

Making memories every day!

Parent Handbook

JCC Summer Day Camp 2013

Dear JCC Summer Day Camp Family,

Welcome to the JCC 2013 Summer Day Camp! For over 50 years the New Orleans Jewish Community Center has provided a superior quality day camping experience for children of all ages. From swimming and sports to music, drama and art, the JCC Summer Camp Staff will ensure that your child has endless opportunities to explore his or her interests, discover new ones, and develop meaningful friendships in a Jewish environment. Choosing the JCC Summer Day Camp is an important investment in the social, intellectual, emotional and spiritual growth of your child.

This booklet contains answers to many questions that parents frequently ask. Read this guide carefully and save it for future use. If you have any questions or thoughts regarding camp, refer to page 3 to determine the appropriate contact person. We will be glad to help you in any way. We look forward to sharing the summertime with you and your family, and welcome you to make memories every day with the JCC Summer Day Camps!

Sincerely,

The JCC Summer Day Camp Directors




Goldring-Woldenberg JCC-Metairie
Goldring-Woldenberg Jewish Community Campus
Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Building
3747 W. Esplanade Avenue, Metairie, LA 70002
504.887.5158 phone | 504.780.5639 fax | www.nojcc.org



The “J” in JCC

We spend eight weeks immersed in a Jewish environment. That does not mean that we all pray every morning. In fact, not all of us are Jewish. It does, however, mean that our camp reflects Jewish values and observes Jewish rituals. JCC Summer Camp goals include commitment to Jewish culture and tradition, knowledge of Israel, teaching of Jewish values, respect for Torah and Jewish rituals, and respect for relationships of humans to each other as well as to the world we inhabit.

Date Founded	c. 1300 BCE
Adherents	14 million
Major Sects	Reform, Conservation, Orthodox
Sacred Texts	Tanakh - includes Torah (Law), Nebi'im (Prophets) and Ketuvim (Writings); same books at the Old Testament in Christianity
Original Language	Hebrew
Spiritual Leader	Rabbi
Place of Worship	Synagogue/Temple
Day of Worship	Saturday (Friday sunset to Saturday sunset)
Theism	Monotheism
Human Nature	Created good
How to Live	Obey the law and atone for sin
Major Holidays	Rosh Hashanah - Jewish New Year; Yom Kippur - Day of Atonement; Sukkot - Celebrating the Harvest; Hanukkah - Festival of Lights; Tu B'Shevat - New Year for Trees; Purim - The Feast of Lots; Passover - Commemorates Exodus from Egypt; Shavuot - celebrates when God gave the Torah to the Jewish People
Dietary Laws (Kosher Laws)	<p>Kosher laws are followed from simply primitive health regulations that have become obsolete with modern methods of food preparation; it has also been not all Jewish people follow these dietary laws; however, the JCC adheres to these Kosher laws in programming and camp.</p> <p>Certain foods may not be eaten: pork and shellfish</p> <p>Certain foods must be separated: milk and meat (including poultry) must never be mixed together; utensils for milk can never be mixed with utensils used to serve or eat meat. “Pareve” foods are neither milk nor meat and include: vegetables, mineral products, permitted fish, and eggs.</p> <p>Kosher Symbols: </p>

Fast Facts from www.religiousfacts.com

Camp Directors

Questions or concerns may arise making it necessary to contact the JCC. The following list should help you decide who you need to contact either by phone, 504.887.5158, or by emailing them directly.

Camp Director	Jessica Klein jessicak@nojcc.org
Assistant Camp Director	Shayla Sadowsky shayla@nojcc.org
Sports Specialist	Jacob Kindscher jacob@nojcc.org
Youth Department Director	Rachel Zoller rachelz@nojcc.org
Aquatics	Stephanie Krell stephanie@nojcc.org
CIT	Jessica Klein jessicak@nojcc.org
Billing	Stephanie Krell stephanie@nojcc.org
Absences/Change in Dismissal	Shayla Sadowsky shayla@nojcc.org

Camp Calendar

<i>Pre-Camp Mini Camp*</i>	May 27 - June 7
Camp Open House	June 9, 1:00 - 3:00 PM
Full 8-Week Session	June 10 - August 2
First 4-Week Session	June 10 - July 5
First 6-Week Session	June 10 - July 19
Second 4-Week Session	July 8 - August 2
Second 6-Week Session	June 24 - August 2
<i>Post-Camp Mini Camp*</i>	August 5 - August 23

**please check website and flyers for offerings*

THERE IS NO CAMP ON THURSDAY, JULY 4 IN OBSERVANCE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY.

