



Parent Guidebook



Table of Contents

Our Story	3
Parent Guidebook	4
Program Overview	5
Age of Students	5
Programmatic Features	5
Kick-off Workshop	5
Retreats	6
Kitot (Classes)	6
Mentorship	6
Hebrew Classes	6
Family Engagement	6
Mitzvah Project	7
B'nai Mitzvah Service/Song Leaders and Location Options	7
Service and Song Leader Cost	7
Option 1	8
Option 2	8
Option 3	8
B'nai Mitzvah Service Format Options & Date Selection	8
B'nai Mitzvah Service Options	8
Service Terminology	9
Date Selection and Torah Portion	10
Family and Friend Participation	10
Hebrew	10
Fees and Registration	11
Registration	12
Refund Policy	12
Financial Assistance	12
Appendix 1	13
Appendix 2	14
Appendix 3	15
Appendix 4	16



“Through Tawonga’s emphasis on nature as a means of connecting with religion, I found my connection to Judaism and spirituality.”

-Maya R., Tawonga camper

Our Story

In May 2015, we welcomed our first Bat Mitzvah, Chloe, to Makom Shalom, Camp Tawonga’s outdoor sanctuary. As she stood before her family, friends and 300 Tawongans, she reflected on her relationship to Camp Tawonga – the place she felt the most connected to G-d and a community where she felt her most authentic self.

In the spirit of furthering our Mission and inspiring children to connect to Judaism and spirituality, it is with great excitement that we introduce *Tawonga Bar and Bat Mitzvah Program: An innovative approach to the B'nai Mitzvah experience*. This two-year program will provide youth the opportunity to find and develop their own meaningful path to adulthood in a uniquely Tawonga way.

During our Saturday morning Shabbat services at Camp Tawonga, we often explain Judaism as a buffet of choices. Children are provided the opportunity to explore a variety of Jewish practices, ranging from singing to Torah to reflection in nature, allowing them to choose what resonates the most. We understand and embrace that a positive Jewish and spiritual identity will be discovered and developed in a manner that is unique for each individual.

Past Tawonga campers and staff frequently share that their summers at camp were instrumental in shaping their religious and spiritual identities. After spending weeks surrounded by community and exploring nature, an overwhelming number of Tawongans report that they feel a closer connection to Jewish community, gain a stronger sense of who they are as individuals, and set the intention to continue exploring Jewish traditions, values and customs in everyday life. As a leader in Jewish camping since 1925, Camp Tawonga has specialized in character development for thousands of campers. We are delighted to apply our proven methodology and approach in this new capacity to impact even more children as they embark on this meaningful rite of passage.

Tawonga’s Bar and Bat Mitzvah Program will focus on the *process* of becoming a more self-confident, socially-aware and inquisitive young adult. Through this unique program, your child will interact with nature, get to know their community, engage in thought-provoking discussions about Judaism and teenage life and build leadership skills – all the while defining a personally-meaningful connection to spirituality and adulthood.



“As our interfaith and unaffiliated families continue to grow in the community, Tawonga’s Bar and Bat Mitzvah Program fills an important niche that will provide that flexible and personal B’nai Mitzvah experience that families are seeking.”

– Rabbi Mychal Copeland | Director, Interfaith Family/Bay Area

About this Guidebook

This Parent Guidebook is designed to provide you with an understanding of Camp Tawonga’s goals for our Bar and Bat Mitzvah Program. We hope it serves as a road map and allows you to envision an experience for your child that will increase their self-esteem, allow for interaction with the natural world, and offer a sense of community. We urge you to think outside of the box to visualize a B’nai Mitzvah program and service that meets your family’s values and are thrilled to join you on this journey!





Program Overview

Age of Students

Tawonga Bar and Bat Mitzvah Program is a two-year experience designed for students entering 6th grade. It is optimal for a child to begin this program in 6th grade because the period at the end of this program is typically the time when a B'nai Mitzvah service would likely take place (if a service is desired). We are also happy to welcome 5th and 7th graders; if a student begins this program in 5th or 7th grade and decides to have a B'nai Mitzvah service, we strongly encourage that the service takes place towards the end of the program or during the following summer or fall.

