

# **Camp Yachad**

## **Playbook**

### **Summer 2025**

**Monday, June 30 – Friday, August 15**

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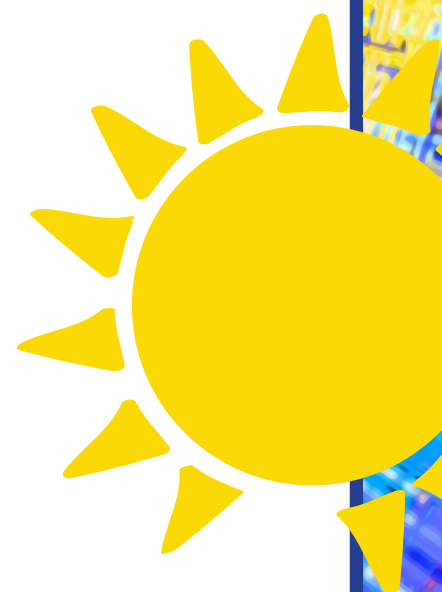
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# Welcome to Camp Yachad

## Philosophy



At Camp Yachad, we are a community rooted in strong values – and our ROCKS values are a part of everything we do!

### Yachad ROCKS!

- R** - Ruach means “spirit,” and we’ve got tons!
- O** - Opportunity to try new things 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.



We use these values to help our campers and staff become their best self – emulating what it means to be a kind, strong, caring member of our community. We embrace our ROCKS values each and every day at camp creating and fostering a warm and nurturing environment.

Along with Camp Yachad, the JCC of Central New Jersey is committed to the inclusion of people of diverse abilities, backgrounds, denominations, gender identity and religious affiliations into all of our programs. We are committed to making our Wilf Jewish Community Campus a barrier-free environment and our programs equally inclusive. We believe inclusion is an attitude, not an activity. Inclusion is belonging!





## Camp Yachad Traditions

We are proud to take a holistic view of the summer experience and plan each summer intentionally around making the Camp Yachad experience the best it can be. Our traditions are no exception and are a big part of what makes Camp Yachad so special. Not only do they help reinforce our ROCKS values, but they lend warmth, fun, consistency and familiarity to every camp season. Here are just a few examples of some of the traditions that make Camp Yachad the incredible place it is:

### Kehillah Round-Up

All groups start their day before Boker Tov with a morning meeting called Kehillah (community) Round-Up. This is a great way for the members of each group to build community and strong relationships with each other and their counselors. During this time campers gear up for the camp day in a more intimate setting with just their group and counselors.

This **daily "grounding"** sets each group up for great days at camp together! Ensuring that campers are comfortable in their group each and every day is so important to us! Curriculum for Kehillah is developed by our Camper Care Team and has a focus on Social Emotional Learning (SEL).

### Boker Tov

Boker Tov is our morning welcome where our larger camp community gathers – right after Kehillah – to start the day as a community with **ruach (spirit)** and fun. We go through our ROCKS values, the weather, birthdays and crazy camper and counselor contests. We have a giant dance party; it's loud; it's fun, and it's crazy! Boker tov is one of the highlights for many campers and staff members and is a great way to start the camp

### Shabbat

Get out your 'It's Friday ... It's Shabbat' t-shirt and get ready for the most musical way to end the week! Every Friday, at the end of the day, we wrap up with our Rockin' Shabbat – a festive, lively way for all campers to close out the week. Featuring our house band, The Shabbatoners, we come together and literally rock the house in a way that only Camp Yachad can!

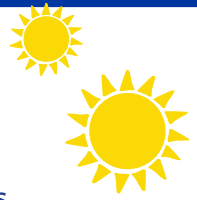
We are also proud to collect tzedakah (charity) each week at Shabbat to help raise money for camp families in need. After all, we believe that it ROCKS to give back! If you would like your camper to participate in our weekly tzedakah collection, please send them in with change each Friday. You can also text to donate each week if you choose – text WHYIJ to 707070.

And that's not all! In just a couple weeks time don't forget to ask your campers about **Dunk the Whale, Friday Pie-Day, Camp Dance**, and all the other awesome traditions that make Camp Yachad our summer home!





# Daily Programming



Every day, campers will participate in age-appropriate activities which are designed and planned to “grow” with the camper as they move up through our different age units.

We also have a team of skilled specialty staff who bring their expertise and passion to our campers for a more enriching camper experience.

We are proud to offer nearly 30 unique daily camp activities that fit into one of the following four categories: Adventure, Aquatics, Arts and Athletics.

Every activity is camper driven and intentionally designed. For example:

- Our **Adventure Ropes Course and Gymnastics\*** programs drive teamwork while increasing individual confidence.
- **JValues** helps campers embrace individual culture through the lens of camp creation.
- **Lego Masters and Discovery** encourage curiosity and ingenuity.
- **ROCKS** cultivates camaraderie and enhances social skills in a fast-paced camp environment.
- **Music, Dance and Drama** foster creativity and expression.
- **Blocks, Bikes and Bounce** promotes growth, familiarity and fun while giving our youngest campers that ‘big camp’ feeling.
- Our different **sports activities** recognize the importance of physical activity while making each camper comfortable participating at their own level.

\*Gymnastics operates in-house for campers in Chaverim through Yeladim; campers in Megalim and above take a bus to nearby Surgents Gymnastics once per week for a double period.

