can make alternative plans for luggage return, OR if you register for round-trip luggage service, we can store your camper's luggage through the end of Session Bet. Garinim and Ta'am campers are highly encouraged (but not required) to use this service.

Other locations:

While we encourage shipping your luggage in advance, campers may bring their luggage with them on arrival day. You may ship your camper's bags to Camp (70 Darom Lane, Clayton, Georgia 30352) via Fed Ex, UPS or other postal carrier. Families are responsible for the cost of shipping in both directions. If you plan to ship baggage; please schedule the delivery for at least four days prior to the beginning of the session, mark bags clearly by labeling them with the camper's name and division and obtain return shipping labels. Please send copies of the labels to travel@ramahdarom.org, so that we can attach the shipping tags at the end of the session.

Intersession

Intersession is the time between sessions Aleph and Bet and only applies to campers staying for both sessions.

NOTE: Some of this intersession information is new for Kayitz (Ssummer) 2022. If your camper is staying in Geshet, we will provide an Intersession program and an opportunity for you to see your camper at a select time. (We will contact you via email and ask you to submit your Intersession plan before Camp begins.)

Full session campers will either go to their own homes or travel home with a friend. For help with arrangements please contact our Camper Care Team.

Medical Information

The Health Center (*Mirpa'ah* or MARP) is staffed 24 hours a day with medical, nursing and support staff. In case of an emergency, the Mountain Lakes Medical Center is minutes away. To make sure that the MARP staff is well prepared to care for all campers, it is imperative that you complete and submit all medical and health information for your camper by March 15, 2022.

You will find the 2022 health forms on your family dashboard. *All medical forms must be submitted in order for your child to attend Camp.* We require an up-to-date health history signed by their Health Care Provider. A physical examination must be completed within 12 months of your child's arrival at Camp.

Failure to comply or withholding medical information may result in your child's inability to attend or remain in Camp. If you have any questions or concerns, please email medical@ramahdarom.org.

Insurance, Emergencies & CampMeds

Medical & Pharmacy Insurance Coverage

Campers are required to have valid health insurance coverage.

If you do not have insurance coverage for your camper, a short-term policy may be purchased through AMSkier (800.245.2666).

Please provide evidence of your camper's coverage where indicated in the family dashboard. If there are any changes to your insurance coverage or updates before the start of Camp, please inform us and submit the updated information.

Ramah Darom maintains a secondary source of accident/medical insurance which is available to all campers. This policy provides insurance for those medical expenses incurred at Camp that are not covered by the camper's own primary health insurance coverage, excludes any pre-existing conditions, and is limited to \$1,000 for sickness and \$3,500 for accident per person per incident. The deadline for filing of any claims for secondary coverage under this policy is September 30, 2022.

Medical Emergencies: When We Will Contact Parents

We do not contact parents for routine camper visits to the MARP, including minor injuries. Parents are only contacted in the following circumstances:

- (1) if the Camp doctor prescribes medication or believes there is a significant medical issue
- (2) if your child is taken out of Camp for consultation or x-ray, or
- (3) if your child spends the night in the MARP.

Our Camp doctors, at their discretion, may determine other situations where he/she will contact parents.

Medications

Ramah Darom uses CampMeds, a dispensing and packaging company that helps us safely administer medications during the summer. Camp Ramah Darom requires ALL campers who take medications (prescription and non-prescription), including vitamins and supplements, to use the services provided by CampMeds. Using CampMeds ensures that all medication arrives at Camp before the start of each session, minimizes the potential for medication errors, reduces waiting times for children during medication call and assures that daily and “as needed” medications are dosed accurately and administered in a timely and safe manner. The CampMeds program also allows more time for our nursing staff to devote to our campers’ other healthcare needs.

CampMeds Policies

To avoid late fees, register with CampMeds and send your campers’ prescriptions to CampMeds at least 30 days before your session start date.

Pill medication taken on a routine basis will be individually packaged, sealed and sorted according to the date and time of administration by CampMeds’ affiliated, licensed pharmacy.

Medication that is taken on an “as needed” basis will be packaged separately.

Non-pill medication (drops, sprays, liquids, creams, chewable or dissolvable pills) will be obtained from the CampMeds Pharmacy.

NOTE: By law, all prescriptions must be filled, packaged and administered according to the written prescription from your camper’s physician. Please confirm the correct medication, dose and exactly how and when your camper takes the medication is on the prescription before it is sent to CampMeds.

Registering with CampMeds

CampMeds charges a medication administration fee of \$55 per camper for one session or \$65 per camper for the full summer; a \$25 late fee is added for anyone not signing up one month before the start of the Camp session in which the camper is registered. To register, visit campmeds.com. You may contact them directly at info@campmeds.com or 954.577.0025. We ask for your cooperation in complying with this essential requirement and assisting us in our primary goal of maintaining the health, well-being and safety of your child. We expect 100% compliance.

