



# Camp Parent Manual Summer 2019

Jewish Community Center of Central NJ  
1391 Martine Avenue  
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076  
(908) 889-8800 x234

Dear Parents,

Summer 2019 is almost here! We are so glad that your child(ren) will be joining us and sharing in an exciting camp experience this summer. Thanks to our committed and fun-loving staff, we know all our campers are in for their best summer! We are confident Camp Yachad will enrich your children's lives and welcome you into our warm community at the JCC.

Here is your 2019 Parent Handbook. It's a useful tool to guide you through our policies, procedures and general operations. We hope you will take a few minutes to review its contents.

If you have any questions about the information in the handbook or any other questions, please don't hesitate to give us a call or send us an email.

Thank you for your partnership and commitment to making Camp Yachad the best camp around!

Remember ... **Yachad ROCKS!**

**R** – *Ruach* means spirit, and we've got tons!

**O** – Opportunity to try new things, make new friends and jump right in.

**C** – Community is at our camp. Make new friends and cherish the old ones.

**K** – Kindness...simply stated – be kind, respectful, inclusive and compassionate.

**S** – Strength...show your strength! Be adaptable, flexible, creative and patient.

Our **ROCK** solid foundation of camping is what makes Camp Yachad stand above the rest. **ROCKS** are the values we embrace each and every day at camp and in our community. Important life skills radiate from these core values – helping to prepare our young campers to live a life that **ROCKS!**

We can't wait for Summer 2019!

In the Spirit of Camp,  
Mallory Zipkin  
Camp Director



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## **ATTENDANCE**

If your child will not be using the bus, please contact the transportation office at 908-889-8800 x222 or [transportation@jccnj.org](mailto:transportation@jccnj.org) by 7:30 a.m. on the day your child will not be on the bus or the evening before. Clearly state your child's name, bus number, camp unit and group.

## **BACKPACKS**

### **Before the Camp Season**

Backpacks will be delivered Sunday, June 2 between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. during practice bus runs. **Bus runs are for campers who will be taking a morning bus.** If you are not home, your child's backpack will be left at your door unless it is raining that day. If it's raining, you can pick up backpacks at Meet the Staff Day on Sunday, June 23.

### **If your child is:**

- **Not using Camp Yachad transportation**
- **Only on an afternoon bus**
- **Enrolled in our 2-year-old programs**

Their backpacks can be picked up from June 2 through June 23 at the camp office (during regular business hours).

### **During the Camp Season**

Each day your child should come to camp with their backpack including the ID tag attached by Camp Yachad.

### **What Do I Pack in My Camper's Backpack?**

Every camper:

- Pool shoes to get from classroom/locker room to the pool
- Plastic bag for wet items
- 2<sup>nd</sup> bathing suit (**only** for campers who have swim twice a day)
- Underwear and change of clothes for after swim
- Sunscreen
- Sweatshirt or light jacket for inclement weather

JPAC campers: jazz and tap shoes daily

- Downstagers: bathing suit daily
- Upstagers: bathing suit once per week

LITs: Weeks 1 and 8: one bathing suit; weeks 2,4,5, and 7: two bathing suits

Campers who are **not** toilet-trained and wear diapers, **MUST** also pack labeled rubber swim diaper covers daily for swim.

**All of these contents should also be packed on day trip days for any travel campers.**

**NEW THIS SUMMER: We are thrilled to be offering a towel service for ALL onsite campers. No need to pack towels for your camper(s) anymore! They'll be provided daily by Camp Yachad!**

## **BIRTHDAYS**

If your child has a summer birthday, we will help your child celebrate at camp! At morning Boker Tov (morning assembly), we will give your child a birthday pin, and then your child will skip around the gym while all of the other children and staff cheer them on! Campers may bring in a kosher birthday treat, but please do not send in any item that contains nuts and/or nut products. Birthday treat suggestions include: fruit and Entenmann's Pop-Ems. **(Dunkin' Donuts and local kosher bakeries are not acceptable as these are not guaranteed nut-free.)**

## **CAMP ATTIRE**

All campers will receive two complimentary t-shirts. The camp logo t-shirt is to be worn Monday through Thursday and the Shabbat shirt is for Friday. Additional t-shirts will be available for purchase at each unit's Parent Orientation and at Meet the Staff Day on **Sunday, June 23** from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Our camp calendar will note any special dress-up days (typically once per week) where our campers and staff are encouraged to dress up according to that day's theme!

