



# SUMMER 2026 PLAYBOOK

MONDAY, JUNE 29 - FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

**SPARKING CONNECTION & BUILDING CONFIDENCE -  
SUMMER AFTER SUMMER!**

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## **Camp Yachad A-Z:**

*Everything you need to know ahead of (and during) the summer!*

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# WELCOME!



**Welcome to Camp Yachad**—a place where summer feels joyful, intentional, and memorable all at once. This guide is designed to give you everything you need to know in a way that's clear, approachable, and actually helpful!

## OUR FOUNDATION: YACHAD ROCKS

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

**R**

**RUACH** means 'spirit' – and we've got tons!

**O**

**OPPORTUNITY** to try new things and jump right in.

**C**

**COMMUNITY** is camp. Make new friends and cherish the old ones.

**K**

**KINDNESS!** Be kind, respectful, inclusive, and compassionate.

**S**

**STRENGTH** lies in being adaptable, flexible, and creative.

# CHAVERIM WHERE CAMP MAGIC BEGINS

Chaverim is our 'camp within a camp' for our youngest campers ages 2–4. Routines are predictable and transitions are gentle, helping campers build confidence and comfort. This is where independence begins—in a way that feels safe and joyful.

## What Makes It Special

- High staff ratios
- Led by early childhood educators
- Classroom-based home environment

## THE DAILY EXPERIENCE

Campers participate in over 20 program 'specialties' including:

- Swim & Splash
- Music & Movement
- Sports & Gymnastics
- Story & Sensory hands-on activities

Campers arrive to camp daily with:

- Sunscreen applied
- Sneakers & Camp T-Shirt on
- Bathing suit under clothes or swim trunks / board shorts (as shorts)
- Campers who are not yet toilet trained should wear a regular diaper under their bathing suit - not a swim diaper!

## WHAT TO PACK EACH DAY VS. WHAT STAYS AT CAMP

### Pack each day:

- Labeled Water Bottle
- Bag for Wet Clothes
- Change of Clothes (underwear & shorts)
- 2nd bathing suit (campers in 4pm programs)
- Rubber swim diaper cover (if applicable)

### Stays at camp:

- Water shoes
- Sunscreen
- Extra full change of clothes
- Regular diapers & swim diapers (if applicable)

**Lunch, Snacks, & Towels are provided daily!**



# ONSITE & SPECIALTY CAMPS

## THE HEART OF CAMP YAGHAD

Offering a balanced, high-energy camp day built around variety, structure, and intentional programming for campers ready for action in the familiarity of their summer home

### ONSITE UNITS

Yeladim (Kindergarten)  
Megalim (1st Grade)  
Sabra (2nd-3rd Grade)

### A Typical Day

Campers rotate through four core areas of camp:

- Adventure
- Aquatics
- Arts
- Athletics

Activities are intentionally designed to grow with each camper, offering opportunities that build confidence, creativity, and skill over time. Campers will have the opportunity to explore a wide range of interests under the guise of dedicated specialists. All specialty programs are age & developmentally curated ensuring every child can engage, challenge themselves, and succeed.



### SPECIALTY CAMPS

#### Performing Arts Camp (JPAC)

Immersive theater experience, 2 performances each summer, Broadway trip (each session) for JPAC Upstagers



#### TEKI (STEAM & Technology)

Coding, robotics, digital arts, and innovation all balanced with outdoor play and swim



#### Maccabi Sports Camp (MSC)

Sports-focused 4-week program with a focused weekly trip plus swim and traditional camp elements



### DAILY ESSENTIALS / WHAT TO PACK EACH DAY:

- Apply sunscreen before your camper gets to camp!
- Wear your bathing suit under your clothes or swim trunks / board shorts (as shorts) with your camp t-shirt – SNEAKERS ARE A MUST!
- Pack a labeled water bottle, water shoes, sunscreen, wet bag, second bathing suit, and a change of clothes (underwear and shorts)

**Lunch, Snacks, & Towels are provided daily!**

# TRAVEL CAMP

## BIG EXPERIENCES. REAL GROWTH.

For campers ready to explore while building independence, deepening connections, and discovering a world beyond the campsite!

