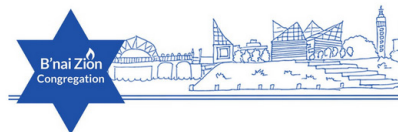


# Southern Schumpoze at Ramah Darom



## 2026 PROGRAM GUIDE





B'ruchim HaBaim (Welcome)!

We are so grateful to gather with you at Ramah Darom for this year's Southern Schmooze Shabbaton. In a world that moves quickly and often feels heavy, Shabbat gives us the gift of slowing down to reconnect with ourselves and one another.

Southern Schmooze is more than a weekend away. It's shared meals and meaningful conversation, spirited singing and quiet reflection, old friends and new connections. Together, we create a space of warmth, joy, and belonging – all wrapped in a little good old-fashioned hachnasat orchim (hospitality), Southern style.

Please take time to read through this Program Guide and bring it with you wherever you go. We are always happy to answer any questions.

May this Shabbat bring you rest, renewal, and a deep sense of community. We are so glad you're here!

B'Shalom,

The Ramah Darom Team

**Board of Directors Chair**

Stacey Slomka

**Chief Executive Officer**

Scott Topal

**Finance & Business**

**Operations**

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Deanne Brown  
Janel Habosha

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Jorge Jr. Canales Diego  
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**Food & Beverage**

Brad Semon  
Stephen Woodard  
Boubacar Adamou  
Mel Adamou  
Nick Anderson  
Rabbi Raphael Darzi  
Genesis Canales Diego  
Giselle Canales Diego  
Craig Hartley-Johnson  
Sam Woodard



# Southern Schmooze

## Things That'll Make You Say “Ohhh, Good to Know!”

**Accessibility:** All recreational buildings are wheelchair/ handicap accessible. On Shabbat, the elevators in the Levine Center and Program Center will operate in 'Shabbat mode' and will run automatically.

### **Counselors, Supervision & Shmira (Night Listening):**

There are amazing counselors here to help enhance our programming. During programming that is not specifically marked as a "Youth Activity", parents are responsible for the supervision of their children. This also applies to mealtimes. Complimentary shmira takes place during adult evening activities. Counselors will sit in the hotel hallway and listen for children who wake up or need something. Please note that each household will not have their own babysitter. Night listeners will respond to needs that arise, but are not available to supervise bedtime.

**Driving & Parking:** The speed limit on campus is 5 mph. Please park only in the approved parking locations near your accommodation and leave your vehicle parked for the duration of the retreat. Guests are not permitted to drive through campus during the retreat. There are two Level 2 EV charging stations in the parking lot on the upper level of the Mountainside Hotel which operate on the FLO network. Visit [ramahdarom.org/evcharge](http://ramahdarom.org/evcharge) for instructions.

**Emergencies:** Call 911 from your mobile device or any phone on campus. Be prepared to state the nature of the problem and your location (70 Darom Lane, Clayton, GA, 30525). Also, please notify a staff member of the situation by calling 706.782.9300. There are landlines in the Welcome Center office, at the pool, in the kitchen, and in all living spaces. *Please review Safety & Security on page 6.*

**Fitness Center:** Ramah Darom's Fitness Center is located on the lower level of the Program Center and is open to adult participants at all times. Please do not remove equipment from the Fitness Center.

**Housekeeping:** Ramah Darom does not provide daily housekeeping in personal living spaces.

**Hot Water:** Our shower gauges are a little quirky at times. If you are having trouble getting hot water for your shower, try turning the water temperature in the opposite direction to see if that works before submitting a maintenance request.

**Kashrut, Meals & Snacks:** The Kaplan Mitchell Retreat Center at Ramah Darom is an AKC-Certified kosher campus. All meals, snacks, and beverages are provided. Outside food is not allowed in the Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall).

### **Here are a few mealtime notes:**

- All special dietary food needs will be served from the kitchen prep area.
- Lunch and dinner begin with a communal blessing. Please wait before entering the buffet line. These meals will conclude with announcements and blessings.
- Beverages and snacks will be available between meals by the coffee and tea station in the Chadar Ochel.

**Maintenance Requests:** You can submit maintenance requests at [RamahDarom.org/Maintenance](http://RamahDarom.org/Maintenance). Please avoid submitting requests between 9:00pm-7:30am, unless it is an emergency!

**Shabbat & Tefillot (Prayers):** Shabbat is a very special time of the week for our community. Out of respect for this value, we ask that guests refrain from using electronics in public spaces. We will provide tea lights for Shabbat candle lighting. Please do not light candles in your room! Everyone is encouraged to wear kippot, tallit, and tefillin, if it is their practice.