### **Requirements**

- For security purposes, **camp t-shirts are mandatory every day** for all campers!
- All onsite campers should come to camp wearing a swimsuit underneath their clothing each day unless otherwise notified by staff.
- All campers must wear sneakers and socks daily.
- Camper(s) should wear their "It's Friday...It's Shabbat when the sun goes down" t-shirt each Friday.
- All items sent to camp must be labeled with permanent marker or personalized labels.

## **CAMP SHABBAT**

Every Friday we come together as a camp to close out the week with a special Shabbat celebration. Campers love hearing (and dancing to) our featured in-house band, 'The Shabbatones' and spending these special few moments together as a camp family! Campers are welcome to bring in loose change to donate as *tzedakah* (charity) as we work together to foster an environment of giving back to our community!

## **CARPOOL PROCEDURES (for campers NOT on bus routes)**

All campers arriving at camp by car must be escorted to their meeting locations. In order to ensure an easy transition, please transfer campers to a staff member without entering the classroom or campsite; this will help the staff maintain order and begin the camp day.

Drop-off times and locations are as follows:

- 2 Year Old 12:30 p.m. and Let's Take a Break campers
  - Between 9:25 and 9:30 a.m.
  - Please pull into the designated bus lanes in front of the parking lot, park your car and walk your child(ren) to the front of the building.
- Chaverim 12:45 p.m., 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. campers
  - Between 8:45 and 9:00 a.m.
  - Please park in the main lot and walk your child(ren) to the front of the building.
- Yeladim through LIT Campers
  - Between 8:45 and 9:00 a.m.
  - Please park in the main parking lot and walk your child to the campsite.

### **Pick-up for 12:30, 12:45 and 2:00 p.m. Chaverim/Yeladim campers**

Campers dismissed at 12:30, 12:45 and 2:00 p.m. will be dismissed in the front of the building in the courtyard. Parents/guardians must park and escort campers to their cars after signing them out.

### **Pick-up for 4:00 p.m. onsite campers**

All afternoon pick-ups are in the **front lobby** beginning at 4:00 p.m. Please note the JCC parking lot is closed to all exiting cars until all buses have pulled out of the lot and re-opens between 4:00 and 4:10 p.m.

### **Tiyulim, Na'arim and Chalutzim campers**

Parents will not be permitted to drop off or pick up campers at trip sites.

## **COMMUNICATION**

### **By Phone**

You can reach the camp office via phone from 7:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. (extension x234) where a member of our team will always be available to take your call. If you need to speak with your camper's unit director directly, they will return your call at their earliest convenience (as they're typically out and about with the campers throughout the day). If your call is urgent, please let the office staff know so your concern can be addressed immediately. Unit Directors will also check in periodically throughout the summer via phone and/or email to discuss your camper's overall experience.

### **E-mail**

Parents who prefer to communicate via e-mail (with non-urgent matters) should use the camp e-mail address: [campyachad@jccnj.org](mailto:campyachad@jccnj.org). If you would like to contact a member of the camp leadership team directly, please use the emails listed below.

### **Administration**

Camp Director (Mallory Zipkin)  
Camp Assistant Director (Barrie Schwarz)

[mzipkin@jccnj.org](mailto:mzipkin@jccnj.org)  
[bschwarz@jccnj.org](mailto:bschwarz@jccnj.org)

Onsite Director of Staff & Camper Care (Pam Romanchuk) [promanchuk@jccnj.org](mailto:promanchuk@jccnj.org)  
Camp Transportation Director (Shira Gladstone) [transportation@jccnj.org](mailto:transportation@jccnj.org)  
Camp Office (Holly Friedman) [campoffice@jccnj.org](mailto:campoffice@jccnj.org)  
Camp Nurse (Kim Rivera) [campnurse@jccnj.org](mailto:campnurse@jccnj.org)  
Camp Aquatics (Kim Koza) [aquatics@jccnj.org](mailto:aquatics@jccnj.org)  
Camp Food Services Director (Courtney Teicher) [cteicher@jccnj.org](mailto:cteicher@jccnj.org)  
Travel Camp Director (Jerry Powers) [travel@jccnj.org](mailto:travel@jccnj.org)

