



# ***PRESS RELEASE***

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **ARE YOU READY FOR THE SUMMER?**

*- New Jewish Federation Grants Available For First Time Campers-*

**Los Angeles, CA - March 5, 2007** - The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, in partnership with the Foundation for Jewish Camping today announced a new program to introduce more Jewish children to the magic and significance of attending Jewish summer camp. Through The Jewish Federation's Overnight Camping Incentive Grants Program, first-time campers residing in the greater Los Angeles area are eligible for grants of up to \$1,250 for Jewish overnight camp. The grants, available to children enrolling after March 1, 2007, are funded by The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles and supported by a generous contribution from the Foundation for Jewish Camping.

“Jewish camp creates enduring friendships along with unbreakable bonds to Judaism and the Jewish community,” said Julie Platt, the Federation's Camp Advisory Committee chair. “This initiative helps us meet our mandate as a community to help ensure a strong Jewish future.”

“This grant program is in line with our principal mission of significantly increasing the number of children who attend Jewish camps each summer, and we're so pleased to encourage more Jewish children from the Los Angeles area to do exactly that,” added Jerry Silverman, president of the Foundation for Jewish Camping.

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Jewish youth experiences, such as summer camps, play an integral role in the development of Jewish identity and a number of studies have shown a link between these experiences and connection to the Jewish community into adulthood. For children who choose to spend their summers pursuing activities such as sports, wilderness and the arts, attending a Jewish overnight camp is a wonderful way to cultivate these interests in a Jewish context.

Grants are not based on financial need and are available whether or not a camper has received any other scholarships or financial aid. A total \$150,000 is available for the summer of 2007 to be awarded to applicants on a “first come, first served” basis. Participating camps include Camp Alonim, Camp Gan Israel, Camp Gilboa Habonim D’ror, Camp JCA Shalom, Camp Ramah in California and Wilshire Boulevard Temple Camps.

For full details on eligibility and for an application, please email [CampGrants@JewishLA.org](mailto:CampGrants@JewishLA.org), or call (323) 761-8320.

*The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles – L.A.’s largest Jewish nonprofit – identifies and funds social service, educational and humanitarian needs locally, in Israel and around the world. Through a network of agencies and programs, the Federation helps alleviate Jewish poverty, provide emergency relief, ensure a Jewish future and support the greater Los Angeles community.*

*The Foundation for Jewish Camping is the only national organization dedicated to nonprofit Jewish resident camps, promoting program and leadership excellence to camps and access to vibrant Jewish experiences for campers. FJC works with more than 130 camps, 62,000 campers, and 12,000 counselors across North America. For the past two years, FJC has been included in the Slingshot Resource Guide as one of the 50 most innovative Jewish organizations in the country. For more information on FJC, please visit our website at [www.jewishcamping.org](http://www.jewishcamping.org)*