Exceptions to Using CampMeds (Note New Exceptions)

Injectable Medications, Inhalers, Epi-pens, Insulin, Accutane, Birth Control Pills and Growth Hormone Injections.

If your child uses any of the medications listed above or if CampMeds tells you they are unable to fill your prescription, email the Ramah Darom Head Nurse at medical@ramahdarom.org no later than April 15, 2022.

If the CampMeds pharmacy does not accept your insurance, we ask that you use the CampMeds repackaging service, which will prepare the medications/supplements appropriately, for an additional \$10 per medication/supplement/vitamin. CampMeds will notify you, and work with you to make sure your prescriptions are filled and packaged correctly.

Over the Counter Medications

The MARP stocks most over-the-counter items such as Tylenol, Advil, Benadryl and Lactaid pills. Unless your child takes these medications daily, there is no need to send these items to Camp or through CampMeds. Please contact the Head Nurse at medical@ramahdarom.org if you have questions about which medications the MARP stocks in its formulary.

Medication FAQs

What if my child's medication/dosage changes?

If your child's medication dosage or medication schedule should change after you have submitted the Health History form to us, you must notify us in writing at medical@ramahdarom.org with a letter signed by the prescribing physician identifying the specific changes.

Where at Camp are medications kept?

All medications are kept in the MARP and/or medication dispensing office. All medication dispensing area at Camp are equipped with refrigerators. Medicines may NOT be kept in the bunk with the exceptions of inhalers, epi-pens, birth control, creams/ointments and insulin.

What happens with any extra medication at the end of the summer?

All unused or extra medications will be sent home with your child, packed safely in their luggage, except epi-pens and items that require refrigeration.

What if I get my child's medication filled in a 3-month supply?

The 90-day supply must be broken down to 30-day increments. To be able to send CampMeds a script for one month, please fill your prescriptions one month at a time starting two months before your child's arrival to Camp. Speak to your physician or insurance company about specific details.

Noncompliance Policy for Medications/Supplements

Unless you have prior consent from the medical team at Camp (see the CampMeds exemptions above), **campers or camper families who arrive at Camp with camper medication in their luggage or on their person will be assessed a \$200 fee for each medication to be processed and prepared for disbursement at Camp.** These camper families will then also be required to order medication through CampMeds for the remainder of the child's time at Camp.

You will have three days from the start of Camp to make arrangements with CampMeds. Your child will not miss any medication dosage while waiting for Camp meds to ship medications.

Medication Prescribed During Camp

If your child becomes sick while at Camp and the Camp doctor needs to prescribe medication, or if there is any change in your child's medical regimen, you will be contacted by a doctor or nurse. Once we receive your permission for the prescription, we will send the prescription to our local pharmacy and provide the insurance information we have on file for your child. We will also give you the pharmacy phone number and ask that you contact them to confirm insurance coverage and arrange payment for any insurance co-pay or medication costs.

You may send us a copy of your FSA Debit card if you prefer the MARP to utilize your FSA account for such charges; please email medical@ramahdarom.org authorizing permission to do so and your signature. The FSA Debit card can be provided as an attachment to your Insurance Info & Authorization Form; please make sure the front and back of the card are both visible.

Medication "Vacations"

Camp is often assumed to be a less structured, stress-free environment. As a result, parents are sometimes encouraged by prescribing physicians to allow their campers to take a "vacation" from their regular, school-year dose of medication during the summer. Although Camp provides an environment for relaxed fun, it is not always stress free.

(Medication “Vacations” continued)

There are many different challenges campers face: new social situations, changes in routine, very structured experiences and less structured experiences. For these reasons, we strongly encourage you to maintain your child's routine medication regimen.

If you are considering a “vacation” from medication for your child, please communicate with us so that we can adequately prepare to work with your child in the most positive way. Please contact medical@ramahdarom.org to discuss any medication vacations.

Campers with Asthma & Allergies

During the summer sessions, Camp Ramah Darom's dining room is completely peanut and tree nut free.

Guidelines for Campers Who Use an Inhaler

If your child uses an inhaler, they must have two inhalers at Camp. One inhaler will remain with your child and the second one will be kept in the MARP.

Please pack the inhalers in your child's carry on, not in their duffel.

Campers must be aware that they have an inhaler in their carry-on bag for emergencies and should be instructed to inform the MARP that they have inhalers in their possession when they go through the Health Check-in on the first day of Camp.

Campers will be expected to carry one inhaler on their person or in their backpack throughout the day at Camp.

Campers with Allergies

Make sure that all allergies are listed in your camper's information on your family dashboard. Let us know if your child carries an Epi-Pen for emergency treatment of a life-threatening allergic reaction and whether or not they understand and know how to use it.

