Kayitz Kef: Hebrew@Camp Summer 2026

What began in 2013 with a single camp has grown into a network of 50 camps across North America, representing an extraordinary cross-section of Jewish life. This summer, Kayitz Kef partnered with JCCs, Ramah, Young Judaea, Chabad, synagogue and Jewish day school camps, Habonim Dror, Hashomer Hatzair, Bnei Akiva, and Jewish sports camps. Together, these camps brought meaningful Hebrew experiences to more than 8,200 campers, including more than 1,100 children participating in full Hebrew immersion programs.



Shlicha (Israeli Jewish Agency counselor) talks to campers in Hebrew about her home life in Beer Sheva, Israel (Oshman JCC, Palo Alto)

At the heart of this work were people, relationships, and purpose. Kayitz Kef trained 117 Israeli shlichim and shinshinim, alongside more than 60 local Hebrew-speaking counselors, preparing them to bring living Hebrew, contemporary Israeli culture, music, humor, and human connection into camp communities. Hebrew was not confined to lessons or designated activities. It was part of daily camp life, on sports fields and stages, in art rooms and dining halls, through games, songs, routines, and friendships.

In full-immersion day camps alone, more than 75 percent of non-immersion campers participated in Hebrew programming, extending its reach across entire camp communities. Campers enrolled in immersion programs experienced four to eight weeks of sustained Hebrew engagement, amounting to 120-240 hours of exposure and opportunities to understand and use Hebrew in authentic settings.



"Schechter in the Sun,"
Hebrew Immersion Cleveland, OH.

At a time when connection to Israel can feel complex or distant, campers encountered Israel through people and language, grounded in humanity rather than politics. Counselors themselves grew in confidence and ownership, finding new ways to make Hebrew a natural part of the camp experience. To encourage creativity and help camps build sustainable programs, Kayitz Kef distributed more than $30,000 in new camp and programming innovation grants.

Kayitz Kef provides its professional training, mentoring, program development, and ongoing support without charging participating camps. Philanthropic support makes it possible for camps of different sizes, communities, and resources to offer meaningful Hebrew experiences, giving thousands of children opportunities to encounter Hebrew as a living language and develop personal connections with Israel and Israelis.

For more information: sharon@kayitzkef.org

Our 50 Partner Camps
Summer 2026

Aleph Bet Camp - Chabad (Austin, TX)

Apachi Elaine Frank - JCC Chicago (Zurich, Ill)

Apachi Northside - JCC Chicago (Chicago, Ill)

Camp Galil - Habonim Dror (Ottsville, PA)

CYJ MIdwest - Young Judaea (Waupaca, WI)

CYJ Texas - Young Judaea (Wimberly, TX)

Gan Izzy Austin - Chabad (Austin, TX)

Camp Shomria - HaShomer HaTzair (Liberty, NY)

Day School Camp - Herschorin Schiff Com. Day School (Sarasota, FL)

Macabbi Sports Camp - Oshman JCC (Hayward, CA)*

Ramah Philadelphia - Ramah (Elkins Park, PA)**

Ramah Boston - Ramah (Waltham, MA)

Ramah Chicago - Ramah (Wheeling, IL)

Sababa - JCC East Bay (Berkeley, CA)

Schechter in the Sun - Gross Schechter D.S. (Cleveland, Oh)

Weshchester Summer Day - (Mamaroneck, NY)

Camp Judaea - Young Judaea (Hendersonville, NC)

Camp Shelanu - Levin JCC (Durham, NC)

Camp Shemesh - Valley of the Sun JCC (Scottsdale, AZ)

Camp Tel Yehudah - Young Judaea (Barryville, NY)

CYJ Sprout Lake - Young Judaea (Verbank, NY)

Gan Izzy Israeli Community - Chabad (Cupertino, CA)

Gan Izzy @ The Shul - Chabad (W. Bloomfield, MI)

In the City Camps (Atlanta, GA)

Funtensive Camp - Center for Small Town Jewish Life (Alberta, ME)

Kinneret Biluim - Canadian YJ (Montreal, Quebec Canada)

Kochavim North - Prosserman JCC (Vaughan, Ontario Canada)

Kochavim South - Prosserman JCC (Toronto, Ontario Canada)

Ramah Day Camp Greater Washington - Ramah (Germantown, MD)

Ramah Nyack - Ramah (Nyack, NY)

Sol Taplin - Michael Ann Russell JCC (N. Miami Beach, FL)

Tayasim - Oshman Family JCC (Palo Alto, CA)

Camp Haverim/Hoover - JCC Greater Columbus (Columbus, OH)

J&R Day Camp - JCC of Greater Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh, PA)

Camp Shalom - Mandell JCC of Greater Hartford (Windsor, CT)

Camp Gesher - Habonim Dror (Toronto, Ontario Canada)

Camp Kef - Congregation Beth Elohim (Brooklyn, NY)

Camp Miriam - Habonim Dror (Vancouver, BC Canada)

6 Points Sports Academy - URJ (Asheville, NC)

JCC Camps - JCC Greater Baltimore (Baltimore, MD)

JCC Camp Keff- Peninsula JCC (Foster City, CA)

Moshava Ba'ir NJ - Bnei Akiva (Paramus, NJ)

Moshava Ba'ir Toronto - Bnei Akiva (Toronto, Ontario, Canada)

Park Synagogue Day Camp - Park Synagogue (Cleveland, OH)

Ramah Berkshires - Ramah (Wingdale, NY)

Ramah Darom - Ramah (Clayton, GA)

Sprout B'Ivrit - Young Judaea (Brooklyn, NY)