### Who It's For

**Olim** (3rd–4th grade)

**Tiyulim** (4th–5th grade)

**Na'arim** (5th–6th grade)

**Chalutzim** (7th–8th grade)

**LITs** (9th grade)



### **Travel schedules are intentionally designed by age:**

**Olim:** Two day trips + three onsite days weekly, plus two introductory overnights

**Tiyulim:** Three travel days weekly + three overnights (including one extended trip)

**Na'arim:** Four travel days mixed with day trips, overnights, and weekly late nights

**Chalutzim:** Full travel weeks mixed with day trips, overnights, and weekly late nights

**LITs:** A blend of travel and onsite leadership internships

Each progression builds independence while maintaining the structure campers need to succeed.

### WHAT FAMILIES SHOULD KNOW

- Weekly emails include trip details, packing lists, and waivers
- Campers wear current camp shirts on all travel days
- Lunch must be packed for travel days unless otherwise noted
- Late-night return times are communicated via text

### SAFETY & STRUCTURE

Even offsite, the Yachad standard remains:

- Trained staff in supervision and emergency procedures
- Consistent group structure and expectations
- Clear communication with families

### A TECHNOLOGY-FREE EXPERIENCE

Phones & internet enabled devices are not allowed. This allows campers to build stronger friendships, stay present, and fully engage in their experience.



# CAMP YAGHAD

A TO Z

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EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW  
AHEAD OF (AND DURING) THE SUMMER!

# A TO Z



## ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

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

### Camper Arrival

**7:15 am** Early arrival (additional sign-up and fee required for this program)

**8:50-9:10 am** Bus arrival

**9:00 am** Carpool drop-off at the JCC front entrance courtyard

**9:30 am** 2s camper drop-off at the JCC front entrance courtyard

### Camper Dismissal

**12:30 pm** 2s camper pick-up

**2:00 pm** 2 pm program carpool pick-up

**4:00 pm** Bus dismissal

**4:15 pm** Carpool pick-up

**6:00 pm** Late stay pick-up (additional sign-up and fee required for this program)



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

**9:00 am Drop-Off** Park in the main parking lot, walk your camper up to the entrance patio and hand them off to a member of the Camp Yachad team. Campers may not be 'dropped off' directly from their cars, regardless of age.

**12:30 pm Pick-Up (2s)** Park in the main parking lot and swipe in at the front desk. Head to the Chaverim hallway where your camper will be signed out electronically via a custom-issued PIN.

**2:00 pm Pick-Up (3s)** Park in the main parking lot and wait by the side entrance doors in the entrance courtyard where your camper will be signed out electronically via a custom-issued PIN.

**4:15 pm Pick-Up** Park in the main parking lot and swipe in at the front desk. Head to the Weinberg rooms where your camper will be signed out electronically via a custom-issued PIN.



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## ATTENDANCE

All camper absences, late arrivals, and early pick-ups must be reported to the Camp Office.

Please email us at [CampOffice@jccnj.org](mailto:CampOffice@jccnj.org) and be sure to include your child's name, group, bus number, and reason for absence (late arrival or early pick-up).

Late arrivals and/or early pick-ups can **ONLY** be accommodated between 9:30 am-3:00 pm.

## BIRTHDAYS AT CAMP

We love celebrating campers (and staff) with summer birthdays and we are so excited this summer to offer **Camp Yachad Birthday Parties!** As a special add-on, parents can purchase a birthday party experience for their camper on their birthday — or any day they choose!

