

## student impressions

What students are saying about Snorkel & Study 09...

Excellent learning, amazing girls and incredible accommodations. I hadn't expected such awesome girls, and such amazing organization. My favorite part of the program was Shabbat.

I'd describe the experience as AMAZING! It's spiritual, goal-orientated, deep, motivating, engaging, open, challenging...I feel calmer, more at peace, and much more motivated to increase my Jewish involvement. A great trip to meet and learn about incredible people while discovering yourself and Judaism.

Kaley, Univ of Southern CA

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I had figured I might learn a thing or two but learned far more. I have a much better understanding of Jewish traditions - Bais Chana opened my eyes to the deeper meaning behind them. And never once did I feel uncomfortable for my lack of knowledge. The primary focus is to learn and broaden horizons in a facilitated environment.

The farbrengens were incredible...and there were so many amazing Jewish women on this trip. It's just a phenomenal and enlightening experience that all Jewish women should have. I've made lasting friendships and have learned things here I couldn't have learned anywhere else...

Daina, SUNY Albany

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I wanted to get a better understanding of Judaism and the program offered a structured learning environment with a broad range of topics. I specifically enjoyed the classes about the women's roles in Jewish law and those about women's issues (abortion, mitzvot, difference between male and female, love, etc).

It's not all or nothing. You do what you can and strive to always learn and do more. Also, I used to have a lot of problems as a Jewish feminist but here I learned that Judaism is not a male-dominated religion that oppresses women. I also learned that keeping kosher nourishes the soul and I noticed the huge difference it made to my energy, focus and my day in general.

I feel like I have a much better grasp of Judaism as a whole and I've learned more than I ever thought possible in such a short time. I've gained a better understanding of what it means to be Jewish. I hope to be able to better answer friends and family when they ask questions about Judaism. I hope to be able to do it in a way that transmits the depth of knowledge I've gained while also being mindful of their thoughts and opinions.

Snorkel and Study was one of the most amazing weeks of my life. I never thought I could learn so much, make such good friends and have so much fun! Thank you again to everyone who was responsible for putting the program together and making it possible.

Karen, Cornell

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I wanted to learn more about my religion and the rules. The week met all my expectations and more &ndash; it was amazing.

It was an opportunity to make some of the closest friends I've ever made.

Lauren, SUNY Albany

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Almost everyone came from a school with an active Chabad or Hillel &ndash; that was hard because I was hoping to meet girls who are trying to maintain a strong Jewish identity on campuses where they&rsquo;re more isolated like I am.

Some of the important things I learned were what guilt really is, the kabbalistic approach to being a student and that our matriarchs are us and we are them. I also got a whole new perspective on the Adam and Eve story. I learned SOO much from the classes &ndash; things I couldn&rsquo;t have learned anywhere else, except from life experience. My Jewish identity was reinforced, I gained confidence as a Jewish woman, and Rabbi Friedman&rsquo;s view on Zionism made me rethink the role that Zionism has played in my life.

I won&rsquo;t really know what I&rsquo;ve taken until I actually go home and apply what I learned at Bais Chana to my life, but I feel like I have a little extra something, how to be the best student I can be, NOT just at university, but the best student I can be in life.

Yarden, Univ of Mary Washington

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It was a chance to meet people struggling with and interested in Judaism. I now feel very educated and I met great people. I didn&rsquo;t expect to feel so comfortable &ndash; I felt it with everyone here. I loved Rabbi Friedman&rsquo;s first lecture.

I&rsquo;d tell my friends that this is something they should do - without a doubt - if they have big life questions. It&rsquo;s hard to explain unless you experience it.

Dana, UNC Chapel Hill

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Snorkel and Study is an opportunity to learn and meet new people. Don&rsquo;t go in with any preconceptions.

What I most enjoyed was having one-on-one or small group study discussion sessions. I learned that happiness is nothing more and nothing less than knowing you are on the right path, that doing mitzvot is when you are closest to G-d (both ref Rivky), and &ldquo;Faith is what the soul knows&rdquo; (ref Rabbi Friedman).

First and foremost I gained knowledge which is exactly what I came here to do. I also made friendships with incredible girls and have developed a sense of confidence and appreciation for being a Jewish woman. When I can, I&rsquo;ll share my knowledge and try to put my enthusiasm into practice.