Please call our Program Coordinator at 415.543.2267 if you have any questions about these guidelines.

Programmatic Features*

Tawonga Bar and Bat Mitzvah Program will kick off on Sunday, September 25, 2016 with a full-day family workshop. The subsequent year will consist of:

- Seven 4-hour *kitot* (classes) for youth
- Three youth retreats
- Two family Shabbats
- Two family hikes
- Optional introductory Hebrew classes

During year two, students will be paired with a volunteer mentor to help them prepare their *d'rash* (sermon).

Please see Appendix 1 for our 2016-2017 calendar year. Dates for year two of this program are yet to be determined, but will follow a similar format.

*Program specifics are subject to change

Kick-Off Family Workshop

The Kick-Off Family Workshop will start off these two years with all of the joy and excitement that our B'nai Mitzvah program is sure to bring! This day-long workshop will consist of reflection, community building, family bonding and fun! This fun-filled day will also provide families a chance to envision their ideal B'nai Mitzvah service, facilitate community building among participants, and provide students an opportunity to think about what this milestone means to them.

We encourage all family members, including siblings, to attend the Kick-Off Family Workshop.

This workshop will take place on September 25, 2016. The exact location will be determined soon.



Retreats*

Three weekends throughout the year, Tawonga Bar and Bat Mitzvah Program youth participants will join together for reflection, learning, community building and fun at the beautiful Marin Headlands Nature Bridge Retreat Center.* With the help of song leaders and Tawonga-trained staff, we will recreate the magic of Tawonga summer camp with an exciting B'nai Mitzvah twist!

*location and duration of retreats are subject to change

Kitot (Classes)

Tawonga Bar and Bat Mitzvah Program *kitot* (classes) will serve as the primary community and learning environment throughout this two-year program of becoming a B'nai Mitzvah. Our three *kitot* (located in Oakland/Berkeley, the South Peninsula and San Francisco) will meet one to two Sundays per month.

During these sessions, led by trained and experienced Tawonga staff, students will engage in a diverse array of activities. Students will build community, discuss topics relevant to teens such as peer pressure and living in today's digital world, and learn and understand Jewish prayers in creative ways. While youth will have a primary meeting location in each city, *kitot* will also visit local nonprofits, engage with community leaders and learn in nearby outdoor settings.

Mentorship*

During the second year of Tawonga Bar and Bat Mitzvah Program, each student will be paired with a trained mentor with whom they will meet four to six times prior to their B'nai Mitzvah service. This volunteer mentor will help our future B'nai Mitzvot engage with their Torah portion, write their *d'rash* (sermon), practice their speech and most importantly, make the culmination of this process both positive and memorable. Volunteer mentors will be Tawonga parents, staff, board members, and local university students.



*If you are interested in being a mentor, please email our Program Coordinator at lauren@tawonga.org. There will be an interview and training process for all of our mentors.

Hebrew Classes

If your child's ideal B'nai Mitzvah service involves Hebrew, we are excited to work with you to make this happen! During year one of Tawonga Bar and Bat Mitzvah Program, we will offer introductory Hebrew classes. The goal of these classes is for students to become familiar with Hebrew letters and sounds. During year two of the program, students should meet with a private Hebrew tutor to learn their Torah and/or *Haftarah* portions.

Page 10 has more information regarding incorporating Hebrew into this program.

*See Appendix 2 for Tawonga-recommended tutors

Family Engagement

We are delighted to offer multiple opportunities for family engagement and learning throughout this two-year process. Apart from our Kick-Off Family Workshop, we will also host two family-style Shabbats and two family hikes during year one. Additionally, our curriculum will encourage students to engage in thought-provoking conversations with their family in the hopes of thinking further about the importance and meaning of becoming a B'nai Mitzvah.



