



This document is updated annually and may not be the exact document that our campers' signed this year. Below is a sample letter that goes out to each camper family prior to their attendance at camp.

Shalom,

We are happy that you have selected Camp Coleman for your child and believe you are sending your child to camp because you agree with the values that guide us. It is our mission to provide a healthy community in which your child will grow through positive experiences. The American culture in which we live can sometimes be difficult for our children. We are hearing reports on the news about bullying and inappropriate behavior between children. We are always working diligently to create a different type of culture at Camp Coleman, one in which this type of behavior is not accepted.

We are fortunate that by being a Jewish camp, we have a ready-made framework for teaching values. Our camp community is based in four guiding principles – *kavod* (respect), *shalom* (peace), *hesed* (lovingkindness) and *Kehillah* (community). By using these themes to guide relationships and behavior, we can create a truly caring community.

Camp Coleman has always strived to be a partner with our parents in order to create the best summer experience possible for our campers. Using our guiding principles, we have developed training techniques for our staff in order to equip them with the proper skills to deal with incidences of bullying (physical, verbal and social) and to be confident mediators when conflict arises. We will also be training our staff to encourage campers to report any behavior that is not in line with our values.

Enclosed please find a *Brit Kehillah* (community agreement). We are asking that each camper sign the agreement and return it to us. As our partners, we ask that you go over the *Brit Kehillah* with your child in order to ensure a complete understanding of what they are agreeing to.

Please note the addition to the *Brit Kehillah* regarding appropriate dress. We strongly encourage you to pack with your camper in order to help them uphold their commitment to the *Brit Kehillah*. In order to protect the health, safety, self-respect and self-confidence of all our campers and our camp community, please do not allow your camper to bring clothing that creates a disruption to the camp environment and our values. We are referring to clothing items that are revealing and t-shirts that promote illegal or inappropriate behavior or shorts and skirt lengths that are too short and make it difficult or impossible to move about freely.

We are looking forward to a wonderful summer and thank you again for trusting Camp Coleman with your child.

L'shalom,

Bobby Harris
Camp Director

Amy Smyler McFarland
Associate Camp Director