Camp Hours

General Camp and Taglit Teen Camp 9:00 AM - 3:15 PM

Before and After Care

If you have not already registered for Before and/or After Care, please notify the camp director. The JCC does not take responsibility for your child before 7:30 AM or after 5:30 PM on Monday – Friday. If your child stays late, there will be a \$1.00 per minute late fee. Please arrive on time!

Before Care (7:30 AM – Start of camp)

Parents, for your child's safety, please bring campers inside to their designated Before Care classrooms. Age-appropriate books and toys will be available for play during this time.

After Care (End of camp – 5:30 PM)

Campers ages 10 and younger must be enrolled in After Care if they are staying beyond the 3:15 PM camp dismissal.

Snack will be provided for campers who stay for After Care. They will wind-down with indoor and outdoor activities, movies, and age-appropriate play. Parents must sign out their children when they are picked up.

For our older and more independent campers, After Care will take place in the adult supervised game room. Check in and check out are required. Special activities and a snack will be provided. JCC policy allows youth ages 11 and up to visit the pool or gymnasium unaccompanied by an adult. However, children ages 11 and up may register for After Care in the game room to receive supervised care after the camp day ends.

Drop-Off/Pick-Up Procedures

CELL PHONE USE IS PROHIBITED IN THE CARPOOL LINE.

Drop-Off (For all campers not enrolled in Before Care)

Drop off campers between 8:45 and 9:05 AM. If you need supervision for your children prior to 8:45 AM, please register him/her for Early Morning Care. For safety and to expedite the carpool process, drivers must remain in their car at all times. If you wish to escort your child to their group, please park in the parking lot. The carpool gate will close at 9:05 AM. Please park and escort your child to the front desk to sign them in if you arrive after the gate closes.

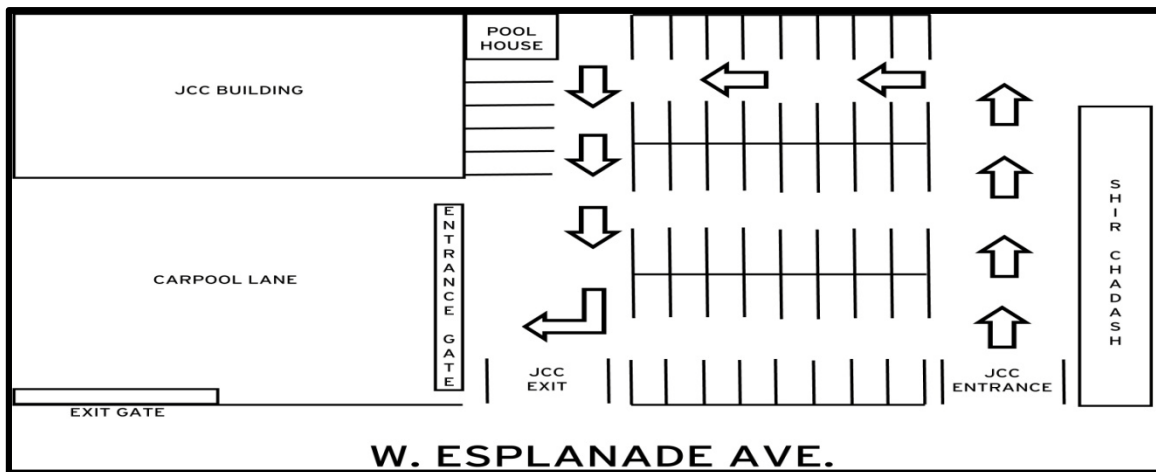
Pick-Up (For all campers not enrolled in After Care)

Dismissal time for Chaverim, Maccabee, Sabra, Zion and Taglit Camp is 3:15 PM. At that time we will dismiss from the drive-in gate area (see next page for map). To ensure a smooth dismissal, your assistance and cooperation are requested. A camp counselor will bring the children to the car and assist in buckling them into their seat. Parents should watch the buckle-up process to ensure it is done correctly. Remember that we are dismissing more than 100 children and that their safety is our main concern. The following will help the dismissal process:

- Cars should line up in the parking lot beginning inside the drive-in gate and stretching toward the back of the parking lot.
- PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CAR.
- Display your child's JCC carpool nametag (distributed at Camp Open House) in your front windshield.
- For your child's safety, please have your child's car seat on the passenger side.
- A counselor will bring your child to your car.
- No child will be dismissed until all camp groups are accounted for in the gymnasium. This is to provide for your child's safety. Do not approach your child's counselor and ask that your child be allowed to leave early.
- If you park in the parking lot, or walk to the JCC to pick up your child, wait outside the door to the gym with your JCC carpool nametag and a counselor will be standing there to meet you.
- Without an official JCC carpool nametag, a photo ID will be required to pick up any campers.