### **Unit Directors**

2s and Let's Take a Break Director (Karen Mayerson) [kmayerson@jccnj.org](mailto:kmayerson@jccnj.org)  
Chaverim Co-Unit Director (Jacqui Gross) [chaverim@jccnj.org](mailto:chaverim@jccnj.org)  
Chaverim Co-Unit Director (Randi Sosny-Handler) [rsosny@jccnj.org](mailto:rsosny@jccnj.org)  
Yeladim Unit Director (Jaime Geller) [yeladim@jccnj.org](mailto:yeladim@jccnj.org)  
Megalim Unit Director (Jessica Rothbard) [megalim@jccnj.org](mailto:megalim@jccnj.org)  
Sabra Unit Director (Mindy Klein) [sabra@jccnj.org](mailto:sabra@jccnj.org)  
Olim Unit Director (Emily Lewis) [olim@jccnj.org](mailto:olim@jccnj.org)  
Tiyulim Unit Director (Janine Reilly) [tiyulim@jccnj.org](mailto:tiyulim@jccnj.org)  
Na'arim Unit Director (Jessica Nagourney) [naarim@jccnj.org](mailto:naarim@jccnj.org)  
Chalutzim Unit Director (Megan Kaplan) [chalutzim@jccnj.org](mailto:chalutzim@jccnj.org)  
LIT Unit Director (Josh Tannenbaum) [lit@jccnj.org](mailto:lit@jccnj.org)  
JPAC Director (Amy Toporek) [atoporek@jccnj.org](mailto:atoporek@jccnj.org)  
Maccabi Sports Director (Erica Dubois) [msc@jccnj.org](mailto:msc@jccnj.org)  
Director of Inclusion Program (Jen Nadel) [jnadel13@gmail.com](mailto:jnadel13@gmail.com)

### **EARLY ARRIVAL AND LATE STAY**

Both Early Arrival and Late Stay are available by **advance registration only and are an additional cost.**

#### **Early Arrival**

All campers registered for Early Arrival may arrive at the JCC as early as 7:00 a.m. and should be dropped off at the Chaverim entrance at the front of the building. They will be provided with breakfast.

#### **Late Stay**

Late Stay runs until 6:00 p.m. for families who need to extend their camper's day. For an additional surcharge, campers will be able to stay at the JCC until 6:30 p.m.

### **FAMILY VISITATION AND TOURS**

We are thrilled to offer two Open Camp Nights to see Camp Yachad in action. During these nights, all families will have the opportunity to visit different specialty areas, and have a nice relaxed time seeing all camp has to offer!

Open Camp Night #1: Tuesday, July 9 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m, for Megalim through Travel

Open Camp Night #2: Tuesday, July 16 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. for Chaverim and Yeladim

## **Camp Yachad Visitation Policy**

- Camp visits must be scheduled through the Camp Office at least one day in advance.
- For security purposes, visitors must first report to the Member Services Desk where they will receive a camp staff escort.
- Visitors will only be allowed on camp property, including the main building and pool areas, when accompanied by a camp staff member.
- Tours of camp are available by appointment only. Please contact the Camp Office at 908-889-8800 x234 to schedule a tour.

## **FOOD**

### **We are Peanut/Tree Nut Aware**

In deference to our children with peanut/tree nut allergies, we request that no children bring peanuts or peanut butter in any form to camp. Soy nut butter is a suggested alternative. Although we cannot promise that our camp is totally nut-free in the purest sense, we do require vigilance and make it our responsibility to educate. Cross-contamination occurs when a safe food comes in contact with a food allergen such as peanuts. For those children with severe food allergies, eating even the slightest trace of an allergic food can cause life-threatening or fatal reactions. Although not everyone with a food allergy is this sensitive, it is important to be very careful and follow precautions.

### **Lunch included for Chaverim, Yeladim, Megalim, Sabra, Olim (onsite days only), Tiyulim (onsite days only), Na'arim (Fridays only), MSC and JPAC**

Each day, Camp Yachad offers a robust lunch menu which is included in your camp tuition. While Camp Yachad is a kosher dairy camp, there will be days that kosher meat will be a lunch option. Each day a main meal will be offered with two sides and water. If a camper does not like the main food option, a bagel or salad bar option will be available. A menu will be online at [www.jccnj.org/campyachad](http://www.jccnj.org/campyachad) in QuickLinks prior to the start of camp.