While our programming focuses on developmental progression, our special event programming focuses on just fun! The goal of our special days is to transform camp into different worlds in which all campers can be engaged. These special events are a great way to see, feel and contribute to the *ruach* (spirit) of camp!





## Swimming

Swimming is always a favorite camp activity, and in all three of our pools, safety is our #1 priority. Our lifeguards are all American Red Cross certified, well-trained and supervised by our year-round Aquatics Director. Counselors also assist the aquatics staff with instruction in the water with campers. Any staff members who are not in the pool are supervising on the pool deck.

- Instruction is by level: We follow the American Red Cross Learn-to-Swim program and lessons are taught by American Red Cross certified Water Safety Instructors (WSIs).
- 4:00 p.m. onsite campers enjoy four instructional swims and five free swims each week.
- 2:00 p.m. campers enjoy four instructional swims and one free swim in the splash pool each week.
- When onsite, Olim, Tiylim and Na'arim will have one free swim per day.
- Onsite and Travel Campers swim in both our indoor and outdoor pools.
- The splash pool is used by Chaverim (2-4 year olds) campers only.

Parents/guardians of campers in our Chaverim and onsite programs are updated on their child's instructional swim development at camp twice over the summer with electronic progress reports. Once they are completed (during weeks 4 and 7), you'll receive an email with a direct link to the individualized report through our online aquatics portal SwimGen.





## Staff

Our staff are the backbone of Camp Yachad. The Yachad ROCKS values are deeply instilled in our staff who help make Yachad the special place that it is.

We believe staff is so important to the summer experience which inspires us to make sure that the camp experience is meaningful to them too. That's why so many of our staff come back year-after-year. We also have a lot of staff who were campers themselves and come back to work at Yachad with the goal of giving their campers the great experience that they had as campers.

It's this dedication and familiarity with camp and campers that enable our staff to be solid role models who can make a lifelong impact on their campers.

### Staff Training

All staff must meet certain criteria before being hired and then must complete the required staff training. Camp Yachad establishes clear protocols for camper supervision, taught to camp staff during pre-camp training and reinforced throughout the summer.

We teach our staff about everything from supervision, conflict resolution and fun ways to engage campers all the way to age-appropriate behaviors, language, safety and pool procedures. Additionally, staff are trained in emergency evacuation, emergency procedures and emergency response.

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 for all camp staff prior to the beginning of camp. The JCC conducts criminal background checks for all camp staff aged 18 and older.

### Staff Structure

Our team is comprised of high-school and college-aged students, teachers, coaches, professionals and parents – all of whom love working with children, enjoy being outdoors and want to be part of a rewarding day camp experience.

**Chaverim 2s** have senior counselors who are both early childhood/elementary educators.

**Chaverim 3s** have one senior counselor (early childhood educator), one college-aged adult assistant and one junior counselor (junior/senior in high school).

**Chaverim 4s** have one senior counselor (either an educator or college education major), one college-aged adult assistant, one junior counselor (junior/senior in high school) and a CIT (Counselor in Training entering sophomore year in high school).

**Onsite and specialty camp groups** have at least one senior counselor (minimum entering college), two junior counselors (junior/senior in high school) and a CIT (Counselor in Training, entering sophomore year in high school).

**Travel camp groups** have four to six senior counselors (minimum entering college). **Chalutzim travel** staff are all age 21+.

Some groups in camp have an extra staff member who works as a 1:1 counselor for children with different needs who are also in that group.

All of our camp groups meet and exceed the minimum ratio requirements for supervision set forth by the American Camp Association (ACA).



# Camp Structure

## Dates/Camp Yachad Units/Groups

Monday, June 30 - Friday, August 15 (no camp on Friday, July 4)

UNIT	AGES	LOCATION	HOURS
CHAVERIM	2, 3 & 4 year olds	JCC Preschool Wing	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (2 yrs only) 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (3 yrs only) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (3s, 4s)
YELADIM	Entering Kindergarten	JCC Campsite	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
MEGALIM	Entering 1st	JCC Campsite	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
SABRA	Entering 2nd & 3rd	JCC Campsite	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
OLIM	Entering 3rd & 4th	Onsite 3 days/wk Travel 2 days/wk	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
TIYULIM	Entering 4th & 5th	Travel 3 days/wk Onsite 2 days/wk	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
NA'ARIM	Entering 5th & 6th	Day Trips-Wks 1,4,6 Overnights-Wks 2,3,5,7	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (day trip wks) *2 nts/3 days or 3 nts/4 days
CHALUTZIM	Entering 7th & 8th	Day Trips-Wks 1,4,6 Overnights-Wks 2,3,5,7	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (day trip wks)
LITs	Entering 9th	Day Trips-Wks 1&7 Overnights-Wks 2&5 Internship-Wks 3,4,6	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (day trip & internship wks)
JCC Performing Arts Camp (JPAC)	Downstagers: 2nd-4th Upstagers: 5th-8th	Terrill MS & JCC onsite	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Maccabi Sports Camp (MSC)	Entering 1st-8th	Terrill MS and JCC onsite	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. *Runs weeks 3,4,5 ONLY
TEKI STEAM Camp (TEKI)	Entering 2nd-8th	The Bayit (Hebrew for house)	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

## Groups

Groups are created based on the age-appropriate program in which your child is enrolled. All children in a group arrive and dismiss at the same time. For example, a 3-year-old enrolled in our 2:00 p.m. group will only be with other children enrolled in the 2:00 p.m. program.

