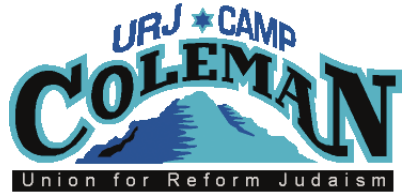




Building  
Jewish identity  
one child at a time.

A campaign for Camp Coleman







"The 15 summers I spent at Coleman were transformative. During these summers I decided to become a rabbi and to dedicate my life to serving the Jewish people. The joyful approach to Jewish living that I first experienced as a camper, and later as a staff member, continues to inform every aspect of my work as a rabbi."

Joui Hessel  
Associate Rabbi,  
Washington Hebrew Congregation,  
Washington, DC  
Coleman Camper 1983-1990  
Staff Member 1991-92, 1994, 1996-99

## Summer camp.

Just two words. For many, they evoke warm memories of fun, friendship, and personal growth.

In the Jewish community, they represent a future of purpose, pride, and strength. It's no secret that Jewish summer overnight camping is recognized as one of the most effective means of strengthening Jewish identity. A truly "24/7" Jewish living environment, Camp Coleman provides experiences rich in the vibrancy of Judaism and Jewish culture.

Camp Coleman is creating a Jewish future of vitality and hope one bunk at a time.



## OUR HISTORY

Located in the Blue Ridge Mountains near Cleveland, Georgia, Camp Coleman has provided seminal experiences for thousands of campers since 1962. One of 12 camps under the auspices of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), Coleman is dedicated to giving its campers a broad array of Jewish living and learning opportunities.

Each summer, nearly 800 campers and 180 staff members participate in Coleman's programs. Camp Coleman provides a wide range of outdoor, waterfront, artistic and athletic activities.



"The camp's 10<sup>th</sup> graders visited Whitwell, Tennessee where they heard a group of students who commemorated the Holocaust by collecting paperclips and brought a German rail transport car to their town, where no Jews live.

"When I stepped into that railcar that carried so many Jews to their deaths, I realized how lucky I was. I have had so many positive Jewish experiences with my friends at Camp Coleman. Being inside that car reinforced the common bond among us and strengthened our sense of unity not only as friends but as Jews, as a people."

Jon Cohen  
Marietta, Ga  
Camper 2002- present

## JEWISH VALUES, JEWISH LIVING

Camp Coleman introduces its campers to the beauty of Jewish living and integrates Jewish values into its daily program. It strives to create a culture in which every camper feels comfortable and learns to embrace four core Jewish values: chesed (kindness), shalom (peace), kehillah (community), and kavod (respect).

Coleman also seeks for its campers to take these core values with them when they return to their families, schools, and temples.

Through such off-season programs as NFTY (North American Federation of Temple Youth) conventions, religious school retreats, camp-sponsored overnights, and Camp Jenny - a Mitzvah-corps program serving inner-city youth - Camp Coleman supports and strengthens the greater Reform Jewish community throughout the year.



## A CONNECTION WITH ISRAEL

Coleman campers gain a genuine connection to Israel and Israelis. The Coleman program includes a trip to Israel for 11<sup>th</sup> graders. Hundreds of campers have traveled to Israel who might otherwise never have gone.

In addition, Coleman brings many talented Israelis to camp each summer as part of its staff. In recent years, an increasing number of Israeli staff members have returned to camp for multiple summers, forming an integral part of the Coleman community. Campers and staff form strong connections with the Israelis, thereby increasing their desire to visit and learn more about Israel.



## SONGS FROM THE HEART: THE JOYFUL SOUNDS OF SUMMER

Beyond the friendships, the melodies and sounds of camp are the experiences that campers most cherish. A song learned at the campfire; a melody sung during Shabbat services; an enthusiastic cheer rallying the entire community; these are the sounds that reverberate throughout a camper's life.

Music and song are interwoven into the fabric of daily camp life. This love of music is spread throughout the Jewish world by the many songleaders who got their start at Coleman.

"The first Jewish songs I learned to sing were at Camp Coleman. The first time I led a group in singing was as a Coleman song leader. The joy, melodies, and enthusiasm of Camp Coleman inspire me and infuse my work today."

Lisa Segal  
Associate Cantor, Temple Beth Am  
Miami, Florida  
Camper 1975-79  
Faculty 1998-present





"When we met at Coleman in 2001, we began a typical summer romance. It blossomed into a steady relationship and ultimately marriage in 2005. We had a wonderful honeymoon, but couldn't imagine ending it at any place other than Camp Coleman. There, we were surrounded by friends and colleagues and embraced by a warm loving community. Coleman will always be a part of our family and our lives."

Artie Lieb  
Camper: 1986-1995 Staff: 1996-2001

Jennifer Israel Lieb  
Staff 2001-2004



## THE NEED FOR A BETTER HOME

In 2001, Camp Coleman raised \$3.5 million during phase I of a \$12 million capital campaign. With these funds, Coleman erected a new dining hall that enabled all campers to once again dine together at one sitting. A creative arts center, outdoor chapel, health center, and athletic facilities were also added.

Coleman's leadership has now embarked on the campaign's \$8.5 million phase II. Funds from this phase will be used to expand and modernize all cabins. Modern, roomy, and airy cabins are a vital part of the camp experience and provide an important backdrop for daily life. A number of new facilities will also be added. These include a performing arts center/chapel, recreational and activity sites, a children's playground, an amphitheater, and a campfire site. Each of these improvements will allow Coleman to meet current demands and to offer expanded and enhanced programs.

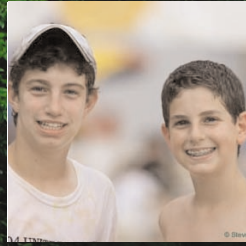
In order to attract and retain top quality staff and faculty, the plan includes the creation of a Staff Housing facility. Because Coleman is the site of numerous youth and congregational retreats, the Staff Housing facility, along with several new bunks of the Camp Jenny Children's Village, will be constructed for year-round use.

The state-of-the-art Coleman campsite will provide campers and staff with the opportunity to bring camp life to a new level.



"I live in Athens, Georgia and attend a high school with only 4 other Jewish students. Coleman is my community, peer-group and youth group rolled into one. It's the place where I am most comfortable and the only place where I can be me. I can't wait to return to Coleman every summer."

Elan Zeichner  
 Sophomore, Cedar Shoals H.S.  
 Camper: 1995- present



"I was Camp Coleman's first program director during its initial summer in 1964.  
 "What a thrill 15 years later to start sending my sons Jonathan, Jeremy, Michael, and Mark as campers to Coleman.  
 "And imagine the thrill last summer when my grandson Bradley started in Bonim, the youngest unit. The world has completely changed since 1964, but Coleman continues to inspire and shape its campers in a nurturing environment."

Merle Singer (below, left)  
 Rabbi (Emeritus)  
 Temple Beth El, Boca Raton, FL  
 Coleman Staff 1964-1965  
 Faculty 1979-Present

Jonathan Singer (below, right)  
 Camper 1979 -1985

Bradley Singer (below, center)  
 Camper 2005



## HOW YOU CAN HELP

A campaign to fund Phase II of improvements to Camp Coleman has begun. Its success will provide a campsite offering our children a compelling summer experience.

Yet the campaign is about more than new buildings and improved facilities. An expanded and refurbished Camp Coleman will be an important site for Jewish living. It will provide our children and grandchildren with the knowledge, skills, pride, and determination to live Jewishly. A vibrant, joyful, Jewish future rests today on a strong, renewed Camp Coleman. Join us as we build our future, "One Child at a Time."









## URJ Camp Coleman

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