### **Lunch**

- **Lunches from home must be dairy or pareve.** Suggestions for a kosher (non-meat) lunch include cream cheese and jelly, tuna fish, egg salad, yogurt, cheese, fruit, cold drinks and snacks. (On the days the camp menu offers a meat option, campers who bring their own lunch are still required to bring a dairy or pareve lunch.)
- Travel campers may pack a kosher-style lunch (no meat and dairy combined). Suggestions include a turkey sandwich, roast beef sandwich or chicken salad.
- All lunches brought from home must be clearly marked with the camper's full name and group.
- A morning and afternoon snack will be provided for all day campers; an afternoon snack will be provided for travel campers.

**Our policy remains that there is no sharing of lunches or snacks due to allergies and the Kashrut policy at the JCC.**

## **HEALTH AND WELLNESS**



Parents are asked to cooperate with the camp program by paying careful attention to their child's health and by keeping them at home when there is any indication of a cold, congestion, sneezing, coughing, fever, upset stomach, overtiredness, rash, concussion and/or lice.

### **Fever Policy**

A child is not to return to camp until they are fever-free for a **full 24 hours or a full camp day** without any fever-reducing medication such as Tylenol or Advil. Fever is defined as 100.5 or higher.

### **Doctor/Health Care Provider Notes**

If a child has been diagnosed with a communicable disease (e.g., conjunctivitis or pink eye, impetigo, coxsackie, strep throat, chicken pox, lice), please notify the camp medical team immediately. A note signed by the child's healthcare provider allowing the child to return to camp must be sent to the camp office before the child will be re-admitted to camp. If your camper has been exposed to any communicable disease at camp, you will be informed via email.

A note signed by the child's healthcare provider is also required for any skin abnormality and/or rash. The note must include the diagnosis (e.g., eczema, poison ivy, impetigo, coxsackie, molluscum, ringworm, scabies, type of bug bite, etc.), **plan of care** (e.g., medicines, cream, ointments used in camp and/or at home) and **whether or not the condition is contagious**. If contagious, we will also need to know when the condition is no longer contagious. (This is required by the Aquatics staff.)

### **Contagious Skin Conditions**

Conditions such as *impetigo*, *coxsackie*, and *molluscum* are highly contagious and easily passed in a camp environment through contact, clothing, towels and pool equipment (e.g., "noodles"). Please check your child(ren) regularly for any signs of rashes or unusual bumps on the skin. If you detect any signs of skin abnormalities, please contact your healthcare provider immediately.

### **Lice**

**In general, camp recommends that you check your child(ren) frequently for lice (a.k.a. pediculosis).** Please report any cases occurring two weeks or less prior to the start of camp to the Camp Nurse. If at any point during the summer you find or suspect any evidence of lice or itching on the head/scalp/neck, please call the Camp Nurse immediately. It is important to contact your healthcare provider for proper treatment. Camp policy requires that a child be kept home 24 hours and have no nits upon returning to camp. Follow-up treatment **must be** administered 7 - 10 days later.

### **Emergencies**

In case of an emergency, parents and emergency contacts are always notified first. If it is not possible to reach a parent/emergency contact, the child will be taken by ambulance, with a staff member, to the nearest hospital for emergency treatment. Continued attempts will be made to reach a parent/emergency contact.

### **Allergies**

Parents should make sure that they have reported all allergies (medicine, food,

environmental, insect bites/stings) to the camp office through the online medical history. If any new allergies or medical conditions arise, it is the responsibility of the parent to inform the camp health staff (and Unit Director) of any changes in the camper's medical profile. Specific questions regarding our lunch program choices and ingredients offered to campers with allergies can be addressed to our Food Services Director.

### **Sunburn/Injury Prevention**

Please apply sunscreen every day before your camper comes to camp. Camp Yachad staff helps children reapply sunscreen throughout the day as needed.

Faculty and staff are responsible for daily safety inspections of their classrooms and equipment. Defective or damaged equipment will be removed and/or replaced as necessary. The playground will be carefully checked prior to use each day.