- Each onsite and travel group has a home base located under tents on the campsite.
- The home base for Chaverim groups (2-4 yrs) are in classrooms in the Early Childhood hallway of the JCC.





# Travel Camps

Olim, Tiyyulim, Na'arim, Chalutzim and L.I.T. campers will enjoy a great variety of day and overnight trips.

## **Olim (entering 3rd & 4th grades)**

- Each week, Olim has two day trips and three onsite days.
  - Olim 1 travels Mondays and Wednesdays
  - Olim 2 travels Tuesdays and Thursdays
- To give Olim campers a "taste" of overnight trips, the schedule includes two 24-hour overnight trips, one during week 4 and one during week 6.

## **Tiyyulim (entering 4th & 5th grades)**

- Each week, Tiyyulim has three day trips and two onsite days.
  - Tiyyulim 1 travels Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
  - Tiyyulim 2 travels Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays
- Tiyyulim's schedule includes three overnight trips. There are two 24-hour overnights, one during week 2, one during week 7 and one 48-hour overnight during week 3.

## **Na'arim (entering 5th & 6th grades)**

- Na'arim campers spend the majority of their time traveling.
- Day trips are weeks 1, 4 and 6, and overnight trips are weeks 3, 5 and 7.
- On the weeks they are home, Na'arim has four day trips and an onsite day on Fridays.
- During each day trip week, there is one late night where campers get to hang out with their camp friends later than usual! On these days, campers will need to be picked up at the JCC. Estimated pick-up times will be sent via text message towards the end of the trip day.

## **Chalutzim (entering 7th & 8th grades)**

- Chalutzim campers are the most seasoned travelers. They have five days of travel each week.
- Day trips are scheduled during weeks 1, 4 and 6, and overnights are weeks 3, 5 and 7.
- During each day trip week, there is one late night where campers get to hang out with their camp friends later than usual! On these days, campers will need to be picked up at the JCC. Estimated pick-up times will be sent via text message towards the end of the trip day.

## **L.I.T.s - Leaders in Training (entering 9th grade)**

- L.I.T.s alternate between day and overnight travel weeks and onsite internship weeks where they start learning about being a counselor.
- They have day trips during weeks 1 and 7 and overnight trips during weeks 2 and 5.
- Weeks 3, 4 and 6 are their onsite internship weeks.

## **A few other things to note about Travel Camp:**

- A detailed calendar for each unit, which includes all trips, will be emailed to parents. Calendars will also be in your camper's backpack.
- Unit directors will email travel families each week about upcoming trips (including links to online waivers) and what each camper should pack/bring with them.



# Specialty Camps

## Maccabi Sports Camp (MSC)

- MSC is for campers entering 1st through 8th grades and runs weeks 3, 4, and 5.
- MSC campers start their day at the JCC for Kehillah Round-Up and Boker Tov.
- After Boker Tov, they swim at the JCC then are bused to Terrill Middle School to spend their day offsite. They return to the JCC at the end of the day.
- Campers end their week on Friday afternoon at the JCC with our rockin' Shabbat.
- This program operates offsite as Terrill Middle School features ample space to meet the unique needs of this specialty program.
- Gym space is available in extreme heat or inclement weather.



## JCC Performing Arts Camp (JPAC)

- JPAC campers start their day at the JCC for Kehillah Round-Up and Boker Tov.
- After Boker Tov, they are bused to Terrill Middle School to spend their day offsite. They return to the JCC at the end of the day.
- Campers end their week on Friday afternoon at the JCC with our rockin' Shabbat.
- Campers have a hybrid indoor/outdoor schedule at Terrill where they have use of their professional theater.
- JPAC Downstagers (entering 2nd-4th grades) spend half their day at Terrill and half their day at the JCC participating in traditional camp activities.
- JPAC Upstagers (entering 5th-8th grades) get a full day immersed in theater programming at Terrill, plus Upstagers go to a Broadway show each session.
- At the end of the first four and last three weeks, both groups will have a performance to which parents and families are invited (Thursday, July 24 and Thursday, August 14).

## TEKI Camp (Technology, Education, Knowledge, Instruction)

- All TEKI programming is held indoors at the *Bayit* (Hebrew for house), adjacent to the campsite.
- TEKI programming includes coding, YouTube/podcasting, robotics, aviation/drones/rockets, Roblox/Minecraft, digital art/music, game creation and Makerspace week.
- To enhance this fun technology and STEAM programming, TEKI campers will also enjoy one recreational swim and two traditional outdoor day camp activities daily.



## NEW Parent Orientation

An information session for all new parents will be held on Wednesday, June 18 at 8:00 p.m. at the JCC for the parents of new campers in the units below. We will review items in this playbook and go over any questions that remain.

- Onsite units: Yeladim, Megalim and Sabra
- Travel units: Olim, Tiylim, Na'arim, Chalutzim and L.I.T.
- Specialty Camps: TEKI, JPAC, MSC

Chaverim Parent Info Session will also be held on Wednesday, June 18 at the JCC.

- Orientation for the 2 year olds will be from 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.
- Orientation for the 3 and 4 year olds will be from 7:00 - 7:45 p.m.

Shadow Parent Info Session will be held on Monday, June 16 from 8:30 - 9:00 p.m. at the JCC for the parents of campers in our 1:1 inclusion program.