Bella, Berkeley

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I loved the unbelievable dedication and honesty of the director, teachers and counselors. Three things I&rsquo;ll be taking with me are:

- 1) Be me
- 2) Be a better me
- 3) Cultivate an appreciation for simple truth

Rabbi Friedman and Rivkah Slonim really put my mind at ease about some things that were bothering me. Their perspectives are fresh and healthy, and their dedication on this program is so much appreciated. They love what they teach and who they are teaching.

I think that I have a new and healthier outlook on Judaism and my journey. I plan to keep in touch with many of the girls I met and I hope that we can help each other out throughout our lives&hellip;

Going to Snorkel and Study is the most fun, inspiring, enriching, constructive way you could spend your winter break. It&rsquo;s literally an eternal gift to yourself.

Joelle, UConn

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I wasn&rsquo;t sure what to expect before coming &ndash; I hadn&rsquo;t expected the food to be so delicious or the location to be so beautiful. Snorkel and Study is an amazing, inspiring week to learn, grow, meet wonderful girls, listen to incredible teachers and have fun in the sun!

It was very reassuring to know that there are other girls like me. I learned so much from them. It was eye-opening and I definitely want to continue learning, and to start taking &ldquo;baby steps.&rdquo; I did wish we had more scheduled free time so that we wouldn&rsquo;t have to miss classes to take advantage of the local activities.

This was an incredibly inspiring week. It&rsquo;s very hard for me to express it in words right now, but thank you so much for the experience.

Julie, Penn State

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I came to refocus myself, my goals and my priorities, in a Jewish context. I also wanted to gain a higher level of Jewish knowledge that I could then bring back and apply to my life. I came with few expectations and this program exceeded them all. Bais Chana is for every woman who identifies as Jewish.

I loved being with a diverse group of girls whose Jewish journeys were at all different stages, learning, questioning and growing with them. Our madrichot were incredible, so personable, approachable, accessible and knowledgeable.

This was the most incredible, productive use of a winter break. Relaxing in the gorgeous weather and beautiful landscape of the Florida Keys, while gaining a deeper understanding of myself, my priorities, and of the importance of Judaism was a spiritual experience in itself, and I am so thankful to have had this opportunity.

Rachel, Emory

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My favorite parts of the program were the class on happiness, the class about the Star of David, getting to bond with all the other girls and the Farbrengen on Shabbat. I was able to see other people&rsquo;s perspectives on Judaism, which enabled me to think about new ideas and grow spiritually.

Everyone was able to have their questions answered, questions that would have been hard to ask in other situations. The teachers didn't give you the "typical" answers you might expect. I hope to share at least some of the concepts that I learned&hellip;

Ashley, FSU

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I heard about the program through a friend. I really just wanted to get a "shot in the arm" and gain inspiration to go back to college and stay strong. It was so much better than I expected &ndash; the learning was great, the girls were inspiring and the accommodations were beautiful. I especially loved the farbrengen on Shabbos.

The week totally straightens you out and gives you a healthier Jewish perspective on the most important things in life: family, marriage, Judaism, G-d &ndash; the list is extensive. I feel privileged to be Jewish again.

This was the best thing I could have done with my break. I hope to continue learning on my own, and also start joining together with the women in my community. I feel ready to go home and not only stay strong but try and inspire others.

Elisheva, Univ of WI

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Everything was incredible- good rooms, food, people and classes. I really enjoyed hearing everyone's personal stories, journeys and backgrounds. I'm converting and I never for a moment felt alienated or left out. Everyone was interested in my story and supportive of my quest.

I had broad and specific questions answered about everything, and I'm so happy to have found myself in this beautifully supportive environment. I now have realistic goals of what I can start adding to my daily life. I know I'm not alone in my journey and that the beautiful women I've met here will stay with me forever.

Leah, Tulane

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It was a very special experience where I was able to learn new things and build positive relationships with other Jewish women, so I'd have to say my favorite part of the program was speaking with the other girls and hearing their stories. I look forward to reflecting on all the things I learned about when I get home&hellip;

Elana, Rutgers

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I was surprised at how amazing the lecturers were. I didn't only gain a greater understanding of my religion but this program has made me want to share this knowledge with others. In fact, pretty much everything I learned on this trip is information I want to share with everyone I know! I would love to see my local Chabad have a weekly class on topics like the ones we covered&hellip;

The counselors and lecturers were amazing. The friends I met are irreplaceable &ndash; I know I'll be keeping in touch! Words cannot describe the experiences I had. I'm recommending this trip to EVERYONE! Thank you!!