**Smoking, Illegal Substances & Firearms:** Smoking is not allowed inside any building. There is a designated smoking area outside on the back porch of the Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall) and in the Welcome Center parking lot. A fee will be assessed for rooms or areas showing evidence of smoking or smoke damage. Illegal substances, firearms, and related paraphernalia are not permitted on campus.

**Valuables & Room Keys:** Ramah Darom is not responsible for any missing or lost items. Hotel room keys are available upon request. Most guests choose to leave their rooms unlocked during the day. Keys must be returned to a Ramah Darom staff member before checkout or a charge of \$50 will be assessed. Please note that we only have one key available per room.

**WiFi & Phones:** WiFi is available throughout campus via "Ramah Darom WiFi" (no password). If you have any issues connecting, try turning your device's WiFi off and back on, then try reconnecting. If you still have issues, contact the Bridge Communications Help Desk: 866-632-2717, hit 1 (for after-hours emergency support, hit 5), email [support@bridge-comm.net](mailto:support@bridge-comm.net), or inform a member of the Ramah Darom staff. Cell phone signals can be spotty. We suggest enabling WiFi calling.

# Southern Schmooze

# Daily Schedule

## Friday, February 27, 2026

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
2:00-5:00pm	<b>Arrival &amp; Check-in</b>	<b>Welcome Center</b>
3:00-5:00pm	<b>DIY Pre-Shabbat Activities:</b> Get in the Shabbat spirit! Braid challah to enjoy at dinner, design and color challah covers, decorate Shabbat candles, make b'samim parcels for Havdallah, and write Shabbat-o-Grams.	<b>Lakeside Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall)</b>
4:30-5:00pm	<b>Walking Tour:</b> Familiarize yourself with the main areas of Ramah Darom's campus.	<b>Meet at Welcome Center</b>
5:00-6:00pm	<b>Shabbat Prep</b>	<b>Accommodations</b>
5:30-6:15pm	<b>Candle Lighting Available:</b> Candle lighting in Clayton, GA is at 6:09pm. Candles will be available for individual lighting in the Chadar Ochel from 5:30-6:09pm.	<b>Chadar Ochel Stage</b>
6:15-7:15pm	<b>Kabbalat Shabbat &amp; Maariv led by Ramah Darom Teens</b>	<b>Beit Am (Covered Court)</b>
7:30-8:30pm	<b>Shabbat Dinner</b>	<b>Lakeside Chadar Ochel</b>
8:45-10:45pm	<b>Shmira (Night Listening)</b>	<b>Accommodations</b>
8:45-9:30pm	<b>Schmooze Community Icebreakers led by Rabbi Sam Rotenberg</b>	<b>Lakeside Chadar Ochel</b>
	<b>Youth Activity--Shabbat-Themed Icebreakers &amp; Games:</b> A fun activity led by Ramah Darom counselors. Perfect for all ages!	<b>Mountainside Hotel First Floor Lobby</b>
9:30-10:30pm	<b>Shabbat Oneg &amp; Games</b>	<b>Lakeside Chadar Ochel</b>

## Saturday, February 28, 2026

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
8:30-9:30am	<b>Aruchat Boker (Breakfast)</b>	<b>Lakeside Chadar Ochel</b>
9:30-11:30am	<b>Shabbat Shacharit (Morning Service), Interactive Torah Service &amp; Musaf:</b> Pay attention! There will be quiz bowl during the Torah Service with tasty treats for all those who answer questions correctly. Books and Shabbat-friendly toys will be available for kids to play with during services.	<b>Moadon (Multipurpose Room)</b>
11:30am-12:15pm	<b>Puzzles &amp; Bingo for All:</b> Sit down with a puzzle or enjoy a fun and relaxed game of bingo.	<b>Mercaz Aryeh (Library)</b>
	<b>Eruv Tour with Strings Attached led by Rabbi Sam Rotenberg:</b> "What is an eruv?" you might ask. Great question! Find out as you take a tour of Ramah Darom's eruv that creates a boundary around most of the campus.	<b>Meet at Volleyball Courts</b>
12:30-1:15pm	<b>Shabbat Lunch</b>	<b>Lakeside Chadar Ochel</b>
1:15-2:30pm	<b>Menucha (Rest) or Game Hour:</b> Hang out and schmooze as you enjoy playing board and lawn games with friends.	<b>Accommodations or Lakeside Chadar Ochel</b>
2:35-2:45pm	<b>Camper Drop Off</b>	<b>Beit Am</b>

