



Leadership Statement Examples

Jewish Leadership Statement (executive)

As campers walk into camp on the first day, I stand in the midst of the melee, watching for those campers (or parents) who need a little extra love. I am ready with a word or a hug, a fist bump or some eye-to-eye contact that says, “I see you.” My main job on the first day of the session, or, for that matter, the first day of staff orientation, is to make sure that each person walking into camp feels welcome, understands that it’s their place, and believes that they belong. My leadership is relationship-centered, rooted in the belief that authentic connection is the foundation of all meaningful change. In relationships, I strive to balance support and challenge, to listen deeply while calling people to stretch toward something larger than themselves. I set vision with intention and with people. My process always begins with curiosity about the world and about people. I don’t always have the answer, but I seek the questions that need to be answered: What questions must we ask? What problems beg to be solved? From there, I seek to empower those I lead to be co-creators who are instrumental in shaping and carrying that vision forward. My work is not only to craft the vision, but to bring people along with it, to help them see themselves as vital threads in the tapestry we are weaving together.

Camp is a place of trying new things, bringing our goofy selves, and not getting it right all the time. In this, I am partly guided by the imperfection and miracle of our Jewish leaders throughout history, their humanness, and their holy differences. From the mystics who stood in awe beneath starry skies and cried out to God, to the intellectuals who wrestled with text and meaning, to the prophets who challenged power and demanded justice, I hold support and argument, passion and structure, and the holy and mundane. In these polarities, in this space for experimentation, I find wonder and direction. I aspire to lead in that same spirit: with reverence for questioning, courage for confrontation, and openness to the sacred unknown that arises between us.

To lead is to meet people in their heads, hearts, and souls, to move them gently and powerfully from where they are toward their best selves, so that together we can create the world we envision. There will be moments when vision must take the lead, and moments when my deep value for creating welcoming spaces grounds me. Ultimately, my desire to lead comes from a deep commitment to building people up—to creating communities and new worlds where each person’s gifts are seen, nurtured, and essential to the whole.



Jewish Leadership Statement (associate/assistant director)

My leadership begins with a commitment to learning and growing—continually deepening my understanding of myself, others, and the world we are building together. I strive to feel deeply and connect with people on many levels, meeting them where they are and helping them move towards their best selves. Of course, when I see what needs to be done, I strive to figure out *what* must happen, but I have learned that, more importantly, I need to consider *how* we can make it happen together. I resist the urge to take on all the work myself, instead motivating, challenging, and building up others so that each person feels empowered to contribute their strengths. Leadership, for me, is not about doing it all. It's about enabling others to see themselves as capable and essential, gaining the capacity to succeed.

In my first summer as a supervisor at camp, I struggled with getting it all done: knowing every camper, planning every program, meeting with the staff, and supporting them in any way I could. At the end of two weeks, my staff was frustrated, I was exhausted, and things that should have been easy for my unit weren't. I remember sitting with the assistant director at the time, and she shared one piece of wisdom that still guides me, "Your counselors are capable. Let them do THEIR work. Encourage them to grow. Challenge them to be their best selves." That moment didn't solve everything, but it ignited a shift.

As a Jewish leader, I aim to bring together heart and mind, empathy and action. I lead with the understanding that wisdom emerges through connection, that strength is found in trust, and that our shared growth is itself a sacred act of leadership. I think about the Biblical judge Deborah as a model. Her power did not come from might or battlefield skill, but from wisdom, compassion, and steadfast presence. Like Deborah, I seek to lead through relationship and trust, showing up again and again with care, insight, and courage. Ultimately, I encourage others to own their work, to meet their challenges, and to see their growth. I create spaces where people feel seen and valued, even as they are being challenged to grow.

Additional text

As I work to build up others, I also recognize that my decision-making is often both thoughtful and decisive, balancing my desire for team members to grow and find their voices, with a need for direction and clarity. I gather data, listen to the voices of the wise, and notice patterns in what I observe and hear. I try to discern when to encourage others to decide and when it's on me. Yet once I have listened and reflected, I am unafraid to decide. I know that clarity allows people to move forward with confidence and purpose. Ultimately, I strive for this confidence and purpose.