Inspired by
Growing into
Honoring
OUR ROLE MODELS
CAMP IS ABOUT TOMORROW AS WELL AS TODAY,

my father Arnold Cohen z’l (may his memory be a blessing) counseled me. “This is where young people grow more secure in themselves, stronger in their Judaism, and connected to a community of friends they will have their whole lives.” He said that people learn best by watching how others do things. My father passed away this fall, having led by example to teach me – and so many others – about caring and commitment. As both parent and person, he always looked for ways to contribute even more to the world, and to prepare all of us to do the same.

Here at The Cohen Camps, positive role models are essential to developing young people and young leaders. Caring counselors and experienced staff nurture each child’s happiness, confidence, independence, friendship, empathy, and character. They cultivate community, giving children a sense of belonging – at camp, in Jewish life, in Israel, and into adulthood. We are dedicated to growing the leadership skills of both staff and campers, for camp and beyond.

What we’ve discovered, in over 80 years of Jewish camping, is that the best role models create a cycle of inspiration, where those they encourage become role models themselves. These connections are as important now as they have ever been.

Your support touches lives today and in the future. Thank you for taking part in this ongoing story.

Warmly,

Jonathan Cohen

Third generation President, The Cohen Camps

The Eli and Bessie Cohen Camps and Eli and Bessie Cohen Camps of Massachusetts, Inc., as tax-exempt nonprofit charities, file Form 990 tax returns annually. Copies of our 990 reports are available on the Guidestar website.
The full impact of camp emerges over a lifetime.

Cohen Camps alumni often mention how much an older camper or counselor influenced them, and continues to have a lasting impact on who they are, even years later.

Counselors showed me how to be emotionally strong, forgiving, and kind, with a sense of humor. (When I became a counselor), my Camp Advisor told me to always make every child feel special. I have held on to that my entire life while working with children.

There is nothing more special than having my old campers introduce me to their kids or spouse saying, ‘This was one of my favorite counselors.’ I don’t remember a lot about my school days but I remember everything about my camp days.

My son looks up to his counselors: young men with a strong Jewish identity, well rounded in academics, sports, and community engagement. We are glad he had them as role models.

Finding and nurturing great role models

We work year-round to hire, train, and support excellent staff, from bunk counselors to specialists.

399 paid seasonal staff

14 year-round staff
Committing to continuous learning and growth

- Year-round leadership engages in national and regional professional development, always in search of more great ideas and ways to support staff
- Summer Leadership Teams meet and train beginning in spring
- Summer staff take part in ongoing guidance and reflection, every week

As a counselor, I learned about responsibility and leadership in a way I wouldn’t have anywhere else in my life. My sense of confidence, leadership, friendship, and respect developed at camp. I will take that with me forever.

This summer, witnessing a young boy conquer his fear of water made me realize how important my role at camp is and how much of an impact camp can have on an individual.

Transforming campers into role models themselves

When they...
- Step into a new role on the field or the stage
- Try out a new skill, and gain self-confidence
- Cheer on or support a friend
- See themselves shine in younger campers’ eyes

My daughter felt she influenced her Little Sisters’ summers in a big way.

I love that the older kids are paired with the younger campers. They learn to give back to the larger community.

Returning to camp after Dor L’Dor Israel travel, “I experienced being someone else’s role model. I had never seen myself in a way where other people looked up to me and admired me just as I admired my CAs as a camper.”

Cultivating our personal, lifelong connections to Israel

- 24 Israeli counselors
- 114 teens (90% of those eligible) traveled to Israel with our Dor L’Dor Israel Leadership Program
- 26 DLD 2015 teens continued with our 8-month Hebrew College-DLD Certificate in Jewish Teen Leadership
- 9 college-age staff took on professional internships in Israel, then returned as camp counselors, in our model program now adopted nationwide by Onward Israel
- 24 parents, alumni, and friends experienced Israel on the 2016 Dor L’Dor Adult Trip (stay tuned for future trips!)