If your child does carry an Epi-Pen, they must have two Epi-Pens at Camp. One Epi-Pen will remain with your child and the second one will be kept in the Infirmary. Campers will be expected to carry their Epi-Pen on their person or in their backpack throughout the day at Camp.

Please pack the Epi-Pens in your child's carry on not in their duffel.

Campers must be aware that there is an Epi-Pen in their carry-on bag for emergencies and should be instructed to inform the MARP that they two Epi-Pens in their possession, when they go through the Health Check-in on the first day of Camp.

Head Lice, Health Practices & Updates

Head lice

Help us prevent the spread of head lice by checking your child for lice and nits (lice eggs) before Camp starts. If your child is found to have head lice or nits during the Health Check-In on the first day, he/she must be treated before moving into their bunk. We partner with a professional company to conduct lice checks on arrival day and before departure to help facilitate a more expedited check-in and thorough screening. You will be contacted if your child requires treatment and charged a fee for lice removal and treatment.

Dental & Orthodontic

Please take care of all your child's dental and orthodontic needs before the start of Camp. Camp does not have a dentist or orthodontist on site. In the event your child needs dental treatment, we will contact you and discuss possible options for care. Camp can arrange a visit and transport to a local dentist or orthodontist in Clayton. *Remember to label all retainer containers with your child's name.*

Eye Care (Glasses and Contact Lenses)

Children who wear glasses or contact lenses should bring an extra pair to Camp. *Glasses should have the camper's name marked clearly on the inside of the frames.* Camp's secondary health insurance does not cover normal eye care or maintenance. In the event that your child requires the services of an ophthalmologist or optometrist, Camp will make arrangement for the visit, transport and accompany your child to the appointment. You will be billed for all doctor's fees.

Important Health Practices

Before the start of Camp, please have discussions with your children about the following health practices:

- Do not share clothing, anything that touches the head (hats, kippot, scarves, combs, brushes, hair clips/ ornaments, pillows, sheets, or towels), drinks, food, water bottles or personal hygiene items such as razors.
- Wash hands before and after meals and after using the restroom.
- Use the hand sanitizers, located throughout Camp, when washing with soap and water is not readily available.
- Showers should be taken daily along with changing into clean underwear and clothing daily.
- Brush teeth at least twice a day.
- Stay hydrated: Drinking plenty of water throughout the day is extremely important. Campers must arrive with two reusable water bottles labeled with their name. A limited number of replacement water bottles will be available for a fee charged to the camper.
- Use sunscreen and bug repellent. Please teach your children how to use these items. Counselors will remind campers to drink and apply sunscreen regularly, but it is important that the campers also take responsibility.
- Eat a healthy, well-balanced diet! This is critical to good health at Camp. We will provide a healthy variety of food choices at every meal including snacks.
- WEAR CLOSED TOE FOOTWEAR. Open toed shoes should have an ankle strap. Even acceptable sandals are not permitted for most Camp activities. Many injuries seen in the MARP are due to improper footwear. One pair of flip flops for use in the shower is permissible.

Last Minute Health Information Updates

If your child's medical condition, medication dosage or medication schedule should change after you have submitted the Health History and the Physician Examination forms to us, you must notify us in writing at medical@ramahdarom.org with a letter signed by the prescribing physician identifying the specific changes. CampMeds will always accommodate campers at any time; all you need to do is contact them regarding a medication change or add-on.

Parent/Guardian Logistics

Family Emergencies During Camp

If there is a family emergency, please inform the Camp office by calling 706.782.9300.

Please communicate to whomever answers that you are calling regarding an emergency so your call can be directed properly.

Decisions regarding how to handle the specific situation will be made in partnership with our Camp Director, Assistant Director and the parent(s) or guardians. Only after Camp is notified are arrangements made for parents and children to talk. This approach prepares Camp to support your children through the difficult situation.

Change of Address

It is important that parents notify the Camp office of any change in their permanent or summer address, telephone number or email addresses by updating your profile on your family dashboard. You may also contact our Registrar Andrea Cohen at andreacohen@ramahdarom.org to update your contact information.

Parent Vacations

If you will be away from home when your child is at Camp, or if your summer address is different from your address during the rest of the year, please email this information to Andrea Cohen at andreacohen@ramahdarom.org so we can make sure the MARP and Director know how to reach you should the need arise.

Communications

Mail

Prior to Camp, you will receive an email with the guideline for communicating with Camp as well as a list of the names of the *Yoetzim* (Parent Liaisons) assigned to each *aidah* (division) for each session.

Campers are required to write home twice a week.

Letters sent through the USPS may take some time to arrive home. If this happens, don't worry as "no news is good news"! If you receive a homesick letter from your child, or are just concerned, please call Camp and ask for the *Yoetz/et*. Your child's *Yoetz/et* will check out the situation and get back to you within 24 hours.