Each celebration includes:

- An epic ice cream sundae bar for their group
- A brand-new Yachad birthday gift for the birthday camper\*
- Tons of camp fun and memories with friends

[Click here for more information.](#)

You can also purchase a short happy birthday message to display on our front lawn sign for \$18. For more information, [click here.](#)

## CAMP TRADITIONS

What would camp be without traditions? From **Boker Tov** to **Friday Shabbat** and a whole week of fun in between, these special moments help reinforce our ROCKS values while lending warmth, fun, familiarity, and a little silliness to the Yachad experience! Be sure to ask your campers about Dunk the Whale, Friday Pie-Day, Camp Dance, and more!



# A TO Z



## EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Camp Yachad Staff are trained in many areas, including emergency procedures and protocols, put in place to ensure safety, calm, and proper handling of any situation that may arise.

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

Prior to the start of camp, families will receive an email to activate their text opt-in for 2026.

In the event of an emergency, please **DO NOT CALL OR COME TO CAMP YACHAD.**

## FAMILY COMMUNICATION

The phone number for the Camp Office is (908) 889-8800 x234

- Camp phones are staffed from 7:30 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.
- If you need to speak with a specific member of the team, they will return your call at their earliest convenience before the end of the day.

To contact a member of our leadership team directly, with a non-urgent matter, please email them directly. (A list of leadership emails can be found by [clicking here](#)).

## HEALTH & WELLNESS

Two registered nurses are employed by Camp Yachad and oversee our health office.

### **Health Forms, Immunizations, and Insurance**

Each camper is required by New Jersey state law to submit completed medical history and health forms. There are no exceptions!

Campers who will be taking prescription medication during the day or on overnight trips or campers with a higher level of medical need (including asthma or allergies) need to submit additional forms signed by a doctor. These forms are available on the parent dashboard.

Updated immunization records are required yearly for all campers. The JCC and Camp Yachad honor religious and medical exemptions for immunizations with written notification. If there were to be a confirmed communicable disease case in our catchment area, Camp Yachad would immediately disallow participation for any child who is not immunized.

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.

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## HEALTH & WELLNESS. CONTINUED

### Allergies and Medication

All camper allergies (medicine, food, environmental, insect bites, etc.) MUST be reported to the health office, via the online medical history, prior to the start of camp.

Only campers (and staff who are minors) who have the proper healthcare forms completed and signed by their parents and medical provider will be able to receive daily prescription and emergency medications needed during the camp day and while on overnight trips.

Medications (properly labeled and in their original containers) must be dropped off between Monday, June 22 and Thursday, June 25 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm in the Health Office.

All medications are stored in a locked cabinet in the Health Office.

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to inform the camp nurse and unit director of any changes in the camper's medical profile once camp begins.

### 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.)

#### Return-To-Camp Illness Policy:

Campers may return when they are fever-free (under 100.4°F), symptom-free for 24 hours without medication, and able to fully participate in activities. A doctor's clearance may be required in some cases. Key requirements:

- **Antibiotics (e.g., strep, pink eye):** Must complete at least 24 hours of treatment before returning.
- **Lice:** Must complete 24 hours of treatment or be professionally cleared as nit-free.
- **Rashes/skin conditions:** Require a doctor's note clearing return; open or contagious lesions must be fully healed (molluscum must be covered). Swimming clearance must be specified if applicable.
- **Stomach illness (vomiting/diarrhea):** Must be symptom-free for 24 hours before returning.

## JCC CONNECTION

As a JCC day camp, we're part of something bigger than just summer—we're connected to a vibrant, year-round community. Campers and families benefit from access to programs, events, and relationships that continue well beyond the camp season, creating a true sense of belonging.

Camp Yachad is proud to offer two special initiatives that help support our JCC being the vibrant hub it is while keeping you connected to the magic of camp!

