



Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in Oorah's GirlZone. Before you apply, we'd like to give you a glimpse into what we are all about. Oorah's GirlZone, a very unique camp, is staffed completely by volunteer Bnos Yisroel who give of their summer and time throughout the year to help us continue in our extraordinary work.

Historical Background:

Since the 1970's, Horav Chaim Mintz, *shlit"a*, has been reaching out to our uninformed brethren to share with them our rich heritage of which they were previously unaware. Horav Chaim encompassed the total kiruv spectrum; making contact, inspiring, encouraging parents to send their children to Jewish schools, funding when necessary, educating parents, being their connection to frumkeit, supplying them with Yom Tov needs, and most importantly, giving them full moral, social, and spiritual support for the journey towards a Torah way of life.

What is Oorah?

Realizing that the amount of manpower needed to attend to the ever-widening circle of Horav Chaim's kiruv family was way more than a one man's load, the Oorah organization was created to do the same thing albeit on a grand scale. Horav Chaim is still the inspiration and guide, but now he is assisted by hundreds of others who reach out, stay in contact and help fund this massive kiruv initiative.

What is the point of a summer camp?

Oorah's camp experience began with GirlZone. GirlZone was born to continue the Jewish experience for those already enrolled in Jewish schools and to serve as an attractive first taste of a frum environment for those not yet enrolled. Additionally, the camp atmosphere provided a superb opportunity for the staff members and campers to bond with each other. This carried over to the rest of the year so that each camper went home at summer's end connected to a frum older girl with whom she could share her growth in yiddishkeit and turn to for support in the sometimes difficult stages of growth, awareness, and change. The staff member would act as her continuous role model.

To appeal to the youth of today, Oorah bought a beautiful campus of rolling hills, panoramic mountain views and fresh mountain air in Gilboa New York (about 90 minutes North of the "mountains"). The retreat was stocked with lots of extra attractions to enhance the experience for all. Horseback riding, zipline, bumper boats, game room, state of the art sports complex, x-box, etc. enthrall you, plus an onsite zoo including cows, llamas, horses, cows, sheep, llamas, alpacas, goats, rabbits, roosters, and even a camel etc. are just some of the unique opportunities Girlzone offers.



Our mission is to provide our campers with a summer experience that will excite them, and either introduce or strengthen their commitment to *Shmiras HaMitzvos*. We want our campers to experience *Yiddishkeit* and a Torah way of life during their stay at GirlZone that will inspire them and show them that a life of *Torah* and *Mitzvos* can include all the things every girl likes to do. Whether it is swimming, sports, davening or lunch – it fits with an *Ehrliche* lifestyle too.

We want our staff members to be role models for our campers. We want these children to be impressed with the *Hanhoga* and *Tzurah* of a true *Bas Yisroel*. Of course, we want the children to develop healthy relationships with their counselors and all other staff members, and come away from the summer with a lasting and positive impression of people who live a religious life.

Where do I fit in?

The main asset which GirlZone offers, is the amazing, fantastic, caring group of volunteers staffing the camp! It is their *ruach*, friendliness, *frumkeit*, skills, and togetherness which make the fabric of the camp. The campers are cared for and given a super great summer experience by the counselors, waitresses, lifeguards, office staff, canteen team, and all other specialties. They get to see, feel and actually experience how living a “Torah life” can be happy, normal, rewarding, and fulfilling.

The relationship between staff and campers just starts in camp. Our summer program is only a jump-off point for our year-round *Kesher* program. Each staff member in GirlZone is assigned a *Kesher* partner with whom she will be expected to maintain weekly contact throughout the year. We keep their *kesher* to *Yiddishkeit* and the GirlZone spirit alive throughout the year with *Chol Hamoed* trips, *Shabbatons*, parties and other get-togethers. GirlZone staff members participate and help run these events.

We want to ensure that our summer program will provide a meaningful, fulfilling and memorable vacation to our staff members in an environment appropriate for a *Bas Yisroel*. We feel an *Achrayus* to our staff and the schools and communities from which they come. We want our staff, their parents and teachers to feel reassured that the staff members of Oorah’s Girlzone are working in a wholesome and appropriate environment.