A particular concern regarding children's safety is the risk of strangulation associated with children's clothing and accessories that may become entangled with the equipment during play. Please refrain from dressing your children in any clothing or accessory that is tied around the neck or waist.

### **Other Health Notes**

Due to the volume of children and staff seen each day, notes from the camp health staff will not be sent home for minor issues (e.g., scrapes, suntan lotion in the eyes, minor stomachache that resolves quickly, minor nosebleed that stops quickly, etc.).

If any child shows signs of ill health during the day, they will be seen by our camp health staff. Arrangements will then be made by the parent or emergency contact for the child's prompt return home.

If a child has been sent home or has been absent two or more days, the parents should call the camp health staff to explain the nature of the child's illness and/or other reasons for absence.

## **HEALTH FORMS AND INSURANCE**

Each camper is required by New Jersey state law to submit a medical history completed by a parent or guardian through the parent dashboard.

### **Group Accident Insurance**

JCC Members are covered by a group accidental medical program. This coverage is to be used as secondary insurance to a member's primary health coverage.

## **MEDICATION**

Only those campers (and staff members that are minors) that have the Camper Healthcare Form completed and signed by their parent will be able to receive the

medication(s) needed (such as Tylenol for fever/pain, asthma medication, emergency allergy medication, etc.). Medication orders and signatures are required for administration of prescription medication during the camp day and/or trips. This includes regularly scheduled medications, as well as any other treatments that must be given during the camp day and/or trips.

Camp policy states all onsite medication is administered by the Camp Nurse (RN). This includes prescription **and** over-the-counter medications. Please notify the Camp Nurse of any special medication needs and be sure you and your licensed healthcare provider have signed the Healthcare Form which lists medication, dosage and medication times.

Medications must be brought to camp on **Sunday, June 23** in their original containers with the prescription label on the front. Medications will be administered by the Camp Nurse and will be stored in a locked closet in the health office. Medication administration will usually take place during morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack periods. This is to prevent children from having to go to the health office in the middle of an activity.

For travel campers, any necessary medication will be administered by the Unit Director if all appropriate documentation has been received and reviewed by the Camp Nurse. Please **DO NOT** send any new medication order forms/medications for trips via bus mail the morning of any trip as they may not be received by the Nurse/Unit Director prior to leaving for the trip(s).

### **PARENT ORIENTATION AND MEET THE STAFF**

During these 45-minute to hour-long sessions, Unit Directors will discuss camp programs and procedures with parents. General questions will be addressed. Following each session, camp staff will be available to answer individual parent questions. All parent orientations will be held at the JCC.

- **Chaverim Orientation** (for parents only) is on Wednesday June 12. 2s parents' meeting is from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.; 3s and 4s parents meeting is from 8:15 – 9 p.m. Meet the Staff is on Sunday, June 23; specific group times will be on a flyer in your child's backpack which will be delivered on Sunday, June 2.
- **Yeladim, Megalim, Sabra, Olim, Tiyulim, Na'arim, Chalutzim, LIT, JPAC and MSC** Parent Orientation and Meet the Staff Day will both be on Sunday, June 23. See At-a-Glance Important Dates on page 19 for specific times.

### **PERSONAL PROPERTY AND BEHAVIOR**

Campers are responsible for their own personal property. Camp Yachad will not be held responsible for any lost or stolen items. All campers are responsible for respecting the property of others. All valuables should be clearly labeled with the owner's name on it. Smoking is not permitted at any time. If any camper is observed to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or if it becomes known to a staff member that a camper has been drinking alcohol or doing drugs, they will be dismissed from the

program and a guardian must pick up the camper immediately. If traveling, the camper will be sent home from the trip at the family's expense. There will be no refunds issued. Lastly, weapons are not allowed in camp, on overnights or on any off-site trips and may be cause for immediate dismissal.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA/INTERNET USAGE**

### **Camp Yachad Staff**

The concern for safety extends outside of the security of camp itself. Websites such as Facebook and YouTube offer campers and staff the ability to create personal web pages and videos, but also expose their personal information to whomever may be using the Internet.

In the past, we have always provided our camp staff with helpful guidelines for appropriate contact with campers during the off-season. With the extensive use of alternative means of communication (e-mail, instant messaging and personal web pages), we have re-assessed our guidelines and have extended them to include personal web pages.

