



Siegel JCC  
Delaware

# Camp JCC Delaware Handbook



CAMP  
JCC  

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DELAWARE

Community. Honesty. Respect. Kindness.

*Kehilla. Kavod. Chesed. Yosher.*

# Welcome to Camp JCC Delaware!

## The parts that separate us from other camps:

### Action.

Our camp is not a passive experience; our campers come here to *do*. Whether it is constructive competition or unstructured play time, activity is built into every camper's schedule. At Camp JCC Delaware, there is no sitting on the sidelines. We make it so that there is participation available at every comfort level, designed for the developmental needs of each unit.

### Creation.

Camp is one of the few places where children are encouraged to be creative, and we take that as the best opportunity to bring that creativity out. Whether it is song, dance, crafting, painting, acting, or any form of expression, every camper at Camp JCC Delaware is given the chance to be as unique and creative as possible with no shame. It is the best place to share ideas and make something new.

### Exploration.

There is so much to this world that children just do not get a chance to see. At Camp JCC Delaware, we bring the world to the campers. Our wooded areas are places to explore, both about and from which we learn. We bring in experiences of other cultures and speak to the differences that make us unique and the similarities we share. This is the camp where the children are encouraged to explore themselves.

### Empowerment.

Our campers are not just participants; they are the activity makers. As they grow through the program, campers are given more and more agency in how their schedules reflect their needs and desires. If there was any camp that listened to their campers and gave them the power to make a difference, Camp JCC Delaware is it.

### Engagement.

This is the tool we use to accomplish our goals, as it is one of the most powerful motivations in a child's life. Through the act of play, the staff members of Camp JCC Delaware guide campers in becoming the person they are meant to be.

### Shared Values.

There is a commonality amongst all cultures that the next generation be given the opportunity to build a future that will outperform and outlast the previous generations. Children are our future, and Camp is the greatest classroom in the world for teaching children how to be the people we want them to grow into.

Camp JCC Delaware uses Judaic Values as a lens by which we view the qualities we wish to instill in our campers. This is accomplished by connecting to Jewish History and Culture, to the special connection Jewish Americans have to the country of Israel, and the bridge that spans the gaps from Judaism to peoples of all creeds and cultures.

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## Organizational Information

### Our Mission and Vision

The mission of the J is to be the place where we build community, honor Jewish values, welcome diversity, and nurture wellbeing.

Our vision is to engage each generation (ל'דור ו'דור | לדור ודור) in repairing the world (tikkun olam | תיקון אולם).

### About the J

The J is a non-profit membership organization where people come together as a community to learn, share, and celebrate. We inspire and connect people of all ages, faiths, and backgrounds through social, educational, cultural, fitness and recreational opportunities in a warm and welcoming environment. The J represents a feeling of home for kids, families, teens, singles, and everyone in between.

The J houses preschool, childcare, and camp programs, as well as a state-of-the-art fitness center, indoor pool, gymnasium, and racquetball court. Our thirty-two-acre family campus offers a wide array of outdoor recreational services. The J is also home to Jewish holiday celebrations and cultural arts programming.

The J is proud to be a part of the Family of Communal Agencies funded in part by the Jewish Federation of Delaware, United Way of Delaware, and JCC Association.

### Sharing of Concerns

We are committed to the well-being of every individual in our programs. Our policies and procedures reflect that commitment. The Siegel JCC values constructive feedback from members, guests, and program participants. We welcome any questions, concerns, or comments. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the department director or the chief operating officer (COO). If you still have questions or concerns after speaking with the department director or COO, you may request to speak with the chief executive officer (CEO).

### Welcoming Community

When you join the J, you are joining a community. We host several special events and programs throughout the year that educate and enrich our members and families of all backgrounds about Jewish life, culture, and Israel. We celebrate our Jewish Heritage while welcoming every person of every faith and background.

### Lost & Found

The Siegel JCC has multiple lost & found locations in the building and on campus. The best chances to be reunited with your lost item is for it to be clearly labeled with the first and last name of the owner. There are boxes located at the front desk, the lower level outside the locker rooms, specific program locations are in the Early Childhood Center and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor hallway for KidsPlace/School's Out/Seasonal Camps. Camp JCC's lost and found is in the camp office (Albert Einstein Academy wing). Many items lost during the summer are returned to the outdoor pool lost and found. Unclaimed items are kept for a reasonable period of time before being donated to a charity organization. We strongly encourage parents/caregivers to keep valuable &/or sentimental items at home so there is no risk of losing them. The Siegel JCC is not responsible for any lost, damaged, or stolen items.

## Shared Values, Goals, and Desired Outcomes

### Rights and Dignity of Campers

Camp JCC Delaware strives to be inclusive and serve a more diverse population. All individuals, irrespective of ability, culture, gender, race, religion, or creed, deserve dignity and we respect the rights of all staff and participants. Our camp uses Judaism as the lens by which we teach **Kehilla** (Community), **Yosher** (Honesty), **Kavod** (Respect), and **Chesed** (Kindness). We strive for all our campers to not only understand how these values apply to how we treat ourselves and one another, but also to display those values in their thoughts, words, and actions.

### Goals and Desired Outcomes

It is a goal of Camp JCC Delaware that every camper at Camp JCC Delaware will understand actions that reflect the shared values of camp as well as be able to recognize those values in action. We desire campers to be able to use our core values in the context of an example, recognize when another person has performed an action that displays the value, and reflect upon a specific action that they personally committed that displays the value.

## Behavior Expectations and Procedures

Like adults, children make mistakes. It is through mistakes that experiential learning takes place. This is also an opportunity for us to help them grow. Our policy is one that seeks to prevent misbehavior and puts the focus on the positive, using methods appropriate to the age & developmental stage of the camper. Redirection, modeling, and guidance form the core of the discipline policy, not punishment. Campers are expected to follow the behavior expectations below and to interact positively and appropriately in a group setting.

We are happy to discuss YOUR child with you; however, we will NOT discuss any other campers, by name, with someone who is not THEIR parent/guardian.

### Guidelines for Positive Discipline

The following are Camp JCC's **behavior expectations**:

- Individuals are responsible for their own actions.
- Individuals will respect each other, themselves, property, and the environment. This means following directions and refraining from physical &/or emotional harm towards themselves and others, including hitting, kicking, biting, threats, intimidation, vandalism, harming animals, swearing, lying, and refusing to listen to staff.
- Individuals will make a strong effort to be a positive member of our inclusive community. This means being helpful and showing kindness towards others.
- Individuals will be safe. This means staying with the group or staff member and avoiding behaviors that could be dangerous, such as running away, climbing where not permitted, self-harm, etc.

Redirection, modeling, guidance, and natural consequences form the core of the discipline policy, not punishment. Staff will use the following steps and strategies to help campers follow the behavior expectations:

- Visual and verbal reminders of the rules at camp
- Compliments, encouragement, and praise for appropriate behavior
- Redirection or personal time or use of a quiet space. This can be in the same space as other campers or in another space based on what their specific needs are at the time.
- Discussion with camper about their behavior
- Natural consequences
- Problem solving with a camper
- Separating campers
- Staff offering appropriate choices to help campers make good decisions

Staff will NOT use, or threaten to use, any physical contact or restraint, unless the child presents a clear and present danger to themselves or to others.

When a camper does not follow the behavior expectations after use of the above strategies, camp staff may use a combination of the following steps. Other consequences may be implemented at the discretion of the Camp Leadership Team.

FIRST occurrence of inappropriate or unsafe behavior:

- Staff will ask the camper to stop the behavior
- Staff will use verbal or written communication to parent/guardian regarding camper's behavior and the strategies that camp staff have tried
- Staff may remove camper from situation (go to a quiet or safe space)
- Staff may create an individual behavior/action improvement plan
- For serious infractions as determined by staff, staff may recommend or require parents to pick the camper up early and/or camper will have one or more days home from camp with no refund

SECOND occurrence of inappropriate or unsafe behavior:

- Staff will ask the camper to stop the behavior
- Staff will remove camper from situation
- Staff will discuss concerns with a parent/guardian and create an individual behavior/action improvement plan
- Parent/guardian will be asked to pick the camper up early, and camper may have one or more days home from camp with no refund
- For serious infractions as determined by staff, camper may be asked to leave the program with a refund in accordance with our cancellation policy

THIRD occurrence of inappropriate or unsafe behavior:

- Parent/guardian will be asked to pick the camper up early

- Camper will have one or more days home from camp with no refund or be asked to leave the program with a refund in accordance with our cancellation policy

The following behaviors are not acceptable and may result in immediate suspension of a camper:

- Endangering the health and safety of themselves, other campers, staff, members, &/or guests.
- Leaving the program, their group, or JCC property without a camp staff member.
- Stealing or damaging other's property.
- Continuing to disrupt the program &/or another camper's experience with the program.
- Refusal to follow the behavior expectations &/or activity rules.
- Using profanity, vulgarity, slurs, or obscenity.
- Acting in a lewd manner.