As staff members, you become a representative of Oorah to the general public. As such, we must ensure that your conduct and demeanor will serve as a respectable representation of what our organization is all about. Your behavior, and *tzurah* must make a positive impression on the campers. Therefore, we insist that all staff members agree to all the expectations listed below and sign that they will comply with these and any other similar criteria. We hope that you understand the necessity to put forth these guidelines. Please review them carefully and certify your agreement by filling out, signing and returning your completed application. No application will be considered without a signed and submitted agreement form.

Oorah's GirlZone

- No cell phones, listening to music, reading books, etc while supervising children.
- No physical abuse or aggression will be tolerated.
- No leaving camp grounds without specific permission.
- No taking a camper off camp grounds without specific permission and written consent.
- Staff members, while dressing for summer comfort, will maintain the respectability of a *tzniusdik* young woman. Tight-fitting clothing or any other suggestive attire is unacceptable. T-shirts and other clothing with negative, counterculture or other messages inconsistent with Torah principles will not be tolerated. All clothing must meet tznius standards such as high necks, sleeves below the elbow, skirts covering knees at all times, legs covered completely, and no slits. Very long hair should be tied back. Staff members will be neat and well groomed at all times. Although we allow our campers a more liberal method of dress, it is imperative that our staff members serve as role models and dress with the utmost modesty.
- No driving a car on or off campus without express permission.
- All staff members are expected to actively participate and supervise at all special events and programs.

All staff members, including waitresses, lifeguards, specialties, etc. are expected to interact with the children and to be involved in all aspects of camp spirit, events, etc. Therefore, these guidelines should be understood for any member of our staff. No matter what your position, you, your spirit and energy are an integral part of what we want to accomplish for Oorah's children. Staff members exhibiting lackluster involvement or an abject lack of interest may be subject to reevaluation of their position and/or employment.

- *Kesher*- Each staff member is assigned with one or two campers with whom she will develop a *kesher*. This includes a daily session of learning/schmoozing with each other during camp, a weekly phone call throughout the year, joining her at the various get-togethers throughout the year, whenever possible, (such as *chol hamoed* trips, *shabbatons*, birthday parties etc.), and keeping a specific interest in the welfare and growth of that particular girl.
- Role model- Every member of the staff serves as a representative of the Torah way of life.
- All staff members are being accepted with the understanding that they will attend any training sessions or camp meetings before the camp season except where a specific dispensation is granted.
- All staff members are required to attend our camp for the entire session from Thursday, June 25th to Wednesday, July 22nd. All staff members must make known any intention or plan to leave before the end of the season or to miss days or Shabbosim at the time they apply or as soon as the information becomes available. If you must arrive late or leave early, your position will be reevaluated.
- No employment is guaranteed without submitting all contracts, medical forms and any other pertinent documentation.
- Oorah Camps reserve the right to review and reconsider any staff member's position at any time.



You can look forward to....

A superb, exciting, uplifting, thrilling, heart warming, and fulfilling summer experience. You will walk away from the summer with a sense of true accomplishment, a *ruchniestik* experience in an utmost fun manner. The camp will provide you with a pleasant environment in which to enjoy a change of pace in a growing way. You will obtain a new group of close friends among the staff which carries over throughout the year. You will develop a close *keshet* with a camper and become her guide, mentor, support and source of advice and encouragement in an effort to prod her along the path to a Torah way of life. You will become a proud member of the Oorah organization, an integral link in the chain of full spectrum *kiruv* work. You can gain from the warmth and guidance of Horav Chaim Mintz, *shlit"ta*, and Rabbi Avi Davidowitz, *shlit"ta*, and others who are masters in *kiruv* and mentors to developing *yiddishe neshamos*.

How do I apply?

Now that you've become familiar with Oorah's GirlZone and you are interested in filling one of the positions available for the full session, please fill out the enclosed application completely. We must have all the information in order to process your application properly.

If your application is not accepted, you will be notified by mail.

If your application is still under review, we will contact you by mail to schedule an interview.

After a successful interview, an acceptance packet will be sent to you. This will include a welcome letter, a medical form (to be filled out by your doctor), other required forms, a date and time for the pre-camp staff meeting, and any other necessary staff information.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in Oorah's Kiruv programs.

Please fill out, sign, and return the enclosed application. Please keep these pages for review.