# What to Wear and Bring to Camp

## Camp Attire

All campers receive two complimentary t-shirts:

- one camp logo t-shirt for Mondays through Thursdays and one "It's Friday...It's Shabbat" t-shirt for Fridays
- Both t-shirts will be included in your child's backpack. (See Camper Backpack section)
- **On Tuesday, June 17 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.**, we will hold a tie-dye party where you can bring your white Shabbat t-shirt and tie-dye it for the summer. If you are unable to join us on June 17, feel free to tie dye the shirt at home with your camper.

Some families like to personalize their camp t-shirts before the summer. Please note this is NOT required. If you are interested and would like help, here are some recommended local business Instagram handles: @toporiginals\_, @blairitspartytime, @vinyl\_vibez\_LM, @uniqueboutiquenj.

If you pre-ordered additional t-shirts, they will be included in your child's backpack which will be delivered on **Sunday, June 8 during bus runs**.

T-shirts can be exchanged for a different size, or extras can be purchased for \$10 at any of the parent orientations, at our June 17 tie-dye event or by stopping by the camp office.

## Notes about Daily Attire

- **Camp t-shirts are mandatory every day** for all campers and staff unless it's a dress-up day. Our camp calendar includes special dress-up days where our campers and staff are encouraged to dress up according to the day's theme. (You will receive the camp calendar in your child's backpack.)
- Onsite campers can wear any Camp Yachad t-shirt including shirts from previous years. **Travel campers must wear a current summer 2025 camp t-shirt on all travel days.**
- All campers should come to camp daily wearing a swimsuit under their clothes or swim trunks/board shorts (as shorts) with a camp t-shirt.
- On travel days, Olim, Tiylim, Na'arim and Chalutzim campers should come in their regular camp clothes (even if there is a dress-up day happening in camp).
- All campers must wear sneakers and socks daily.
- Swim shoes (Crocs, Natives, flip-flops, etc.) may only be worn to and from the pool during instructional and recreational swim.
- On Fridays, camper(s) should wear their "It's Friday...It's Shabbat" t-shirt.
- **All items sent to camp must be labeled with permanent marker or personalized labels.**



## Camper Backpacks

- All campers will receive a backpack stuffed with camp t-shirts, camp calendars and other important info!
- **For those families being bused to camp in the mornings**, backpacks will be dropped off at your house or central bus stop during our bus run day scheduled for Sunday, June 8 between 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Anyone who is not riding a morning bus can pick up their backpacks from the JCC lobby beginning the week of June 9.
- Each day your child should come to camp with their backpack with the Camp Yachad ID tag as it contains important information that always needs to be available.
- Backpacks should be packed with only what is NEEDED for your camper's day. Personal belongings not listed below are to stay at home. Camp is not responsible for any lost or damaged items.

## Suggested Packing List:

- Labeled, reusable water bottle
- Pool shoes (Crocs/flip-flops)
- Second bathing suit for 4:00 p.m. campers only
- Underwear (and shorts if not worn that morning)
- If your child wears diapers, they can be stored in their classroom.
- Spray or stick sunscreen (cream sunscreen is permitted only if your child can apply independently)
- Goggles (optional)
- Plastic bag or reusable wet bag for wet items
- Sweatshirt or light jacket for inclement weather (optional when needed)
- Extra change of clothes (if necessary)

**\*\*All items must be labeled!\*\***



**No need to pack a towel - we offer towel service!**

**Please apply sunscreen daily to your child before sending them to camp.  
We will help them reapply sunscreen throughout the day.**

## Additional Notes for Chaverim Campers

- Campers who are not toilet-trained and wear diapers **MUST** also pack labeled rubber swim diaper covers daily for swim.
- Campers should bring necessary items like extra change of clothes and diapers to be stored in their classroom.
- All items can be dropped off from June 23 - 27 from 10:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m. in the camp office or at the Chaverim Parent Info Session.





# A Day at Camp Yachad



## Transportation

### Riding the Bus to/from Camp Yachad

For many of our campers, the day begins and ends on the bus! Camp Yachad offers three different options for busing (depending on where you live): door to door, neighborhood (street corner), or central (main) stops.

### Transportation Schedule

Camp operates two modes of transportation: busing and carpool (car drop-off and pick-up)

#### Camper Arrival

- 7:15 a.m. – Early arrival (additional sign-up and fee required for this program)
- 8:50 - 9:10 a.m. – Bus arrival
- 9:00 a.m. – Carpool drop-off at the JCC front entrance courtyard
- 9:30 a.m. – 2s camper drop-off at the JCC front entrance courtyard

#### Camper Dismissal

- 12:30 p.m. – 2s camper pick-up
- 2:00 p.m. – 2 p.m. program carpool pick-up
- 4:00 p.m. – Bus dismissal
- 4:15 p.m. – Carpool pick-up
- 6:00 p.m. – Late stay pick-up (additional sign-up and fee required for this program)



### Car Drop-Off/Pick-Up Procedures

#### Drop-Off

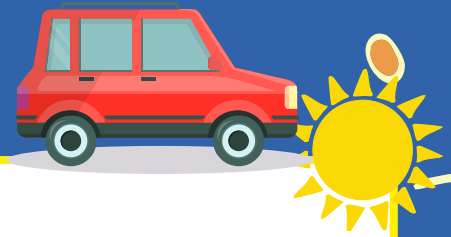
Cars dropping off campers during morning carpool (9:00 a.m.) should park in the main parking lot and walk their child up to the entrance patio. Campers can only be released at this point once handed off to a Camp Yachad staff member. Only then can a parent return to their vehicle.

