MANITOU
CAMP

Camp Manitou - A culture and camp based on charitable values and programs developed within a religious framework.

YOUR MISSION AS STAFF:
Parents send their children to Camp Manitou to learn fundamental values of "Tikun Olam", giving back to their world around them, and having gratitude for their life. Our goal is to inculcate fundamental values that allow children to appreciate people that are different than them by not only learning about each other's differences but also embracing such differences. At Manitou campers will learn about the values of respect, gratitude, acceptance and empathy. The values of our Jewish Heritage, traditions and values form the framework for how we promote these values to our campers.

Our staff comes from around the world and we make this diversity and celebration of culture one of our four pillars that are fundamental to what makes our camp so special. Diversity and acceptance of people that are different than us is not only a fundamental value of our camp but the basis on which all teachings are based. This combined with our second pillar of charitable teachings and programs makes your job on staff one of the most rewarding you will ever have.

JEWISH VALUES, THOUGHTS AND TEACHINGS

SHABBAT:
Such examples including our traditional Friday Night Shabbat dinner with the Jewish Bread called Challah, along with traditional Jewish foods that relate back to our ancestry. This is followed by our Friday night service where we apply such values through campers and staff speaking on such themes of giving back to the world around them, and singing songs and presenting poems concluding with a religious poem at the end of the service. We also offer Shabbat prayers over the wine, challah, and candles along with a "Dvar Torah" which is a description of the "Parsha" – the Torah Reading- so campers can learn from our Bible.

We also bring in guest speakers and in fact have four guest speakers this summer, talking about how as young children they started charities to help the poor and those in need. The central focus is to instill in our campers the fact that they can start helping those around them now!

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ACCREDITED MEMBER OCA

During the Friday Night service we also teach about the wonderful aboriginal culture and remind campers that the land we are living at was once part of the their community. We discuss stereotypes of words and traditions and our responsibility to this group of people. We also teach our CITS with a guest speaker from the aboriginal community about this wonderful heritage and send our CITS to a POW WOW at a nearby reserve to learn more about this culture.
Campers will also learn about a Jewish Charity that works with the aboriginal community and how important it is to have ties with this community.

FOOD
The camp offers Kosher style food and we make the camp food available for both reform, conservative and Orthodox Jews. It is forbidden to mix milk with meat and we do not serve pork or seafood. We also teach our kitchen staff how to keep Kosher and how to offer kosher food for others that require it. Our cooking program in camp also teaches Kosher food preparation.

BAR MITZVAH TRAINING
The camp has many campers involved in preparing for the bar or bat mitzvah and we offer lessons for boys and girls preparing for their Torah reading or Haftorah portion during the summer. We also support Trips to Israel and have campers that present about their experiences.

STAFF RESPONSBILITES
At camp we bring in staff of all faiths – as we believe having staff that represent all faiths is important for the teachings and values of the camp. If a staff member is not Jewish they learn about our objectives but also speak at our service about their religious faith so we can all learn from each other and respect each other for the good that we together are all doing to make this world the best it can be.

OUR CHARITABLE EFFORTS EXTEND TO OUR OWN CAMPERS
Finally camp Manitou provides free camp or subsidies to many campers. Some are children with special needs, from foster homes through CAS, and some are refugees for example. In fact the owner and director Mark Diamond started the Ontario Camps Association Refugee Camper Program that offers free camps to Syrian Refugees and other refugees so of course we participate in this program. Campers are taught that it is a Jewish obligation to offer your home to others that do not have one and we view camp as our second home. Campers in such situations are also provided free clothing and necessities as part of our charitable arm. Similarly we offer free camp to many campers who cannot afford it. This is a value of our camp and religious belief.

Similarity we also provide funding and assist with campers with special needs, or disabilities. Disabilities include turrets, autism, depression, anxiety disorders, OCD, bi-polar disorder and related schizophrenia manifestations or mental illnesses. The number of children with cognitive disabilities appears to be increasing and requires specific staff skills to provide same and a high degree of maturity and background in this area.

We also offer camper spots with physical disabilities regarding severe food allergies. We feel that camp is the one place where these children can feel safe and we offer specific food training and anaphylaxis protocols so that children with any severe food allergy can attend camp. We search out to find educated, sophisticated staff who can be trained on the vital medical and first aid responses required for such children at risk.

The Central focus of our charitable giving is combined with our Foundation, the ManitouCamp Foundation where we raise money and hold events at camp and we in fact have an entire week of camp dedicated to charitable giving, and learning about how to raise money for the poor and those in need. That charitable foundation is a charity that our campers, parents and alumni all support and each year holds events that become the central focus for camp. For example we have a full colour war program one day where the theme is different charities and the camp then donated funds based on the winner.

THE KIDS – ITS ABOUT THEM!
You are coming to camp for the kids. Many of our kids may be in Jewish day school or attend religious school and such kids will all be involved in what is called a Bar or Bat Mitzvah – at age 12 for a woman and 13 for a man- the year of coming of age for a Jewish person. This is the official recognition of the responsibilities into Jewish adulthood and at camp kids may be preparing for this special time. Usually this related around how at this age you have an obligation to help the needy in one's society and around the world.

You have been hired to offer specific skills, likely because you have the maturity and background and knowledge to deal with our youngest campers, or because you have skills in dealing with special needs, mental illness or food handling skills and anaphylaxis. Some of the campers at camp attend for no charge or a large fee discount because they are recent refugees, or foster children in Children's Aid. We feel this is part of our obligation as Jews to make this happen. You may have been hired because you have a maturity and background or sophistication to deal with these children who can be emotionally fragile or a combination of reasons per above.

If you wish to learn more about Judaism and Camp Manitou as well as our charitable programming, guest speakers and educational not for profit programs as the central vision and values of our camp please check out these links:

https://www.manitoucamp.com/current-families/manitou-camp-foundation/
https://www.manitoucamp.com/alumni/the-manitou-story/