

CAMP RAMAH IN CALIFORNIA



SUMMER CAMP PHOTOGRAPHY TRAINING MANUAL

Lisa Cooper and Ari Polsky

Parts adapted from Gold Arrow Camp Photography Handbook

Contributors

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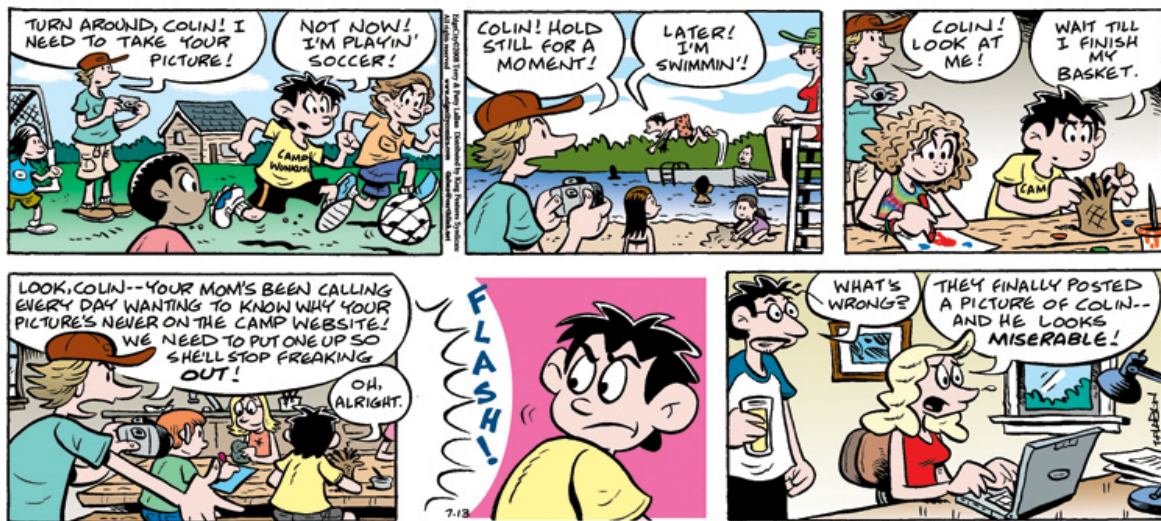
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Dear Kayitz 2020 Photographers,

You have one of THE MOST IMPORTANT JOBS in camp. You have power that few other people in camp have. Every other role, many parents won't know the impact of until their kids return home, but not your role. You have the ability to day-to-day impact how parents and the outside world perceive camp via photos.

This is a solemn responsibility that we trust you with. You have the ability to show a story and to WOW parents. Rabbi Joe, Ariella, the Board, and I, we all think you are important. This is our most public face over the summer, and all eyes are on us.

We are going to tell the story of what happens at camp. We will show an insight into the activities and cover as many campers in each edah in each update as possible. We will answer several fundamental questions that parents are asking:

- Is my child safe?
- What is my kid doing?
- Are they having fun?
- Do they have friends?
- Are my kids cared for?
- Who is taking care of them?

Every child should appear in a photo at least twice a week. There should be a balance of group shots and action shots. We expect you to try your hardest. We do not expect you to be the most famous instagram photographer, we expect you to be a Camp Ramah photographer.

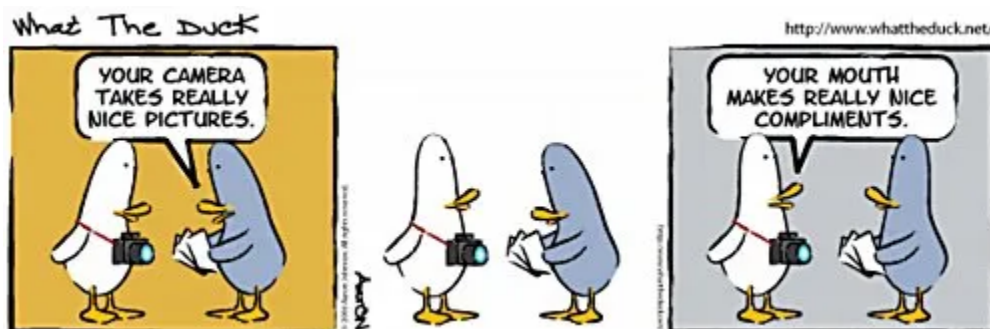
-Ari

JOB DESCRIPTION - Photographer

Photographers report to the Rosh Photography and to Ari.