Mitzvah Project

One of the main goals of Tawonga Bar and Bat Mitzvah Program is to expose youth to ideas of social justice and community engagement. In order to bring these theoretical concepts into a tangible experience, we encourage each student to participate in a Mitzvah Project. In addition to meeting with change makers in the community, *kita* (class) leaders and students will spend time working together to plan, implement and debrief the components of their projects. *Kita* leaders will provide suggested projects to youth ranging in topics from environmental justice to poverty to tolerance and discrimination. Youth will choose to either work as a group or individually on one of these projects, or can select and create an alternative project.

While *kita* leaders will help youth organize their projects, families should be prepared to be an integral part of this important process. *Kita* leaders will provide families with resources to make this an informative and enjoyable experience for everyone.

At the end of year two, participants will be invited to a Tawonga Bar and Bat Mitzvah Program graduation at which time children will have the opportunity to practice public speaking by presenting their Mitzvah Project.

B'nai Mitzvah Service/Song Leaders & Locations

We are excited to offer three different options for your child's B'nai Mitzvah service. You will also have the opportunity to choose from a wide variety of Tawonga-affiliated service and song leaders to help make this day special. Included in the prices below are two meetings with your chosen service leader and a rehearsal prior to the service with both your service leader and song leader. You are also welcome to choose a close family member or friend to lead your child's service!

Please see Appendix 4 for our list of premier service and song leaders.

Service & Song Leader Costs*

Bay Area Service: \$1000-\$2000

Family Camp Service: \$750

Camp Tawonga Service: \$1000-\$2000

*A reminder that costs **do not** include the price of your service venue.



Parent Information Sessions

We will be hosting three information sessions for interested families. At these orientations, you will hear first hand from our Program Coordinator all that Tawonga Bar and Bat Mitzvah Program has to offer and find answers to all of your questions!

January 28*

San Francisco

7-8:30pm

Camp Tawonga Office
131 Stuart Street, SF

February 11

East Bay

7-8:30pm

JCC of the East Bay
1414 Walnut Street,
Berkeley

February 29*

South Peninsula

7-8:30pm

Tawonga Family Home
Los Altos, CA

*These dates are different than previously advertised



Option #1: Bay Area

The first option is to hold your child's service in the Bay Area. We recommend an outdoor location, but are happy to work with you to make any vision you have become a reality.

Take a look at Appendix 3 to see a list of some of our favorite outdoor locations in the Bay Area.

Option #2: Camp Tawonga Family Camp Program

Your second option is for your child to lead a Saturday morning service at one of Camp Tawonga's Family Camp Weekends. Register your family and encourage other family members to attend as well! If your child has his or her B'nai Mitzvah during one of these Family Camp Weekends, we will reserve up to four family slots for your extended family and close friends.

A maximum of two children will be able to hold their B'nai Mitzvah services during each of our Family Camp Weekends. Dates will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

Option #3 Camp Tawonga Facility

Your third option is to rent out Camp Tawonga's site, just outside of Yosemite National Park. With this option, you will have the chance to host your family and friends at a unique weekend in the Sierra Mountains with your child's B'nai Mitzvah as the capstone to the weekend. We are currently in the process of winterizing our facility. We recommend selecting this option during the available weekends in May and October to maximize warmth and comfort, but are open to working with you if you prefer other months.

See Page 12 to learn more about our date and location sign-up process.

B'nai Mitzvah Service Format Options & Date Selection

B'nai Mitzvah Service Options

At Camp Tawonga, we embrace the distinctive routes that each and every child will take on their path to becoming a B'nai Mitzvah. To support our "choose your own adventure" model of Judaism, we will work with you and your child to design a B'nai Mitzvah service that incorporates your family's values.

