

**Dear parent,**

Your child will soon have the opportunity to participate in **Achdoot**, Teva's Wilderness Experience. The Teva Learning Center is a Jewish environmental education organization sponsored by Surprise Lake Camp. This letter answers some of the questions parents have asked us in the past. More information is available on our website ([www.tevacenter.org](http://www.tevacenter.org)) or by calling us (212-807-6376).

**Goals:** To teach about the connection between Judaism and the natural world through experiential activities. Teva's Achdoot program integrates outdoor environmental education and Jewish concepts and values in a non-competitive wilderness setting. The goals of the *Achdoot* program include: (1) fostering group cohesion, (2) developing self-esteem (3) teaching wilderness skills and (4) cultivating lasting Jewish environmental ethics.

**Facilities:** Teva's *Achdoot* programs take place at group campsites located in National and State Park land. Students sleep in tents on sleeping pads provided by the Teva Learning Center. Most facilities have flush toilets and running water.

**Staff & Safety:** All staff are first aid and CPR certified. The program coordinator is a certified Wilderness First Responder. There is a hospital within 15 minutes of the campsite, and an emergency vehicle available at all times.

**Food:** Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner are provided by the Teva Learning Center. All food is kosher and vegetarian. Special arrangements can be made for those with food allergies. Peanut Butter and Jelly are offered as alternatives at every meal.

**Forms:** With this letter, you should receive a Packing List, Permission Slip, Medical Form, Medical Authorization and Release, and a Participant Behavioral Contract. The last four items all need to be completed, signed, and returned to the school as soon as possible, and well before your child's departure. Please double check all forms to ensure that they have been signed in all the proper places. Unsigned forms could hinder our ability to provide your child with the highest quality of care.

We hope you are as excited about the program as we are! We look forward to camping with your child.

B'shalom,  
In peace,

Mati Cooper  
Achdoot Program Coordinator