Please write your child often!

You should send your first letters to Camp one to two weeks prior to the start of the Camp session, as mail service to Clayton can be slow. Please allow at least a week for mail delivery, as there is no mail pickup at Camp between Friday and Monday.

Address all mail to your camper(s) as follows:

Camper's Name

Bunk #_____

Camp Ramah Darom

70 Darom Lane

Clayton, GA 30525

Flat Package Policy

Camp Ramah Darom will only accept flat envelopes up to 12"x15" for magazines, photos, or books. Small items such as stickers, pens, and rubber bracelets are permitted as long as they fit inside the flat envelope. **DO NOT SEND FOOD, CANDY or GUM.**

Books

For the avid readers among our Camp community, we will accept boxes mailed from Amazon containing **BOOKS ONLY**.

Any package that is not flat or contains anything other than books will not be delivered to your camper. If a package arrives that is not pre-approved, it will be returned unopened to the sender at the sender's expense.

Necessary Items

Should your child forget an item (e.g., sunscreen, water bottle or sandals) please be in touch with your child's *Yoetz/et*. Often, they are able to obtain these items for your camper avoiding the wait and hassle of shipping something to Camp. If an item still needs to be sent, after obtaining permission, please address the package to: **Camper's Name, Aidah Name, c/o Yoetz/et Name.**

Email

Campers can receive emails from parents and guardians. *There is a small fee which covers the cost of technology, supplies and staffing so that we can offer this service.* Each morning (except Wednesdays and Saturdays) emails will be printed out and distributed to campers around lunch time. Emails sent after the batch is printed, or sent on Wednesdays or Saturdays, will be distributed to campers the next day.

Parents can also send with their email, a request for handwritten response which will provide the camper with one page to write back to parents. These forms, once filled out by your child and returned to our Camp post office box will be sent electronically via Bunk1 back to the parents. **Even if you have sent an email, please do not expect an immediate reply!** It can sometimes take a few days for your child's reply as they may be out of Camp on a trip, involved in a day-long camp activity or just busy having fun!

Telephone Calls

Unless it is an emergency, campers do not speak to parents on the phone. Please note that cell phones are not permitted at Camp. If a camper brings a cell phone, it will be collected and held in the Camp office safe until the end of the session.

If you are concerned about your child's well-being, or if you want to find out how your camper is doing, please leave a message for the *Yoetz/et*. Contact information for *Yoetzim* will be emailed to you before Camp begins. The *Yoetz/et* will research the situation and get back to you within 24 hours. Please note that messages left for the *Yoetzim* on Friday afternoons are not generally returned until Sunday morning.

In addition, most of the *Yoetzim* are off on Wednesdays. Messages left on Wednesday will be returned on Thursday morning.

If the situation is an emergency, please follow the emergency contact procedure as outline under "Parent Logistics."

News from Camp

In addition to the letters parents will be receiving from their child(ren), our online photo galleries, regular videos, aidah updates and pre-Shabbat news updates (*Drishat Shalom*) will help parents stay connected with all the fun happening at Camp.

Drishat Shalom/Pre-Shabbat News

During the summer, *Drishat Shalom* will be emailed every Friday before Shabbat. This weekly news update will summarize the week and touch on intangible aspects of the Ramah Experience - the magical parts of Camp that photos and videos cannot capture.

Camper Photos

Each day, our Camp photography staff takes a myriad of photos of campers in action, and we will upload those photos a few times a week. We will share a combination of posed and candid photos at a diversity of Camp locations and activities. You can easily download photos as well as share on social media. You will receive details on how to access photos before Camp begins.

Clothing & More

NOTE: Some of these guidelines have changed for Kayitz (Ssummer) 2022

Rules for Clothing at Camp

At Camp, campers and staff dress in a way that demonstrates respect for the community and our educational environment. Clothing should be tasteful and modest. Camp is not a place to test out the latest extreme fashion trends. Dress at Camp is for comfort and activity, not for show. Campers will be sent back to their *tzrif* (cabin) to change, if their clothing fails to meet the standards set forth below.

Swim Wear

All campers and staff must wear swim wear that reflect our modesty standards, such as:

- One-piece or tankini style swim wear that completely covers the midriff
- Board shorts or boxer style swim trunks
- Rash-guard/swim shirts

Shabbat Clothes

Shabbat is a very special time of the week. Please note that at Ramah Darom we celebrate Shabbat from Friday night through sundown on Saturday. Our guideline for tasteful dress is not fancy; we discourage elaborate, expensive outfits and encourage simplicity.

The following is appropriate for Shabbat:

- Collared shirt (polo or button down)
- Skirt and blouse or a dress with sleeves
- Khaki pants or similar trousers
- Shorts are acceptable on Saturday, but not on Friday night

NOTE: Jeans are not appropriate for Shabbat; and all Shabbat tops must have sleeves (short sleeve, flutter sleeve and cap sleeve are permissible).

