

## Foundational Questions for Specialty Program Planning

Answer these questions fully to develop your specialty program at camp. Be sure to have these answered before you begin developing collateral materials and camper recruitment.

1. **What is the camper experience programmatically?**
    - a. What can they expect to gain and learn from the specialty offering?  
(Outcomes Exercise: Knowledge, Attitudes, Behaviors)
    - b. How is our specialty inherently Jewish? How does it connect to camp's values?
    - c. How will this specialty program experience build a camper's Jewish identity? (Outcomes exercise: Knowledge, Attitudes, Behaviors)
  2. **How long are our sessions?**
  3. **How much time will campers spend in specialty programming vs. non-specialty?**
  4. **What is our program philosophy or beliefs regarding our approach to the specialty?** *i.e. competitive, universal, performance based, process based...*
  5. **Who will campers experience the program with?**
    - a. Is it age specific? Gender specific? Track or skill specific?
    - b. How will camp deal with low program numbers initially? Are there mixed ages per program? If so, which programs? Will boys and girls be mixed for programming? If so, are there exceptions?
  6. **Exercise: Breakdown specialty programming into three initial layers of offering.**  
(See worksheet)
    - a. The Specialty *i.e. Sports*
    - b. The Specialty Offering *i.e. Baseball*
    - c. The Program Focus within the Offering *i.e. Skill development – Offense & Defense, Strengthening & Speed, Strategies & Decision Making, Practice & Play*
  7. **What is physical proof of a camper's specialty program experience at camp?** *i.e. Projects home? Video online? Certificates?*
  8. **Will there be "choice" programming offered?**
    - a. Will different ages have different program offerings?
    - b. How often will there be choice? Group activities?
    - c. How much control does a child have over their program?
  9. **Is there a culminating event at camp to showcase, celebrate, or reflect on the specialty program experience? Why? Why not?**
  10. **Are there opportunities for individual time and/or development within a specialty?**  
*i.e. lessons or free-time to work on a project or skill...*
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11. Will there be swim offered? (*Sababa* – Will there be other physical activities other than at the water?)
  - a. What activities (daily or weekly) will be offered outside of the specialty?
12. How much time is spent “indoors” vs. “outdoors”?
13. Do the kids ever have less structured time?
  - a. What does downtime look like at camp?
  - b. What do we call that time and what is its purpose?
14. Do campers ever go off grounds? Where? Why? How?
15. What is the daily schedule? Typical day?
16. Who is the staff that lead the specialty program?

### More Advanced Questions to Consider

1. What are the aspirational arcs per age and specialty within camp?
2. What are the daily rituals our campers experience?
3. How do non-activity times strengthen our values? *i.e. meals, rest, prayer, song...*
4. What are community times at camp? What are the intended outcomes of these times?
5. How do we start and end our day?
6. What is our approach to evening program?