Our staff is not permitted to communicate with campers via their personal web pages, e-mails, instant messaging or any social media platforms or apps (Facebook, Instagram, SnapChat, YouTube, etc.). This includes posting comments about and/or pictures of campers. In addition, we inform our camp staff that posting pictures of campers on their own personal web pages or on websites where photos can be "dumped" (such as Instagram, SnapChat and Flickr) is prohibited also. As you may know, when we post photos on our camp website, it is password protected, and we do not use names of campers.

**The camp administrators will be reviewing these websites on a regular basis in order to ensure that our policy is being followed.**

In order to learn more web safety tips for your children, you can find a wealth of information by searching internet safety for children.

Any staff communication with camp families (parents) must be disclosed to the Camp Director and the staff member must be granted permission. The same applies to any planned contact with campers or their families for professional services outside the scope of camp (such as babysitting). That must be approved by a Camp Director before contact is made.

### **Parents**

Parents may take photos during evening visitations. These photos (which will likely include other children) may be posted on the Camp Yachad Facebook page, without tagging children, as not all campers have a photo waiver.

## **SAFETY AND SECURITY**

The Camp Yachad staff has been trained in many areas, including supervision, emergency evacuation, emergency procedures and emergency response. It is imperative that our camp families understand and are familiar with the lines of communication to and from camp in the event of a disaster.

Additionally, there are two dedicated professional security personnel onsite (at the JCC) during the camp day.

### **Emergency Communication**

Camp Yachad is set up to broadcast emergency and non-emergency information to all camp families via text message through our camp software. Camp families will be asked to opt in through their parent dashboard to receive messages on their cell phone via text by clicking "My Account." In the event camp needs to communicate quickly with all families, a text message will be sent.

In addition, messages will be posted on the JCC website [www.jccnj.org](http://www.jccnj.org). In case of emergency, **please do not call the Camp Office**. All phone lines need to be kept free (if in service) for township and other emergency management communications.

### **Emergency Evacuation**

If a situation calls for evacuation from our campsite, the JCC campers will be taken across the street to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood YMCA. In the event of an emergency, this information will be broadcast to the camp population via text message and posted on our camp website and Facebook.

### **Emergency Pick-up**

If camp buses will not be in service and campers must be picked up at camp, the staff will not release a camper to anyone other than parents or the individuals listed on the emergency contact portion of the camp health form.

### **Parent Delays**

If an area emergency prohibits parents from commuting home on time by the end of the camp day, all JCC campers will be taken to the JCC building in Scotch Plains. Camp is prepared (with three nonperishable meals/person and bottled water) to keep all campers comfortable. All staff will remain to supervise campers with activities and care after camp hours.

### **Security at Camp**

At the JCC, several security measures will be in effect each and every day as follows:

- All JCC members must swipe their JCC member key card upon entering the building.
- Any visitors to the JCC must sign in at the Member Services Desk and show photo ID upon entering the JCC building before receiving a visitor's pass; they must visit an area in camp by being escorted by a camp staff member.
- At the JCC, all exterior doors are locked with the exception of the main entrance.

Only camp staff that have entry swipes may gain access to the JCC building via exterior doors (other than the main entrance) from the campsite, playground and outdoor pool.

- At the JCC, two professional security guards will be in place during the camp day.
- Staff shirts and nametags will identify all staff members each day.

### **Supervision and Safety of Campers**

Camp Yachad establishes clear protocols for camper supervision, taught to camp staff during pre-camp orientations and reinforced throughout the summer. These include bus safety, abuse prevention, Internet safety and pool safety. Camp Yachad staff supervision ratios range from 5:1 camper-to-staff ratio in day camp to 7:1 camper-to-staff ratio in travel camp. These ratios are more robust than NJ state regulations. Staff members are required to do frequent head counts and are trained to strategically place themselves around our campers during transitional times and busy activities.

The JCC works closely with our insurance carrier, The Redwoods Group, to ensure that our policies and procedures are in line with industry best practices. Redwoods also provides online safety training courses which are required of all camp staff prior to the beginning of camp. The JCC conducts criminal background checks for all camp staff age 18 and older.