Members of the photography team are primarily photographers and secondarily attached to their edah.

- You are expected to post photos 4x a week on (MWFS) - 75 photos per edah (Gesh-Sol) 60 photos (Koch-Mach)-
- This might require taking 600-1500 photos to accomplish the necessary
- Photos must be a variety of activities and representing 4+ activities
- These goals may be adjusted as the summer goes on, but will not drop below the stated minimums
- Photos will be sorted and stored in accordance with Camp's photo systems (to be explained).
- Your time is divided between taking photos, processing photos, and spending time with your edah.
- You are expected to communicate schedules with your Rosh Edah, and coordinate on and off time over Shabbat with them.
- You have Tuesdays off, and days may be adjusted to account for tiyulim or other scheduling.
- Photographers are responsible for producing 2 video shorts throughout the summer, topic assigned by the Rosh
- Photographers will write edah update snapshots - 2x a week (see attachment for details)
- Camp photographers may be asked to perform other video or photo duties as assigned by Rosh.
- Each photographer will rotate as the "upload reviewer"- reviewing everyone else's images before being made public



Factors to consider when TAKING photos

When you are out taking photos, be sure to ask yourself:

- What is in the background?
 - Trash Cans or unsightly objects?
 - Trash on the ground?
 - Clutter of water bottles?
 - Unsafe activities by another group in the background?
- Are people doing this activity safely?
- Are there hand gestures/silly faces?
- Do Campers and Staff look happy or engaged? Or could a look be interpreted as sad or upset?
- What is your desired Depth of Field (DOF) (Is this an f/4 or an f/11 photo?)
- Do you have the photo set up for even lighting?
 - If not, what can you do to mitigate hotspots or shadows?
- Does anyone have a cast, ace bandage, boot, large bandaid, or crutches visible?
- Is anyone doing “the claw”?
(The claw is the appearance of a disembodied hand that appears over someone's shoulder- since you only see a few fingers, but often not the whole hand or arm)
- Are campers and staff dressed appropriately?
- What is going on in the photo?
 - Is activity obvious?
 - What's the emotion behind the photo
- Are all children's eyes open/looking in the right place?

Questions to ask yourself when REVIEWING photos

- What are the first five images in the album?
- Faces:
 - Who is in the photo?
 - What are expressions on faces?
- Background: anything unsafe or problematic?
- What gestures are people making?
- Any signs of injury (cast, boots, bandages, braces, etc)
- Is there a representative sample of the age group/genders shown in the album?
- Who is missing?
 - How will you capture those kids for this update?
- Where are hands?
- Are all articles of clothing on correctly?
- Has this type of pose been done too often?
- Are all cabins/campers represented at the end of reviewing all photos?

Staging/cheating great shots

Favorite shots to stage:

- Sit entire bunk on one bunk bed (top and bottom) with counselors standing on either side
- ***Anything with a counselor teaching a camper a skill (archery, art, circus, anything!)
- Kids hamming it up on a tandem dive
- WOW factors
 - Jumping in the pool, group jump in pool “High School Musical” style!
 - Larger than life smiles, arms up, extra fun!
 - Campers (safely) piling on counselors laughing
 - Staff members with arms around each other laughing
 - Campers engaged in activity- can stage specific parts of activities- kick the soccer ball, do this dance move, place the ball near the golf hole and pose as if you know the ball is going in....

Not Sure What to Shoot today??

Head to the...

- Pool (portraits, diving board, waterslides, playing cards)
- Pre-Meal lines
- Dining room tables
- Evening activities
- Morning prayer (think Shma, Torah, looking at the siddur)
- Is anyone doing bunk bonding on the ropes course?
- Archery
- Woodworking
- Ceramics

On your Flow:

1. There should be almost no photos with no one looking at the camera (unless there's a super cute expression, it highlights a "product", or its a large group engaged in an activity).
2. Your post should be about 70% portraits (individual or group. close up/fill screen individual) shots and 30% action or group activity shots
3. Think about what your first photo (or 5) will be they are a) your cover shot and b) set the tone for parents
4. When looking at your flow, be sure you cover all genders
5. Parents expect to see their kids doing the same things, It's not a big deal to be shooting in the same locations. Just get different kids or pose differently.

