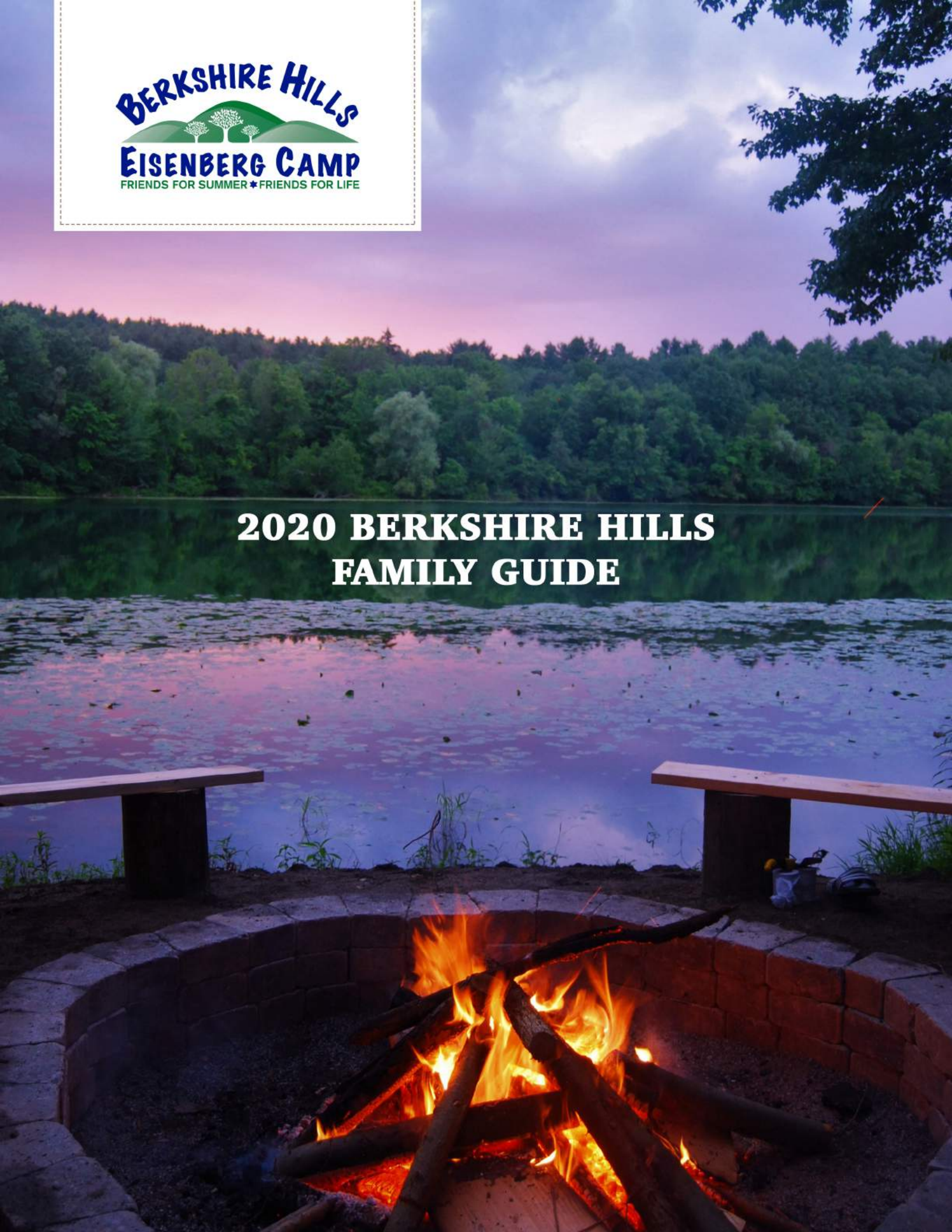




2020 BERKSHIRE HILLS FAMILY GUIDE



BOARD PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

Since 1931, as Bronx House Emanuel Camps, through our present, as Berkshire Hills Eisenberg Camp, our camp has provided thousands of children with a transformative summer experience of friendship, learning, Jewish identity, compassion, and fun. There is nothing sweeter than watching a child beaming as they score the winning basket for the first time; or catching their smile when they leap off the cliff of the Action Tower only to land in the refreshing waters of Miller Pond; or the high fives of another color war victory; or just the simple sound of children's voices singing around a campfire under the stars.

We have borne witness to the community effort and spirit of our campers and staff, who encourage each other to learn and grow, to navigate and build relationships as friends, bunkmates, and campers. It is not always easy, but with collaboration comes success.

It is this dynamic that has produced not only wonderful campers, but future leaders, teachers, mentors, and philanthropic "souls." We have always, "paid it forward."

For over 88 years our mission has not changed.

We are thrilled to share with you our first Annual Report. We hope it provides a glimpse of camp life and the "bells and whistles" of the place we all call home. The best is yet to come.

Perry and Adam



Perry Tischler
President, Board of Directors



Adam Weinstein
Executive Director

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VALUES BASED-LEARNING



BERKSHIRE HILLS' VALUES

Tennis courts, zip lines, volley balls, pottery wheels, guitars, and trails through the woods are all tools to teach values at camp. What looks like a fun game of BBK (Baseball Basketball Kickball - a BHEC favorite) is so much more. Our values-based learning approach means that campers learn and exemplify our values through their actions and in camp activities. A good game is not defined as a game won; it is a game played with integrity, joy, spirit, and camaraderie. Mastering values at an early age creates upstanding citizens prepared to contribute to the betterment of camp and society overall.

Integrity

Respect

Repairing the World

Joy

Acts of Loving Kindness

Nature

Spirit

Connection to Friends



CONNECTION TO & APPRECIATION FOR NATURE



Berkshire Hills sits on 640 beautiful acres that includes Miller Pond, our 60-acre private lake that many would call the center of camp life. You cannot spend time in this beautiful space and not develop a spiritual connection to the natural environment.

Last summer our new standing paddle boards were the vehicle of choice for communing with nature. Campers paddle out to the end of the lake, lie back and take in their surroundings. As they paddle back to shore you can see how the beauty of it all has given them a special sense of calm. The outdoor experience at BHEC is a first for many of our campers and leads to a lifelong appreciation for nature and the world outside.



DEVELOPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF JEWISH YOUNG ADULTS



While our program is designed to reflect Jewish values, we welcome all children to camp and believe that the values we teach - respect, giving back, community, and charity - benefit everyone. We use the lens of Jewish teaching and the experience of group living to build a strong community that reflects traditional Jewish values.

Tikkun Olam, the concept of repairing the world through community service, is an essential element of the Berkshire Hills experience. Every Saturday morning all campers and staff take part in fun, age-appropriate community service projects. Last summer community service projects included card writing, jewelry making, gardening, trail clearing and participating in activities with the Senior Citizens in our Senior Program. Campers also went off site to help maintain Taconic State Park and assist special needs campers at nearby Camp Anne.



A TOP-NOTCH FACILITY FOR EVERYONE



Berkshire Hills has always served a diverse community. Many campers attend on full or partial scholarship while others come from families that can afford full tuition. All of our campers deserve a facility that they can be proud of. Over the last seven years Camp has done extensive renovation work. New docks, renovated tennis and basketball courts, a new baseball field, new shower houses, a treehouse and a wall of windows in the Rec Hall are just a few of the ways we have shown children that we are always improving, just as we hope they are always improving. New facilities improve camper engagement in specific areas and keep camp competitive so we can maintain the blend of family income levels that makes the Berkshire Hills program sustainable. If you have not been to camp recently, come visit this summer and see the difference facility work makes.











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