Kippot, Tefillin & Tallit

All males are required, and females are encouraged, to wear a kippah during *t'fillot* (prayers) and a kippah or hat during mealtimes. On Shabbat, only kippot are allowed during mealtimes (no hats). PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL KIPPOT ARE LABELED. We encourage campers to carry a kippah with them in their bag throughout the day.

All males of Bar Mitzvah age are required, and females of Bat Mitzvah age are encouraged, to wear Tefillin. If your son or daughter is of Bar/Bat Mitzvah age but does not have Tefillin, please acquire a set before Camp. PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL TALLIT, TALLIT BAGS AND TEFILLIN BAGS ARE LABELED. (A clear plastic zippered pouch labeled with the camper's name is helpful to keep these items protected and together.)

What NOT to Wear

The following items do NOT reflect our modesty standards and are NOT permitted at Camp:

- Bare midriffs
- Exposed bra or underwear
- Halter tops, strapless tops, backless tops or low-cut shirts
- "Low rider" pants
- See-through clothing
- Short skirts or high cut shorts that expose the buttocks
- Bikini swimsuits or Speedo brief style swimsuits
- Shirts with inappropriate words, phrases or symbols
- Tank top shirts (for men or women) that expose the back or any part of the chest (ie. shoulders should be mostly covered; racerback or spaghetti strap tank tops are not permitted; armholes must be fitted under the arm)

Labeling, Loss & Laundry

Labeling Clothes & Belongings

Label everything that comes to Camp with your child's name. You may choose to purchase labels online, but Sharpies work just fine, too!

Wear & Tear & Loss

Camp clothes will see a lot of wear and tear. Please consider sending clothing that is comfortable and well broken-in for everyday wear.

We do our best to protect your child's belongings, and we ask that you discuss with your child the importance of being responsible for their belongings.

Ramah Darom assumes no responsibility either for wear and tear, loss or damage to a camper's clothing or other personal items. We suggest that you arrange with your insurance agent for a floater policy to cover loss or damage.

Note: If your camper accidentally leaves items behind at Camp, please contact our office as soon as possible. We do our best to locate and return lost items, but we are only able to return items on which we can identify the camper's full name clearly marked on them. Items that are located can be mailed back home at the parent's expense.

Laundry

Please pre-wash all of your child's clothing prior to Camp. In addition, be sure that all clothing you send to Camp is colorfast. Laundry will be sent out once a week and will come back 1-2 days after it has been sent. Please send your child to Camp with two laundry bags. Campers should not plan on washing their own clothes.

At the back of the Handbook, you will find a suggested packing list. Please adjust this list to fit your child's own particular needs.

What NOT to Bring

- Any electronic devices that can connect to the Internet including computers, iPads, portable game systems or other similar equipment
- DVD players, televisions, video cameras, walkie-talkies, etc.
- Money (apart from money provided for yetziot/field trips, as outlined above)
- Guns or knives (toy or real) of any kind or laser pointers
- Alcohol or tobacco, e-cigarettes of any kind, including Juul devices
- Illegal substances or related paraphernalia, including but not limited to marijuana in any form

Birthdays, B'nai Mitzvah & Camp Time

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Guided Review

As an educational institution, Ramah Darom is committed to making sure that the hard work your child has put in preparing to become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, prior to Camp, is not forgotten during an amazing, fun-filled summer. If your child has a Bar/Bat Mitzvah between July and December 31, 2022, Camp will provide some guided scheduled review with a staff member on a weekly basis. Since there is very little “free time” at Camp, the review will usually take place during rest hour. Camp staff will schedule the review times and make every effort to make sure your child attends, but it is ultimately the camper’s responsibility to attend their review sessions!

While we do not offer review sessions for children with Bar/Bat Mitzvah occurring after December 31, 2022, every camper will have the opportunity to learn valuable skills during the summer like leading services, *Birkat Hamazon*, reading Torah and Haftarah (Camp does have its own melodies though, which may vary from what your congregation sings).

Birthdays

Every camper with a birthday during Camp will receive a birthday cake for a *tzrif* (cabin) party in the dining hall at mealtime. There is no need to call Camp with a similar request. Campers with birthdays during Camp will be allowed to phone home on their birthday. Calls are generally made between 8-10pm EDT and are facilitated by the *Yoetz/et*.

Camp Time

During the summer, on the first night of each session, Camp Ramah Darom sets its clocks to Eastern Standard Time. For example, when it is 12:00 noon in Atlanta (which is Eastern Daylight Savings Time-EDT), it is only 11:00am at Camp. On the last evening of each session the clocks are changed back to EDT. “Camp Time” allows younger campers an opportunity for programming on Saturday nights after Shabbat. In addition, the sun has an extra hour each morning to warm the pool and lake for swimming and dry dew off of the playing fields.