## Saturday, February 28, 2026

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
2:45-3:30pm	<b>Hike to the In-Camp Waterfall:</b> A hike to a beautiful 100-foot waterfall. The trail is not long, but is bumpy with slight elevation. This hike goes outside of the eruv.	<b>Meet at Pizza Patio</b>
	<b>Chips, Dips &amp; Sips:</b> Prepare various types of guacamole, salsa, and yummy mocktails for everyone to enjoy at snack time.	<b>Lakeside Chadar Ochel</b>
	<b>Youth Activity–Camper's Choice</b>	
	<b>Gaga Tournament:</b> Ideal for Kindergarten and up.	<b>Lower Roads Gaga Pit</b>
	<b>Playground Time:</b> Ideal for Kindergarten and under.	<b>Gan</b>
3:40-5:20pm	<b>Nosh &amp; Learn led by Schmooze Rabbis:</b> Enjoy learning and schmoozing in a fun and unique way! Chips, dips, and sips will be available.	<b>Mercaz Aryeh</b>
3:45pm-4:30pm	<b>Youth Activity–Chopped:</b> Campers will compete to prepare their own snacks and enjoy the fruits of their labor when they are finished! All ages are welcome.	<b>Lakeside Chadar Ochel</b>
4:30-5:30pm	<b>Youth Activity–Camper's Choice</b>	
	<b>Hike to the In-Camp Waterfall</b>	<b>Leave from Chadar Ochel</b>
	<b>Charades, Board Games &amp; Sports</b>	<b>Kikar (Activity Field)</b>
5:20-6:00pm	<b>Mincha (Afternoon Service) led by Ramah Darom Teens</b>	<b>Beit Knesset (Synagogue)</b>
6:00-7:00pm	<b>Aruchat Erev (Dinner)</b>	<b>Lakeside Chadar Ochel</b>
7:00-7:15pm	<b>Maariv (Evening Service)</b>	<b>See tefillah spreadsheet</b>
7:15-8:45pm	<b>Havdallah, Rikud (Dancing), Bonfire &amp; S'mores</b>	<b>Beit Am</b>
8:45-10:45pm	<b>Shmira (Night Listening)</b>	<b>Accommodations</b>
9:00-10:30pm	<b>Peulat Erev (Evening Activity)–Karaoke Purim Party:</b> Come to the annual Southern Schmooze karaoke night. Purim costumes welcome, but not a must!	<b>Lakeside Chadar Ochel</b>

## Sunday, March 1, 2026

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
7:45-8:30am	<b>Shacharit (Morning Service)</b>	<b>Beit Knesset</b>
8:30-9:15am	<b>Aruchat Boker (Breakfast)</b>	<b>Lakeside Chadar Ochel</b>
9:15-10:00am	<b>Ramah Darom Sendoff for Schmooze Communities:</b> An opportunity for reflection.	
	<b>Youth Activity–Crafts &amp; Games</b>	<b>Picnic Benches Under Chadar Ochel</b>
10:00-10:15am	<b>Schmooze Community Photos</b>	<b>Kikar</b>
10:15-11:00am	<b>Archery:</b> Must be 8 years old.	<b>Archery Range</b>
	<b>Arts &amp; Crafts</b>	<b>Levine Center Portico</b>
	<b>Tie-Dye:</b> Bring a white cotton t-shirt, socks, or pillowcase.	<b>Kikar</b>
11:00am	<b>Packout Lunch Available:</b> Stop by the Chadar Ochel to make a packout lunch before you hit the road.	
	<b>L'hitraot (Goodbye)–N'siah Tova (Safe Travels)!</b>	



# Safety & Security

Ramah Darom has developed comprehensive safety and security protocols in consultation with the Security Committee of our Board of Directors, the Secure Community Network, and the Rabun County Sheriff's department.

Highlighted below are key elements of our protocols. Please review this, document at the beginning of your stay.

Every building has an emergency exit plan posted and is equipped with fire extinguishers.

PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF EMERGENCY EXITS WHENEVER YOU ENTER A BUILDING.

The Sheriff's department has an on-site officer guarding our Clayton campus 24 hours/day throughout this retreat.

## MEDICAL EMERGENCY

First aid kits are available at the Welcome Center reception desk, Marcus Lodge community room (ground floor), Mountainside Hotel kitchenette (lower level), Lakeside Hotel sitting room (bottom floor) and in the Main Dining Hall. AEDs are located at the Main Dining Hall, Welcome Center (on bottom floor by room 102), pool and boathouse.