### **SIGNING IN AND OUT OF CAMP (Drop-Off/Pick-Up)**

Any camper arriving late or being dismissed early must be signed in or signed out at the Camp Office window. Parents are not permitted to bring their child directly to the group or pick them up from their group. Travel parents are not permitted to bring their child directly to a trip or to pick them up from a trip.

**If you will be picking up your camper early, please be prepared to show ID or give your attendance PIN, located on your camper's profile, to the office staff for security purposes.**

### **SWIM AND SWIM TESTING**

Camp Yachad utilizes the Red Cross Learn-to-Swim program. Campers will get their swim progress reports through a website called Swim Gen at the end of weeks 2, 4, 6 and 8. Communication will be sent through email explaining how to log in to view your camper's report.

Camp Yachad campers that are 5+ years old are **encouraged** to come in for level testing before the first day of camp. This allows our swim instructors to start lessons on the first day. **(Chaverim campers or those currently enrolled in swim lessons at the JCC, do not need to be swim tested.)** Campers who don't get tested prior to camp will be tested during their first swim period and then placed in an appropriate class. By testing your camper early, you can make sure they will start off in the right swim group. To schedule your swim test, please contact the Aquatics Office at 908-889-8800 x259 or

[kkoza@jccnj.org](mailto:kkoza@jccnj.org).

## **TIPPING STAFF**

Due to the fact that the JCC is a non-profit social service agency, Camp Yachad does not maintain a tipping policy. However, we have received many inquiries and realize that many parents want to tip their child's counselors. Tipping is not mandatory and is solely at the discretion of the camp parents.

### **Tipping Guidelines (based on full summer five-day program)**

Senior Counselors	\$40 - \$50
Adult Assistants (Chaverim Only)	\$35 - \$45
Junior Counselors/Assistant Counselors	\$30 - \$40
CITs	\$20 - \$25
Bus Counselors	\$10 - \$20
Extended Day Staff	\$10 - \$20
Travel Camp Staff Senior Counselors	\$10 - \$20
Travel Camp Unit/Assistant Unit Directors	\$20 - \$40
Shadow Counselors	Parents Discretion

All tips should be handed in on the **Tuesday of the camper's last week in camp.**

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### **Bus Spirit**

Camp Yachad offers door-to-door bus transportation for campers entering a 3-year-old program or older. At Camp Yachad, the camp day begins and ends on the bus where bus counselors follow a weekly curriculum to keep campers engaged throughout the ride. At the end of the week, campers in Yeladim through LIT compete for the "Golden Cup" award. Throughout the summer, this prestigious honor is handed out to different buses who display the most spirit (*ruach*), best decorations, songs and so much more.

### **About Durham School Services Bus Company**

All Durham vehicles are equipped with seatbelts and radios. Car seats are not permitted on the camp vehicles. Durham School Services Bus Company has an outstanding safety record, and all drivers have passed a criminal background check and drug and alcohol test.

### **Before the Camp Season**

Practice bus runs are **Sunday, June 2** between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Please plan on being home to meet your bus staff. However it is not necessary to let us know if you will not be home at that time as all buses will need to stop at each home to identify camper addresses. Buses and vans are supervised by Bus Counselors who are trained prior to camp.

### **During the Camp Season**

It will take the first day or two of camp before buses run on a consistent schedule. Please allow this grace period, be patient with the adjustments and have your campers ready on time for the bus.

It is the responsibility of a parent/guardian to make sure that an adult is present to supervise campers in the morning for pick-up and at the end of the day for drop-off. Please have campers ready and waiting for the bus to arrive in the morning so that the route can proceed on schedule. Buses cannot wait an excessive amount of time for campers to board.

If there is not an adult present at the end of the day to receive a camper, the camper will be returned to the JCC and brought to the Late Stay program where a parent/guardian will have to pick the child up.

Please notify the transportation office if an unfamiliar adult will be present to receive your child on a given day. All communication must be handled through the Transportation Director at the JCC and/or directly through the Bus Counselor via bus mail only. Do not leave notes posted to the door of your home.

We do not allow campers to ride home on different vehicles for play dates.

If your camper will not be on the bus at dismissal, please send a note to the Camp Office via bus mail and make arrangements for an early pick-up.

