

Camp Solomon Schechter Completes “Green” Pilot Program



Camp wide recycling program enthusiastically adopted by campers and staff

Olympia, WA, December 3, 2008 – Camp Solomon Schechter (CSS), the Pacific Northwest’s premier Conservative Jewish summer camp, is pleased to announce the completion of a summer long pilot program designed to conserve resources, reduce waste and encourage recycling. Modeled after Jewish environmental concepts such as earth stewardship and prohibitions against waste, the program was embraced by campers and staff alike and immediately became a popular component of the summer programming.

The pilot program focused on several key elements, including separating food waste from garbage, recycling in each cabin and integrating environmental education into the summer’s curriculum. The program will now continue as the camp moves into its off season rental schedule.

“During the course of seven short weeks, CSS serves 500 campers, 60 staff and numerous visitors and dignitaries—including over 600 visitors for our annual summer open house. That translates into thousands of meals and tons of garbage,” stated executive director, Sam Perlin. “I was tremendously impressed by the enthusiasm and seriousness with which everyone at CSS adopted our green goals. I saw firsthand how this program instilled a sense of pride and purpose for everyone at Camp--especially our campers. And, as we begin planning for the 2009 summer we’ll look to identify even more ways to enhance the program.”

“Satchel Schwartz, 8, and his sister Jacqueline Schwartz, 11, of Seattle, attended Aleph and Bet sessions respectively. Both returned from their summer at CSS particularly enthusiastic about CSS’s commitment to living green. “My session was the first ever to go green. It was easy and the camp felt cleaner,” stated Satchel. Added Jacqueline, “Recycling was straightforward and I felt a sense of pride knowing that we were taking these steps to help the earth.”

Camp Solomon Schechter is currently accepting enrollment for its 2009 sessions. Information can be found at the CSS Web site at <http://www.campschechter.org> or by calling the Camp office at (206) 447-1967.

About Camp Solomon Schechter

Founded in 1954 by Rabbi Joshua Stampfer, Camp Solomon Schechter (CSS) caters to campers entering grades 2-11. The camp is located in Olympia, WA, an hour from Seattle, WA and two hours from Portland, OR. The CSS campus is on 160-acres and includes a private lake, river and campsite as well as extensive forests and protected wetlands. Although the largest numbers of campers come from Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia, CSS also serves the communities of Northern California, Las Vegas, Alberta and Alaska. An independent camp with its roots in Conservative Judaism, CSS offers innovative programs for Jewish youth of all denominations. The dedicated staff, most of whom were campers themselves, work to ensure that summer camp is one of the most rewarding and influential experiences a child could have. Additional information on Camp Solomon Schechter can be found at <http://www.campschechter.org>.

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