### In the Event of a Medical Emergency:

- IMMEDIATELY DIAL 911. Give location, gender and approximate age of victim and if possible, the type of emergency. Then dial 706.782.9300 from your cell phone or any campus phone and follow the prompts to alert a Ramah Darom staff person of your emergency.
- Stay with the injured person until help arrives. Try to calm, reassure and stabilize the person. Never move an injured person with a suspected neck or back injury.
- When medical staff arrive at the scene, summarize the situation and answer questions.

## SEVERE WEATHER

### Thunder and/or Lightning:

- Gather your family/group and move to a safe area (large indoor facility, bunk common room) until the weather has passed.

### Tornado Warning:

- Head immediately to one of the following designated emergency locations: Welcome Center lower level hallway, Marcus Lodge lower level community room, Mountainside Hotel lower level hallway, Levine Center lower level hallway and lower level common space of bunks 1/2 or 29/30.
- When at location, stay away from windows.
- Stay at designated emergency location until the "all clear" signal has been given over the emergency speakers.

## FIRE

### If You Spot a Fire:

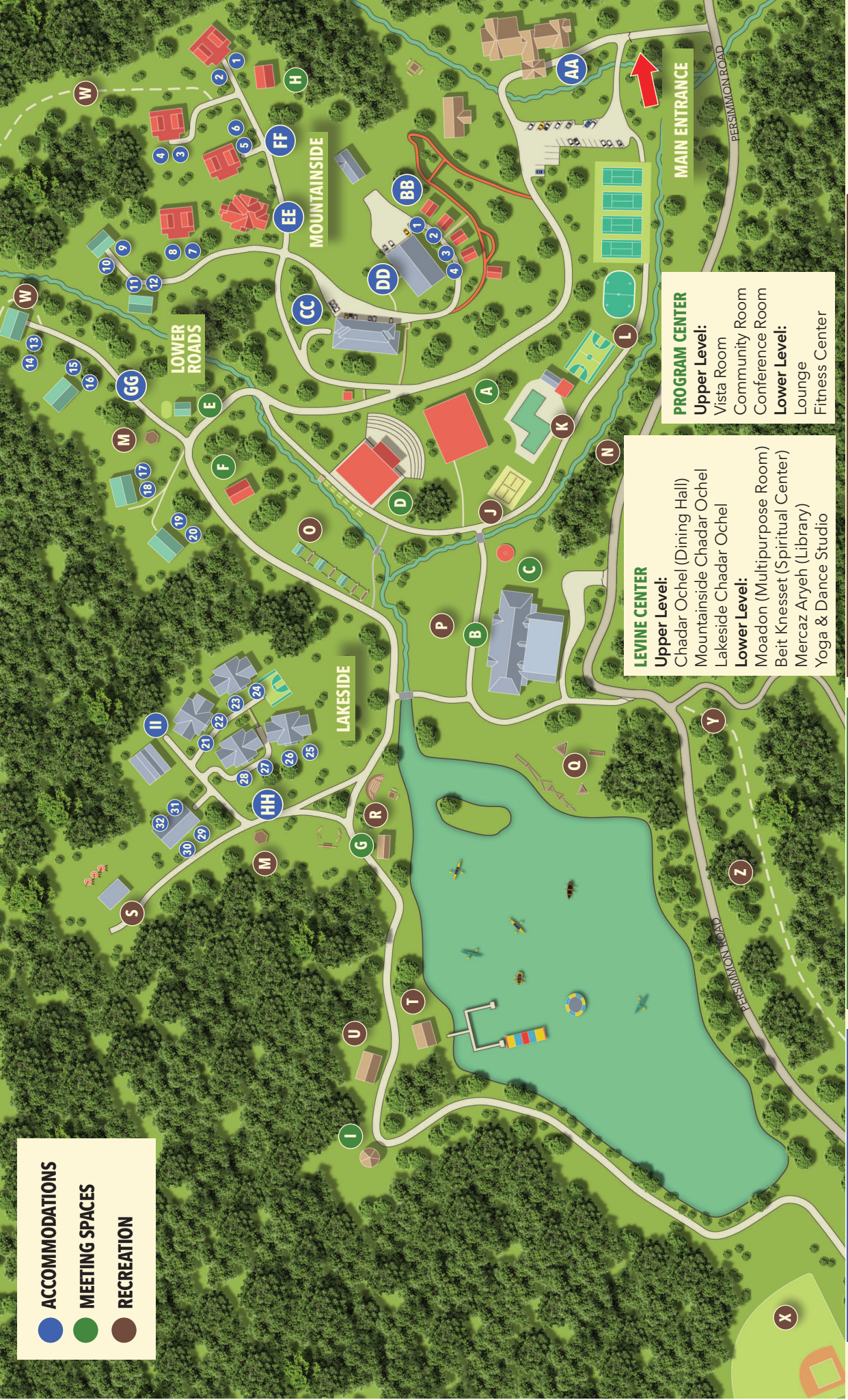
- Leave the building and do not re-enter to remove personal property.
- IMMEDIATELY DIAL 911. Give location, and if possible, type of fire (grease, electrical, paper, etc.). Then dial 706.782.9300 from your cell phone or any campus phone and follow the prompts to alert a Ramah Darom staff person of your emergency. The office will sound the fire alarm throughout the campus.
- If a phone is not accessible, sound the closest fire alarm.
- If a campus-wide fire alarm is sounded, proceed immediately to the kikar (field in front of the Levine Center Dining Hall) and remain there until the "all clear" signal has been given over the emergency speakers.
- If the fire occurs on or near the kikar, all guests should proceed to the Beit Am (Covered Court).