#### Pick-Up

- 12:30 p.m. – Cars park in the main parking lot and enter the building (swiping in at the front desk) and head to their camper room in the Chaverim hallway where their camper will be signed out electronically via a custom-issued PIN.
- 2:00 p.m. – Cars park in the main parking lot and wait by the side entrance doors in the entrance courtyard where their camper will be signed out electronically via a custom-issued PIN.
- 4:15 p.m. – Cars park in the main parking lot and enter the building (swiping in at the front desk). They then head to the Weinberg rooms where their camper will be signed out electronically via a custom-issued PIN.







## Late Arrivals/Early Pick-Ups

- Camp is happy to accommodate late arrivals/early pick-ups between 9:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. After 3:00 p.m., our lot shuts down to allow for the safe parking, loading and dismissal of 34 buses!
- If you will be bringing in your camper late or picking them up early, please contact the camp office at (908) 889-8800 x234 or email [campoffice@jccnj.org](mailto:campoffice@jccnj.org).

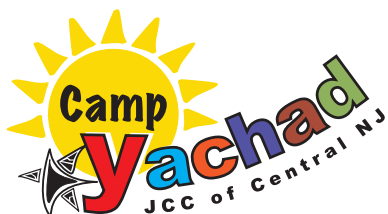
### Important transportation rules to note:

- Camp buses are strictly loaded within the passenger seating limit established by the manufacturer.
- Campers must be seated, facing forward, with seatbelts fastened at all times.
- Campers are never to place limbs or any other body parts out of the windows at any time, even if the bus is not moving.
- No eating on the bus, especially lollipops.
- Bus counselors are in contact with the transportation director at all times throughout the ride.
- Camp buses are not allowed to make any unscheduled stops, except in the event of an emergency in which case the office will notify camp families.

## Lunch, Snacks and Water

- Chaverim, onsite and speciality programs (JPAC, MSC, TEKI) include lunch and two snacks daily.
- Our camp lunch program offers a variety of options. (Menu is on the next page.)
- Our onsite food service provider is Kosher and all snacks served are also Kosher.
- We are a **nut-aware** camp and we do not serve any nut products. We request that campers do NOT bring peanuts/tree nuts or peanut butter/tree nut butters in any form to camp. WOW butter is a great suggested alternative to nut butters.
- If your child will not be eating the camp lunch, please pack a nut-free, Kosher-style lunch from home. Kosher-style means that milk and meat products are not served together.
- All lunches brought from home must be clearly marked with the camper's full name. We recommend including an ice pack in bagged lunches.
- We provide snack each morning and ice pops every afternoon. On Fridays we serve challah rolls and ice cream (in place of ice pops).
- Please send your child to camp daily with a labeled, reusable water bottle that can be refilled throughout the camp day.
- You can order a weekly challah for \$7.00 which will be sent home with your camper each Friday. Be on the lookout for the JCC email with order instructions.
- Travel campers need to pack a Kosher-style lunch on the days that they are on the road for trips.
  - On the days they are onsite, they will enjoy camp lunch.
  - If lunch is provided on a trip, you will be notified in the weekly trip update email from your unit director.





# SUMMER 2025

## Lunch Menu

**MONDAY**

**TUESDAY**

**WEDNESDAY**

**THURSDAY**

**FRIDAY**

**WEEKS 1, 3, 5, 7**



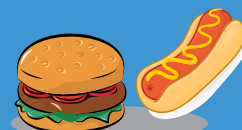
**Chicken &  
veggie lo mein**  
(contains sesame)



**Taco Tuesday**  
Make your own  
taco or bowl!



**Baked ziti**  
Plain pasta  
available



**BBQ**  
Hot dogs,  
hamburgers,  
veggie burgers,  
pasta salad



**Pizza**

**WEEKS 2, 4, 6**



**Spaghetti  
&  
meatballs**



**Breakfast for Lunch**  
Pancakes & yogurt  
or French toast sticks  
& yogurt



**Macaroni  
&  
cheese**



**Chicken nuggets  
&  
tater tots**



**Pizza**

Fresh fruit and veggies sides served daily

Alternatives available daily: Salad bar and bagel bar with spreads (cream cheese, margarine, jelly, sun butter)

# Health & Wellness at Camp Yachad



## Camp Yachad ROCKS Agreement



Our primary responsibility at Camp Yachad is to keep every camper and staff member physically and emotionally safe while having a ton of fun! Everything we do is geared toward making Camp Yachad a safe, recreational space for campers to try new things, develop and deepen relationships, build character, and foster independence through our ROCKS (Ruach or spirit, Opportunity, Community, Kindness, Strength) values!

This is why we have formulated a thoughtful and intentional camp-wide ROCKS Agreement which can be found on the parent dashboard.

Prior to the start of the season, parents/guardians are required to review this agreement with their camper and then submit it together so that all campers and staff can enjoy a fun and productive summer.

Over the course of the summer, there may be times where some campers require more support to engage in expected behaviors that keeps them, other campers and/or staff physically and emotionally safe. As there is no 'one-size fits all' approach, thoughtfulness about accommodations needed and available in our camp setting are determined on an individual basis and goes into every decision we make. In the event that a camper does require additional support (including but not limited to program modification), Camp Yachad leadership will be in touch with the parent/guardian directly.







