

ROCKS RUNDOWN

Summer 2025, June Edition

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



I can't help but laugh when people ask me: "As a camp director, what do you do the other 10 months?" (Spoiler alert) My answer is always the same: "On the first day of camp, you'll see exactly what I do the other 10 months!"

What lies ahead for us all in the next two months is the result of an entire year's worth of passion, planning, and preparation. Long before the first camper steps off the bus, we've been hard at work—reviewing every detail, planning every trip, testing every activity, and imagining the moments that will become lifelong memories. Behind the laughter and joy is a team that has poured their hearts into creating something truly special, where every minute of every day matters. From safety protocols to staff hiring, from group assignments to leadership training, every decision is made with care and intention. Because we know that Camp Yachad is more than just a summer adventure—it's a life-shaping experience. And for me, there's no greater privilege than building the foundation for those two extraordinary months, where the magic of camp comes to life. June is here, and that means one thing: It's finally camp time!

850 campers, 350 staff, 34 magical summer days... Let's go Camp Yachad!



Shira



LEADERSHIP IN ACTION!

At the end of May, our leadership team came together for a special night of bonding, preparing, and learning at our annual Pre-Camp Summit! This year, we were thrilled to welcome Jay Frankel, a renowned camp expert & leadership consultant. We loved having Jay lend his expertise to our team; from strategies in supervision to purposeful communication and everything in between. It was awesome having a legend in the camp world right here at our JCC!

PRE-CAMP CHECKLIST!

We're just around the corner from the start of camp. **NOW is the time to:**

- Read the [Camp Playbook](#)
- Complete your camper(s) [Medical Forms](#)
- Sign your camper(s) [ROCKS Agreement](#)

IMPORTANT DATES!

DON'T FORGET these upcoming dates as Summer 2025 approaches!

- **6/8** 9am-12pm: Bus Run Day
- **6/16-6/20**: Medicine Drop-Off
- **6/16** 8:30-9pm: Shadow Info Session
- **6/17** 4-6pm: Tie Dye Event
- **6/18** Parent Info Sessions
 - 6pm: Chaverim 2s
 - 7pm: Chaverim 3s & 4s
 - 8pm: Yeladim & Older
- **6/24-6/27**: Extra Items Drop-Off (For Chaverim Campers Only)
- **6/30**: First Day of Camp!



TEXT OPT-IN

At camp, we utilize a texting service to communicate basic one-way messages regarding daily transportation, trip updates, weather information and more. Check your email for info on how to OPT-IN and stay in the know!



A PLACE TO SHARE!

This summer marks an incredible milestone as we celebrate Cathy Pizzella's 25th summer at Camp Yachad! Starting as a junior counselor and now as our Associate Director; Cathy has been a cornerstone of camp life—bringing energy, heart, and a whole lot of camp spirit to our JCC! Her dedication, warmth, and endless stories have shaped the experiences of generations of campers and staff—and we are so lucky to have her on our team!

CATHY ROCKS!



SEE YOU NEXT MONTH!

- **Backpacks** are being stuffed and getting ready to go!
 - Campers **riding a morning bus to camp** will get them on Sunday, June 8 during bus runs.
 - All other campers can pick theirs up in the JCC lobby beginning June 9!
- **Unit Directors** are going to reach out (via email) after June 9th to welcome you & your camper(s) to Summer 2025 and answer any questions you have!
- **Senior Counselor** will be calling you in the two weeks leading up to camp to introduce themselves and begin getting to know all about their campers!



CONTACT US!

We love hearing from our camp community!

Shira Gladstone, Camp Director: sgladstone@jccnj.org

Cathy Pizzella, Associate Camp Director: campyachad@jccnj.org

Camp Office: campoffice@jccnj.org

Camp Transportation: transportation@jccnj.org

Camp Nurse: campnurse@jccnj.org