Rules & Regulations

Technology & Cell Phones

Camp is a screen-free experience!

Any devices with screens (including phones, iPads, computers, etc.) that are brought to Camp will be collected and held in a safe space in our Camp office for the duration of the session. Campers will receive their screens back at the end of the session, as they arrive at the airport, depart the bus or are picked up by family members. **If your child has a phone with them for travel purposes, make sure they understand that it must be turned in for storage upon arrival.**

Suggestions to help your children to adapt to this screen-free environment:

- Talk to your children about the benefits of “unplugging.”
- Encourage your children to write you letters.
- Provide your children with address labels of friends and family along with postage.
- Provide a basic (screen-free) MP3 player, including the original iPod, iPod Shuffle or Nano for your child (listening to music and audio books on one of these devices is allowed).

Music & Audio Books

Campers are permitted to bring an original iPod, iPod shuffle or Nano or other screen-less MP3 players to enjoy their personal music at Camp and share with their friends.

Camp Ramah Darom bears no responsibility for lost or damaged personal electronics.

Please review the music that your child wishes to bring to Camp to be certain it is appropriate for the Ramah Darom setting. Do NOT send your child to Camp with music that advocates drug use or violence, which degrades other human beings, that is sexually explicit or that includes swearing, cursing or other inappropriate lyrics.

Your assistance in this matter will help create a comfortable and positive environment for all of our campers and for our entire community and communicate the value of *Kedushat Halashon* (the sanctity of language) that Camp holds so dear.

Piercings, Graffiti & Privacy

Piercings

At the foundation of Judaism is the idea that each human being is created *B'tzelem Elokim* (in the Image of God). At Camp, this value is expressed in the way that we dress, in our appearance and personal hygiene and in the way that we speak and act towards one another. Certain norms in secular society challenge the notion that our actions should reflect the idea of being created *B'tzelem Elokim*. Contemporary social trends like body piercings negate the underlying Jewish value that our bodies are to be viewed as gifts on loan from God, entrusted in our care. While earrings and small nose rings (for both men and women) are acceptable, other body piercings are not acceptable at Camp.

Graffiti

The buildings at Ramah Darom are beautifully maintained and represent the work and dedication of supporters throughout the country. Ramah Darom does not permit writing on walls, tables, benches or any other piece of Camp property. Campers are expected to properly respect the campus and the buildings. **Absolutely no graffiti is permitted.** A fine of \$300 per incident plus any maintenance costs for repairs will be assessed for any defacing of, or damage to, Camp property. Re-enrollment of a camper will not be permitted until the fine is paid in full.

Privacy vs. Protection

While respect for the privacy of individuals at Camp is a value we teach and encourage, the needs of the community sometimes supersede the needs of the individual. If the health or safety of other campers or staff is at risk, campers may be asked to have their belongings searched and inventoried in the presence of two designated members of the senior staff.

Gratuities

Staff members at Ramah Darom are engaged in an important educational enterprise. As professional educators, they may not accept gratuities under any circumstances. If you feel that a staff member has performed exceptionally well during the summer, please bring this to the attention of the Camp Director. If you would like, you can show your appreciation for a staff member by making a contribution in that staff member's name to the Staff Appreciation Fund. A card will be sent to the staff member in whose name the gift is made. Contributions may be made by calling Sharon Rosenfeld at 404.503.2129 and will be used to enhance staff life at Camp.

ברית/Brit/Agreement

In order to best understand expectations and acknowledge commitment to the Ramah Darom community, all campers and Parents/Guardians are required to read, discuss and agree to this Brit and completing Brit Acknowledgment document on your Family Dashboard, before arriving at Camp.

קהלה קדושה/Kehillah K'doshah/Holy Community

At Ramah Darom we exemplify the qualities of כבוד (respect) and טוב לב (kindness) in interactions with כלם (everyone) both during the summer and during the school year.

- We respect the feelings and emotions of others when in Camp and when at home. We talk with kind words, invite others to join us in play, take care not to exclude, humiliate or show meanness to others and respect other's bodies.
- We respect the property of others by not taking, defacing, destroying or altering property that does not belong to us.
- We follow the rules of Camp, which include NOT bringing cigarettes, juul equipment, e-cigarettes, drugs, dangerous objects or illegal or dangerous items to Camp.
- We follow Camp rules and behavior expectations on field trips, since we represent Ramah Darom and the Jewish community.
- We respect the requests and directions of staff members whose role is to keep us all safe and ensure an enjoyable time for all.
- We continue to treat members of our community with respect and kindness, including respectful interactions while texting and using social media, all year long.

בצלם אלוהים/B'tzelem Elohim/In the Image of God

At Ramah Darom, we view each person as a reflection of God. Our diverse community is an essential part of who we are because every member of the Ramah community is of equal and supreme worth.

