



The Shemesh Day Camp Difference

A peek into the camp we are proud to call home

By Fradl Adams

As I dropped off my children and their friends at the Camp Shemesh reunion a couple of Sundays ago, the exuberance that filled my car was contagious.

I found myself singing along as they belted out the camp song and joining in the gleeful conjecture over which of their beloved counselors and staff members would be there, and which probably wouldn't.

My smile stayed on my face long after I dropped them off and watched them join the gaggle of giggling girls streaming into Bais Faiga, alive with the Shemesh spirit that warmed them through and through right in the dead of winter.

What is it, I thought to myself, that makes us come alive at the mere mention of the words, "Camp Shemesh?"

What is it that keeps us coming back year after year, ever since my oldest was small and we discovered the gem that is Camp Shemesh?

What is it that leaves my third grader so devastated now that she has officially graduated from Camp Shemesh?

It's hard to say because it's impossible to encapsulate the Camp Shemesh experience into words.

It's impossible to verbalize the incredible warmth and affection Morah Tzipra and all of her staff members feel and display toward each camper. It's something special that you can only appreciate once you experience it for yourself.

It's impossible to do justice to the scope of activities offered, to the way the directors work so hard to not only give each

child a quality good time, but also to make the parents' hectic lives easier and more convenient, and to the wholesomeness of the whole experience.

If you've read my articles over the years, you've surely encountered how I feel about over-the-top-extravagance and unnecessary luxury. I love Camp Shemesh because they have managed to achieve that all-elusive, priceless blend

of unique, creative, exhilarating, wholesome fun without resorting to exaggerated hoopla and jaw dropping fanciness to keep the kids coming back.

"Thank you thank you thank you for the amazing management, hiring, planning, coordinating, scheduling, arranging, and so much more that I couldn't possibly think of. And of course, on top of all, your continued personal connection and warmth with every camper! It is truly outstanding what you are able to accomplish!"

♥ C.S. Lakewood NJ



But it's more than that.

It's in the details large and small that all blend together to make this camp one that I've recommended to every friend, relative and neighbor I can.

- The ratio of counselors to campers that put even this nervous Mommy at ease...

- The staff members standing outside in the heat every morning, waiting

to take the children straight from the car to their bunks, so that parents don't have to get in and out of the car, and then the afternoon pick up system that likewise has counselors bringing campers straight to their cars...

- The added convenience of the large variety of ages, allowing me to drop off all of my children at one, incredibly central location...

- The riveting parshah lessons that keep my children excited about the parshah even though they aren't in school, and that

inspire them to feel the loss of the beis hamikdash on their own little level, come tisha b'av...

- The trips that were just the right frequency and quality, leaving my children thrilled at the experience but not overstimulated and entitled...

- The age-appropriate activities and excitement, as my children advance from the Junior bunks to the Seniors, all the way up to the exalted Senior Tops, all the while singing the many camp songs together in my living room, with the incomparable Shemesh ruach ringing forth loud and clear...

- The fact that Morah Tzipra not only knows every camper by name, she remembers each of my children still, even those that have long graduated...

- The list goes on and on, and I've only just begun. Come take a glimpse as we delve a little bit deeper into this one-of-a-kind camp and see why my family has come to truly cherish Camp Shemesh!

The Roots

Shemesh began as a small backyard camp in Lakewood, more than 13 years ago. Built on unparalleled creativity and fun, personalized attention to each individual camper and the importance of communication with parents, Shemesh quickly outgrew its small quarters. In 2011, the camp moved to a small school building where registration quadrupled over the next 4 years. Finally, in 2015, they began renting at the current location, the spacious Bais Faiga Building at 350 Courtney Rd. With this growth and success came the popular demand to include more ages, longer hours, hot lunches and transportation. And they did, because Shemesh makes accommodating their customers their top priority. With all of the growth, and new and improved programs every year, the vision remains the same: To provide every child with a top quality summer experience while continuing to hold on to that Trademark Shemesh Spirit.

The Highlights

I've told you some of my Camp Shemesh highlights from a mother's vantage point, but truthfully, there is so much more that goes on behind the scenes, so many hours of incredibly hard work to ensure an experience like no other for every single camper. Here are some special aspects, in the words of the Camp Shemesh team:

Safety and Security

Shemesh day camp prides itself in bringing the fun and joy of summer camp along with the safety

and security that parents need in order to feel comfortable that their children are in good hands.

Keeping the Junior bunks small and inflating the camper/staff ratio, choosing the senior bunks trips with utmost safety and supervision in mind, hiring experienced lifeguards that often join the campers inside the pool to be an arms reach away from the swimmers, onsite trained CPR staff members... These are just some of the concerted efforts Shemesh takes to keep its goal of constant safety at the forefront of their program.