Allison, Univ of IL

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The best part was the relationships made with the other Jewish women and the lecturers that I learned so much from.

Things that stand out include the importance of Mikvah, the kabbalistic guide to relationships and how to bring G-dliness

into the world. I hadn't expected the teachers and counselors to be so amazing!

A sensational trip, filled with learning, personal growth, and fun experiences. I gained a lot from it and I recommend it to everyone looking to grow Jewishly.

Jessica, Univ of IN

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My two older sisters participated in the program when they were my age. I really wasn't sure what to anticipate, but the program went above and beyond anything I expected. I've gained so much I don't know where to start. It was a spiritually uplifting week, truly amazing, intense and the best part was meeting so many wonderful new people.

Joan, Memphis College of Art

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I learned that it's possible for Jewish women to be educated, smart, professional and observant. Sorry, I know I sound ignorant but I didn't appreciate that until this week. I loved meeting these amazing women! And studying with amazing female teachers. I now have the benefit of this wonderful, huge network. A fun, inspiring and rewarding week!

Rebecca, Temple Univ

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Absolutely incredible! I've gained a better idea of who I want to be as a Jewish woman and hope to put the ideas I've learned into practice. It was an amazing learning experience both inside the classroom and out. I learned just as much from the farbrengens with the girls as from the teachers and

Sara, SUNY Albany

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I feel it's necessary to learn as much as I can now and I truly feel a connection to G-d that I've never felt before. I've always been proud to be Jewish and now I can show people how to be a proud, educated Jew and how interesting and life-changing it can be to learn why Jews do what they do, and the beauty and mysticism behind it all. This experience was life-changing to the point of enlightenment.

Thank you for making this opportunity available to us - it's been a gift.

Naomi, Eastern MI Univ

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I hoped to gain a better sense of pride in Judaism and learn about myself and the inner meanings of the faith. I also hoped to meet people who are in the same boat as me and create a network of friends.

Did the program meet my expectations? YES!! The classes and speakers, especially Miriam Lipskier and Rivkah Slonim, were absolutely amazing and brought such clarity to a lot of questions I had, and some that I would never have even thought of. I was encouraged to really think and explore. I most enjoyed the informal farbrengens and Miriam Lipskier's classes. I also really enjoyed Shabbat, and wish we could have ended the program off with another Shabbos, after everyone knows each other.

This was a great opportunity to be with other girls going through the same things you are, and an excellent opportunity to get away from it all, and really learn about Judaism and yourself. I really enjoyed the smaller group sessions and would have loved if there were more smaller classes. I would love to come back again.

Robyn, Queens College

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I came away with a stronger Jewish identity and a richer background in many different topics that apply to society and Judaism. I especially liked the structure of the program, the way that we had different topics and activities programmed flowed well. And the support from the staff and participants was phenomenal.

I feel so much better and comfortable in my Jewish identity because of what I've learned here. I'll be sharing the lessons about souls and prayers with my mom and sister&hellip;

I met so many girls with different lifestyles, all able to come together with our Jewish identities, sharing stories, ideas and support for each other. I feel truly blessed and honored to have amazing support from Bais Chana and all the new friends I've made here!

Jacer, Univ of IL

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I was hoping for a Jewish experience that went beyond a book/dvd/set of tapes. Snorkel and Study was beyond amazing &ndash; I gained friends, family, support and so much knowledge. I didn't know what to expect, but everyone was so down to earth. My favorite part of the program was the snorkelling &ndash; I've never seen the ocean.

I learned how anti-women Judaism is NOT, what Tanya is, and how diverse Judaism is. I gained a new level of adult maturity, spiritually I gained a fresh battery to keep going, and Jewishly I gained the spirit of the Torah.

I'm coming back to hit the ground running. I need to keep myself focused and centered to keep my momentum going as I finally start keeping kosher in a non-kosher home.

This experience was priceless. I gained a new level of self-knowledge, completely unrelated to Judaism&hellip;and a new outlook on life as a woman, a student, and above all a Jew.

Tina, Metro Community, NE

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It was really amazing to hear all the girls's stories and where everyone was coming from. I gained amazing friends and more knowledge than I could ever have dreamed of. Everything I learned is going towards my marriage and my children, and my mom, dad, brother and sister.