- We respect that each of us is a unique individual, offering compassion and help, without teasing or bullying those who may be different from ourselves.
- We each strive to be the best version of ourselves, focusing on our own growth and learning.
- We accept that we each may make mistakes, but that we can all learn from these experiences, and attempt to give each other the benefit of the doubt when there is a disagreement.
- We are part of an inclusive environment, and we do not exclude others or make fun of another's challenges.
- We come to Camp with a positive attitude and bring our curiosity for exploring our Judaism.
- We commit to be a דגמה אישית (role model), expressing our profound Jewish joy and love for our קהלה (community).

All campers and Parents/Guardians are encouraged to read discuss and agree to the *Brit* and consequences as described in this Handbook by completing a Brit Acknowledgment document on your family dashboard.

Noncompliance Policy for Behavior/Breaking Camp Rules

While we do not expect perfection, we do expect all members of our community to strive for growth and being an integral member of Ramah Darom.

First Offense

Counselors will be the first line of intervention with camper behaviors. They will utilize collaborative problem solving to address camper misbehavior.

Second Offense

Rosh Aidah (Unit Head) will meet with the camper and counselor to decide on appropriate logical consequence, such as cleaning an area of Camp or cleaning the dining hall, writing an apology letter or missing an evening activity. *Yoetz/et* (advisor) will work with the *Rosh Aidah* in development of the consequence and may also meet with the camper to develop a behavior plan for success with the camper. Parents will be called and informed of the misbehavior and behavioral plan.

Third Offense

Camper and *Rosh Aidah* will meet with the Camper Care Manager, Assistant Director or Camp Director. Parents will be called and included in the consequence plan. Dismissal from Camp may occur by the discretion of the Camp Director.

Immediate Dismissal

Behaviors that put your child or others at risk may result in immediate dismissal* from Camp, such as:

- Possession or consumption of alcohol
- Possession or consumption of illegal drugs or tobacco products
- Possession or consumption of non-prescribed legal drugs
- Leaving Camp property without proper authorization
- Purposefully harming others at Camp, emotionally or physically
- Possession or use of e-cigarettes, vape pens or similar devices with or without tobacco or marijuana products
- Possession or use of guns, knives or weapons of any kind

*Campers who are dismissed from Camp due to behaviors or breaking of Camp rules, result in immediate expulsion from Camp with no refund of tuition or fees. Travel costs incurred due to dismissal will be parents'/ guardian's responsibility.

The following items will be confiscated and may be returned at the end of Camp

- Cell phones or any electronic devices that can connect to the Internet including computers, iPads and other tablets, eReaders, portable game systems or other similar equipment
- Other electronics, including DVD players, televisions, video cameras, walkie-talkies, etc.
- Flammable materials such as matches, fireworks, lighters, butane, incense, candles and hot pots
- Money, apart from money provided for *yitziot* (field trips)
- Toy guns, weapons or laser pointers

All campers and Parents/Guardians are encouraged to read discuss and agree to the *Brit* and consequences as described in this Handbook by completing a *Brit* Acknowledgment document on your family dashboard.

Prep for Camp at a Glance

January	1. Complete Health History form on your family dashboard and schedule a doctor's appointment to get it reviewed and signed.
	2. Get comfortable with your family dashboard.
	3. Review the Parent/Guardian Handbook (Note our immunization policy).
February	1. Upload required documents to your family dashboard.
	2. Ramah Darom Scholarship Application Deadline.
	3. Find a flight A recommended flights list will be available for you to view or download soon. Travel information is due April 15th.
	4. Sign up for CampMeds. All campers who will be taking medications, vitamins or supplements while at Camp must sign up to have medication sent to Camp using our pharmacy partner at campmeds.com .
March	1. Forms are due March 15th unless otherwise noted.
	2. Finalize travel plans & complete the travel information on your family dashboard.
	3. New camper families, check your mailbox for Ra-Mah Koreh , a magazine filled with tips, games and information to get your child ready for Camp.
April	1. Confirm your travel information by April 15th on your family dashboard.
	2. Start Shopping: To ease the shopping stress, visit packforcamp/ramah-darom , where you will find almost every thing on your packing list and tons of fun Ramah Darom logowear. <i>Note: Camp is not a place for fancy or expensive clothing. Your local thrift store is a great place to find t-shirts and other clothing perfect for Camp.</i> Remember to order labels and or Sharpie pens for labeling all items before packing them for Camp.
	3. Final Scholarship Decisions.
May	1. Final tuition payment due (May 1).
	2. Session A: CampMeds registration & prescriptions due one month before Camp.
	3. Session A: Receive luggage tags two weeks before Camp.
June	1. Session B: CampMeds registration & prescriptions due one month before Camp.
	2. Session B: Receive Luggage tags two weeks before Camp.