In line with its vision to prioritize summer safety, Shemesh Day Camp has contracted a full-time security guard for this coming summer. Knowing your child is in a secure environment is the first step to peace of mind.

Warmth & Professionalism

The warmth and family atmosphere at Camp Shemesh is a big reason why families keep coming back, year after year after year.

"I make sure to get to know every kid by name," says camp director Mrs. Tzipra Egert, or Morah Tzipra. "I'm personally involved and attuned to each camper's physical, emotional, and social

wellbeing. When people ask how is it possible that all my staff are so incredibly involved, spirited and warm, I tell them that I'm here, having a great time and modeling the kind of interaction that I want them to have. I rarely have to scold or tell off a counselor. There is an atmosphere of 'give it all you've got!' amongst all of us."

Kid-Tested, Mother Approved

The Shemesh program is replete with all the perks that you would find in a big-kid camp, and the kids love it! At the same time, all of the activities are planned with a mother's sense of approval. No activity is just thrown at the kids without careful speculation of its ramifications. The campers are given an amazing upscale program without compromising on what is truly best for them.

Some of our Programs

Our exciting activity rooms include...

Bike Rooms with scooters and riding toys for all ages.

Fantasy Play Rooms and Game Rooms with an array of dolls, dressup, arcades, moonwalk, a book library, building toys and so much more.

The Art Room where everlasting projects are created with delicate planning for each age group.

Heartwarming Shiur and Parsha lesson with veteran Morahs contributing valuable topics on Middos and Parsha.

Senior Davening, contests and canteen where campers earn treats and prizes with their Davening incentive charts.

Exciting themed activities including food crafts, daily skits

"My daughter and her friends attended Senior Tops and truly enjoyed and appreciated your wholesome fun and creativity... This can NOT be found anywhere else in this town! You are a treasure that we are so glad we found and never want it to end!"

♥ S.P. Lakewood NJ



from the head counselors, interbunk challenges and large group activities for that extra special Shemesh Ruach!

New for 2020

Every time it seems that Shemesh can't get any better, they think of something else to add yet another special touch to an already incredible summer. True to the Shemesh name, there are already quite a few exciting new plans for Summer 2020. Here are just some of them:

- ♥ *New Gymnastics Workshop For All Senior Bunks*
- ♥ *All New "Mini Go-kart Track" For All Age Groups*
- ♥ *First Half Sabara Sam's Waterpark For Senior Tops*
- ♥ *All New Shows For 2020*
- ♥ *Brand New Theme and Camp Songs*
- ♥ *Full Time Security Guard On Premises*

Ever since the Shemesh reunion, my children have not stopped talking about going back to camp. It is bringing back memories to that time I almost broke their heart at

"We can't say enough about the amazing time our daughter had every second of every day of every week of both halves!"

♥ C.S. Jackson NJ



the end of this past summer. After a successful three days of Mommy Camp right before the school year started, I jokingly said to my husband, "This was fun! I should do this with them a whole summer next year, instead of sending them to camp!"

Three horrified pairs of eyes immediately shot daggers at me. "You can't do that Mommy! Please don't make us miss even one day of Camp Shemesh!" they insisted.

Of course, I assured them, I wouldn't even think of it.

As for you, dear reader, it's never too late to join the Shemesh family! Registration for summer 2020 is opening shortly. For more information about Shemesh Day Camp, its programs, activities, staff, and more, don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Tzipra Egert at 732-370-1946 or tzipraegert@gmail.com.

Make sure to tell her I sent you.



JUNIOR DIVISION

"Kidtested, Mother Approved"

Our Junior Division for girls and boys age 3 to 5, is perfectly tailored to give your children an unforgettable summer in a safe and age appropriate atmosphere. Our dedicated counselors are handpicked for their dedication and experience. Your little campers will enjoy the perks of our professional setting without compromising on a genuinely warm and loving atmosphere.



SENIOR GIRLS DIVISION

"It's that special Shemesh Ruach you won't find most anywhere."

Our Seniors Division for girls entering first through third grade has earned its place among Lakewood's finest elementary age girls camps.

With unparalleled creativity, Shemesh Seniors thrive on our exciting theme based program. Complete with trips, workshops, daily breakouts, fantastic shows and activities, your daughter will enjoy the opportunity to have loads of fun in an age appropriate setting while creating unforgettable Shemesh memories!



SENIOR TOPS

"On Top of the World..."

Our Exclusive Senior Tops Program for girls entering third grade, features all the fun of Seniors and more! With TOP NOTCH trips, water park and late nights, weekly TOP SECRET SPECIALS, and the trademark Shemesh Ruach, your daughter will experience a summer of being truly "ON TOP OF THE WORLD!"