Immediate expulsion will occur if a camper is in possession of &/or using tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, firecrackers, weapons, or explosives.

### Camper Pledge

I read and understand Camp JCC's Behavior Expectations above. If I do not follow the expectations, I understand that my behavior/choices will be addressed by a camp staff member and my parents/caregivers may be informed. In more serious circumstances or if my behavior/choices do not improve, I understand that I may not be able to continue attending Camp JCC.

### Parent Pledge

I understand that Camp JCC strives to teach children how to be good community members. Occasionally, however, campers will act inappropriately, sometimes engaging in unsafe or aggressive behavior. I understand that if my child engages in inappropriate behaviors, it will result in an appropriate consequence as outlined above.

### Positive Behavior Management Procedures

Programs at the Siegel JCC, including Camp JCC, focus on the prevention of unwanted &/or inappropriate behaviors by using strategies that include structured, age-appropriate activities, educationally valuable materials, a stimulating environment, and realistic expectations. We focus on highlighting and encouraging campers for positive behavior, while redirecting or guiding undesired behavior into more positive actions. We have a goal to eliminate the use of suspension, expulsion, and other exclusionary measures unless we determine that these strategies will be in the best interest of the camper.

We will use the steps outlined below to guide our positive behavior management:

1. Camp staff will set clear, explicit, and consistent limits according to the developmental stage of the camper(s). The expectation is for the camper to follow these limits.
2. Camp staff will provide opportunities for the camper to communicate their feelings in socially appropriate ways.
3. Camp staff do not solve difficult situations for campers.
4. The behavior is separated from the individual. The behavior, not the camper, is unacceptable.
5. The camper has an opportunity to make choices.

6. The camper can, within reason, experience the natural consequences of their decision.
7. Camp staff will intervene immediately when one camper physically hurts another, or a camper is in danger of injuring themselves. Camp staff are expected to remove the camper from the immediate situation and give the camper an opportunity to calm down. Once calm, the campers involved should be asked to express their feelings and encouraged to find other, appropriate solutions.
8. A "cool down period" is not a punishment. It is time for the camper(s) to calm down before problem solving can take place.

### Prohibited Discipline Practices

Corporal punishment inflicted in any way on a camper's body is prohibited in all Siegel JCC programs. In addition, campers are not yelled at, humiliated, frightened, or abused in any way. Additionally, disparaging comments about the camper's appearance, ability, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, family, or other personal characteristics is prohibited. Campers are not deprived of food or toilet facilities because of inappropriate or undesired behavior. Campers will not be punished for falling asleep, toileting accidents, failure to eat all or part of their food, or for failure to complete a scheduled activity.

## Enrollment & Camper Records

### Enrollment Periods

New participants are accepted during specific enrollment periods and throughout the year when space is available. New families are encouraged to tour our facilities and programs before enrolling. A fully complete registration, all supporting documentation, and payment must be submitted to be registered for the program. Campers will not be allowed to attend until all required information has been received and verified by JCC staff.

The annual enrollment periods for each program start:

Camp JCC	January
KidsPlace After School Program	May
School's Out/Seasonal Camps	May
Early Childhood Center	March

Each program mentioned above holds annual enrollment periods for current families. A fully completed registration must be submitted with required paid deposits to be enrolled. Early registration is highly recommended.

### Memberships & Discounts

The Siegel JCC encourages families and individuals to join as a member. As a benefit, our members are given discounts and access to JCC programming, events, and facilities. To be eligible for this benefit, an active family membership must be in good standing.

### Waitlists

Waitlists are maintained for each program, unit, or week that reaches capacity. Complete registration is needed to place a camper on the waiting list. No money is required to be placed on the waiting list. Campers are placed on the waiting list in the order they register. When a spot opens, our registrar will contact the camper's parent/caregiver via email in the order they were

registered. When a camper's family accepts the spot, then the \$25 deposit will be charged. If payment is already due (8 days prior to start of the camp week), the full amount will be charged.

### Program Eligibility

The programs developed for campers involve many physical, mental, social, and emotional requirements to participate. Our activities are planned to fit as many individuals as possible of a set developmental stage. We strive to be as inclusive as our program allows and will encourage campers into activities in such a way that they can garner the most from participation. However, there are limits set by the scope and preparation of the programs that may prevent individuals from experiencing them in full. If a camper does not meet the basic physical, mental, social and/or emotional requirements of an activity, trip, or program, their participation may be limited or prevented. This may include, but are not limited to:

- A camper with an injury that prevents them from running and not participating as a player in a soccer game, instead can help keep score.
- A highly introverted camper being asked to help with song selection instead of participating in a dance routine.
- A camper with continued behavior of disrespect toward peers being prevented from going on a trip and having to be kept home for that day.

Parents/caregivers must share any concerns regarding their campers' abilities to participate in activities before the camp season begins.

### Camper to Staff Ratios

Camp JCC Delaware meets or exceeds all child to staff ratios set forth by the State of Delaware &/or the American Camp Association. Ratios are as follows for Camp JCC Delaware:

Age Group	Staff to Camper Ratio
Five-year-olds entering 1 <sup>st</sup> grade	1:6
Entering 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade (6y/o+)	1:8
Entering 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> grade	1:8
Entering 5 <sup>th</sup> grade & older	1:10

### Authorized Pick-Up & Emergency Contact Changes

Camp JCC Delaware will follow all child custody court orders for campers within our programs when they are provided by the parent/legal guardian. Both parents are permitted to authorize the addition &/or removal of emergency contacts and authorized pick-up individuals under the following conditions:

- There is no active child custody court order on file with Camp JCC.
- AND
- The parent/caregiver is listed on the original registration form.

Camp JCC reserves the right to limit the camper's emergency contacts &/or pick-up list to only the parents/legal guardians.

### Confidentiality

Camp JCC Delaware keeps all camper records confidential. Camp staff are not permitted to share your camper's records (written, electronic, or digital) with anyone without written permission from

a parent/legal guardian or court order except when requested by state, local or other entities with statutory responsibilities for issues relating to the health, safety, and well-being of children. Custodial parents/legal guardians have access to their camper's records upon written request and my request additional relevant information be added to the records.

### Cancellation, Illness, & Refund Policy

Camp JCC Delaware requests as much notice as possible when cancelling any or all weeks of camp.

- All deposits are non-refundable.
- Registrations canceled between 1/3/2026 and 5/22/2026 will have the weekly deposit transferred to the first registered week. If canceling all registered weeks, the deposit will not be transferred or refunded.
- Registrations canceled between 5/23/2026 and the Wednesday prior to the start of the camp week will be charged a cancellation fee of \$50 per week per camper and the deposit will not be transferred to a different week.
- Registrations canceled on Thursday of the week prior to the registered camp week will forfeit 50% of the week's fee. Example, for week one (6/22 - 6/26) if you cancel the Thursday prior (6/18) you will receive a 50% refund.
- Refunds are not issued for cancellations received less than three days (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) before the start of the camp week.
- Camp JCC cannot issue refunds, credits, or transfers for absences, late arrivals, &/or early dismissals for any reason.
- If Camp JCC needs to close, you will receive a credit for the full days missed.
- ALL cancellations must be sent via email to [camp@siegeljcc.org](mailto:camp@siegeljcc.org).

### Schedule Changes

A change fee of \$25 will be assessed each time a camper's registration is altered after 5/22/2026. After initial registration is completed, additional weeks may be added with no additional fee as space allows. Camp JCC cannot guarantee that your camper will be placed in the same bunk when adding a week. We will place your camper in an age/grade appropriate bunk for any added weeks. ALL changes must be sent via email to [camp@siegeljcc.org](mailto:camp@siegeljcc.org).