### **UNIT SPECIFIC INFORMATION**

#### **MEGALIM**

##### **Offsite Activity**

Megalim campers will leave the JCC to participate in our gymnastics program at Surgent's Elite on South Avenue in Westfield.

#### **MACCABI SPORTS CAMP**

In addition to camp t-shirts, campers are given one reversible jersey. Campers will need to wear sneakers to camp, as well as a camp shirt or their reversible jersey. Campers will need the following during the camp week: cleats, shin guards, baseball cap and glove, two swimsuits and two towels.

#### **SABRA**

##### **Offsite Activity**

Sabra campers will leave the JCC to participate in our gymnastics program at Surgent's Elite on South Avenue in Westfield.

#### **Optional Overnight**

Session one Sabra 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will have the option to go on a 24-hour overnight to the NJY Camps in Milford, PA Wednesday and Thursday, July 10 - 11. The NJY Camps is a



Jewish resident camp offering a variety of camp activities. Campers will get a firsthand experience of what sleep-away camp has to offer. More information will be sent home during the camp season.

## **OLIM**

### **Offsite Activity**

Olim campers will leave the JCC to participate in our gymnastics program at Surgent's Elite on South Avenue in Westfield.

### **Social Behavior Contract**

Our Social Behavior Contract outlines the conduct we expect from all of our travel campers. Cooperative team behavior is required from everyone on a trip. You can find the contract, which must be signed in order for campers to travel with Camp Yachad, in your parent dashboard.

### **Camp Overnights**

Olim campers will have one overnight experience per session.

- One overnight will be at the JCC. If a camper is not willing to stay at the JCC overnight they will be able to participate in the earlier part of the evening and depart at 9:00 p.m.
- The other overnight will be at the NJY Camps in Milford, PA. The NJY Camps is a Jewish resident camp offering a variety of camp activities. Campers will get a firsthand experience of what sleep-away camp has to offer.

More information on both overnights will be sent home during the camp season.

## **JPAC**

JPAC will need a combination of clothing during the day. Campers when onsite need to be in either a tie dye camp shirt, or their black JPAC shirt. When arriving to the dance studio campers may change into comfortable dance wear (tank top, leggings or shorts) and sneakers. In their backpack, they will need to have a bathing suit as well as their required dance shoes (tap and jazz).

## **TIYULIM, NA'ARIM, CHALUTZIM AND LIT**

### **Trip Information**

All detailed information for trips will be emailed on the Sunday before each week. This information will give specific details for each trip. For all overnights, a packing list and itinerary will be accessible through your parent dashboard on the forms page.

### **Social Behavior Contract**

Our Social Behavior Contract outlines the conduct we expect from all of our travel campers. Cooperative team behavior is required from everyone on a trip. You can find the contract, which must be signed in order for campers to travel with Camp Yachad, in your parent dashboard.

## **AT-A-GLANCE IMPORTANT DATES**

Bus Practice Runs	Sunday, June 2 • 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (NOTE NEW MORNING TIME THIS SUMMER!)
Chaverim Parent Orientation Let's Take a Break/2s 3s/4s	Wednesday, June 12 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. 8:15 – 9:00 p.m.
Warm-Up Camp	Monday, June 17 – Friday, June 21
Chaverim Meet the Staff	Sunday, June 23 (SPECIFIC GROUP TIMES WILL BE ON A FLYER IN YOUR CHILD'S BACKPACK WHICH WILL BE DELIVERED ON SUNDAY, JUNE 2)
Parent Orientation/Meet the Staff	Sunday, June 23
JPAC	9:30 – 10:15 a.m.
Na'arim	10:30 – 11:15 a.m.
Chalutzim	10:30 – 11:15 a.m.
Yeladim	11:45 a.m. – 12:30 a.m.
MSC	11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Megalim	12:45 – 1:30 p.m.
Sabra	1:45 – 2:30 p.m.
Olim	2:45 – 3:30 p.m.
Tiyulim	2:45 – 3:30 p.m.
Medications Due at Camp	Sunday, June 23, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
First Day of Camp	Monday, June 24
Camp Closed – Happy 4 <sup>th</sup> of July!	Thursday, July 4
Last Day of Camp	Friday, August 16
Cool-Down Camp	Monday, August 19 – Friday, August 23