1. **Weekly Challah Subscription:** For \$7/week your child will be sent home with a challah each Friday. [Click here to register.](#)
2. **Buy a Camp Yachad Sun:** Celebrate your connection to camp with a personalized sun that hangs bright in our gym all year long! For this year only: limited edition suns are available for purchase (through July 30<sup>th</sup>) to commemorate our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary. [Click here for more info.](#)

For more information on supporting these, and other JCC initiatives, [click here.](#)

# A TO Z



## LUNCH & SNACKS

Camp Yachad provides lunch and two snacks daily for all campers in our Chaverim, Onsite, Specialty, and Travel Camps (on the days that they are onsite).

All food provided by camp is kosher and nut-free. [Click here to see the menu.](#)

If your child is bringing in snacks or lunch from home:

- Please ensure it is kosher-style (no mixing of milk and meat) and nut-free.
- Please pack it in a labeled lunch box with an ice-pack.

**For Travel Campers:** If lunch is provided on a trip, you will be notified in advance; otherwise campers need to pack a kosher-style and nut-free lunch on trip days.

All questions regarding food at camp should be directed to our Operations Director, Holly Friedman (Click here to email [HFriedman@jccnj.org](mailto:HFriedman@jccnj.org)).

## PICTURES

Every day we have a team of photographers who capture the moments 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. Instructions for how to access daily pictures will be emailed to you prior to the start of camp.

## ROCKS AGREEMENT

Our ROCKS Agreement is a thoughtfully designed partnership between each camper, their parent/guardian, and Camp Yachad. It goes beyond outlining expected behaviors—it sets a shared standard for how we show up as a community each day. Grounded in our ROCKS values, the agreement helps campers understand not just what is expected, but why it matters, encouraging them to make positive choices, build strong relationships, and contribute to a respectful, inclusive, and fun camp environment.

In the event that a camper does require additional support (including but not limited to program modification) to successfully adhere to the ROCKS agreement, Camp Yachad leadership will be in touch with the parent/guardian directly.

A copy of the ROCKS agreement is available under the forms section of your camper's profile on the parent dashboard.

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## SAFETY AT CAMP

The safety and security of our campers and staff are at the forefront of everything we do. At the JCC you can expect the following visible safety measures in place daily:

- 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)
- Three professional armed security guards will be in place during the camp day.
- Camp Yachad is a uniform camp to identify who is and is not supposed to be on property.

Praetorian Agency (our JCC's contracted security guarding company) will continue to fulfill Camp Yachad security needs while camp is in session.

## STAFF

Our staff are the backbone of Camp Yachad. Many return year after year—including former campers—because they care deeply about the experience and want to give back. Their dedication and connection to camp make them strong role models who have a lasting impact on every camper.

**Chaverim 2s:** 2 Senior Counselors (EC Educators)

**Chaverim 3s:** 1 Senior Counselor (EC Educator), 1 adult assistant, 1 junior counselor.

**Chaverim 4s:** 1 Senior Counselor (either an educator or college education major), 1 adult assistant, 1 junior counselor.

**Onsite and specialty camp groups:** 1-2 senior counselors (minimum entering college), 2 junior counselors, and a CIT.

**Travel camp groups:** 4-6 Senior Counselors (minimum entering college).

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).



# A TO Z



## SWIM

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).

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 8), you'll receive an email with a direct link to the individualized report through our online aquatics portal SwimGen.

## TECHNOLOGY

Camp Yachad is a screen-free environment. Cell phones and internet-enabled devices (smartwatches, iPads, etc.) are not permitted at camp, including travel days and overnights. This allows campers to fully engage, build real friendships, stay present, and enjoy a safe, distraction-free experience.

Staff do not communicate with campers through personal email, messaging, or social media, and may not post camper photos on personal accounts. Camp photos are shared daily on a secure, password-protected site without camper names. Follow along on our official social channels for summer highlights!

A copy of our formal technology policy is sent home to all campers prior to the start of camp.

## TIPPING

Every year we receive inquiries about tipping staff to say "thank you," and it and 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.