### Dismissal from Camp

Camp JCC staff work hard to ensure that each child at camp is successful, we reserve the right to disenroll any camper at any time for any reason. Some of the reasons for involuntary dismissal might include:

Failure to acclimate – Most campers acclimate to a new program/routine within a few weeks. If a camper fails to acclimate, even though a concerted effort has been made by parents/caregivers and the staff to integrate them into the program, the camper may be disenrolled so that their parent/caregiver can find a better fit for them.

Aggressive/disruptive behavior – If a camper's behavior is aggressive, harmful to themselves or others, or disruptive to the program, the camper may be disenrolled at the discretion of Camp JCC. Please refer to specific information on our behavior policies and procedures.

Failure to pay for services – Campers will be dismissed from the program should fees not be paid per program policies. Please refer to specific information on our payment procedures.

Abusive/disruptive behavior by parents/caregivers – Camp JCC reserves the right to immediately disenroll any camper whose parent behaves in a manner that violates Camp JCC &/or Siegel JCC policies or procedures, or is destructive, disruptive, abusive, or malicious through their statements or actions toward staff, their own child, or other individuals on the JCC campus.

Failure to maintain required paperwork – Parents/caregivers are responsible for ensuring all information in their camper’s profile is complete and accurate at all times. Failure to keep the staff informed of changes or failure to submit required paperwork will result in your camper’s dismissal from camp.

Excessive late pick-ups – All campers must be picked up prior to the end of the camp’s operating hours, 5:30pm for the 2026 season. Repeated late pick-ups will result in your camper’s dismissal from camp.

Irreconcilable differences – Camp JCC strives to partner with all parents to provide the highest quality care and support for each camper. If, at any time, mutually agreed upon expectations cannot be met, we reserve the right to disenroll the camper to allow the parents/caregivers to find an environment that better meets the needs of their child.

## Payment Procedures

### Program Deposits

All deposits are non-refundable. Deposits may be transferred to another registered week through May 22, 2026. Beginning on May 23, 2026, deposits will no longer be transferrable.

### Payment Dates

Payments are scheduled on the form of payment used to pay the weekly deposits. The payment will be automatically drafted from that form of payment 8 days prior to the start of the enrolled week of camp. Returned or declined payments will result in late fees &/or dismissal from camp. Consideration of an alternate payment schedule can be arranged by contacting our accounts receivable specialist ([ar@siegeljcc.org](mailto:ar@siegeljcc.org)).

### Financial Assistance

The Siegel JCC has partnered with TADS to support families seeking financial assistance for Camp JCC. Additional information can be found at the bottom of the homepage on [www.siegeljcc.org](http://www.siegeljcc.org).

## Communication

Effective communication between Camp JCC Delaware and our parents/guardians is very important. We request that all camp families use e-mail communication only. Emailing the camp office ([camp@siegeljcc.org](mailto:camp@siegeljcc.org)) is the most reliable way to communicate information about your camper. In addition, asking your camper to verbally relay information is not as reliable as an email. We will not accept information that is communicated via a camper without an email confirmation from one of their parents/guardians.

Camp JCC Delaware will be using email to communicate with camp families throughout the

summer. These communications will include special event information and weekly camp activity updates to name just a couple. If you realize you are not receiving e-mail communications from Camp JCC Delaware, please call the Camp Office immediately and make sure your information is correct in our camper management software – CampDoc.

*If you do not have access to e-mail, please call the Camp Office (302-478-5662) and we will make sure you receive written communication from Camp JCC Delaware.*

## Camp Pictures

Camp staff and Siegel JCC staff will be taking pictures throughout the summer to capture all the fun on film. You will be able to see all these pictures through our [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) at any time.

The JCC reserves the right to use photographs and videos taken at Camp JCC Delaware in displays, brochures, promotional materials, and on our website.

## Camper Absences

Parents/caregivers must communicate with Camp JCC Delaware through email when they expect or plan for their camper to be absent. If there is no record of a camper's expected absence, the lists will be double-checked for any late arrivals or missed information. If the camper is still unaccounted for, parents/caregivers will be contacted by email to confirm their camper's absence.

## Health and Wellbeing

### Hand Washing

Camp JCC is committed to helping campers, staff, and guests reduce illness in our programs. As part of that commitment, all staff, campers, and guests wash their hands frequently throughout the day. Certain daily transitions require that staff and campers wash or sanitize their hands. These transitions include:

- Before and After:
  - o Eating, handling food, or assisting a camper with opening their lunch items.
  - o Giving medication &/or applying sunscreen.
  - o Playing in water that is used by more than one person.
- After:
  - o Removing gloves.
  - o Using the bathroom or helping a camper use the bathroom.
  - o Handling bodily fluids (mucus, blood, vomit) from sneezing, from mouths, or from sores.
  - o Handling soiled clothing.
  - o Handling pets, cages, or other animals.
  - o Playing in sand.
  - o Cleaning or handling the garbage, touching trash cans or lids.
  - o Outside, messy play.

To reinforce this practice at home, have the camper wash their hands using the same method that Camp JCC uses. While in our program, campers and staff wash their hands using the following method:

- Turn on warm water.
- Wet hands.
- Apply liquid soap.
- Rub hands together quickly until a soapy lather appears.
- Rub between fingers, fronts, and backs of hands, for at least 15 seconds out of the water.
- Rinse hands under running water until they are free of dirt and soap.
- Dry hands with a clean disposable paper towel.
- Turn off water with a paper towel.
- Throw paper towel away into a lined trash container.

### Prohibited Items

Our program occurs in a drug, alcohol, tobacco/nicotine, and weapon free environment. Any parent/caregiver or camper who brings drugs, alcohol, tobacco/nicotine, or weapons to a JCC program or on JCC property will be expelled from Camp JCC. No refunds or credits will be issued for a violation of this policy.

### Emergency Information

We requested emergency information when you completed the on-line camp registration. No child will be permitted to attend camp activities without complete and correct information on file. Please notify the Camp Office ([camp@siegeljcc.org](mailto:camp@siegeljcc.org)) through email immediately if there are any changes to your emergency, authorized pickups, and/or family contact information.

If your child has specific allergies (i.e. bee stings, nuts, etc.), accurate allergy information must be included in their camp registration. This vital information will be shared with your child's counselors and their unit head. An epi-pen and allergy action plan are also required. When you have health-related information or questions, please contact [camphealth@siegeljcc.org](mailto:camphealth@siegeljcc.org) to directly inform our Health & Wellness Coordinator.

### Camper Pronouns

Camp JCC has deep roots in Jewish values. The four that we carry with us day to day are Kehilla (community), Chesed (kindness), Kavod (respect), and Yosher (honesty). With those values in mind and to ensure that camp is an affirming experience for campers of all genders, we have moved to all-gender bunking, groupings, and activities. We honor and support the gender identities of all our campers and strive to address each camper respectfully. For more information about how to talk to your camper about pronouns, [here](#) is one resource.

### Sunscreen

Please apply sunscreen each morning before dropping your camper off to camp. Each camper must have labeled sunscreen in their bag during camp. We will assist/remind campers to reapply sunscreen to themselves throughout the day. At Camp JCC we support and encourage independence and self-help skills. Applying sunscreen is a skill that is essential during an outdoor program. Campers of all ages will be asked to apply sunscreen to themselves. Additional reminders and assistance will be given to those that require assistance. There is a Sunscreen Permission form in our online camp registration process which you sign, giving our counselors permission to apply sunscreen to your camper throughout the camp day. Should your camper forget or misplace their sunscreen, we will check their allergy information before applying camp-provided sunscreen. If

specific sunscreen is required, a phone call to a parent/caregiver will be made so that the specific sunscreen can be dropped off.

### Sick Campers

As a partner in the care of your child, please keep sick campers at home for the wellness of other individuals. If a child is sent home, they may return to camp when they are completely recovered from an illness (at least 24 hours after their temperature returns to normal and the child is no longer taking any fever reducer or 24 hours symptom free). It is the discretion of our Health & Wellness Coordinator to ask for a doctor's note before your child may return to camp.

### Injury/Illness Procedure (during the program day)

Camp staff will notify parents/caregivers/guardians of any minor illness or injury sustained during the camp day through a written emailed form completed by our Health & Wellness Coordinator or another attending staff member after assessment has been given to the camper.