My teen now has such a deep, multidimensional feeling about Israel. And I see even deeper maturity in her.

Planting seeds for Jewish identity begins early. The Cohen Camps make sure the soul is rich and meaningful for the seeds to blossom. Todah rabah!
Reigniting laughter and nurturing friendships over the years

- Tzedakah-Palooza welcomed 150+ camp and alumni families as volunteers at Cradles to Crayons
- Over 320 attended fun Alumni and Parent events throughout the year

Thanks to teams of dedicated alumni:
- The Tevya Connection brings parents and alumni together for fun and volunteering at camp
- Camp Tel Noar Network Collaborative (CTNnc) launches networking relationships and more
- The Pembroke Alumnae Committee renews sisterhood, from Moms’ Night Out to the #PEM5K race

I have to admit to a twinge of jealousy when I dropped my son off at CTN but now I get to be a part of the CTN community. It’s so great how much the camp cares about our alumni and keeping us together.

Ensuring that others can experience a Cohen Camp or program

- 29% of campers depend on our financial aid
- 119 donated on GivingTuesday, raising $11,000 for camp scholarships ($3,000 over our goal!)

Overnight camp experiences are like no other. I feel fortunate that my kids are able to experience Tevya and connect with so many Jewish children.

Generous financial assistance has given our daughter a sisterhood at Pembroke and a new spark. It has given my family pride, pride that our Jewish community is a tribe that helps hold us up.

Financial assistance means everything. I will be forever grateful that my child could participate in Dor L’Dor.

Thank you for helping my children have an experience of a lifetime. CTN is their home away from home, their family!

Cycles of inspiration

At Camp Tevya, building enriching experiences

At Camp Tel Noar, crowdfunding makes a splash

An idea: a waterpark for the campers! > Inspired passionate donors > A crowdfunding campaign > Energizing parents and alumni > Success! 75 gifts, over $15,000 > Waterpark opened 1st day of camp!

At Camp Pembroke, growing sisterhood in the Pine Grove

The cherished memory of former director Leslie Brenner > Met the challenge: JCamp 180’s Chai Match grant > Inspiring a generous gift by Leslie’s husband Len > Renovation: New bimah + soundsystem for Shabbat space > Dedication in July > Transformation every week

For Dor L’Dor, nurturing each other with scholarship aid

Impassioned by her own transformative 2014 Adult DLD Trip > One alum seeded the DLD Friendship Fund for scholarship aid > Inspiring more generosity > Together raising $29K (target: $18K) to support DLD teens’ families > Creating Israel experiences that will resonate forever
THE COHEN CAMPS
enrich children’s lives by encouraging Jewish youth to be comfortable and confident in themselves so that they can connect positively with others and the world they live in. We are a community of positive role models who help our youth explore their Jewish identity and experience the joy of their Jewish heritage. Our campers and counselors leave camp determined to sustain Judaism and the Jewish People, and are committed to contributing responsibly to their world.

THE COHEN CAMPS

Using Tuition & Donations Carefully
The Cohen Camps are a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Of all the funds entrusted to us in tuition and donations, 84% goes directly to the camper experience and 4% provides financial aid.

2015 Audited Data, aggregated for all programs. Patterns are fairly consistent at each camp.

In 2016:
- 566 donors
- 690 gifts

Thank you, donors!!
Camp transforms lives. You transform camp.
Donations provide vital support. Tuition covers operating costs. Donors’ generosity directly grows and enhances:
- The camper experience
- Facilities
- Staff development
- Scholarship funds for financial aid

Thank you to our counselors, staff & volunteers
We are infinitely grateful to you for the time, energy, and care you provided to young people – whether last summer or 25 years ago. Every day, your influence continues to change the world.

Your gift is welcome and deeply appreciated:
www.cohencamps.org/give-2-camp
Thinking on Their Feet

Our Head Counselors wore FitBits this summer. Average daily steps: 20,382
That’s over 8 miles per day!

Source: JData 2015