After 3:30 PM, if your child has not been picked up, he/she will be taken to Kids Konnection or Game Room.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



Absence

Notify Shayla Sadowsky, Assistant Camp Director, each day that your child is absent from camp by calling 504.887.5158 or by emailing her at shayla@nojcc.org. There are no refunds or make-up days for camp days that your child misses.

Written Notes and Emails

We are concerned about your child's safety first and foremost. Give written notes to the camp counselor who welcomes your child in carpool. Written notes or emails to the Camp Director are required for: changes in dismissal (early pick-up, etc.), if your child cannot go swimming, and for any other special considerations. All written notes and emails must be dated with your child's full name and a phone number where we can reach you if we need to clarify any instructions.

Parent Communication

Parents will be able to access important information in the "Parents' Corner" of our website. To access the "Parents' Corner," visit www.nojcc.org and click on the "Parents' Corner" button. Parents who provide their email addresses will receive the weekly newsletter, "Camp Notes," every Friday. To update your email address, please email Jessica at jessicak@nojcc.org.

Open House

Sunday, June 9 | 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Parents and campers signed up for any camp session are invited to meet their counselors and check out their home for the summer. T-shirts, car tags and camp calendars will be distributed on this day.

The First Day

Monday, June 10 | 9:00 AM – 3:15 PM

The first day of camp is a special day as children begin to make new friends and become acquainted with the JCC and its camp program. Please escort your children to the appropriate location:

Chaverim

Campers report to their assigned rooms.

Maccabee, Sabra, Zion and Taglit

Campers report to the Gymnasium. After a brief introduction to the camp program and staff, campers will be dismissed with counselors to their assigned rooms and the group activities will begin.

Medical Forms

The camp medical form, found in this packet and on Parents' Corner on the JCC website (www.nojcc.org), must be completed and returned to the JCC no later than May 31. No camper may come to camp without a completed health form. A PHYSICIAN'S SIGNATURE IS REQUIRED.

This policy makes for healthy children at camp and at home. Your doctor's recommendations will assist our staff in caring for any special needs your child may have. The forms will be kept on file and referred to as necessary. Please note any allergies that your child has, including food allergies, on this medical form. Feel free to arrange a meeting with the camp director to discuss specific dietary and health-related restrictions.

Medication

Prescription medications will be administered only on the written, dated and signed request of a licensed physician. The original label must be on the container with the physician's instructions and the physician's name. Do not put any medication in your child's lunch or swim bag. Jessica Klein and Shayla Sadowsky will be responsible for dispensing medications.

Accident/Injury

In the event an accident or injury occurs, a staff member certified in American Red Cross First Aid will administer care. A copy of an accident/injury notice will be sent home with the camper. In the event of a serious injury, you will be contacted by the camp director.

Illness

The health and safety of your child is the first priority of our staff. Do not send your child to camp if he or she is not feeling well. When children become ill at camp, a parent or emergency contact will be notified IMMEDIATELY to pick up the camper. This policy protects your child and all other children. Parents must keep emergency names and numbers up to date.

Please follow these guidelines to keep our camp community healthy:

Illness/Symptom	Return After
Diarrhea (two or more loose stools, or over and above what is normal for that child)	Diarrhea resolved
Fever of unknown origin and some behavior signs of illness	Fever free for at least 24 hours
Conjunctivitis	24 hours after medicine administered and eye is no longer oozing
Head Lice	Hair has been treated and is free of active insects and their eggs (nits). Campers returning after head lice must be walked in by parent/guardian and checked by camp directors before returning with his/her camp group.
Undiagnosed generalized rash	Well or cleared by the child's physician as non-contagious
Strep throat	Note from child's physician

Insurance

Camp Accident Insurance is mandatory for all campers. This coverage is \$10.00 per camper per summer (paid with camp fees). The coverage is in effect for all injuries sustained while participating in the activities sponsored and supervised by the JCC, and includes coverage for group travel to and from JCC activities.