Service Options:

- Lead *d'rash* (sermon)
- Lead *d'rash* and Prayers
- Lead *d'rash*, Prayers, and Torah Service* (1-7 aliyot)
- Lead *d'rash*, Prayers, Torah Service* (1-7 aliyot), and *Haftorah**
- No Service (i.e. a hike)

Don't see any service options that resonate with you or your child? That's okay! During our Kick-Off Family Camp, families and youth will have numerous opportunities to conceptualize their ideal B'nai Mitzvah service.

*See page 10 to learn about incorporating Hebrew into your child's service.



Service Terminology

Aliyot: Blessings over the Torah, typically given to family and friends of the B'nai Mitzvah.

D'rash: *D'rash* is an abbreviated version of the word *Midrash*. A *Midrash* is an interpretation of Torah, connecting the text to the wonders and challenges of everyday life. The *d'rash* provides youth an opportunity to find personal relevance in teachings of Torah. Leading a *d'rash* provides teens a chance to practice their public-speaking skills and to share their ideas with their friends, family and community.

Prayers: During *kitot* and retreats, we will teach the most common prayers heard at reform Jewish services. By using Hebrew to English transliteration, we will make the following prayers accessible to everyone: *Bar'chu*, *Shema*, *V'ahavta*, *Shehecheyanu*, *Amidah*, *Kaddish*, *Hamotzi*, and *Aleinu*. As students design their service, they will decide which prayers they want to lead.

Torah Portion: In Jewish tradition, each Saturday morning, a member of the community reads a portion of the Torah. The weekend of your child's B'nai Mitzvah will dictate what "chapter" in the Torah is read, and will provide a set of themes that may influence the *d'rash*.

Haftorah: The *Haftorah* is a selection of readings originally written by the Prophets and connects to the week's Torah portion.

“At Tawonga you are your best self without even knowing it. Because of Camp Tawonga, I’m more confident, brave and thoughtful, and all around a better person.”

– Daisy Green, camper





Date Selection & Torah Portion

Once you submit your registration deposit, our program coordinator will send you a confirmation email within two business days. Our program coordinator will also set up a time with you to discuss your service date, service options, and provide answers to any questions you have. We will assign service dates on a first-come first-served basis.

Our Family Camp programs and summer sessions will be limited to two B'nai Mitzvot per Saturday Shabbat service. B'nai Mitzvah services in the Bay Area will be limited to one B'nai Mitzvah per Saturday, unless students decide to have a combined service with a friend.

Please see Page 12 to learn more about our registration process.

Family & Friend Participation

We encourage you to include your close family and friends in your child's B'nai Mitzvah service.

If your child is reading from the Torah, it is common to have family and/or friends perform an *Aliyah*, a blessing over the Torah. *Gelilah*, the individual who dresses the Torah with its cover and ornaments, and *Hagbah*, the person who has the honor of lifting the Torah after it is read, are also positions that can be assigned to family and friends.

Family and friends can also contribute to your child's B'nai Mitzvah service by sharing a memory, reading a poem or vocalizing their congratulations.

We will work with you at the Kick-Off Family Workshop to design friend and family participation that feels good to you and your child.

Hebrew

A central portion of our Tawonga Bar and Bat Mitzvah Program curriculum includes learning prayers and melodies using Hebrew-to-English transliteration. We also have students engage in creative activities to understand and unpack the meaning of these prayers and how they relate to daily teenage life.

If your child's ideal B'nai Mitzvah service involves reading Hebrew, we are excited to work with you to make this happen! During year one of this program, we will offer 10 two-hour group Hebrew classes. The goal of these classes is for students to learn Hebrew letters and sounds. After this first year, children incorporating Hebrew into their service will work with a private tutor to learn their Torah portion and any other Hebrew components.

If you choose the Hebrew option, your child should be prepared to spend:

- 20 hours attending our group Hebrew Classes during year-one
- Private tutoring during year two
- Two hours per week completing homework and practicing Hebrew

See Page 14 for a list of Tawonga-recommend Hebrew tutors.