## ACTIVE THREAT

- EVACUATE if at all possible, leaving the area by the quickest route available. If necessary, leave the campus grounds. Leave your belongings behind.
- Call 911 as soon as it is safe to do so.
- If you are not able to evacuate, HIDE OUT in an area out of the active shooter's view. Block entry to your hiding place. If possible, lock the door. Silence your cell phone (including vibrate mode) and remain quiet.
- TAKE ACTION only as a last resort and only when your life is in imminent danger. Attempt to incapacitate the shooter. Act with physical aggression and throw items at the threat.
- When law enforcement arrives, remain calm and follow the officers' instructions. Immediately raise hands and spread fingers. Keep your hands visible at all times. Avoid quick movements toward officers whenever possible.

# L'hitraot

Thank you for joining us at Ramah Darom!



**ACCOMMODATIONS**  
**MEETING SPACES**  
**RECREATION**

**PROGRAM CENTER**  
**Upper Level:**  
 Vista Room  
 Community Room  
 Conference Room  
**Lower Level:**  
 Lounge  
 Fitness Center

**LEVINE CENTER**  
**Upper Level:**  
 Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall)  
 Mountainside Chadar Ochel  
 Lakeside Chadar Ochel  
**Lower Level:**  
 Moadon (Multipurpose Room)  
 Beit Knesset (Spiritual Center)  
 Mercaz Aryeh (Library)  
 Yoga & Dance Studio

- |                                      |   |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>AA</b> Welcome Center             | <b>J</b> Volleyball   | <b>S</b> Archery Range                                    |
| <b>BB</b> Deluxe Cottages (1-4)      | <b>K</b> Breicha (Pool)   | <b>T</b> Agam (Lake) & Boat Dock                          |
| <b>CC</b> Mountainside Hotel         | <b>L</b> <b>Sports Courts:</b> Basketball, Hockey, Tennis, Pickleball | <b>U</b> Omanut (Art Building)                            |
| <b>DD</b> Marcus Lodge               | <b>M</b> Gaga   | <b>W</b> Waterfall Trail                                  |
| <b>EE</b> Cabin 33/34                | <b>N</b> Farm   | <b>X</b> Softball Field                                   |
| <b>FF</b> Mountainside Cabins (1-12) | <b>O</b> Odyssey Course   | <b>Y</b> Menkowitz Trail                                  |
| <b>GG</b> Lower Roads Cabins (13-20) | <b>P</b> Kikar (Activity Field)                                       | <b>Z</b> Future Home of the Mayer "Bubba" Mitchell Campus |
| <b>HH</b> Lakeside Cabins (21-32)    | <b>Q</b> Climbing Wall & Giant Swing                                  |   |
| <b>II</b> Lakeside Hotel             | <b>R</b> Medura (Lakeside Firepit)                                    |   |

- |   |
|---|
| <b>A</b> Program Center                           |
| <b>B</b> Levine Center                            |
| <b>C</b> Ohel (Tent), Pizza Patio                 |
| <b>D</b> Beit Am (Covered Court)                  |
| <b>E</b> Amphitheater, Garden                     |
| <b>F</b> Gan (Daycare)                            |
| <b>G</b> Mirpeset Tefillah (Lower Roads Pavilion) |
| <b>H</b> Margam (Lakeside Pavilion)               |
| <b>I</b> Mountaintop Pavilion                     |
| <b>X</b> Treehouse                                |