## Technology and Cell Phone Policy

At Camp Yachad, we are committed to providing an enriching experience for all our campers, in an environment conducive to fostering new friendships, developing essential life skills and having fun! As part of this commitment, we are proud to share that effective this summer, cell phones and other devices that connect to the internet (Watches, iPads, etc.) **are not permitted at Camp Yachad or on travel days and overnights (for campers in travel programs)**. This will help us ensure that campers can fully immerse themselves in the camp experience without the distractions and pressures of technology. In consultation with industry leaders, fellow camp professionals and other Camp Yachad stakeholders, this policy is being implemented moving forward to:

- **Foster Meaningful Connections:** Camp is a unique opportunity to bond with new friends and be part of a tight-knit community. By putting away phones, campers can engage in face-to-face interactions, collaborate in group activities and form real, lasting relationships.
- **Disconnect to Reconnect:** Today's world is full of constant digital distractions. Camp provides an opportunity for kids to step away from screens and reconnect with themselves, nature and the people around them. It encourages mindfulness and focus, allowing campers to be present in the moment and fully enjoy the activities planned for the day.
- **Safety and Security:** This new policy will empower our entire Camp Yachad community to focus on each other's well-being without the potential distractions, pressures or safety concerns that come with technology (including but not limited to cyberbullying, inappropriate use of social media, prank calling or accessing age-inappropriate online content).

We appreciate your understanding and support of this policy. Our goal is to provide the best possible experience for every camper, and this simple step helps to ensure that each child can fully embrace the spirit of camp without the interruption of digital devices. Thank you for helping us create an environment where campers can unplug, unwind, and thrive!

## Social Media/Internet Usage

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.). In addition, we inform our camp staff that posting comments or pictures of campers on their own personal web pages or on websites (such as Instagram, SnapChat and TikTok) is prohibited also.

When we post daily photos on our camp website, it is password protected, and we do not use names of campers.

Additionally, we post lots of fun content on social media throughout the summer. Be sure to follow us @campyachad on Instagram, Facebook and TikTok!



# Camper Medical & Health Policies



## Camp Nurses

There are two registered nurses present every day in our health office. They can be reached at [campnurse@jccnj.org](mailto:campnurse@jccnj.org) or (908) 889-8800 x273. Camp families can expect to hear if their child has visited the health office in instances of illness (needing to be picked up), injury to the head or if further evaluation is recommended.

## Health Forms and Insurance

Each camper is required by New Jersey state law to submit medical history and health forms completed by a parent or guardian. You can find these forms on our parent dashboard. Forms were due on April 25. **If you have not completed them, please do so ASAP.**

If your child has allergies or asthma or needs medication during the camp day or on overnight trips, there are separate forms that need to be submitted and signed by a doctor. These forms are available on your parent dashboard.

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.

## 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 snack or lunch program choices and ingredients offered to campers with allergies can be addressed to Holly Friedman at [campoffice@jccnj.org](mailto:campoffice@jccnj.org).

## Immunization Policy

Updated immunization records are required yearly for all campers on our parent dashboard under the medical section.

The JCC and Camp Yachad currently honor religious and medical exemptions from immunizations. If we were to have a confirmed disease case in our catchment area (Union County, select towns where we bus in Essex and Middlesex counties and Jersey City), we would immediately disallow participation in our camp program for any child who has not been immunized.

## Medication

Only those campers (and staff members who are minors) who have the camper healthcare form completed and signed by their medical provider and parent(s) will be able to receive daily prescription and emergency medication(s) needed. This includes regularly scheduled medications, as well as any other treatments that must be given during the camp day. All of these forms are located on the parent dashboard.

Camp policy states that all onsite medication must be administered by the camp nurse. 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 for travel campers are administered by the unit directors on the trip.

Medications must be brought to camp anytime between **Monday, June 16 - Friday, June 20 (9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)** 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 cabinet in the health office.





## Illness at Camp

Parents/guardians are required to report any diagnosed communicable illness to the health office immediately as camp will then notify exposed groups (e.g., flu, strep, pink eye, COVID, lice, etc.)

If my child is sick, when can they return to camp?

- Campers should stay home until they are fever-free (fever is considered 100.4°F or above) and symptom-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medicine, are able to participate fully in camp activities and have medical clearance from a doctor (if necessary). If you have any questions about when a doctor's note is required, please contact [campnurse@jccnj.org](mailto:campnurse@jccnj.org).
- If a child requires antibiotic treatment (e.g., pink eye, strep throat), they must have a full 24 hours worth of treatment (doses) completed before returning to camp.
- If a child requires professional treatment (e.g., lice), they must be kept home for 24 hours of treatment or be certified nit-free from a lice treatment professional. (We will gladly provide recommended names of certified professionals in the area.)
- Campers with skin abnormalities and or/rashes (e.g., molluscum, coxsackie) must provide a signed note by the healthcare provider prior to returning to camp that states they are medically cleared to return and specifying when they are able to return to swimming. Any open lesions or blisters must be healed prior to returning as those are still considered contagious; molluscum must be covered.
- Campers with gastrointestinal illness (vomiting and/or diarrhea) must be completely symptom-free for at least a full 24-hours prior to returning to camp.

## Sunburn Prevention

Please apply sunscreen every day before your camper comes to camp. Please send spray sunscreen in your camper's backpack as our Camp Yachad staff helps children reapply **spray** sunscreen throughout the day as needed. Please do not give your child cream sunscreen unless they can apply it independently.