When the camper can return to their camp day after being assessed by the Health & Wellness Coordinator or another qualified Siegel JCC staff member, the email will be sent prior to 5:30pm. Parents/guardians will be contacted via phone in the event of an injury/bump sustained to the head/face or otherwise preventing them from continuing with camp activities for the rest of the day.

They will also be reached by phone for any illness that results in preventing them from continuing with camp activities for the rest of the day. The camper must be picked up by an authorized pickup within 30 minutes of initial contact. While waiting, campers will be kept supervised in an area away from other campers and kept comfortable until their authorized pickup person arrives.

When a camper exhibits symptoms of illness specified below, they are not permitted to stay in Camp JCC programs. If a camper is sent home, they must remain home for one full day (not counting the day they are sent home) or until written documentation from a doctor or doctor's office is received stating that the camper has been diagnosed and poses no serious health risk to the other individuals at Camp JCC. Please read below for a list of exclusionary symptoms.

### Exclusionary Symptoms &/or Illness

When the following symptoms are present, the camper may not attend Camp JCC.

- Fever of 101 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.
- Symptoms and signs of possible severe illness (such as excessive tiredness, uncontrollable coughing, inexplicable irritability, persistent complaints, difficult breathing, wheezing or other unusual signs).
- Diarrhea.
- Blood in stools.
- Vomiting.
- Ongoing stomach pain or intermittent pain associated with fever or other signs/symptoms.
- Mouth & cold sores
- Any unidentified rash (if your camper has a chronic condition, please be certain to have a doctor's note uploaded into their health profile).
- Eye drainage with redness or discomfort.
- Any unspecified illness if it limits the camper's comfortable participation or if it results in a need for greater care than can be provided.

Certain illnesses have specific exclusion requirements. If your camper is diagnosed with one of these illnesses, please contact the camp office immediately and do not bring your camper back until the exclusion period has passed. These illnesses and exclusion periods are:

- Pink eye until 24 hours after treatment has been initiated.
- Scabies until 24 hours after treatment has been initiated.
- Head lice until 24 hours after treatment has been initiated and the health and wellness coordinator can confirm the camper is lice free. Should any nits be found, the camper will be sent home but can return to camp immediately upon the successful removal of the remaining nits.
- Evidence of bed bugs on a camper &/or belongings until 24 hours after last sighting of bed bugs on camper &/or belongings.
- Tuberculosis until a health care provider can state that the camper is on appropriate therapy and can attend programs.
- Impetigo until 24 hours after treatment has been initiated and sores are dry.
- Strep throat or other streptococcal infection until 12 hours after initial antibiotic treatment and cessation of fever.
- Chick pox until all sores have dried and crusted.
- Shingles if sores cannot be covered by clothing or bandage until the sores have crusted & are dry.
- Pertussis until five days after antibiotic treatment.
- Mumps until five days after onset of gland swelling.
- Hepatitis A virus until one week after onset of illness, jaundice, or as directed by the health department.
- Measles until four days after the onset of rash.

### Notification of Possible Communicable Illness

If a camper has been diagnosed with a communicable illness, please inform the camp office immediately. Information on the symptoms and treatment of the illness will then be distributed to the parents/caregivers of the campers in your camper's bunk. Specific information about your camper is never shared with other parents/caregivers.

### Health History and Immunizations

Camp JCC Delaware requires all campers to have completed the health history form in CampDoc by May 22, 2026 (if enrolling after 5/22/26, forms are due at least two week's prior to the camper's start date). Along with the completed health history, campers must have, per our state license, a copy of their immunization record uploaded into CampDoc. Camp JCC will uphold the same immunization exemption policy mandated in Delaware for children entering public school. Delaware law allows for a medical and/or religious exemption but does not allow for a philosophical exemption. Camp JCC requires official documentation when an exemption is requested. This documentation must include the camper's physician signature if a medical exemption is being requested. If it is a religious exemption, the [affidavit of religious belief](#) must be signed and notarized.

### Health Care Consultation

Camp JCC Delaware made specific arrangements with a health care provider who agreed to consult for routine and emergency health care for children. This provider reviews our policies and procedures annually regarding health care and wellness at Camp JCC.

## Medication

Medications need to be turned into the Camp Health & Wellness Coordinator and must be in its original container with dosage instructions for the child listed. A medication administration record is required for each medication needing to be administered during the camp day. These forms give camp permission to administer your camper's medications and provide a place to record the details of administering the prescribed medication. There are two different forms, [one for emergency](#)/as needed use medications (epi-pen, inhaler, topical anti-itch cream, etc) and [one for routine](#)/limited time use medications (antibiotic, insulin, etc.). Camp JCC will only administer medications that are prescribed by a healthcare provider and/or at the recommendation of a healthcare provider.

Medications such as supplements, homeopathic, and/or herbal remedies will not be administered by Camp JCC staff and may not be brought to camp with the camper.

For the safety of all campers, please do not leave any medication in the campers' bags. Camper medications must be given to Camp JCC's Health and Wellness Coordinator with the proper medication form filled out and signed. Camper medications will be stored in a locked cabinet, closet, drawer, or other secure location.

If you need further information about medication during the camp day, please email [camphealth@siegeljcc.org](mailto:camphealth@siegeljcc.org).

## Extreme Weather Days

On days when the weather prevents us from being outdoors safely, we make full use of the Siegel JCC's indoor facilities to move most activities inside. Inside areas include the gym, auditorium, classrooms, Mercaz and more. Most activities are run on schedule and according to original plans. Extreme weather days also present an opportunity to do special programming, such as bunk lip sync battles. We use our creativity to make every day at camp memorable! Above all, your camper's health and safety are our primary concern.

Camp JCC uses the [National Weather Service Heat Index Chart](#) to determine when activities are modified or moved indoors.

When heat indexes are in the extreme caution zone, all high energy activities (sports, active camp game elective, playground, etc.) are moved indoors. Low energy camp activities (art, drama, music, archery, etc.) are modified with additional shade, water, and rest breaks.

When heat indexes are in the danger zone we move all activities, except for swimming, into the JCC building.

When our area experiences diminished air quality, we move some or all activities indoors.

[AirNow.gov](http://AirNow.gov) is the resource we use to monitor air quality. An AQI of 101-150, we will move high-intensity activities indoors (sports, dance, playground, etc.) and modify other activities. An AQI of 151-200, we will move all activities indoors, swimming may be impacted by this change.

## Camp Attire/Personal Belongings

Make sure your camper is dressed in comfortable, casual clothing like t-shirts, shorts, and **sneakers**. Campers do get dirty. Expensive clothing, jewelry, or any shoes other than supportive, sneaker-style are not appropriate for camp. If your child arrives at camp in any shoe other than a "supportive sneaker-style", we will contact you via email to reiterate the importance of appropriate shoes for keeping your camper's feet safe and comfortable. If your camper is wearing crocs they will not be able to participate fully in camp's programming. Your camper should arrive at camp in the morning with a bathing suit on under their clothes and sunscreen already applied.

All campers must have sunscreen labeled with their first and last name and a reusable water bottle. Hats are recommended to help keep the sun off your camper's face.

Campers often misplace things. **Please label all your camper's items (backpacks, water bottles, towels, lunch bags, shoes, etc.) brought to camp to help us reunite your camper with their belongings.** Do not send camper's personal belongings (toys, game cards, electronics, etc.) to camp. Camp JCC Delaware cannot be responsible for lost or damaged items.

The Siegel JCC campus is a pet free campus. Please refrain from bringing your pet with you to our carline.

### Camp Shirts

Each camper will receive one camp T-shirt. This T-shirt can be picked up at our Baruch Haba (Welcome) event on 6/18/26 at 4:15pm to 5:30pm or on their first day of camp. Please label the shirt on the inside. We ask our campers to wear their Camp JCC shirt on field trip days & Fridays.

## Safety and Security

### Accidents and Injuries

The Siegel JCC and Camp JCC Delaware have policies and procedures for our programs and facilities to ensure a safe and comfortable environment for all individuals. However, at times, accidents happen. In the event of a minor injury, staff who are certified in first aid procedures will administer first aid. The staff member supervising the camper at the time of the accident will complete the appropriate report and Camp JCC staff will notify the parents according to the forementioned injury/illness procedure.

