

PREPARING YOUR ISRAELI STAFF TO ANSWER CAMPERS' QUESTIONS

During Staff Week it's a good idea to have your Israeli Counselors serve on a panel to answer sample questions so they feel prepared when campers arrive.

Due to the current conflict, it's important to prepare your staffers so they will feel comfortable answering what might be difficult questions. Below you will find some questions campers might ask depending on their age. Have your staff create more, including difficult questions in other subject areas based on the needs of your camp. Then, have staff practice answering questions.

Under the age of seven you can assume campers will ask basic getting-to-know-you questions. Here are some general starting questions:

- Where are you from in Israel? (good to have a map available)
- What are some of your favorite Israeli foods we don't have here at camp?
- What are some of your favorite American foods you don't have in Israel?
- Do you have any pets?
- What are your favorite hobbies?

Campers ages 8-12 may have more detailed questions around army service and the current situation in Israel. Practice answering questions such as:

- What was your job in the army?
- Were you scared of being in the army?
- Did you carry a gun?
- Do you know a hostage?
- Did you know someone at the music festival?

Campers 12 and older will have more knowledge about the current situation in Israel. It's important to be prepared to answer questions such as these:

- Did you serve in Gaza?
- Where were you on Oct. 7?
- Do you know someone who was killed?
- Do you know a hostage?
- Have you ever killed or injured someone?

Answers need not be comprehensive or explicit. What matters is that there's an open, respectful dialogue. For example, it would be fine for a Counselor to answer the question, "have you ever killed or injured someone," by saying, "I'm not comfortable answering that question; can you ask me something else," or by saying "My job was to defend my soldiers and make sure everyone got home safely."