After I'm married and come back from Israel, my husband and I are coming on the couples program.

Abby, Phila., PA

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I met so many girls who are all fun and talented, each in their own way. After just one week I have best friends who I feel so connected and close to. And I love the counsellors. They were great examples, good friends and always there to talk to.

I finally understand what it means to be a Jew, to have a Jewish soul, and why we have commandments. I have a context to understand my life and guide it in a way that actually makes me happy.

This experience was life-changing &ndash; I honestly didn&rsquo;t expect to get a new understanding of Judaism. I want to share all these &ldquo;secrets&rdquo; of Judaism with my friends and tell them all to go to Bais Chana!

Aliza, Tufts

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I had all my questions answered and many more - it was amazing! Some of the subjects and material were not what I was expecting out of Judaism, about marriage, the power of the soul, etc., but that was awesome. I realized that I could apply all of it to my life!

It was a very moving experience. It makes you proud and excited to be a Jew. I wish everyone could go on this program&hellip;I wish everyone could have learned as much as I did.

Rachel, Emerson

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Bais Chana does a fabulous job creating an atmosphere where girls can bond, learn and continue to inspire each other. There were a lot more girls that I&rsquo;d expected, but that was entirely amazing.

During the week I learned how important it is to be patient, that everything is Divine Providence. I can&rsquo;t explain it, but Bais Chana in every single aspect is entirely inspirational and spiritually cleansing. I feel prepared to return back home and to continue to swim against the current, strong and proud.

Bais Chana is the most amazing, life-changing experience a Jewish girl or woman can have.

Kali, Brevard Community

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Incredible, I&rsquo;ve gained so much from this trip. I learned the story of Rachel and Leah in-depth, I was able to observe a full Shabbat, and I learned that dressing modestly is more for one&rsquo;s self than for others. I hope to share the experience with my Jewish women friends and to start putting what I&rsquo;ve learned into practice.

I didn&rsquo;t expect there to be as many classes, but that was a good thing! I most enjoyed meeting girls from all different backgrounds.

Megan, Univ of Miami

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I hoped to gain a deeper knowledge of Jewish theology, women&rsquo;s &ldquo;roles&rdquo;, prayers and Hebrew. I learned all I wanted - and even more, about my relationship with G-d. And I can now read Hebrew after only knowing what an Aleph was. My favorite part of the program was the Chevrusa-tutorials. The one-on-one discussions and depth of knowledge were amazing.

Bais Chana offers a chance to explore being Jewish in a completely accepting and open environment that takes you as you are and helps you become more.

Jessica, Univ of SC

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Like summer camp in the winter, but better &ndash; I felt a connection to everything I learned and to everyone I met, and I&rsquo;m leaving with fun memories. I loved being with so many other people who were here for the same reason I was.

I didn&rsquo;t expect so many classes &ndash; it was good though. I learned what I was thirsty to know and left with a better sense of who I am. I feel like my beliefs were solidified and if the feeling stops, I learned how to get it back.

Danielle, Texas State

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Learning about Mikvah, the one-on-one tutoring and information from new friends all stand out.

I gained great emotional strength from the strong Jewish women on this trip &ndash; my favorite part was the feeling of sisterhood. I hope to be able to strengthen the Jewish women in my life. I would describe this experience to friends very positively. (The one thing that was frustrating to me was that things didn&rsquo;t start on time.)

Joanna, SUNY Albany

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I loved the one-on-one tutoring sessions. I learned about blessings, what the Jewish view is on the soul and to have more respect for the body G-d has given me. I had an emotionally loaded experience that has made me positively examine and rearrange (and unclutter) my life.

Sara, Boston U

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EVERYTHING was beyond amazing &ndash; honestly, I don&rsquo;t think it could have been better, unless the program was 3 years long! Having gone to two Bais Chana programs, the reunion of life-long friends is so amazing, especially being able to reconnect and see how far we&rsquo;ve come in our journey. To think about the years to come is very inspiring! I have a new sense of clarity from everything I&rsquo;ve learned&hellip;

Mati, UC Berkeley

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I went on the teen camp four years ago and really wanted to meet more friends in addition to the Jewish study. I most enjoyed the interaction with all the other girls &ndash; it was amazing how we&rsquo;re all different but all the same&hellip;

I gained a lot more spirituality and got a lot more insight into Judaism. I can&rsquo;t wait to share with others what I have learned - I can&rsquo;t wait to share it with my mom.