In an emergency, staff trained in first aid and CPR will care for the camper as needed. 9-1-1 (if applicable) and parents/caregivers will be immediately notified via a phone call. In case the parents, legal guardians, and the emergency contact individuals cannot be reached, a staff member will accompany the camper to the hospital. The Siegel JCC does not provide health insurance and requires the camper's current insurance information be in the camper's health profile in case of an emergency.

### Child Abuse and Neglect Mandatory Reporting

The Siegel JCC and Camp JCC Delaware must report all suspected child abuse or neglect cases to the State of Delaware Division of Child Protection Services. In addition, our camp staff have been trained in Child Abuse and Neglect Recognition and Prevention before the start of employment.

### Child Protection Information for Parents/Caregivers

We are grateful that you place your trust in the Siegel JCC and Camp JCC to provide a safe environment for your campers to thrive. Our values of kindness, respect, honesty, and community guide each decision we make. Because of this, we place utmost importance on creating the most child-safe environment possible. We believe when parents are well informed about safety protocols, it greatly assists our constant vigilance of all who have potential access to children. The following are established zero-tolerance policies communicated with staff and parents/caregivers. Parents/caregivers are encouraged to report any deviation in these policies immediately.

- A camper should never be alone with a staff member (they may be separated, if in full view of others).

- Campers should not be contacted by Siegel JCC or Camp JCC staff except for issues relating directly to current, active JCC or Camp JCC activities. (No letters, email, calls, texts, social media contact, visits, non-Camp JCC trips, etc. should take place.)
- Campers should never receive gifts of any kind from an individual Camp or Siegel JCC staff member.
- Campers should always be transported in JCC or Camp JCC-identified vehicles (or appropriately identified vendor-operated vehicles), never in a staff member's personal vehicle, and never alone.
- Campers in a Camp JCC program must be signed out of the program each day and will only be released to preauthorized individuals. Those individuals must be at least 16 years old with photo identification.
- Parents/caregivers that become aware of hazing, bullying, or similar behavior should report the incident to Camp JCC. Such behavior is often the precursor of peer-to-peer abuse and must be addressed.
- Campers should be encouraged to discuss their experiences with their parents/caregivers and identify any behavior or activity that made them feel uncomfortable. Parents/caregivers need to be aware that programs/activities like swim lessons require some physical contact between staff and camper to provide the necessary instruction, coaching, and/or spotting. A single touch in a normally appropriate place may not be an inappropriate touch if it occurred while trying to prevent an injury, etc.
- Parents/caregivers should be provided with the names of at least two separate JCC or Camp JCC individuals whom they may contact if they believe there is an issue of any kind to be addressed. Four individuals to consider contacting are Carrie Kee, Becky Stahl, Alex Pitt, and/or Mona Duwell. Contact information can be found at the end of this handbook.
- Delaware law requires ALL ADULTS to report cases of suspected abuse to the authorities.

To help protect our campers and the children in our community, we screen potential employees by using a detailed application, comprehensive interview process, reference checks, and background checks.

Our staff complete child sexual abuse prevention training. All staff members are mandated to report any suspected &/or reported child abuse. If you have any questions or concerns regarding a Siegel JCC or Camp JCC staff member, please contact the Camp Director or the COO.

Parents are encouraged to help prevent child abuse. Here are some suggestions:

- Talk with your camper about their experiences in our programs.
- Speak up if something feels "off" or "strange". Trust your instinct.
- Encourage your child to tell you or another trusted adult if anything happens that makes them feel uncomfortable or hurt.
- Watch for warning signs of abuse:
  - Unexplained bruising or other physical marks
  - Disturbed sleeping &/or eating
  - Abrupt changes in behavior, ex. anxious, aggressive, withdrawn, depressed
  - Fear of a certain place or person
  - Discomfort with physical contact
  - A child who abuses other children

- Listen and watch for signs of your camper receiving special attention that other campers or teens are not receiving, including favors, treats, gifts, increasing affection, rides, or time alone, particularly outside the activities of school, childcare, or other extracurricular activities

## Cell Phone Use Policy

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a safe, engaging, and distraction-free environment for all campers. Our program emphasizes social interaction, physical activity, and hands-on experiences, which can be negatively impacted by cell phone use.

This policy is also informed by current research indicating that excessive screen time may have harmful effects on the developing brain, including impacts on attention, social skills, and overall well-being.

### Policy Statement

Campers are **not permitted to use cell phones during the camp program.**

Cell phones should remain stored in backpacks or personal belongings and kept out of sight throughout the camp day.

### Procedure for Cell Phone Use

If a camper is observed using a cell phone during camp hours:

#### 1. Initial Check-In

- A staff member will approach the camper and ask if everything is okay.
- This ensures the camper is not attempting to contact someone due to an urgent need.

#### 2. Reminder and Redirection

- The camper will be instructed to put the phone away immediately and return to the activity.

#### 3. Phone Confiscation

- If a camper continues to use their phone or does not comply:
  - The staff member will collect the phone.
  - The phone will be securely stored in the camp office.
  - The parent/guardian will be emailed to make them aware that their camper's phone is in the camp office for the remainder of the day.

#### 4. End-of-Day Pickup

- The phone must be picked up by a **parent or guardian** at the end of the day.
- Campers will not be permitted to retrieve confiscated phones on their own.

### Emergency Communication

- Families who need to reach their camper during the day should contact the **camp office directly**. Direct line to the camp office is 302-478-5662. Emails are read quickly by the camp office manager. For time sensitive communication that is not an emergency email [camp@siegeljcc.org](mailto:camp@siegeljcc.org).
- Campers who need to contact a parent/guardian may do so through the camp office.

### Rationale

This policy supports:

- Increased camper engagement in activities
- Stronger peer relationships and teamwork
- Reduced distractions and behavioral issues
- Healthier cognitive and emotional development

## Acknowledgment

All campers and families are expected to understand and comply with this policy as a condition of participation in Camp JCC Delaware.

## Campus Security

### Security Partnership

Camp JCC is proud to partner with JFed Security LLC to provide resources to all the agencies on our campus to increase safety. JFed Security currently supports seven Jewish communities in their security efforts. This group completed a comprehensive risk assessment of our campus and offered recommendations for consideration by our security committee. One of the recommendations was to have an armed security guard, who will be on site at all times during the camp day. The guard will be integrated into the camp experience, actively rove the campus during the day, and act as an emergency responder.

Camp JCC staff take part in Situational Awareness & Response to an Active Threat Training ahead of the camp season provided by JFed Security.

All JCC members & staff are asked to carry their JCC issued membership badge, clearly displaying their picture. Camp JCC staff are trained to notice their surroundings and report anything that looks out of place or suspicious immediately. Camp families are asked to do the same – if you see something that looks “off”, please report it to the Camp Office or the membership associates at any of the JCC welcome desks.

### Drop Off Procedures

Camp JCC carline for the morning runs from 8:00 AM to 8:40 AM. Please try to have your camper arrive on time. The carline takes place in front of the picnic grove, directly off Garden of Eden Rd. Adults dropping off campers utilizing the carline are required to stay in their vehicle. Camp staff will assist your camper with their belongings to exit the vehicle quickly. Please wait for a staff person to approach your vehicle before allowing your camper to exit. Do not allow your camper to exit the vehicle when camp staff are not present. If your camper is struggling with drop off, you may park in a designated parking spot, not interfering with the carline to assist your camper with the transition into the camp program.

The following are guidelines & expectations that we have for families utilizing morning carline:

- Have your camper unbuckled as you are approaching the unloading zone.
- Ensure that their belongings are together and ready to exit the vehicle with them.
- Refrain from smoking or vaping while on JCC property, including in carline.
- Refrain from bringing your pet through carline, JCC property is a pet free campus.

- Minimize conversations with camp staff during carline. Pull into a parking space that does not interfere with carline if a conversation is necessary.
- Refrain from revving your engine &/or peeling out when exiting carline.
- DO NOT pull around any vehicles in front of you unless specifically directed by a camp staff member. This increases the risk of accident or injury exponentially.
- Follow all directions provided by camp staff.

If your camper will be later than 8:50am, please park in a designated parking spot and take them to the camp office. The camp office is in the Albert Einstein Academy building. You will need to ring the bell to enter if a staff member is not present. After you sign your camper into the program, a staff member will take your camper to join their bunk. DO NOT leave your car unattended in any of the fire lanes on campus; these areas are marked with curbs painted yellow.