When Shooting:

1. Don't be afraid to ask kids to pose!
2. Please get pool shots, morning prayer, and dining hall every day.
3. You can get variety by being at bunk activity and evening activity. Be there. Attend activities of the opposite gender.
4. Great opportunity to get posed shots while waiting in line outside the dining hall. (Try to avoid large crowds in the back or at least get close up faces to minimize the amount of crowds seen).
5. Think of a photo as worth \$100 - dont waste \$35
6. Pictures with Torah (on weekdays) are AMAZING.
7. Make your photos a 2 for 1! Avoid individual shots unless there's a real reason.

Commonly used settings (all settings based on Av)

Inside the Bunk

Daytime: (f/8, ISO 800)

Low Light: (f/4 ISO 2000)

Sports

(f/4, ISO 400)

Pool

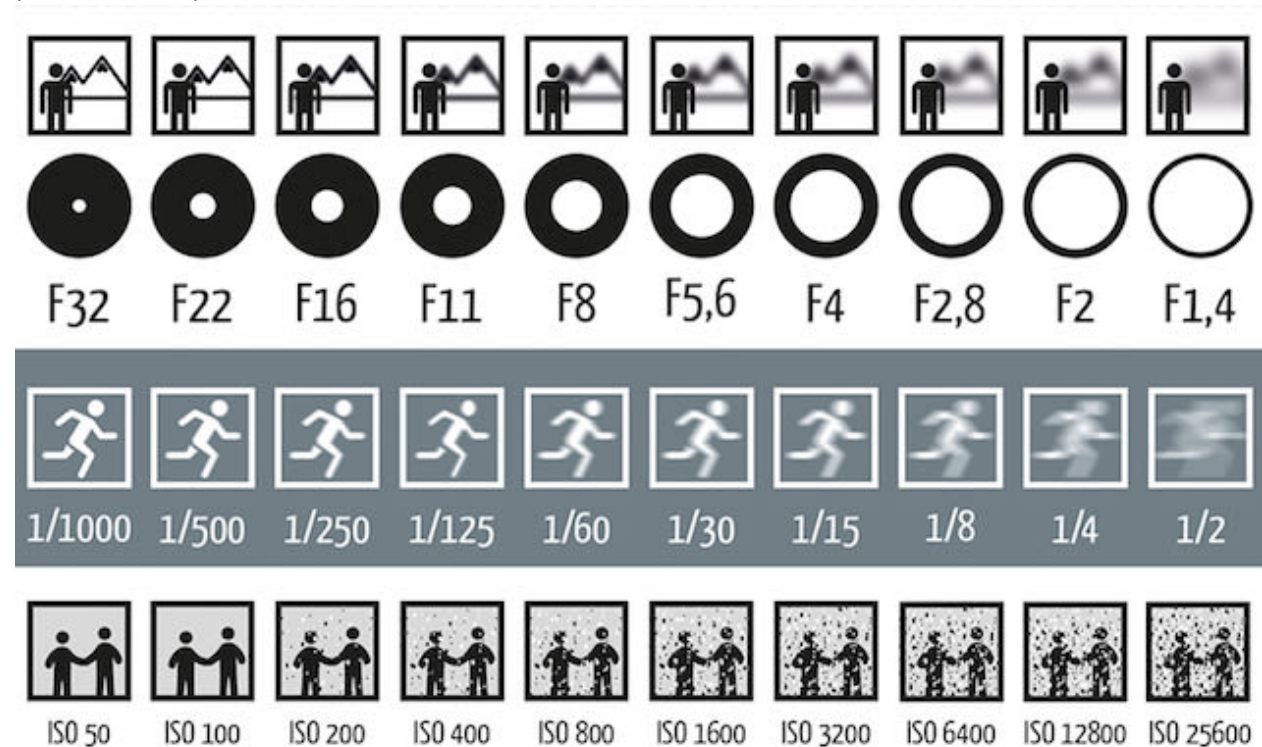
(f/11, ISO 800)

Full Sun

(f/8, ISO 400)

Shade

(f/8, ISO 800)



Camera Settings (from Gold Arrow Camp)

A. Aperture

Aperture: The size of the opening in the lens through which light passes and is recorded on the camera's sensor. Aperture sizes are represented with the term "f-stop." The numbers are fractions, so f/2.8 is larger than f/22. The larger the opening the more light will pass through to the sensor.

