



## BaMidbar Wilderness Therapy

### Assistant and Lead Field Guide

#### POSITION DESCRIPTION

#### **THE PROGRAM**

BaMidbar Wilderness Therapy guides Jewish young adults (18-26) on therapeutic expeditions. BaMidbar's program utilizes the wilderness environment as a vehicle to promote therapeutic growth of students, in a process that is individualized for each student, and is guided and directed by a licensed mental health professional. BaMidbar's clinical intervention and wilderness experience are provided through a Jewish framework. BaMidbar's programming is guided by four core values: *kavod*, honor, dignity, and respect for ourselves and others; *simcha*, finding joyful Jewish meaning in every aspect of our lives; *tzmicha ishit*, accepting the challenges of personal transformation and growth; and *kehillah*, the power of an inclusive and supportive community. BaMidbar Wilderness Therapy is a program of the non-profit Ramah in the Rockies.

**Position Type:** Seasonal, full-time, shift based work averaging 15 days on, 13 days off

**Compensation:** Starts at \$198/day during programs; \$130/day during training

**Dates:** January 2018 - May 2018, with opportunities to extend contract beyond that timeframe

**Location:** Deckers, Colorado

#### **MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

BaMidbar's Field Guides serve as mentors and wilderness guides for young adults struggling with mild to moderate social, emotional, behavioral, and academic challenges. Through applying therapeutic concepts, teaching technical and fundamental skills, integrating Jewish values and traditions, and connecting personally with students, staff serve as a support system for program participants. BaMidbar's supportive, strengths-based approach encourages students to move beyond their comfort zones to experience new, unexpected levels of confidence, personal achievement, and growth.

Assistant and Lead Field Guide responsibilities include:

##### **Support Student Development:**

- Build a compassionate and caring group environment, while providing 24/7 supervision and oversight for students
- Work as part of treatment team, which includes licensed therapists, spiritual counselors, medical staff, and field team
- Maintain a healthy group dynamic by promoting inclusivity, communication, and conflict resolution
- Facilitate formal and informal essential and technical skill building opportunities for students
- Oversee a highly structured, participatory backcountry camp environment
- Integrate Jewish values, learning, culture, and traditions into backcountry environment and student learning

##### **Risk Management:**

- Manage group's physical and emotional well-being and promote culture of safety in all aspects of field life
- Respond to safety concerns with appropriate and timely decisions and actions, keeping all BaMidbar staff informed

##### **Other Responsibilities:**



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- Complete paperwork with accuracy and efficiency
- Inform treatment team and BaMidbar staff on important group and individual developments during formal and informal meetings and debriefs

#### **QUALIFICATIONS**

##### **Education / Experience**

- Must be 21 years of age or older
- Bachelor's degree, preferably focused in outdoor education, psychology, sociology, child development, or education. Educational requirements may be substituted with relevant professional experience
- Current CPR and First Aid certification required, Wilderness First Responder or EMT certification preferred
- Experience working with young adults, preferably in a leadership, mentoring, or instructional capacity
- Significant backcountry trip leading experience, preferably in wilderness therapy

##### **Skills / Knowledge**

- Experience building a positive group dynamic and confidence working with diverse and challenging populations
- Excellent group facilitation skills
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Open, inclusive, and team-oriented work style
- Understanding of Jewish culture, values and cycles, and if not fully understood, a willingness to learn and an appreciation for the cultural aspects of the program

##### **Other Considerations:**

- The essential functions of this position require outdoor work in all weather conditions, including work in sub-zero temperatures
- Employee will be expected to hike on uneven terrain, while carrying a backpack or other equipment weighing up to 60 pounds
- A pre-employment background check will be required, including fingerprinting and FBI background check
- Applicants must have a valid driver's license, with an insurable driving record

#### **COMPENSATION**

BaMidbar offers highly competitive field staff wages, beginning at \$198/day during programming. Staff will be paid \$130/day during BaMidbar's 10 day training. After successfully completing the spring season, staff will receive a \$500 completion bonus. During BaMidbar's 4.5 month spring season, guides can expect to make about \$13,500, including the completion bonus.

#### **WORK SCHEDULE AND TIME COMMITMENT**

BaMidbar Wilderness Therapy runs programs between October to May of each year. BaMidbar's pilot program will begin in January, 2018. Staff training will run from January 12th-21st, and programming will run from January 24th through May 16th. While BaMidbar will not run sessions over the summer



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months, staff may apply to work with Ramah in the Rockies, our partner organization. Staff shifts are two-weeks on, two-weeks off, running Wednesday to Wednesday. In our 4.5 month spring season, field staff will work an average of 70 days, or four 15-day shifts plus a ten day training.

**BaMidbar 2018 Program Schedule:**

Field Staff Training: January 12-21

Programming: January 24-May 16

**Shift A Work Schedule:**

Training: January 12-21 (10 days)

January 24-February 7 (15 days)

February 21-March 7 (15 days)

March 21-April 4 (15 days)

April 18-May 2 (15 days)

**Shift B Work Schedule:**

Training: January 12-21 (10 days)

February 7-February 21 (15 days)

March 7-March 21 (15 days)

April 4-April 18 (15 days)

May 2-May 16 (15 days)

**LOCATION**

BaMidbar Wilderness Therapy is based at Ramah in the Rockies, a 360-acre ranch nestled in the pristine Pike and San Isabel National Forests. Ramah in the Rockies is 90 minutes from Denver, at an elevation of 8,000 feet. At BaMidbar, students and staff will spend four days per week on expeditions, exploring the public lands of Colorado. They will spend the remaining three days at our basecamp in the Rocky Mountains, visiting with therapists and celebrating Shabbat as a community.

**TO APPLY**

Please send a cover letter and resume to [joryh@ramahoutdoors.org](mailto:joryh@ramahoutdoors.org). The subject line of the email should read *Field Staff Application*. Please be prepared to provide three letters of recommendation and copies of all current certifications. Field Staff interviews will begin in September, 2017.