### Pick Up Procedures

Camp JCC carline runs in the afternoon from 4:15 PM to 4:30 PM **and** from 5:15 PM to 5:30 PM.

Please ensure that you have the correct carline noted in your camper's profile in CampDoc.

Accurate information is imperative to keep the car line running on time and smoothly. Families utilizing the carline may not exit their vehicle when carline is actively happening. If you are walking to pick up your camper, please wait by the lawn sign that says "Camp JCC Walkers" with your pickup tag visible. Please wait on the sidewalk and a camp staff member will greet you and send your camper to you. For the safety of our campers, do not walk to your campers' area to pick them up.

The following are guidelines & expectations that we have for families utilizing afternoon carline:

- Stay in your vehicle while carline is actively happening.
- Have your photo ID &/or your Camp JCC issued pickup tag prominently displayed with your campers' full name(s) printed clearly in the designated area on the pickup tag. Camp staff may still ask for photo ID if the driver of the vehicle is unfamiliar.
- You may be asked to pull into a designated parking space, that does not interfere with the carline, if your camper is delayed coming to the carline area.
- Camp staff will escort your camper to the vehicle and assist as needed with buckling campers. If your camper needs additional assistance buckling up, we ask that you pull into a designated parking space that does not interfere with the carline to assist them.
- Minimize conversations with camp staff during carline. Pull into a parking space that does not interfere with carline if a conversation is necessary.
- DO NOT pull around any vehicles in front of you unless specifically directed by a camp staff member. This increases the risk of accident or injury exponentially.
- Refrain from smoking or vaping while on JCC property, including in carline.
- Refrain from bringing your pet through carline, JCC property is a pet free campus.
- Refrain from revving your engine &/or peeling out when exiting carline.
- Follow all directions provided by camp staff.

Should you need to pick up between 4:30 PM & 5:15 PM, please enter the carline area and we will call for your camper to be brought to your car. Please expect a slight delay as the campers will be engaged in activities with their bunk at this time & not as ready to leave as they are when you arrive during our scheduled carline times.

If you need to make a change to your carline selection for any reason, please contact the camp office. Any campers not picked up by 5:30 PM will be taken to the camp office, and staff will begin

calling parents/caregivers/emergency contacts in that order. There is a late fee associated for any camper who is picked up after 5:30 PM. The payment method used to pay for the camp fees on your account will be charged \$25 for every 10 minutes past 5:30 PM, the first \$25 fee will be charged at 5:31 PM. Late pick-ups are an extreme hardship for our camp staff, please ensure you have made prior arrangements to be on time. If a camper has not been picked up after one hour of camp's closing and contact has not been made, the Camp Director or COO will call the police &/or child protective services so the child can be placed in their care.

If someone who is **not** listed on your camper's authorized pick-up list attempts to pick-up your camper, the following procedure will be used (not necessarily in this order):

- The individual will need to speak with an administrator on campus.
- Call to parents/guardians.
- Call to 9-1-1.

**If the person picking up is a legal parent or guardian, we are required to release the camper unless we have a copy of the court order stating otherwise.**

The safety of our campers is the highest priority at Camp JCC. If our staff believe that the camper would be unsafe going in a vehicle with the person driving because they suspect that the driver is impaired (such as under the influence of drugs or alcohol), Camp JCC may not release the camper. Camp staff will call the other parent/guardian &/or the emergency contacts in the camper's file. If contact cannot be made with another adult, 9-1-1 may be called for assistance and to report the incident.

### Photographs, Video, and Social Media

The Siegel JCC reserves the right to publish photographs and videos of our members and program participants in newspapers, social media, magazines, brochures, and newsletters on our website. The JCC and Camp JCC staff may not take photographs &/or videos for personal use and may not share any of these items except as necessary for work related reasons.

## Miscellaneous Information

### Daily Checklist

Below is a list of items that will help your camper enjoy their time at camp. Those with an asterisk are required, all others are recommended:

- \*Backpack to carry all their items. It is the responsibility of each camper to carry their belongings with them to and from the pool. There are not cubbies/lockers for campers to leave their belongings in during the day. We have found that an age-appropriate backpack is the easiest way for campers to keep track of their belongings.
- \*Bottle of sunscreen in a zip-lock bag (applied liberally before camp), labeled with the camper's first and last name.
- \*Reusable water bottle, labeled with the camper's first and last name.
- \*Towel. Towels should be labeled with the camper's first and last name.
- \*Lunch (no pork or shellfish!). We refrigerate all lunches. Campers do not have access to a microwave. Please ensure the lunch box/container is labeled with the camper's first and last name.
- \*Two (2) swimsuits (Arrive to camp wearing one suit under clothes for Olim, Chaverim, and

- opt-in Giborim campers.) Please label swimsuits with camper's first and last name.
- \*Sneaker style shoes only (NO flipflops, sandals, crocs, pool shoes, water shoes, open-toed shoes, keens with holes, etc.).
  - Goggles, labeled with camper's first and last name.
  - Bug spray (apply before camp).
  - Hat, labeled with camper's first and last name.

### Label, Label, Label...

Please label all items sent to Camp JCC Delaware for easy return should they become separated from your camper. Thank you.

### Lost and Found

Camp staff will make every attempt possible to return clearly labeled items to their owners. We keep lost and found articles on the outdoor pool deck or in the camp office. If your camper has misplaced anything, please check on the pool deck first during operating hours. Then at the camp office between 8:00am and 5:30pm, Monday to Friday. Once every other week, we will bring camp office lost and found to the carline so families can access lost and found more easily. Campers will be carrying all their belongings with them in their backpacks.

### Important Phone Numbers

Camp JCC Delaware Direct Number During Summer Season - (302) 478-5662

Siegel JCC Main Line - (302) 478-5660

Siegel JCC Fax - (302) 478-6068

Siegel JCC Website: [www.siegeljcc.org](http://www.siegeljcc.org)

E-mail: [camp@siegeljcc.org](mailto:camp@siegeljcc.org)

### Off-Site Trips

During the summer of 2026 campers in Giborim and LIT (entering grades 5 to 10) will participate in weekly field trips. Our Olim & Chaverim campers will not travel off campus. However, since our campus borders Brandywine Creek State Park, we will occasionally go off Camp JCC property for hikes on the park's property.

LITs will have minimal scheduled free time & during these times they will be required to stay on campus. They will be permitted to travel to WaWa occasionally during the camp day while accompanied by a camp staff member. When these off-site trips are planned, parents/caregivers will be notified and have an opportunity to keep their LIT on JCC campus instead.

### Weekly Field Trips

Camp JCC asks that campers participating in field trips wear their camp T-shirt on trip days (Thursdays). There is not an option for a camper to stay behind on campus during trip days.

Parents/caregivers are not permitted to chaperone any field trip.

The following guidelines and expectations are to be noted and reviewed with your camper:

- School bus transportation will be provided for weekly field trips (except for the LIT program, they will use 10-passenger vans). Rules and expectations while on camp provided transportation must always be followed. When a camper's behavior during transportation impacts the safety of any individual or any nearby vehicle on the road, suspension from the program may occur. (Specific behavior guidelines during travel are listed under the Transportation section.)

- Giborim campers are required to always stay with a staff member while off campus. LIT teens will be allowed to engage in the field trip activities on their own, while following the check-in procedures given to them by the LIT staff person.
- Lunch will need to be packed in a disposable container for field trip days. Lunches are packed in coolers instead of being refrigerated on trip days.
- Campers are expected to actively listen during the pre-trip instructions and follow all safety protocols provided by camp staff and the staff working at the field trip destination.

## Inclusion at Camp JCC

We have committed, since 2022, to expand our camper and staff community to welcome and proactively support individuals with disabilities. Since then, we have grown, not only by the number of campers that we serve, but also by the number of staff who support individuals with disabilities.

Inclusion at Camp JCC is weaved through our program from supporting campers and staff with disabilities who need accommodations during the summer to acknowledging and respecting camper and staff pronouns. We welcome everyone with enthusiasm, we are inclusive of all faiths and backgrounds and are proud of our diverse community. Our inclusion staff team is made up of individuals with years of experience working with children with disabilities and varying needs. Campers with cognitive, sensory, and/or processing disabilities are welcome. The largest proportion of campers in the inclusion program the last four years have been on the autism spectrum, but we have also supported campers with hearing impairments, ADHD, sensory processing disorder, and others. Our campus is not fully accessible for those with mobility disabilities.