The benefits payable under this policy are supplemental to the individual's primary health insurance coverage. The coverage is also subject to a \$100.00 deductible.

How to Dress for Camp

Send your child to camp in appropriate camp clothes. Campers should not wear clothing that will restrict their fun and creativity. Paint, glue and dirt will not always come out in the wash.

- EVERYTHING that your camper brings to camp MUST BE LABELED.
- Chaverim and Maccabee campers are to arrive at camp in their bathing suits.
- Tennis shoes and socks MUST be worn every day. Inappropriate footwear may prevent your child from participating in activities.
- Flip-flops and Crocs are ONLY permitted to and from the pool.
- JCC Camp shirts must be worn on field trip days to further ensure safety and group identification.
- Heelies (shoes with wheels) are not permitted.

What to Bring

Chaverim

- 2 changes of clothes, labeled in a plastic bag
- 2 bathing suits, come to camp wearing one
- Tennis shoes with socks
- Towel, labeled
- Mats for rest time, labeled
- Sunscreen (spray type only) with signed and dated parental authorization taped to bottle
- Lunch

Maccabee, Sabra, Zion, Taglit

- 2 bathing suits
 - Maccabee campers should come to camp wearing a bathing suit. For all other units it is optional to wear a bathing suit to camp.
- Tennis shoes with socks
- Towel, labeled
- Sunscreen
- Lunch

What to Leave Home

Electronics

Gaming systems, iPods, and cell phones should not be used during the camp day, including before and after care. Electronics are a distraction to camp activities and the JCC will not be responsible for lost electronic items.

Personal Items

Do not send your camper with any personal items that your child is not willing to share or lose. It is your child's responsibility to label and keep track of their belongings non-essential to camp.

Money

Use of the vending machines and snack bar are not permitted during the camp day. Only those campers ages 8 and up may use the vending machines or snack bar after camp. Do not send your children with more than \$5. The JCC will not be responsible for lost money.

Lost & Found

Any items misplaced will be gathered each day. PLEASE LABEL ALL ITEMS WITH YOUR CHILD'S FIRST AND LAST NAME so they can be returned to your child's counselor when they are found. Unclaimed or unlabeled items left or found will be located at the "Lost and Found" table by the cafeteria. Any items left at the end of summer will be donated. The JCC is not responsible for replacing lost items.

Order labels and raise money for the JCC Summer Camp

Name Bubbles are press-and-stick labels that are dishwasher and laundry safe and a wonderful way to keep track of your child's belongings. Order online at www.namebubbles.com. During checkout, enter code "JCC13" and 20% of your label order will be donated to the JCC Camp.

Daily Lunches and Snacks

Kosher Cajun Restaurant offers a Lunch Plan for advanced purchase. To sign up, fill out the lunch plan form and return with payment to Kosher Cajun no later than May 31.

Campers not on the Lunch Plan should bring lunch and drinks with them daily. Lunches unfortunately cannot be refrigerated or heated. Label each lunch clearly with the child's first, last name and camp group. Do not send money for soft drinks or snacks. Children may not purchase items from the snack machines during camp hours.

A mid-morning snack is provided for Chaverim, Maccabee, Sabra, Zion, and Taglit units.

Juice Boxes

The JCC offers a Juice Box Plan for advanced purchase. This is a good option for campers who bring their lunch but would like a cold juice box to go with it. Juice boxes are 6.75 ounces and will be distributed during lunch.

Birthdays

Cakes or other dessert items are welcomed for your child's birthday. These items must be Kosher (see page 2 for description). For further information, contact the camp director.

Field Trips

Weekly field trips are scheduled for campers in Maccabee, Sabra, and Zion. Please arrive no later than 9:00 AM on these days. Camp t-shirts must be worn by campers on field trip days. Do not send your child with money to purchase food or souvenirs.

Aquatics

Swimming is an important life skill and essential part of the JCC Summer Day Camps. The primary goal of the JCC Aquatics Program is to teach water safety skills and basic strokes. Our program accommodates the physical and emotional state of each child, and enriches his/her time spent at camp by providing an educational and fun atmosphere.

Our lessons are designed using the American Red Cross Swim Program. Campers are instructed in a safe and nurturing environment, and they are not pressured to participate. Instructional swim is scheduled for the following units: Chaverim, Maccabee, Sabra, and Zion.