To make tipping as seamless as possible, we utilize an app called Graazee (which is like Venmo for tips). Instructions regarding downloading and using Graazee will be sent out prior to your camper's last week in camp.

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

Senior Counselors \$50-\$60

Adult Assistants \$40-\$50

Junior Counselors \$35-\$45

CITs \$25-\$35

Bus Counselors & Early/Late Stay Staff \$20-\$25

Shadow Counselors, Specialists and members of our Leadership Team, Specialists are all at parent/guardian discretion.



# A TO Z

## WHO'S WHO

### Camp Leadership

Camp Director: Shira Gladstone, [SGladstone@jccnj.org](mailto:SGladstone@jccnj.org)

Associate Camp Director: Cathy Pizzella, [CampYachad@jccnj.org](mailto:CampYachad@jccnj.org)

### Camp Administration

Operations Director: Holly Friedman, [CampOffice@jccnj.org](mailto:CampOffice@jccnj.org)

Transportation Director: Jess Nagourney, [Transportation@jccnj.org](mailto:Transportation@jccnj.org)

Health Director: Ariel Krell, [CampNurse@jccnj.org](mailto:CampNurse@jccnj.org)

Program Director: Pam Romanchuk, [PRomanchuk@jccnj.org](mailto:PRomanchuk@jccnj.org)

MESH Director: Tracy Vail, [CYMesh@jccnj.org](mailto:CYMesh@jccnj.org)

### Unit Directors

#### **Chaverim:**

Jacqui Gross, [Chaverim@jccnj.org](mailto:Chaverim@jccnj.org)

Janine Reilly, [JReilly@jccnj.org](mailto:JReilly@jccnj.org)

Rebecca Seiden, [RSeiden@jccnj.org](mailto:RSeiden@jccnj.org)

#### **Onsite:**

Yeladim Unit Directors: Alexa Wilken & Shannon Cunningham, [Yeladim@jccnj.org](mailto:Yeladim@jccnj.org)

Megalim Unit Directors: Mara Fox & Emily MacMillan, [Megalim@jccnj.org](mailto:Megalim@jccnj.org)

Sabra Unit Directors: Rachel Bernstein & Jaclyn Lasner, [Sabra@jccnj.org](mailto:Sabra@jccnj.org)

#### **Travel:**

Olim 1 Unit Directors: Rachel O'Gorman & Nick Calefati, [Olim1@jccnj.org](mailto:Olim1@jccnj.org)

Olim 2 Unit Directors: Lilly Dawes & Collin Granger, [Olim2@jccnj.org](mailto:Olim2@jccnj.org)

Tiyulim 1 Unit Directors: Diana Cooper & Zach Muhlstock, [Tiyulim1@jccnj.org](mailto:Tiyulim1@jccnj.org)

Tiyulim 2 Unit Directors: Carly Chupka & Jimmy Hopke, [Tiyulim2@jccnj.org](mailto:Tiyulim2@jccnj.org)

Na'arim 1 Unit Directors: Gabi Sluka & Adam Sklar, [Naarim1@jccnj.org](mailto:Naarim1@jccnj.org)

Na'arim 2 Unit Directors: Mega Welch & Charlie Vayda, [Naarim2@jccnj.org](mailto:Naarim2@jccnj.org)

Chalutzim 1 Unit Directors: Emily Lewis & Jake Weisberg, [Chalutzim1@jccnj.org](mailto:Chalutzim1@jccnj.org)

Chalutzim 2 Unit Directors: Osaze Morris & Erin Schwerdtfeger, [Chalutzim2@jccnj.org](mailto:Chalutzim2@jccnj.org)

LIT Unit Directors: Megan Kaplan & Josh Tannenbaum, [LIT@jccnj.org](mailto:LIT@jccnj.org)

Shadow Program Unit Director: Stephanie Weiss, [SWeiss@jccnj.org](mailto:SWeiss@jccnj.org)