We believe that every child should have the opportunity to experience the joy of summer camp. We believe that each camper can participate, can succeed, and can make friends. We believe that inclusion is good for everyone – kids with and without disabilities, families, staff, and our community!

We do not provide one-on-one staffing. We do provide floating support to campers in our inclusion program. We have found that campers who are most successful at Camp JCC are those who are:

- partially or fully mainstreamed in school who need social and/or sensory support.
- enjoy being in large groups of new peers for most of the day, but who may need some breaks from the group as well.
- enjoy being outdoors.
- do well with multiple transitions each day and some level of unpredictability.

We have found that campers who would not be successful include those who:

- would benefit from a therapeutic camp rather than an inclusion model.
- frequently and consistently need direct support.
- are not able to or do not want to be in large groups most of the day.
- do not enjoy being outdoors.
- cannot follow our Behavior Expectations (stated in a prior section) including those who self-injure, have aggressive behaviors with adults or peers, who run away in an unsafe way, or whose impulse control challenges prevent them from being safe in a community center setting.

Camp JCC registration opens for all community members every January. In tandem, we open our inclusion camper application process. This process includes a professional insight form & a parent/guardian questionnaire asking for detailed information about their camper's strengths and areas of growth. Specific timeline and application forms can be found on our [website](#). If you have any questions or want to learn more, please contact [Beckystahl@siegeljcc.org](mailto:Beckystahl@siegeljcc.org).

## Staff Appreciation

We invite parents to recognize the efforts of camp staff members through cards and thank you notes. The Camp Office will be happy to deliver cards and notes (include first and last name and bunk). Additionally, we do not allow tipping to the staff. Our camp has a Staff Appreciation Fund, which is used by camp administrators to coordinate activities for our whole staff (such as baseball games, pizza nights, staff swims, etc.) as well as recognize counselors exhibiting exceptional camp Ruach (spirit) and leadership. We invite you to [make contributions](#) at any time. If you have questions, please email [camp@siegeljcc.org](mailto:camp@siegeljcc.org).

## Transportation

### Van

All van drivers are employed by Camp JCC. They have completed a driver's orientation and a defensive driving program with the JCC's insurance company. All drivers have been background checked, as well as their motor vehicle records. Camp JCC's policy states that all drivers must not have any moving violations within the past 18 months. Camp JCC's LIT and Teen Trips programs uses the JCC's 10-passenger vans each week for their offsite trips.

### Changes to Your Camper's Transportation

If you need to change your child's transportation arrangements, please call the camp office at (302)478-5662 or send an email to [camp@siegeljcc.org](mailto:camp@siegeljcc.org). Transportation changes can be made until 12:00 noon each day. Except in an emergency, there will be no changes to a camper's pick-up arrangements after 4:00pm. This is for the safety of your child and the security of our camp and campus. For example, if you need to pick your child up for a 4:30pm appointment, you must pick them up before 4:00pm.

### Behavior Expectations While on Van Transportation

1. When the vehicle is on, campers need to remain buckled and, in their seat, always.
2. One seatbelt per person and the seatbelt should be kept tightened.
3. Keep hands to self and inside the vehicle.
4. Children who are 5 years old or parents requested are to sit in a booster seat.
5. Use appropriate language always.
6. Eating is not permitted in the van.
7. Do not throw anything in or out of the van.
8. No yelling. "Indoor" voices are to be always used.
9. Students must remain in the van until the driver allows them to unload.
10. Be respectful to the driver and each other.

### Behavior Expectations While on Bus Transportation

1. When the vehicle is on, campers need to remain in their seat, always. The camper's back needs to remain against the back of the seat and their bottom needs to remain against the bottom of the seat.
2. Up to two campers per seat.
3. Keep hands to self and inside the vehicle.
4. Use appropriate language always.
5. Eating is not permitted on the bus.
6. Do not throw anything on or off the bus.
7. No yelling. "Indoor" voices are to be always used.
8. Campers must remain on the bus until a staff member instructs them to unload.
9. Be respectful to the driver, each other, and camp staff.

## Meals, Snacks and Kashrut

**In keeping with our kosher policy, camper lunches must not contain pork or shellfish.** Campers should come to camp with a lunch labeled with their name and bunk in a disposable or reusable lunch bag. No bulky lunch boxes allowed; lunches packed in containers, which do not easily fit in our lunch storage bins, may be repacked into paper bags. Lunches will be kept refrigerated at camp. All food and snacks provided by Camp JCC are certified kosher.

*Note: If a camper is sent in without a lunch, we will call a parent or guardian so they can bring them one. Camp JCC does not have the ability to provide lunch to a camper.*

## Birthdays

If you would like to celebrate your child's birthday at camp, please notify the camp office in advance. If you send food to be served to other campers please purchase products that are marked as Kosher. Any food brought in for the bunk must be sealed and clearly labeled as Kosher. No home baked goods or un-hechsher products are permitted.

## Kosher Symbol Samples:



## Traditional Camp: Entering Grades 1st – 8th

### The Daily Program

Campers participate in various daily activities, on-site field trips, and special events. Below is a sample of what your child will be doing this summer at Camp JCC Delaware!

### Instructional Swim

Every camper in the Olim and Chaverim camp program receives swim instruction every morning. Giborim campers who opt-in will also receive swim instruction every morning except Thursdays when they will field trip. The exception overall is when the weather prevents us from safely using the outdoor pool, or when campers are off site on a field trip, or when the pool is closed for safety

reasons. Personal safety, swimming skills, and a positive self-concept are the primary goals of the program.

### Creation: Music, Dance, Drama, and Arts & Crafts

Campers develop their creative skills under the supervision of our Creation specialists. Activities are age-appropriate and designed to challenge and engage the campers, while developing the theme of camp.

### Exploration: Nature and Exploration

Campers will spend time exploring the environment. Nature activities range from hiking, learning about plants, animals, insects, and more!

### Action: Sports and Games

Our action program aims to develop physical coordination, teamwork, and a healthy sense of competition. Most of the activities allow for a variety of individual skill levels. Campers are exposed to various games, both traditional sports and nontraditional active programs.

### Judaics

Judaic values are the heart and soul of Camp JCC Delaware. The values of respect, honesty, kindness, and community are held strong, and they are incorporated through all the activities in which campers will participate at Camp JCC Delaware. Judaism is the lens by which we look at how to help our campers become the best people they can be.

### Sample Daily Schedules:

#### Olim (Entering 1st & 2nd Grades)

- Flag Raising
- Bunk Activity
- Sports & Games
- Instructional Swim
- Lunch
- Arts & Culture
- Nature & Exploration
- Free Swim
- Music/Yoga
- Snack & Dismissal

#### Chaverim (Entering 3rd & 4th Grades)

- Flag Raising
- Instructional Swim
- Bunk Activity/Archery
- Sports & Games
- Lunch
- Nature & Exploration
- Music/Rock Wall
- Arts & Culture
- Free Swim
- Snack & Dismissal

#### Giborim (Entering 5th - 8th Grades)

- Flag Raising
- Choice or Opt-In Instructional Swim
- Bunk Activity
- Elective Block 1
- Lunch
- Elective Block 2
- Choice
- Free Swim

## Snack & Dismissal

### The Camp Calendar: Special Days

The calendar includes important information about programs, some of which require your assistance. All these days are listed in the [calendar](#). We ask our Giborim and LIT campers to wear their camp shirts on Thursdays for off-site field trips. We ask all of camp to wear their camp shirts on Fridays for our Shabbat celebration. Reminders will also be sent home via email. Please check your email daily!

### Shabbat & Havdalah

Every week we acknowledge Havdalah with prayers and intention setting. Each Friday all campers in camp will gather as a camp community for our special version of Shabbat right after lunch. We will celebrate Oneg Shabbat with song, prayers, dance, and special awards. The goal is to celebrate the week together, reflect on our week, and use the lens of Judaism to applaud each other.

### Camp's Ruach Awards

Ruach awards are given to a bunk with tremendous Camp JCC Delaware Ruach (spirit)! Not what bunk is the loudest during transitions, but rather we look to see what bunk is: exemplifying cohesion, inclusion, and demonstrating our core values all week. The winning bunk will decorate and carry around the Ruach Award on Friday and the following week.