**We appreciate your cooperation in helping to keep all of our campers,  
staff and community healthy this summer!**





# Camper Yachad 101



## Attendance

If your child will be absent from camp, please email [campoffice@jccnj.org](mailto:campoffice@jccnj.org) to notify us; please include your child's name, group, bus number and reason for absence.

If your child will be arriving to camp late or needs to be picked up early, this can only be done between the hours of 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Please park and come to the camp office for late drop-offs and early pick-ups so your child can be properly signed in and out.

## Security

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

- 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).
- Two professional security guards will be in place during the camp day.
- Staff shirts and nametags will identify all staff members each day.

Global Mark Security will continue to fulfill Camp Yachad security needs while camp is in session.

## Communication

- You can reach the **camp office via phone** from 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at (908) 889-8800 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 check in periodically with you throughout the summer via phone and/or email to discuss your camper's overall experience.
- If you would like to contact a member of the camp leadership team directly, please use their direct email. (A list of all leadership emails is included at the back of this document.)
- Camp will contact parents/guardians as deemed necessary during the camp day especially in the instance of camper illness or injury.



## Emergencies

Camp Yachad staff are trained in many areas, including supervision, emergency evacuation, emergency procedures and emergency response.

**In the event of an emergency or in the event the camp needs to communicate quickly with families, Camp Yachad is set up to broadcast emergency information to all camp families via text message through our camp software.**

All camp families are to opt in to Camp Yachad text messaging via an email sent through Campsite closer to the start of summer. If you opted in in past years (and have not unenrolled), you are already in our system and do not need to do anything further.

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.

In the event of an emergency including one resulting in an offsite evacuation, this information will be broadcast to the camp population via text message and email.

**If there is an emergency pick-up**, 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.

**If an area emergency prohibits parents from commuting home on time by the end of the camp day**, all JCC campers will remain under the care of Camp Yachad supervision.

## Personal Property

All campers are responsible for respecting the property of others.

Campers are also responsible for their own personal property. Simply put: electronics and valuables should not be brought to camp as explained in our ROCKS Agreement. The JCC is not responsible for any lost or damaged items that come to camp.

We ask that you reduce the number of personal belongings that go back and forth between camp and home. We will return all **labeled** lost and found items to their owners. We will keep lost and found items for one week. At the end of every week, we will throw away or donate any unclaimed items.



## Photography

Every day we have a professional photographer onsite who captures photos of our campers living their best lives here at Camp Yachad! This is a great way for families to get a glimpse into our day-to-day camp life! We do our very best to photograph a wide variety of campers and activities. Photos are posted daily on our password-protected SmugMug site which can be accessed through your parent dashboard. This year's password will be sent out to all families the day before camp begins.

To view the photos follow these easy steps.

1. Log into your parent dashboard.
2. Click on CAMP TODAY.
3. Click on the pictures you see for that day (usually categorized by unit or event).
4. Enter the password we give you. (This password will be emailed out the day before camp begins for security purposes.)



## Picture Day

Picture Days this summer will be on Tuesday, July 22 and Wednesday, July 23! Stay tuned for more information during the summer.

## Birthdays

If your child has a summer birthday, we will help your child celebrate at camp! They will be acknowledged at Boker Tov, and we will give them a birthday pin, and they can celebrate with their group!

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: Leah's Better Bites, Entenmann's Pop-Ems, fruit, Phillyswirl Stix Popsicles/Phillyswirl Swirlcups, MadeGood Granola Bars (birthday cake!), Enjoy Life Mini Chocolate Chip cookies and Abes Mini Muffins. (Dunkin' Donuts and local kosher bakeries are not acceptable as these are not guaranteed nut-free.)

You can also purchase a short happy birthday message to display for your camper on our front lawn LED sign for \$18. Visit [www.jccnj.org](http://www.jccnj.org), log into your JCC account and search LED. The deadline for birthday listings is June 28 for July birthday messages and July 28 for August birthday messages.







## Tipping

Every year we receive inquiries about tipping staff to say “thank you,” and it is always appreciated! While tipping is not mandatory and is solely at the discretion of the camp parents, we are providing these guidelines and do encourage thanking our staff for their hard work.

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

Senior Counselors	\$50-\$60
Adult Assistants	\$40-\$50
Junior Counselors/Assistant Counselors	\$35-\$45
CITs	\$25-\$35
Bus Counselors	\$20-\$25
Early/Late Stay Staff	\$15-\$25
Shadow Counselors, Leadership Team, Specialists are all at parent discretion	

To make tipping as seamless as possible, we utilize an app called Grazzee! It's like Venmo for tips. Grazzee is an easy-to-use, secure app that simplifies the tipping process! Money gets sent directly to the designated staff member. Please note that there is a small fee that Grazzee charges per transaction. We will send an email with instructions to download Grazzee during the summer. If you prefer, you can still send in tips to the camp office, but we strongly recommend and encourage our families to use this handy and convenient tool!

If you choose to send tips in through the camp office, all tips should be in a clearly labeled envelope with staff name, camper name and group. Please hand these in on **Tuesday of the camper's last week in camp** so it can be sorted by the camp office and distributed at the end of the summer.



## Yachad Suns

Yachad Suns are a great way to show your camp spirit and make a lasting impact on camp! Personalized suns will shine year-round in the JCC gymnasium. These 18" diameter suns are \$180, and all funds raised from the suns go to Camp Yachad. You can order a Yachad sun at [www.jccnj.org](http://www.jccnj.org). Log into your JCC account and search SUN.



