CAMP WORKS

THE LONG-TERM IMPACT OF JEWISH OVERNIGHT CAMP

Evidence from 26 U.S. Jewish Population Studies on Adult Jewish Engagement
“The Jewish community — as well as funders and parents with camp-age children — need proof that camp significantly impacts Jewish behavior and engagement well into campers’ adult years, and Professor Steven Cohen's regression analysis demonstrates exactly that.

There is no reason for any skepticism anymore: Camp works, and Jewish camping should be strongly supported and funded.”

-- Elisa Spungen Bildner, Co-Founder and Co-chair, FJC Board of Trustees
CAMP WORKS:
The Long Term Impact

As adults, campers are:

- 30% more likely to donate to a Jewish Federation
- 37% more likely to light candles regularly for Shabbat
- 45% more likely to attend a synagogue at least once a month
- 55% more likely to feel very emotionally attached to Israel
# The Impact of Jewish Camp

## Jewish Attitudes & Behaviors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High Impact</th>
<th>Non-Camper</th>
<th>Camper</th>
<th>Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feel very emotionally attached to Israel</td>
<td>.19</td>
<td>.30</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend synagogue monthly or more</td>
<td>.20</td>
<td>.29</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Always/usually light Shabbat candles</td>
<td>.18</td>
<td>.24</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donated to a Jewish federation in the past year</td>
<td>.22</td>
<td>.28</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# The Impact of Jewish Camp
## Jewish Attitudes & Behaviors

## MODERATE IMPACT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Non-Camper</th>
<th>Camper</th>
<th>Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Member of a synagogue</td>
<td>.44</td>
<td>.56</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most/all closest friends are Jewish</td>
<td>.25</td>
<td>.31</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donated to a Jewish charity in the past year</td>
<td>.49</td>
<td>.61</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Used a Jewish website in the past year</td>
<td>.44</td>
<td>.54</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feel being Jewish is very important</td>
<td>.44</td>
<td>.53</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## The Impact of Jewish Camp
### Jewish Attitudes & Behaviors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOW IMPACT</th>
<th>Non-Camper</th>
<th>Camper</th>
<th>Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Did not have a Christmas tree</td>
<td>.76</td>
<td>.85</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currently in-married</td>
<td>.67</td>
<td>.74</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Always/usually participate in a Seder</td>
<td>.82</td>
<td>.89</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Always/usually light Hanukkah candles</td>
<td>.72</td>
<td>.75</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Leaders in their 20’s and 30’s have benefited disproportionately from more intensive forms of Jewish education than that received by their peers who do not serve in leadership positions. Over two-thirds have attended Jewish summer camps.
We don’t have to *repair* the lack of adult engagement in Jewish life. If you invest in Jewish youth, you’re going to automatically get all kinds of engagement.

Donors and philanthropists have to believe in this model. By investing in reaching Jews right now you see immediate results, but investing in Jewish camp and other effective measures of Jewish engagement, you see the results 20, 30, 40 years from now.

-- Professor Steven M. Cohen