



Hello Camp Tavor Families!

For any new readers, my name is Nathan Wojcik, and I am the mashatz (unit head) for the Chotrimot (kids going into 6th and 7th grade)! Some fun facts about me are that I won a Harry Potter lookalike contest once and that my first, middle, and last names are all six letters!

I have been going to camp since 2010, and have been on tzevet (staff) for five years. I am going into my senior year at the University of Michigan, where I study American Culture and Transcultural Studies. I'll be writing a weekly blog updating you all on the happenings of camp this summer.

Second Session is building momentum here at camp! After a busy first couple of days involving the chanichimot getting acclimated to their new surroundings, putting up mosquito netting, fixing fallen mosquito netting, and rehanging droopy mosquito netting. The campers were treated to a surprise with Madatz Revolution on the first Wednesday of camp! Airport-themed this year, Madatz Revolution, or Rev for short, is a day where the Madatz (Counselors in Training) take over camp and run special programming. If you have read this blog before, you may recall my post detailing Special Day. Madatz Rev is the same idea, except run by the CITs instead of the counselors. The basic structure of the day revolved around the relatable experience of being stuck in an airport, before eventually uncovering a deep, supernatural conspiracy that was responsible for their being trapped! I don't want to spoil all the twists and turns, so make sure to ask your child about it!



Last summer, I had the honor of being a Madatz Madrich (counselor), and I want to give a bit of insight into the beauty of Madatz Revolution as an event. I felt an enormous sense of pride watching my campers grow and be able to hold their own in running their own day of camp. Though camp is run by mainly young people every day, to see the process of kids that I've worked with becoming able to run the entirety of camp is truly special. At its essence, that's what camp is all about. Camp is self-sustaining in the way of creating its own leadership. Madatz is crucial to that sentiment. I am not a parent, despite some of the younger kids assuming I'm 35, but watching my kids run camp? I think that that's the closest I've felt a parent when they watch their kid at a baseball game, or a dance recital, or a band concert. Even this year, when it wasn't my own kids running the show, it still instilled in me a sense of pride, and a sense of comfort, knowing that the next generation was well on their way to becoming the next leaders of camp.

As we head into Shabbat, I want to leave you on the idea of leadership. What forms does it take? Who can do it? Though the madatz have a very present way to engage with leadership, we have opportunities for every camper to have experiences with it. Camp is made for the youth to find their place with themselves and with the world, and to gain the tools to sculpt it. These are sentiments that need to carry on beyond the boundaries of camp. Camp needs leaders undeniably, but we aren't the only ones. Leadership at camp seems small, but for many, it's a foot in the door to a whole new world. I, for one, am excited to see what they do with those tools.

Shabbat Shalom,
Nathan