 Grey denotes optional items

Camper Packing List



Clothing & Shoes

- 12 T-Shirts (1 White/100% Cotton)
- 2 Long Sleeve Shirts
- 4 Pairs of Pants/Jeans/Sweatpants
- 8 Pairs of Shorts
- 14 Pairs of Underwear
- 3-4 Pairs of PJs (1 Heavy)
- 3 Bathing Suits (No Bikinis or Speedo Style)
- 14 Pairs of Athletic Socks
- 2 Sweatshirts/Pullovers/Jackets
- 1 Hooded Raincoat/Poncho
- 1 Pair Shower Shoes/Flip Flops
- 1 Pair Sturdy Waterproof Shoes/Hiking Boots
- 2 Pairs Athletic Shoes
- 1 Pair Sandals with Back Strap
- 1 Hat/Cap/Sun Visor
- Shabbat Clothes (Friday Night & Saturday)



Miscellaneous

- 1 Individual Fan (Battery Operated Clip-On)
- 2 Large Water Bottles/Canteens
- 1 Flashlight (with Extra Batteries)
- 1 Pair Sunglasses
- Stationary, Pens, Stamps & Addresses of Family & Friends
- 4 Kippot with Clips (Optional for Girls)
- Tallit & Tefillin for B'nai Mitzvah (Optional for Girls)
- 1 Small Backpack
- 1 Packable Sleeping Bag (Polyester-Filled)
- 1 Hanging Shoe Bag/Organizer
- Red, Blue, Green & Yellow Wear (for Yom Sport)



Bedding & Toiletries

- 2 Sets of Sheets (Twin XL)
- 1 Mattress Cover (Twin XL)
- 2 Pillowcases
- 1 Pillow
- 2 Blankets (1 Light, 1 Heavy)
- 4 Wash Cloths
- 4 Bath Towels
- 2 Pool Towels
- 2 Laundry Bags
- 1 Plastic Toiletry Caddy
- 1 Brush/Comb
- 2 Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
- 1 Soap Dish
- 3 Bars of Soap
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Sunscreen



Optional

Slippers, Small Sewing Kit, Bug Repellent, Pool Goggles, Bathing Cap, Bathrobe, Camera, Musical Instrument, Hebrew Bible, Books, Tikkun, Athletic Equipment (Baseball Mitt, Basketball, Tennis Racket)

What NOT To Bring



Electronics, Toy Guns (Any Kind), Flammable Materials, Laser Pointers, Alcohol, Tobacco, E-cigarettes (Any Kind), Illegal Substances or Related Paraphernalia, Knives, Guns, Weapons, Inappropriate Clothing, Bikini or Speedo-Style Swimwear

Visit ramahdarom.org/camper-family-resources/ for modified Packing Lists for Garinim and Ta'am campers.

Check out our Pack for Camp Store at packforcamp.com/ramah-darom. Remember to label everything with your child's name!

Driving Directions

Please print these directions and bring them with you.
GPS directions are often inaccurate and some shorter routes are dangerous.

To Clayton, GA

From Atlanta, GA

- Take I-85 N to I-985 N
- Continue straight on US-365 / 441 N to Clayton
- *Follow directions below starting at #1

From Asheville, NC

- I-40 W / US-74 W / US-23 S / US-441 to Clayton, GA
- *Follow directions below starting at #1

From Charlotte, NC

- I-85 S to SC-24 W and US-76 W to Clayton, GA
- *Follow directions below starting at #2

From Florida

- Take I-75 N to I-475 N (By-Pass Macon)
- Back onto I-75 N to I-285 E to I-85 N to I-985 N
- Continue straight on US-365/441 N to Clayton
- *Follow directions below starting at #1

From Nashville, TN

- Take 24 E to I-75 N
- Take US-64 Bypass E (Exit 20) toward Cleveland
- Merge onto US-74 to US-64 E
- Turn right onto NC-69
- Take 76 E for 16.6 miles
- Turn Left onto Persimmon Rd.
- *Follow directions below starting at #4

From Clayton to Ramah Darom

1. U.S. 441 N. to US-76 W (Pass McDonald's on left.)
2. Turn (left if coming from south and right if coming from north) on to US 76-W/Savannah Street (landmarks: Dairy Queen, Citco Gas) and travel 8.03 miles.
3. Drive 8.03 miles and turn right onto Persimmon Rd. (It's about a quarter of a mile after you pass Charlie Mountain Road. If you reach the YMCA Camp High Harbour or Lake Burton, you've gone too far.)
4. Continue for 8.5 miles on Persimmon Rd. (Make sure you keep to the left at the fork of Mellie Keener and Persimmon.)
5. Check in at the security booth on your left side.

Stay tuned for drop off details and exact location.

For assistance, please call the Camp at
706.782.9300