



## BaMidbar Wilderness Therapy

### Field Guide 2021

### POSITION DESCRIPTION

#### **THE PROGRAM**

BaMidbar's mission is to ensure that Jewish youth and young adults have the confidence, skills, and community support to navigate life's challenges and thrive in the face of adversity. BaMidbar hosts three core programs: therapeutic expeditions for Jewish young adults (18-28 year olds) actively struggling with mental health; wellness experiences focused on self reflection and social-emotional growth; and professional development that combines mental health literacy with experiential education and a Jewish lens to equip community professionals so they can better support the young people with whom they work. All of 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.

**Position Type:** Full Time, Seasonal

**Dates:**

- Staff Training: May 30th-June 19th (includes WFR Training)
- Programming: June 20th - July 29th

**Compensation:** \$6,000-\$6,700 for the season

- *Field guides with master degrees or equivalent field experience will receive \$6,700*
- *All other guides will receive \$6,000*
- *Equivalent field experience is defined as 365 professional backcountry trip leading field-days or two years full-time experience working in a therapeutic setting*

**Hiring Process:**

- Applications due by February 1 (interview preference given to early applications)
- Interviews begin week of January 25th
- Hiring decisions announced by February 22nd

#### **POSITION PURPOSE:**

Working in BaMidbar's Therapeutic Expeditions, 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. Using BaMidbar's supportive, strengths-based approach, Field Guides encourage students to move beyond their comfort zones to experience new, unexpected levels of confidence, personal achievement, and growth.

**MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES:** Field Guide responsibilities include:

**Support Student Development:**

- Build a compassionate and caring group environment, and maintain a healthy group dynamic by promoting inclusivity, communication, and conflict resolution
- Work as part of the treatment team, which includes licensed therapists, Jewish educators, medical staff, and field specialists
- 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:**

- Collaborate effectively with co-guides to ensure 24/7 safety, structure, and supervision of all members of the group
- Manage group's physical and emotional well-being and promote a culture of safety in all aspects of field life
- Proactively identify and mitigate potential risks, and respond to safety concerns with appropriate and timely decisions and actions.



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- Maintain clear and regular communication between the field and basecamp, keeping all BaMidbar staff informed on the current state of the group and individual students

#### **Basecamp Support:**

All field staff will one week out of the field, providing basecamp support. Two days will be time off, and five days will be spent in a program support role. During this program support week, staff will:

- Support tracking, management, and distribution of food, gear, water, supplies, and equipment
- Transport students and staff to and from the field as needed
- Complete gear and equipment maintenance
- Support processing and filing of student paperwork, therapy assignments, correspondence, and field pictures
- Coordinate and facilitate communication as needed between the field, therapists, and program staff
- Participate in on-call emergency response system to support group emergency needs
- Support basecamp and Shabbat programming

#### **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
- Wilderness First Responder certification required. Certification can be obtained through BaMidbar from May 30th-June 6th
- 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, interpersonal and communication skills
- Open, inclusive, and team-oriented work style
- Understanding of Jewish culture, values, and cycles; 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. 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
- In efforts to keep our community healthy, staff will be expected to adhere to all COVID policies and procedures as laid out by Ramah in the Rockies and BaMidbar Wilderness Therapy. These expectations may change over time and may limit staff's ability to socialize with people from outside the "BaMidbar bubble" or leave property, even during designated time off

#### **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.

#### **TO APPLY**

Please send a cover letter and resume to [joryh@bamidbartherapy.org](mailto:joryh@bamidbartherapy.org). The subject line of the email should read *Field Guide Application* and documents should be titled "Last Name Cover Letter" and "Last Name Resume." Please be prepared to provide references and copies of all relevant certifications and licenses.