Fees & Registration

Cost of \$2200 per Year Includes:

- Seven 4-hour *kitot* (classes)
- All experiential-learning curriculum
- Retreats (three per year)
- Education and song leading from premier Tawonga staff
- Family learning opportunities (two Shabbats & family hikes)
- Prayer & Torah coaching in Hebrew-English transliteration
- *D'rash* (sermon) preparation (during year two only)
- Mentorship from Tawonga staff
- Family meetings with program coordinator
- Planning and preparation for the B'nai Mitzvah service

Additional Expenses

- Kick-off B'nai Mitzvah Family Workshop
- B'nai Mitzvah service & song leader (\$750-\$2000 depending on location and leaders. See page 7 for more information)
 - Two meetings with service leader & one rehearsal with service and song leader
- B'nai Mitzvah service venue



Optional Program Add-Ons

- Hebrew Classes (\$795. See page 10 for more information about incorporating Hebrew)
- Hebrew Tutoring (See Appendix 2 for a list of Tawonga-recommended tutors)

“My son learns so much at Tawonga -- the beauty of Jewish life session the beauty of nature; and the beauty of friendships.”

– Jonathan Wiesen, camper parent



Registration

Registration for Tawonga Bar and Bat Mitzvah Program is now open! During the registration process, you will be prompted to make a \$250 non-refundable deposit. Once you submit your registration request, our program coordinator will send you a confirmation email within two business days letting you know your registration status. Our program coordinator will also set up a time with you to discuss your service date, service options, and provide answers to any questions you may have. We will assign service dates on a first-come, first-served basis.

If your family or child is registered for additional Camp Tawonga programs, the \$2200 deposit will be processed on the 20th of each month if you selected the Interest-Free Payment Plan billing preference or on March 4th, 2016 if you selected the One-Time Payment billing preference.

If Tawonga Bar and Bat Mitzvah Program is the only Camp Tawonga program you registered for, you will be charged on June 1, 2016.

If you have any questions regarding registration or payment options, please contact our program coordinator at 415.543.2267 or lauren@tawonga.org.

Refund Policy

Kitot (classes) will only run if we have enough participants sign up. In the case that we have fewer than 14 students registered for a *kita* by June 1st, we will provide registered students the option of either refunding their full fees or joining one of the other *kitot*.

The first year payment of \$2200 will be due on June 1, 2016.

If you cancel...	Your forfeit/refund will be
Before July 1	Forfeit: \$250 Refund: \$1,950
July 1-Sept 1	Forfeit: \$1,100 Refund: \$1,100
After Sept 1	Forefeit: \$2,000

Financial Assistance

We believe becoming a B'nai Mitzvah through Tawonga Bar and Bat Mitzvah Program should be an affordable option for every family. We are currently looking for grant funding to contribute to financial assistance. At this time, this experience is a full-fee program. However, we offer an interest-free payment plan to make the price of this program more manageable. When registering, choose "Payment Plan" to enroll in this option. It is very important to us that this program is not cost-prohibitive for families.

Please call our program coordinator at 415.543.2267 or email lauren@tawonga.org if you would like to discuss alternative funding options.



Appendix # 1: Dates 2016-2017

August 2016:

31: Oakland/Berkeley Parent Orientation

September 2016:

7: [South Peninsula Parent Orientation](#)

14: [San Francisco Parent Orientation](#)

25: Kick-Off Family Workshop

October 2016:

8: Family Hike (three different locations)

16: Oakland/Berkeley *Kita* 1

23: [South Peninsula *Kita* 1](#)

30: [San Francisco *Kita* 1](#)

November 2016:

6: Oakland/Berkeley *Kita* 2

11-13: Retreat 1

20: [South Peninsula *Kita* 2](#)

27: [San Francisco *Kita* 2](#)

December 2017:

2: [South Peninsula Family Shabbat](#)

4: Oakland/Berkeley *Kita* 2

9: [San Francisco Family Shabbat](#)

