



Hello Muddah, Hello Faddah

Today's summer camps are nothing like ol' Granada

BUILD A ROBOT. Commune with butterflies. Paint with berry juice. Star on stage. That's just a taste of the myriad offerings at area summer camps, where the options go well beyond the traditional menu of swimming, archery, and arts and crafts.

Among the big players on the camp scene are the **JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTERS OF GREATER BOSTON**, offering 14 programs. Camps cater to kids ranging from pre-schoolers to teens, as well as those with special needs. And you can choose between day and overnight camps.

While Judaism is incorporated into the camps—and meals and snacks are kosher—the programs are open to all denominations, according to Mark Sokoll, president and CEO of the Greater Boston JCCs. At Maccabi Camp Kingswood, an overnight program in Maine, kids learn about Judaism through such activities as performing. A new camp program is the Flying Fantasy Circus, where campers learn how to swing from a trapeze, juggle, and wire walk. The special-needs camp Zohar on occasion involves its participants with children in other programs; everyone benefits from the mix, says Sokoll.

AT NOBLES DAY CAMP IN DEDHAM,

children can choose to concentrate on three activities, with such offerings as archery, dance, photography, or sports. Campers have the use of Noble's facilities and fields, and the Charles River for water activities, says director Emily Parker. The camp has a separate pre-school program.

BABSON COLLEGE IN WELLESLEY

hosts sports camps in both the daytime and evening. Director Jim Castrataro says activities include field hockey, ice hockey, basketball, baseball, lacrosse, soccer, and tennis. The evening camp is for high schoolers, the day camp for younger athletes. In addition to the sports-oriented programs, Babson offers a traditional day camp.

BEAVER SUMMER PROGRAMS IN CHESTNUT HILL is hardly the traditional day camp, according to its director, Nat Saltonstall. At Beaver Off-Broadway, campers can hone their acting skills. Also offered are a circus trapeze program and adventure and extreme sports such as surfing, paintball, mountain biking, and sea kayaking. Looking for even greater thrills? Try the sky-dive simulator.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY tempts budding engineers with U-Design Summer Workshops. BU's School of Engineering hosts Robot Alley, which teaches kids about technological design while encouraging creativity, according to coordinator Marlene Jreaswec. Campers build robots and learn engineering skills in the Electrical and Mechanical Gizmos Workshop. They can also learn the principles of flight and launch rockets.

AT BROADMOOR WILDLIFE SANCTUARY IN NATICK, campers explore the woods, rivers, marshes, and fields of the Audubon site, according to camp director Melissa Enos. The art-inclined are encouraged to create with nature, such as painting with berry juice. Older campers explore the ecosystems of the Charles River and how development has affected them.

MOUNT IDA DAY CAMP IN NEWTON. The college hosts a traditional day camp, according to camp director Steve D'Arcy, that gives campers the opportunity to take advantage of college facilities and fields. The camp, which focuses on sports, includes hot and cold lunches from the college cafeteria.



THE TURTLE LANE PLAYHOUSE IN NEWTON teaches campers set and costume design, lighting, acting, and directing. James Tallach, assistant manager of the playhouse and workshop administrator, says campers will take classes and rehearse for a gala show. This summer's shows are *Disney's High School Musical* and *Les Miserables*.

MAZEMAKERS SUMMER PROGRAM, AT THE DANA HALL SCHOOL IN WELLESLEY AND MEADOWBROOK SCHOOL IN WESTON, focuses on problem solving, creative arts, and team-building activities. Campers can choose among photography, writing, drama, dance, Web design, robotics, and other activities. Twice during the program, campers break from their routine to take on a new challenge.

THE CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL OF WESTON offers a more traditional camp program, featuring swim lessons, arts and crafts, and outdoor games, as well as the outdoor-oriented Summer Adventures and Summer Stars, a performing arts camp.

Camps

BEGINNINGS CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER OF WESTON targets the very young, ranging from infants to second graders. Children will explore nearby wetlands and streams and try their hand at horticulture in a flower-filled butterfly garden, says executive director Abbie Lewis.

THE BARTLETT SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP IN WALTHAM offers a two-week session that falls between the time when some schools end and most camps begin. A highlight is a talent show at the end of the session.



THE DAY JAMS CAMP IN NEWTON emphasizes rock 'n' roll music, according to executive director Katrin Hall. The camp is open to all skill levels. Kids may choose to specialize in guitar, bass, drums, vocals, keyboard, or horns. They are assigned to a band on the first day of camp, based on their music preference and age. Each band must write an original song to perform at the end of the week.

CHARLES RIVER CANOE AND KAYAK SPONSORS CAMPS IN NEWTON AND NATICK. In Newton, campers spend much of the day in a sea kayak, says manager Mark Jacobson. Natick offers half-day canoe and kayak camps on Lake Cochituate.

THE RIVERS DAY CAMP IN WELLESLEY sits on the shore of a large pond, where kids can learn to swim and sail, among a variety of water activities. Campers can stay overnight once a week.

THE MEADOWBROOK DAY CAMP IN WESTON offers woodworking, leather crafting, and pottery. Teen-age participants can also go to the beach, climb mountains, and go white-water rafting. ■