Scarlett, College of Southern Nevada

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At Bais Chana I met the most amazing people! I learned so much from interacting with all of the different girls and leaders.

I didn&rsquo;t agree with many of the topics being discussed, but I know I need to accept some of them anyway. I learned that things happen for a reason (and won&rsquo;t forget MY GREAT ROOM-MATES!!!). My favorite part was studying one-on-one about kosher&hellip;

No matter who you are or what kind of background you come from, the group is so diverse and amazing that it will open your eyes to things you never thought you could imagine! This experience has been truly soul-cleansing and I feel like a better person already.

Carey, CSUN

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I made a lot of friends my age who are in the same place as I am. The hotel was gorgeous, but I wasn't expecting so many classes during the day, though it wasn't a bad thing since there was no crazy strictness about attending every class. I LOVED the no pressure environment. The madrichot were awesome, as was Shabbat.

I learned that the world was created for us and G-d needs us. I learned that the custom of the bride wearing a veil originated in Judaism &ndash; that's so cool!! The abortion class was great.

I now have a much better appreciation of things I didn't know about or want to care about before I came. I also gained about 2 pounds &ndash; the food was great. I'd highly recommend Snorkel and Study!

Gela, Queens College

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The range of knowledge was great. How open people were to questions and speaking about taboo subjects was really invaluable to understanding why certain practices are the way they are, and how to tackle the world from a Jewish perspective. I was amazed, for instance, that we spoke about abortion and homosexuality. I perceived those as extremely taboo subjects. I also gained a greater understanding of where the laws of modesty come from.

I loved the singing at the first farbrengen and just how open people were to our concerns and questions. In terms of my Jewish identity, I've gained a better perspective of where I am in relation to my observance and what I am currently comfortable with and what I wish to achieve. I'm not sure yet how I'll bring this all home&hellip;

It was a good experience and I met wonderful people. Thank you. This has been extremely eye-opening.

Ixel, SUNY Buffalo

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This is my second time here, the last time being a summer teen program, and I feel so at home. Everyone has been so welcoming. I can't yet put into words what I've gained here because it's so personal but some things stand out &ndash; that I'm a strong Jewish woman and that every mitzva counts. I can't think of a better way to awaken your Jewish soul.

Natalie, Berea

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I was looking for a path to reconcile my identity as a Jewish woman and a feminist, to explore and further understand Jewish philosophy and my Jewish identity, to learn and have a great time.

The classes were thought-provoking, the setting was paradise, and the women were inspiring! I hadn't expected such an intense connection with the girls here! Every single one of these women was phenomenal. I most enjoyed seeing the underwater world of creation! And Rivkah Slonim rocked my world.

I learned about the star of David, putting the foundation of things first, to balance emotions and create personal, spiritual and religious balance. I learned that G-d is everywhere, and manifest in everything. I also learned a lot about women in Judaism, their power, history, mitzvot etc.

I gained so, so much! I can't wait to take this new information and apply it in my life. I've begun to see G-d in the world around me, gained knowledge, strength, faith and invaluable friendships.

My soul feels cleansed! This opportunity was a great time to clear my head, focus my direction, meet amazing, inspirational women, and get some sun in the mean time! Another important thing that I learned was how much I have left to learn. I also wanted to add that I have gained a deeper understanding and special respect for the Chabad Lubavitch school of Chassidic thought and their selfless, grassroots movement across the world that engages Jews. THANK YOU!

Out of this world! But honestly in a literal sense. During the program, I honestly felt like I was transported from the real, daily world into a spiritual paradise.

Lauren, Arizona State

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What students are saying about Snorkeling & Study 08...

My favorite part was that the discussions in the classrooms continued outside the classrooms and I found other people who were similarly seeking like me. I had no idea this program was of international proportions!

I definitely asked my portion of questions, however I grew the most from hearing others ask for two reasons: 1. If they ask a question I want to know before me, it's nice to know that other are thinking about the same things and 2. If it's a question I did have, I get to see something from a new perspective or if is something I disagree with, I can clearly see where I stand - which is something I might not have noticed I felt, because I wasn't on that train of thought.

It was an opportunity to talk with some inspirational, spiritual people - both lecturers and fellow participants - and begin ongoing dialogues about topics we all care about. Through each other's experiences, to which we can all relate, we've created a community. I want to continue to do programs like this - to continue to grow.