### Maccabi Games

Maccabi Games are a Camp JCC Delaware staple. When it comes to friendly competition – all other “games” pale by comparison. They begin with great flare and pageantry. The amphitheater is decorated, the teams are assembled, and we have a special kickoff. The Games include a wide range of activities from silly games to sporting events. Pomp and circumstance culminate in the closing ceremonies with banners, songs, and dances presented by each team. Scores are awarded in four categories: Competitive (for sports events and fine arts challenges), Teamwork, Spirit, and Sportsmanship. Winners every year learn it's not just competition, but *how you play* that gets you the most points.

### Swimming

The JCC Aquatics Department supervises our instructional swim program. Our philosophy is to promote self-confidence and encourage safety in the pool. By following the American Red Cross Learn to Swim guidelines and using new and modern swimming techniques, we teach children that learning to swim is fun and easy. Swimming helps to develop coordination because it requires a combination of movements of all parts of the body, enhancing muscle function, balance, and range of motion.

Olim, Chaverim, and Opt-In Giborim campers have morning instructional swim daily (Giborim will skip on Tuesdays for choice activity and Thursdays for field trips). Please send your camper dressed in a bathing suit under their clothes each day. After their first swim, campers will change into their second bathing suit under their clothes. If your camper is unable to swim on a particular day, please email the camp team. Swimming is an integral part of our camp program; please keep this in mind

when enrolling your child for camp. We do not offer alternate programming during Instructional Swim time, each camper is encouraged and expected to participate with their bunk. Free swim is offered every afternoon for every camper. Campers who do not want to swim during free swim will have alternate activities offered on the pool deck.

Weekly progress reports for instructional swim will be recorded digitally so you and your camper will be well informed of what level your child is currently, what they have completed within that level and what they are still working on within that level to advance to the next level of the Instructional Swim program.

## Swim Wrist Bands

Camp JCC uses [waterproof wristbands](#) to indicate to campers and staff what area of the pool they are safe to swim in during free swim. We ask that campers do their best to keep their wrist band on for the week but understand that it is not always possible to do so. A new wristband will be given to any camper who does not have one at the end of their instructional swim period or before their free swim period.

Camp JCC staff or JCC aquatics staff will initiate 2 whistle blows during each free swim period and ask campers to show their wristbands. This is to ensure that campers are in their allowed area of the pool. When a camper is in an area of the pool that they should not be in, they will be reminded of the boundaries and what they need to do to be permitted in a deeper area of the pool.

Below are some frequently asked questions about our wrist band system.

1. What do the wristband colors indicate?
  - a. The colors are correspondent to each camper's swim level and indicate where they are allowed to go in the pool during free swim.
  - b. A red band would be given to a camper in level 1, 2A, or 2B and who is under 48 inches tall. These swimmers are not tall enough to use the slide and are not strong enough to be in the deep end. During free swim, they need to stay in the shallow end and may not use the slide.
  - c. A blue band would be given to a camper in level 1, 2A, or 2B and who is over 48 inches tall. These swimmers are tall enough to use the slide, but not strong enough to be in the deep end. During free swim, they need to stay in the shallow end but may use the slide.
  - d. A green band is given to a camper who is in level 3 or higher. These swimmers are strong swimmers who would be safe in all areas of the pool. During free swim, they can swim in both the shallow and deep end and may use the water slide.
  - e. Giborim campers not in instructional swim will have to take a swim test (one lap of freestyle with rhythmic breathing and 1 minute of treading water). Any camper who does not pass or does not attempt the test will get a blue band. Any camper who passes will get a green band. All Giborim campers in instructional swim will instead be placed by their swim level as written above.
2. How can my camper get the green band?
  - a. In order to get a green band, a camper needs to be in level 3 or higher. Level 3 swimmers need to either pass Level 2B or test into Level 3 on their first day of camp for the summer. These swimmers can swim a length of the pool without stopping and with some form of rotary breathing. They can also tread water and swim in the deep end comfortably.
3. How often can my camper test for a green band or to move up a level?

a. Campers are tested during instructional swim every Friday if their instructors believe they can pass the level they are in. If they demonstrate throughout the week and during the test that they are strong enough to move up to the next level, they will pass their class. Since having a green band is dependent on instructional swim group, we do not specifically test for wristband color, only for passing their level.

b. Giborim campers who have opted out of instructional swim can swim test twice per week immediately prior to their free swim period. They can do this on Monday (or the first day of the week they attend) and on Friday.

4. If my swimmer passes the swim test on the weekend, can they keep that wristband for the slide and deep end during their week at camp?

a. The weekend swim test will earn a different colored band than the camp wristbands. The number of swimmers in the pool is much higher during camp free swim, so we are stricter with swim test rules for camp than when a camper is visiting the pool with their family. Any camper with a weekend wristband will also receive a camp wristband corresponding to their camp level.

## Leader-In-Training (LIT)

Teens entering 9th or 10th grade will benefit from the LIT program and have an increased likelihood of securing employment when they are grade eligible. LITs who successfully complete their 10th grade year can apply to work at Camp JCC the following summer. The LIT program focuses on cultivating traits of leadership, certifying LITs in Red Cross Babysitting and full CPR/First Aid/AED, and building connections within their community through service projects.

The following guidelines and expectations should be reviewed with your LIT:

- LITs are expected to attend each day of the session for which they are registered.
- LITs will act responsibly and respectfully towards themselves, each other, campers, camp staff, and with everyone they encounter while off campus.
- LITs will keep an open mind and approach lessons and activities with curiosity, instead of judgement.
- First year LITs will interact with campers when they are paired with a specialist. Second year LITs will interact with campers when they are paired with an Olim or Chaverim bunk or when they are paired with a specialist. They are expected to engage positively with the specialists and campers.
- LITs should not utilize their phone unless they are at lunch or during their scheduled free time.
- LITs should come prepared to camp with a backpack containing: swimsuit, towel, sunscreen, water bottle, & lunch. They should wear camp appropriate attire including clothing they won't mind getting dirty or damaged, clothing they can move freely about without risk of exposing a private area, and closed toe, closed heel shoes (sneakers are ideal).
- LITs should leave any valuable &/or sentimental items at home. Camp JCC is not responsible for any lost, damaged, or stolen items that an LIT brings to camp.
- LITs are of age to be on the JCC campus without direct adult supervision and during their free time, they will be permitted to go on their own to designated areas of the J's campus. This is a privilege, and any LIT that cannot follow the guidelines will not choose their free time location, it will be assigned.
- LITs will travel off campus one to two times per week to engage in a recreational trip & a volunteer trip with a local organization. The LIT calendar can be found [here](#). At times, Camp

JCC leadership will communicate with parents about an earned privilege of walking to Wawa with their counselor. Parents will need to give permission at these times for their LIT to participate in the Wawa trip(s).

- LITs, with the written permission of a parent/guardian, may sign themselves out from the program at the end of the program day. LITs will not be permitted to sign themselves out from the program when an early dismissal is needed.

### LIT Sample Schedule

Assist with Morning Carline  
Group Meeting & Goal Setting  
Paired with a Specialist (year 1) or Bunk (year 2)  
Service Project/Group Game  
Lunch  
Paired with a Specialist (year 1) or Bunk (year 2)  
Leadership Activity  
Free Time at the Pool  
Snack & Dismissal

## Teen Trips Program

Teens entering 9th or 10th grade can register for our Teen Trips program. Expenses related to entrance fees and transportation are covered by Camp JCC. Teens who choose to bring spending money are solely responsible for their money. Camp staff cannot take responsibility for any teen's money. The following guidelines and expectations should be reviewed with your teen who is participating in a teen trips program:

- Teens will act responsibly and respectfully towards themselves, each other, campers, camp staff, and with everyone they encounter while off campus.
- Teens should come prepared with belongings that are appropriate for the scheduled trip. The calendar for trips can be found [here](#), and an email will be sent the Friday prior with additional details about what is needed.
- Teens should leave valuable &/or sentimental items at home. Camp JCC is not responsible for any lost, damaged, or stolen items that a teen brings to camp.
- Teens, with the written permission of a parent/guardian, may sign themselves out from the program at the end of the program day.

## Camp JCC Delaware Year- Round Team

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