



OUR SHARED VISION: ONE CAMP, ONE FAMILY

At Camp at the J, we believe a great summer is more than just fun — it's about belonging.

We welcome families from many backgrounds: Jewish, multi-faith, culturally connected, and those just starting to learn about Jewish life. Whether this is your first camp experience or your fifth, you and your child are now part of something bigger — a community built on connection, care, and shared joy.

This *Brit* (a Hebrew word meaning “covenant” or “sacred agreement”) reflects the values that guide our relationship. It's a promise we make to one another, as a family would: with trust, respect, kindness, and a whole lot of heart.

What Camp Commits To

SAFETY AND CARE

- Ensuring every camper feels physically, emotionally, and socially safe.
- Caring for each child with kindness, patience, and attention to their unique needs.
- Making camp a space where kids can be fully themselves and fully accepted.

MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES

- Creating days filled with fun, discovery, and spirit (*ruach*).
- Introducing and living Jewish values and traditions in a warm, inclusive way.
- Helping campers grow as individuals and as part of something greater.

BELONGING AND TOGETHERNESS (KEHILLAH)

- Fostering a deep sense of *kehillah* — a loving, supportive community.
- Making sure no camper feels left out, overlooked, or alone.
- Creating traditions, rituals, and shared moments that help campers feel: *This is my place. These are my people.*

OPEN COMMUNICATION

- Keeping families informed and connected throughout the summer.
- Listening with openness and compassion to your thoughts and concerns.
- Working together as partners in your child's growth and happiness.

What Families Commit To

TRUST AND OPENNESS

- Entrusting us with the honor of caring for your child.
- Letting us know how we can best support your child's needs.
- Approaching the camp team with honesty, patience, and shared intention.

RESPECT FOR OUR COMMUNITY (KAVOD)

- Embracing the idea that camp is a shared space built on mutual care.
- Supporting our camp's culture, grounded in Jewish values, curiosity, and celebration.
- Helping your child understand they are part of a community where everyone belongs.

PARTNERSHIP

- Communicating clearly and constructively with our team.
- Working with us when questions, needs, or challenges arise.
- Participating as a member of our extended camp family — even from afar.

RESPONSIBILITY (ACHRAYUT)

- Completing forms, payments, and camper prep on time.
- Encouraging your child to try new things and care for others.
- Helping create a positive, caring, and inclusive environment from home.

Together, our Commitment is

To build a summer community that feels like family — where every camper is valued, every voice matters, and every day brings laughter, learning, and love.

We enter this *brit* — this sacred relationship — with gratitude and shared purpose.

Together, we are one camp, one family, shaping a summer full of connection, meaning, and belonging.

CAMP AT THE J FAQs

WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT THIS IS A “JEWISH” CAMP?

Our camp is rooted in Jewish culture, religious tradition, and values, but we welcome campers from all backgrounds. Kids will explore traditions like Shabbat, sing Hebrew songs, and talk about kindness and justice in ways that are inclusive, age-appropriate, and joyful. The camp also opens each day singing the Israeli national anthem, honoring the JCC’s connection to the modern-day state of Israel as a spiritual and cultural center of Jewish life.

WE’RE AN INTERFAITH OR NON-PRACTICING FAMILY. WILL OUR CHILD FEEL OUT OF PLACE?

Not at all. Many of our campers come from a variety of backgrounds including multi-faith, culturally Jewish homes, or are totally new to Jewish traditions. We meet kids (and families!) where they are and focus on creating a warm, welcoming space for everyone.

WILL MY CHILD BE EXPECTED TO PRAY OR FOLLOW RELIGIOUS RULES?

Camp includes blessings, songs, and stories, but we don’t expect belief or religious observance. We teach with curiosity and celebration — not obligation.

WHAT’S SHABBAT LIKE AT CAMP?

Shabbat is a highlight! It’s a time to slow down, dress up, sing, reflect, and come together as a community. It’s joyful, musical, and welcoming, especially for campers experiencing it for the first time.

WHAT’S A “BRIT”?

Brit (or *Berit*) is Hebrew for “covenant” — a mutual promise. In our case, it’s not legal — it’s about relationships: camp and family, working together for the good of each child.

WHAT IF I’M FEELING UNSURE OR HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

Please reach out! We’re here for you. Whether it’s your child’s first time at camp or your first time encountering Jewish traditions, we’re happy to talk, explain, and support. This is a shared journey.