# Camp Yachad Staff Contact Information

## Camp Leadership

Camp Director: Shira Gladstone  
Associate Camp Director: Cathy Pizzella

sgladstone@jccnj.org  
campyachad@jccnj.org

## Camp Administration

Administrative Director: Holly Friedman  
Shadow Director: Stephanie Weiss  
MESH Director: Tracy Vail  
Transportation Director: Jess Nagourney  
Camp Nurses: Ariel Krell and Andrea Cook  
Camp Program Director: Pam Romanchuk  
Camp Aquatics Director: Chris Matejek

campoffice@jccnj.org  
sweiss@jccnj.org  
cymesh@jccnj.org  
transportation@jccnj.org  
campnurse@jccnj.org  
promanchuk@jccnj.org  
aquatics@jccnj.org

## Unit Directors

### Chaverim

Unit Director: Jacqui Gross  
Unit Director: Janine Reilly  
Unit Director: Rebecca Seiden

chaverim@jccnj.org  
jreilly@jccnj.org  
rseiden@jccnj.org

### Onsite

Yeladim Unit Director: Alexa Wilken  
Yeladim Assistant Unit Director: Shannon Cunningham  
Megalim Unit Director: Mara Fox  
Megalim Assistant Unit Director: Emily MacMillan  
Sabra Unit Director: Susan Vieira  
Sabra Assistant Unit Director: Collin Granger

yeladim@jccnj.org  
megaim@jccnj.org  
sabra@jccnj.org

### Travel

Olim 1 Unit Director: Rachel O'Gorman  
Olim 1 Assistant Unit Director: Nick Calefati  
Olim 2 Unit Director: Rachel Daniels  
Olim 2 Assistant Unit Director: Pascal Desmangles  
Tiyulim 1 Unit Director: Diana Cooper  
Tiyulim 1 Assistant Unit Director: Adam Sklar  
Tiyulim 2 Unit Director: Lilly Dawes  
Tiyulim 2 Assistant Unit Director: Evan Souza  
Na'arim Unit Director: Megan Flohr  
Na'arim Assistant Unit Director: Jake Weisberg  
Chalutzim Unit Director: Emily Lewis  
Chalutzim Assistant Unit Director: Osaze Morris  
LIT Unit Director: Megan Kaplan

olim1@jccnj.org  
olim2@jccnj.org  
tiyulim1@jccnj.org  
tiyulim2@jccnj.org  
naarim@jccnj.org  
chalutzim@jccnj.org  
LIT@jccnj.org



# Important Dates



## Medical Forms

These are past due and should be submitted as soon as possible if you have not already done so!

## Bus Run Day

Sunday, June 8 • 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

## Medicine Drop-off at the JCC

Monday, June 16 - Friday, June 20 • 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (or at Chaverim and New Parent Orientations)

## Shadow Parent Orientation at the JCC (for families enrolled in our 1:1 Inclusion program)

Monday, June 16 • 8:30 - 9:00 p.m.

## Tie Dye Our Shabbat Shirts on the Campsite

Tuesday, June 17 • any time between 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

## Chaverim 2s Parent Orientation at the JCC

Wednesday, June 18 • 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

## Chaverim 3s and 4s Parent Orientation at the JCC

Wednesday, June 18 • 7:00 - 7:45 p.m.

## Yeladim and Older New Parent Orientation at the JCC

Wednesday, June 18 • 8:00 - 8:45 p.m.

## Item Drop-off for Chaverim Families

Monday, June 23 - Friday, June 27 • 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the camp office

## First Day of Camp!

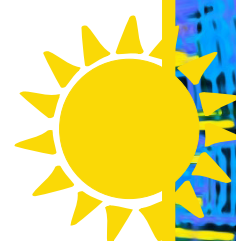
Monday, June 30

## Camp Closed in Observance of 4th of July

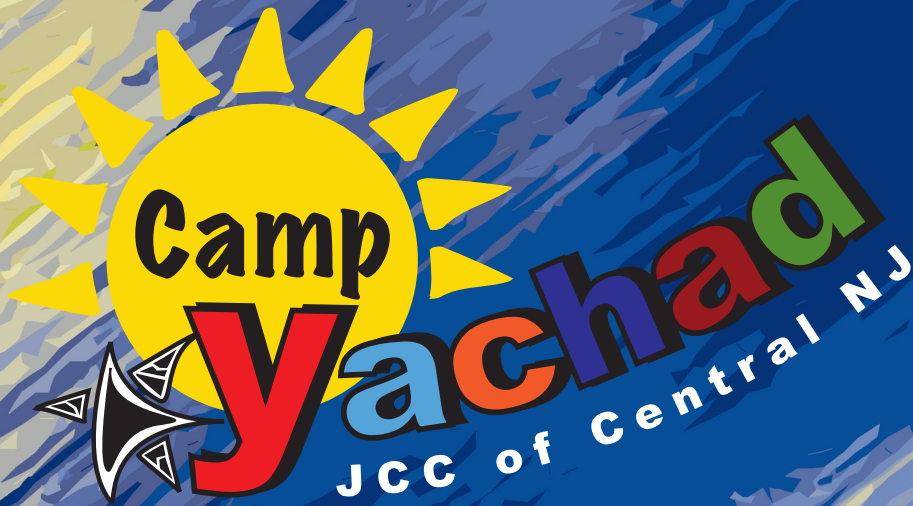
Friday, July 4

## Last Day of Camp

Friday, August 15







**We're so excited  
for summer  
2025!**