Sara, James Madison Univ, VA

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The Chabad "counselors" were really wonderful, approachable and fun - great girls!

Lily, Brandeis Univ, MA

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The most important things I've learned are firstly that climbing the ladder is crucial - not being the perfect Jew; secondly, that G-d needs our mitzvot; and thirdly, that we have a Jewish soul.

I learned so much about Jewish thought, spirituality, prayer, and more specific things about mitzvot and halacha. Also, how observant women come in all shapes and varieties just like secular women, and that they struggle with the same

things that I struggle with.

Jennifer, UNC Chapel Hill, NC

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Before I came, I had already begun my conversion process and had been practicing for a while. I thought that I was in the process of "changing" my religion - although I never practiced a previous religion with so much devotion. Once I got here, I soon realized that it's not about changing; it's about getting to know who I really am. Not only did I learn more, my whole way of thinking about G-d and Torah changed. There are so many more layers to the Torah than I realized, and now I feel that I understand G-d a little better. I can't think of a part of me or my life that did not gain from this week.

I still have some figuring out to do, but the more I learn about, do and experience Judaism, the more I want it and more I feel a connection to it. Whatever happens, I know I'm on a path that is getting me closer to G-d.

I would highly recommend this to all my female Jewish friends. It is so crucial for people my age to be educated in their own heritage or "home" so we don't forget our purpose here.

M, Columbia, NY

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The Mikvah - what a beautiful tradition! When I marry, it's a tradition I'd like to uphold.

Helen, Brooklyn College, NY

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I think that this program will enable me to answer difficult questions from my non-Jewish friends. It was intense, fun, enlightening and replenishing.

Orian, Univ of Toronto, Ontario

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It was invigorating. Being here makes me feel more alive than any other place I've ever been to in my life.

Yana, Univ of GA

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I made tons of friends and learned tons of information. I learned to embrace being Jewish.

I did not expect to get aggravated by some of what I heard, but I think that was necessary. One of the most important things I learned is not to be so "on guard"; every time I hear something I don't like. My favorite parts were the classes - specifically Rivky's and Miriam's classes - and the late-night farbrengens (parties) were amazing.

Meghan, Queens College, NY

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Since I have so many new friends, I can't wait to meet up with them and spend Shabbat together. Before this trip I did not know so many "Shabbat interested" Jews and I look forward to spending Shabbat with these girls.

To fully realize what I want to bring home, I think it will take so long before it all sinks in. I am so looking forward to challenging myself in a Jewish sense - to keep growing a little bit, bit by bit, this and to help share what I have learned are my wishes.

Danielle, UNC Chapel Hill, NC

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I didn't think I would meet such friendly people who each have a different story about they are connected to Judaism. The environment was so positive. I learned the importance of Jewish education, to pass on the benefit of leading a Jewish home, to never stop learning, and that nothing is ever too late.

Amy, Binghamton Univ, NY

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It allowed me to think in a more abstract way. Some of the most important things I learned are the aspects of a Jewish soul, and that we have a true purpose!! G-d needs us.

Jen, Univ of TX, Austin

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I learned so many new things and gained so much knowledge. I think that the hardest part of the program was absorbing so much information without having a lot time to really think about everything and understand it completely.

I learned the importance of Jewish education, the importance of family and friends, and how important it is to never stop learning and to able to pass on your views to future generations. We keep Judaism alive!!!

This program has taught me a lot about who I am and what more I would like to become. I have grown and learned so much about Judaism. My outlook on life and the world has changed dramatically for the better. I can't thank Bais Chana enough for this unbelievable experience of a lifetime!

Jaimie, Binghamton Univ, NY

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I came to explore, to learn more about Judaism and how I would be able to connect more.

My favorite part of the program was the lectures. The most important things I learned are that a Jew is a Jew is a Jew; and that G-d is One - REALLY.

Caitlin, FAU, FL

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The program met my expectations plus 300%! I can't even comprehend how much I have learned yet. There's so much whirling around with little time to reflect on all of it yet. It was so much more than I ever could have imagined. As far as meeting people, these girls are too amazing!!

The amount of learning and connection to the people in such a short span of time was unexpected.

I kept an open mind - which was greatly filled! - while also... it just made sense! Somewhere, deep within, it was there and it clicked in such a raw way - because of my Jewish Soul.

You should see my notes! I plan on extreme reflection when I leave.