11: [South Peninsula *Kita* 3](#)

16: Oakland/Berkeley Family Shabbat

18: [San Francisco *Kita* 3](#)

January 2017:

8: Oakland/Berkeley *Kita* 4

15: [South Peninsula Sunday 4](#)

22: [San Francisco *Kita* 4](#)

29: Oakland/Berkeley *Kita* 5

February 2017:

5: [South Peninsula *Kita* 5](#)

12: [San Francisco *Kita* 5](#)

17-19: Retreat 2

March 2017:

3: [South Peninsula Family Shabbat](#)

5: Oakland/Berkeley *Kita* 6

10: [San Francisco Family Shabbat](#)

12: [South Peninsula *Kita* 6](#)

17: Oakland/Berkeley Family Shabbat

19: [San Francisco *Kita* 6](#)

April 2017:

2: Oakland/Berkeley *Kita* 7

9: [South Peninsula *Kita* 7](#)

23: [San Francisco *Kita* 7](#)

May 2017:

6-7: Retreat 3

21: Family Hike (three different locations)





Appendix #2: Hebrew Tutors

Page in Development

We are currently reaching out to partners and will update shortly.



Appendix #3: Outdoor Service Locations

San Francisco



Golden Gate Park:

Meadows: George Washington Grove, Elk Glen, Marx Meadow, Lindley Meadow, Hellman Hollow
To Reserve: Call (415) 831-5500

East Bay



Joaquin Miller Park (Oakland):

Sites: Pinewood Picnic, Redwood Grove Wedding Site
To Reserve: Call (510) 238-3187 Main Office

Briones Regional Park (Pleasant Hill):

Site: Newt Hollow
To Reserve: Call 1-888-327-2757, press option 2



Kennedy Grove Regional Recreation Area (El Sobrante)

Site: Clancy's Place
To Reserve: Call 1-888-327-2757, press option 2

South Bay



Hidden Villa (Los Altos Hills)

Sites: Bay Tree Picnic Area, Knoll Picnic Area, Morgan Family Pavillion Picnic Area
To Reserve: Email communityprograms@hiddenvilla.org

North Bay



Samuel P Taylor State Park (Lagunitas)

Site: Redwood Grove Group Picnic Area
To Reserve: Visit http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=469



Appendix 4: Service & Song Leaders



Aaron Mandel

Aaron is one of Tawonga's Associate Directors and has been a member of the Tawonga community for over 20 years. He has led numerous Saturday morning Shabbat services during his summers as an Assistant Director and has a passion for channeling Judaism through the context of service learning. Aaron is currently a Lekhu Lakhem Fellow, a Jewish and Educational Journey for Camp Directors.



Deborah Newbrun

Deborah was the director of Tawonga for 26 years and has continued to remain an integral leader of our community. She founded Tawonga's Keshet LGBTQ Family Camp Weekend over 18 years ago – the first of its kind in the world of Jewish camping – and also co-leads JOLT: National Jewish Outdoor Leadership Training, with Tawonga's Rebecca Meyer.



Rabbi Evon Yakar

Rabbi Evon Yakar was ordained as a Rabbi in June 2007 from Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio. He is currently a Rabbi at Temple Bat Yam: The South Lake Tahoe and Carson Valley Jewish Community and is also one of the Two Adventure Rabbis. Rabbi Evon is passionate about sharing Judaism with those around him and has a multitude of experience teaching Judaism and leading services in the outdoors.



Jamie Simon-Harris

Jamie, Tawonga's Associate Executive Director, has worked with Camp Tawonga in various capacities for 15 years. She is an expert in gender inclusion and teen health education and frequently leads workshops nationally on these topics. Jamie loves working with youth and is excited to see Tawonga Bar and Bat Mitzvah Program enable children to enter into their teens years through the unique Tawonga lens.