Effect of Aperture on Images: The aperture is used to control depth of field (DOF), which refers to how much of the image is in focus and how much is out of focus. Larger apertures (f/2.8-f/5.6) create a shallow DOF, resulting in the background to be out of focus. Smaller apertures (f/8-f/22) create a deep DOF, resulting in both the background and foreground being in focus.

B. Shutter Speed

Shutter Speed: Shutter speeds are recorded as fractions of a second, and represent the amount of time that the aperture stays open. The longer the shutter stays open, the more light will reach the sensor.

Likewise, the faster the shutter speed, the less light will reach the sensor. **Effect of Shutter Speed on Images:** Shutter speed is used to record motion. Fast shutter speeds (1/250 and higher) freeze motion. Slow shutter speeds (1/30 and slower) Blur motion. If hand holding a camera, do not let the shutter speed fall below 1/60 or camera shake may result.

C. ISO

ISO: Determines the sensitivity of the sensor to receive light. The higher the ISO, the more sensitive the sensor will be to receiving light and the faster you will be able to set your shutter speed.

Effects of ISO: The higher ISO also allows for faster shutter speeds, which can be used to freeze action. Higher ISO (over 800) can cause serious degradation of image quality. Keep your ISO as low as possible for your shooting conditions.

D. Shooting Modes

Program (P): The camera selects both the aperture and shutter speed for you. This mode should always be used over full auto.

Aperture Priority (A or Av): You select the aperture that best fits your shooting conditions or desired effect, and the camera selects the correct corresponding shutter speed for you.

Shutter Priority (S or Tv): You select the shutter speed that best fits your shooting conditions or desired effect, and the camera selects the correct corresponding aperture for you.

Manual (M): In this mode, you have full control over your camera and need to think about all settings including shutter speed, aperture, ISO, white balance, flash, etc. It gives you the flexibility to set your shots up as you wish.

E. White Balance

Different light sources give off different color temperatures, and white Balance (WB) counters these. Set the WB to best match your shooting conditions or leave on Auto

Camera Care (From Gold Arrow Camp)

A. Camera Storage

The best place for your camera when not in use is in a proper camera bag or the cabinets. This helps to ensure that no dirt or dust gets into the camera. Never set your camera down on the ground, in the dirt, or on any other dirty surface. Cameras will be locked in tech office cabinets each night.

B. Changing Lenses

Every time you switch your camera lens, it creates an opportunity for dirt to find its way into the camera body. Be sure to only change lenses in a clean environment, and to make the transition quickly so that dust has less time to get in. Make sure the camera is OFF before changing lenses.

C. Cleaning

There are cleaning tools available in the photo office if you need to dust off or wipe down your camera body and/or lens(es). Take care to use specific lens cleaning supplies for lenses so as not to scratch the glass. If the image sensor needs cleaning talk to the Lead Photographer right away so it can be cleaned as soon as possible. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CLEAN THE IMAGE SENSOR YOURSELF.**

D. Equipment Malfunctions

If there are ever any problems with any cameras or lenses, let the Lead Photographer know right away. Never forcefully open or close anything that isn't performing properly, i.e. if a flash or shutter isn't opening properly **DO NOT** pry it open. The sooner the Lead Photographer knows there is a problem, the sooner they can get the problem fixed.

A. Equipment Check-Out Procedure

Each photographer will be assigned photography equipment at the beginning of the summer. You will be required to sign the provided check out log and take note of the equipment's condition. Likewise, at the end of the summer, you will be required to check in all assigned photography equipment and note any changes in the equipment's condition.

B. Camera Use

Camp cameras are for camp use only, and are to be handled only by trained camp photographers. Do not pass the camera around for others to use. It is **your responsibility** to take care of this expensive equipment as if it were your own!

C. Computers and Internet Policy

Computer Use: The computers in the tech office are to be used for camp purposes only and are not for personal use. Photographers and Videographers are the only staff permitted in the tech office to use these computers.

Internet use: Internet is not permitted except for camp purposes (i.e. camp email and uploading photos). There is no personal email or social media use, as there is a staff lounge for this purpose during time off. Streaming music is not permitted, as this will cause problems with the internet connection at camp.