Missy, Tulane Univ, LA

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The ruach this week reminded my time at Gan Israel, which was a very strong force in my Jewish development.

I loved meeting other observant, spiritually growing Jewish girls. At college I am one of only a few Chabad regulars. Now I feel part of a large network of women who care deeply about Torah and Judaism.

I learned that it is the special mission of Jews to spread G-dliness in the world. I also learned about the role of Leah in Jewish history, the Jewish belief of free will vs. choice, and the importance of Mikvah.

I gained by connecting to other Jewish souls, whether through a teacher-student connection or friend to friend. I was inspired tremendously by everyone's courageous stories during the farbrengens. I am also ready and inspired to continue my spiritual growth through mitzvos and learning.

Rebecca, College of NJ

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I want to start helping. I have tremendous respect for this organization, and would like to help in any way that I can.

Vered, Concordia, Montreal

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My favorites were the classes plus the comedy improve &ndash; but I wish the whole program was longer. I plan on teaching and discussing the stuff I've learned with friends and putting it more into practice.

Yafit, York Univ, Toronto

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It was incredible, amazing... a gift.

Jen, Univ of Texas, Austin

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It's great here, amazing, I learned so much about life and how to look at life from a Jewish perspective. It was so nice that it was an only-girls experience. I loved to be here! I found it so nice how Chabad invests in every Jewish soul, to bring us back to Judaism, and to bring our present nearer - our Torah. Thank you very, very, very much. You've given me so much!

Caroline, Univ St Gallen, Zurich

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I have a much stronger foundation as a Jewish person, and I feel like I have a much better understanding of why G-d created this world and what my responsibilities are - as a Jewish person - to Him. I hope to continue my spiritual growth, stay in tune with Hashem, and not be afraid to inspire others and be inspired. It's just something that every Jewish person should do: learn our truth. Thank you so much!

Andrea, Univ of Hartford, CT

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I learned how important Judaism is to us, how the Torah really can guide anyone no matter where in world you are or how religious you are, and that you can't put a title on how Jewish you are.

Because I learned more, I was able to understand Judaism on more of a life-level as opposed to a religion-level.

Danielle, UCSB, CA

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My favorite parts were the people I met and just being with a big group of Jews from every type of background. The stuff I learned and the last outing were fab!

Miriam, City & Islington College, London

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I've learned more in this week than I have learned all year. This experience has changed my life. I wasn't expecting a transformation in myself, and that's exactly what I have gotten here...every part of this program has been absolutely amazing.

I learned that G-d needs us, we are a family, and that I am not complete without G-d (I knew this already, it was just reinforced). I gained a new perspective about how to view myself in Judaism. I've found where I belong.

Liebnitz, Union County College, NJ

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Snorkeling & Study 2007

I made incredible friendships and a bigger place in my heart to embrace my religion.

The program exceeded all my expectations. I learned more in one week, not only about Judaism, but about life, than I've ever learned in a day, month, year, or lifetime. Probably the most important thing I learned is that happiness is achieved when you realize and accept that you don't deserve ANYTHING.

The level of friendship and connection that was achieved in a matter of a few days was completely unexpected. I've made the most incredible friendships, not just for a week, but, thank G-d, for a lifetime, and I've never met more amazing people than I have here. I only hope that everyone I meet from now on has the qualities that I've found in the people at Bais Chana.

Brittany, Binghamton, NY

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It was fantastic, deep and very different.

Carmen, Mexico

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It's an amazing and intense learning experience that all women with a curious and open mind should have.

Marissa, Santa Barbara

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The accommodations were beyond anything I imagined. I had a great time. The classes were insightful, and I met many wonderful women here. I feel really proud to be a Jew. This week will stay with me forever. I've developed a better sense of myself and who I want to be. I've made life-changing decisions here and hope to be able to stick with them while I'm home.

Sara, New York

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Overall, the week was enriching and memorable. I learned about dating, relationships, about the larger picture of life, and about how Eve created the idea of repentance/returning to G-d. I appreciate more fully how central a woman's responsibilities are in Judaism, and how intricate they are. I learned the importance of being receptive and vulnerable to a husband, or in any relationship, something I have to work on personally.

Michal, New York

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I am a very big spiritual seeker and have gleaned lots of wisdom from all over. Rabbi Friedman confirmed that my understanding of spirituality is compatible with Judaism &ndash; and that's very reassuring.

Libby, Kansas

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