Katie Quinn

Katie is one of Tawonga's Associate Directors and joined the Tawonga team in 2011 after receiving her Masters in Jewish Professional Leadership and Near Eastern Judaic Studies. Katie loves integrating her vast Jewish knowledge into camp programming to create approachable and relatable channels for campers to engage with Judaism. Katie is an avid baker and cat lover.



Appendix 4: Service & Song Leaders



Ken Kramarz

Ken began as a Tawonga director in 1982. Over the decades, he has become our resident expert on the history of Camp Tawonga and the people who lived on our land since the first natives arrived 4,000 years ago. Ken's thoughtful and visionary leadership along with his respect for tradition have helped tens of thousands of children find their own connection to the inspirational culture and community of Tawonga.



Laura Rumpf

Laura is currently a Rabbinical student at Hebrew Union College. Laura joined Tawonga's summer staff in 2014 and has led engaging, accessible and creative programming for hundreds of campers over the last two summers. Laura loves celebrating Shabbats outside and is excited to become involved in the Tawonga Bar and Bat Mitzvah Program in the future.



Rabbi Mychal Copeland

Rabbi Mychal is passionate about opening the doors of Judaism wider. Since receiving her rabbinical degree in 2000, Rabbi Mychal served as a Hillel Rabbi at Stanford University, founded a national spirituality project for teenage girls and is currently the Director of Interfaith Family Bay Area. Rabbi Mychal has extensive experience working with interfaith families, LGBT families, and has spent the last seven summers leading kids and adults at Tawonga and art.



Rebecca Meyer

Becca is Tawonga's Camp Director. Becca received a degree in religious studies from Harvard University. Most recently, Becca's passion for Judaism, nature and leadership has enabled her to develop and co-lead a National Jewish Outdoor Leadership Training (JOLT). In her many years as a director at Tawonga, Becca has led countless beautiful Shabbat services in Makom Shalom.



Sam Quintana

Tawonga's Program Coordinator, Sam is a die-hard San Franciscan and had his first birthday at Camp Tawonga. In keeping with tradition, he has taken over our infamous "Birthday Shtick" up at Camp. Camp Tawonga is where Judaism came alive for Sam and he could not be more thrilled to be a part of this coming-of-age process for Tawonga Bar and Bat Mitzvah Program participants.

Service leaders are subject to change. This list will continue to be updated over the coming months.

Families will have the opportunity to select a service leader in Fall 2016.



Appendix 4: Service & Song Leaders



Isaac Zones

Isaac Zones specializes in Jewish, spiritual, folk and family music and leads the popular local band, Shamati. He has spent his summers at Camp Tawonga since 2001 and has dedicated the majority of his time in the mountains leading an entire dining hall of campers and staff in song twice a day. After graduating with a degree in Religious Studies, Isaac spent time leading many Jewish young adult programs including those through the Moishe House, where he served as the founding director.

Maya Abramson

Maya has been surrounded by music for as far back as she can remember. She started learning violin at age 7, was the concertmaster of her high school's symphony and majored in Music Theory at Whitman College. Maya has worked as a song leader at Camp Tawonga for the past three summers and has led our community of 300+ in song and prayer during countless song sessions and numerous Kabbalat and Saturday morning Shabbat services.



Kiki Lipsett

Kiki Lipsett has been a Tawongan since 2005, working as a counselor and program leader for the counselor-in-training leadership program. She is also a classically trained pianist and singer. In recent years, Kiki has shifted her musical focus to the Jewish context, leading shabbat and holiday services in local Bay Area communities, including at Temple Sinai, the JCC of the East Bay, and Wilderness Torah festivals. Kiki song leads at JCC's Camp Tzofim and she teaches Hebrew immersion family music classes through Music Together. She is currently pursuing a graduate degree in Music Therapy. Kiki is also available for Hebrew tutoring.

Song leaders are subject to change. This list will continue to be updated over the coming months.

Families will have the opportunity to select a service leader in Fall 2016.

Please contact the program coordinator at lauren@tawonga.org or 415.543.2267 for more information.