The JCC adheres to an open door policy for all parents of campers. While parents are encouraged to track their child's swimming progress, parents' presence on the pool deck can distract campers.

Swimmer Evaluation Test

During the first day of camp, all campers are evaluated to determine their appropriate swim level. Swimmers who arrive after the first day of camp will be evaluated to determine the appropriate swim level on their first day of camp. During the evaluation, the campers will demonstrate a series of skills based on the six levels of the American Red Cross Guidelines. Instructional swim class placement is based on the age, swim experience and ability of the child.

You can track your child's weekly swim progress by accessing his/her swimming report on our website. Here's how it works:

- During the first week of camp, your child's swimming ability will be assessed. You will be notified of his/her starting swim level and assigned a personal code. This code allows you to track your child's progress while maintaining confidentiality.
- Every other Friday, the JCC will post the weekly swimming report online. To access the report, visit www.nojcc.org and click on the "Parents' Corner" button.
- The swimming reports will be organized by swim level. To track your child's individual progress, click on the report that corresponds to your child's swim level. Upon completion of all skills in a level, your child will advance to the next level and his/her code will be listed in that higher level. Use his/her personal code to see exactly which skills your child has learned that week.

If you want to further advance your child's swimming abilities with private or semi-private swimming lessons, please contact Stephanie Krell at 504.887.5158 or you can email at stephanie@nojcc.org.

Family Fun Night

Although these events are not an official part of camp, they are wonderful JCC programs in which many campers and all staff participate. This year they will be held from 5:30 - 7:30 PM on Tuesdays, June 18 and July 23. We hope to see you there!

Emergency Closings

It is possible that the JCC may have to close due to weather conditions, power outages or hurricane warnings during the summer. In the event of a hurricane threat, the JCC will close in a timely manner so that our staff can secure the building and then have time to secure their homes to evacuate the city, if necessary. We appreciate your cooperation.

For camp closing information, call the Camp Hotline at 504-648-2477 or check the JCC website, www.nojcc.org.

Behavior Policy

The JCC Camps strive to provide a safe, well supervised, and fun experience to all of its campers. Behaviors such as intentional kicking, biting, or bullying will not be tolerated. Assist us by discussing with your child which behaviors are not appropriate at camp and by explaining the consequences of behaving inappropriately.

First Occurrence

The camp director, counselor and camper will meet and reach a clear understanding of the concern. They will agree on alternative, appropriate behavior to be used in the future. A serious incident will result in a phone call home. A camp director will explain to parents what happened and that such behavior is not acceptable.

Second Occurrence

The second time an incident occurs will result in a second phone call home from the camp director. They will discuss a plan to resolve the concern and be notified that the camper will have to be picked up from camp if there is a third offense.

Third Occurrence

The parent must immediately pick up the camper for the remainder of the day. The camp director will determine if there is a need for expulsion.

Oneg Shabbat

Join us every Friday at 2:00 PM as we prepare to welcome the Sabbath. Our special Oneg Shabbats include drama presentations and musical performances by our campers, sing-a-longs, special guest performances and a weekly slideshow of pictures taken during the week. Challah and juice are served. All parents and guests must check in at the front desk and receive an identifying tag.

Things to Remember

1. LABEL all items sent to camp with first and last name.
2. “Camp Notes” will be sent via email every Friday. Please check your camper’s bag daily for written notes.
3. Please do not send any money with your child for field trips or regular camp.
4. Please put sunscreen on your child in the morning and send sunscreen to camp with your child.
5. Please give any written notes to the counselor who takes your child from the car or send an email to Jessica at jessicak@nojcc.org.
6. Prescription medications will be administered only on the written, dated and signed request of a licensed physician. The original label must be on the container with the physician’s instructions and the physician’s name. Do not put any medication in your child’s lunch or swim bag. Jessica Klein and Shayla Sadowsky will be responsible for dispensing medications.
7. There will be no refunds or make-up days for camp days that your child misses.
8. Please go to the reception desk if arriving after 9:05 AM or picking your child up before 3:15 PM to sign your child in or out.
9. PLEASE REFRAIN FROM CELL PHONE USE IN THE CARPOOL LINE.

Due by May 31

- Remaining balance
- Medical Form
- Lunch Form
- Permissions Form
- Additional Services Form
- Get To Know Your Child Form



If you need to reprint a form or need any additional forms, please visit our website, visit www.nojcc.org and click on the “Parents’ Corner” button.