

Rachmunus Begins at Home

One of the things that sets the JCC Maccabi Games and ArtsFest apart from other competitions or festivals is the Rachmunus Rule. You all should be familiar with the Maccabi Rachmunus Rule as it applies to sports competition. Rachmunus can be translated into English as “compassion/kindness/mercy”. We know this means to win or lose graciously; always remembering that the most important part of the Maccabi week is not to celebrate an opponent’s mistake. **But did you know that Rachmunus begins at home? And by home we mean your host family house.**

What does this mean? This means that the Metropolitan Detroit host community has been working feverishly for over a year to recruit the 600 homes needed to host the JCC Maccabi Games and ArtsFest for a record 6th time, with over 1,600 visiting teens. Without each and every host family going out of their way to drive, cook, shop, launder and entertain a houseful of teens, you would never be able to experience this magical week we call “Maccabi”. While many of you may be assigned to house with a roommate you requested (**but not guaranteed**), inevitably some may be paired by needs of the host community. We appreciate your flexibility and willingness to use this as a wonderful opportunity to make a new friend.

Whether you are housed with an old friend, a new team mate or a BFF-to-be from another city, practice Rachmunus at home. Be considerate, be helpful, be welcoming be polite, be tolerant, be appreciative and show kindness. Host families come in all shapes and sizes. They may have a big house or a small one. They might be a young family with little kids who will look up to you, they might have teens competing/performing also or they might be an older couple or widow with grown children and empty bedrooms. Regardless, they all are looking forward to sharing the week of Maccabi with you and hoping to enjoy your company as much as you are hoping they are great. Engage in conversations with them, offer to help, thank them and be respectful of their time, energy and cleanliness. If your housemate is not an old friend, take the opportunity to get to know them, to include them with your other friends, invite them to go to hang time, watch your game or bring them to your friend’s game to cheer them on!

Rachmunus is what makes Maccabi special and **Rachmunus begins at home.**