



Parent Handbook Summer 2021

**The Roth Family Jewish Community Center of Greater Orlando
851 N. Maitland Ave • Maitland, FL 32751**

Dear Camp Families,

Hello and welcome to Camp J at the Orlando JCC. By choosing Camp J, you are providing your camper with a fun and exciting summer, and more importantly giving your campers opportunity to enhance self –esteem, build their identity, create lasting friendships and grow in many ways. Camp J is the place to be this summer!

This Parent Handbook contains valuable information that will answer many of your questions that might arise throughout the summer. It will also help you and your child get the most out of your Camp J experience. Please read through this carefully and keep it for future reference.

All required forms, including health forms are available online through your CampDoc account. The deadline to submit forms is May 28, 2021.

If you have any questions or need help, please email campj@orlandojcc.org

Thank you for sharing the most important part of your lives with us this summer. It is an awesome responsibility to care for your children, and I am grateful to be part of this camp community. I look forward to seeing you on the first day of camp.

Take Care,

Sarah

Sarah Weissman

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Welcome to Camp

Important Deadlines & Dates

Thursday May 20 th	Deadline for all required forms. These forms are available through your online CampDoc account <u>Campers are NOT permitted to attend camp without all completed and processed forms on file</u>
Tuesday May 25 th : 7:30pm – 9pm	Parent Open House (on zoom): Learn all about camp and have your questions answered. Link to be emailed out prior to orientation
Sunday June 6 th : 11am – 1pm	Camp Open House: come meet your child's camp counselor. Open house will be done by unit. Gesher & Rishonim – 11:00 – 11:30am Yeladim & Chaverim – 11:45am – 12:15pm Teyarim & Specialty Camps – 12:30pm – 1:00pm

Dates and Times of Camp

Monday June 7th – Friday July 30th
(There is NO camp on Monday July 5th)

Camp Hours: 9:00am – 4:00pm
AM/PM Care: 7:30 – 9:00am and 4:00 – 6:00pm

Staying in Touch

Campers receive a roster of their group to help new friends keep in touch with one another outside of camp. Newsletters, weekly schedules, notices of special events, theme days and more will come home via e-mail.

Camp Philosophy

Camp J strives to create a friendly and cooperative atmosphere that fosters individual growth. Campers are encouraged to learn new skills and master old ones, to express themselves creatively, and to grow in their abilities to relate to others. In this supportive environment, a true sense of community develops. Campers are also encouraged to learn about their environment and the world around them. The camp setting gives children an opportunity to be part of a camp community in a nurturing and exciting atmosphere.

Many of our camp programs and activities are new experiences for our campers. Since parents are important members of our camp family too, we invite you to encourage your child to try new things and to let their counselor know when they may need extra help or encouragement.

Camp J Contact Information

If you have any questions you may call or email us directly: 407-621-4038 or campj@orlandojcc.org

What to Bring to Camp Each Day

Please send your camper to camp wearing **play clothes that can get dirty**. We're going to do a lot of activities, play a variety of sports, and create art, among other things, that may make your camper a bit messy! We recommend your camper wear shorts, a t-shirt and sneakers to Camp J. **Closed toed shoes are required**. All campers should apply sunscreen before leaving home.

Please label everything your camper wears to camp, including footwear, with their name. If an item gets misplaced, having a name on it will make it much easier to be returned

Campers will leave their backpacks in their base rooms throughout the day. Please pack the following items each day:

- 2 bathing suits and 2 towels (1 if your child is in Teyarim and will only be swimming once a day)
- Bags for your child's wet bathing suit/towel
- A lunch & AM snack (Kosher style & NUT FREE)

- Hat & water bottle
- Sunscreen (labelled and in a plastic bag)
- Masks (at least 3 or 4) and bag/pouch for storage
- A change of clothes (including socks)

Camp J Approach and Staff Commitment

Camp J approach to working with children

At Camp J, we relate to children as unique individuals who should be given opportunities to learn new things, experience new challenges and develop new skills (both physical and social), while feeling good about themselves. We believe this can be accomplished most successfully in a relaxed and fun atmosphere, with the support provided to bring out the best in every single camper.

Being part of a group offers each child opportunities to share, work and play together, to strive for common goals and to better understand the needs of others. Each camper also takes pride in the group's achievements and recognizes the significance of his or her own contributions to the group's success.

Each camp day is filled with activities, friendship, spirit and adventure. All of this enables our campers to enhance their own identity.

Staff/Parent Communication

Each camper's family will receive a phone call once per session and the camp director is available before and after camp to have conversations as well. If you would like to talk with your camper's counselor during the summer, please speak with the camp director.

Our Staff

We have worked hard to recruit and hire top quality summer staff. Staff go through a lengthy application process, followed by an intensive interview, reference and background checks. Our staff receives extensive pre-camp orientation training in individual and group dynamics, inclusion, safety, child development, and emergency procedures. Our Camp J staff consist of full-time JCC professionals, teachers, early childhood educators, college students, high school students, and outside professionals, all with outstanding expertise and talent.

Camp J Behavior Safety Guidelines

Camp J staff takes the safety of your child/ren seriously. It is our job to protect your child/ren's physical and emotional safety. Our staff receives extensive training on proactive behavior management techniques, health, safety and security.

Staff and campers are expected to treat each other with respect. Campers will face consequences for behaviors that disrupt activities, harm the safety (physical or emotional) of other campers and/or staff, or violate camp rules. Campers will never be physically punished. However, camp staff may use reasonable force to break up a fight, prevent violence or restrain an unsafe camper.

Camp J uses a multi-step discipline policy to address disruptive and/or unsafe behavior. To begin, all staff members are involved in the pre-camp training on proactive and preventive behavior management strategies. If a camper is involved in a behavior that compromises the safety of anyone and/or breaks a camp rule, a parent/guardian will be contacted and an incentive program (star/sticker chart, daily contract or other techniques) targeting specific behaviors will be discussed. Campers will earn reinforcements at camp and/or at home for demonstrating improved behavior.

If the camper continues to display the same unsafe or similar behaviors, a parent/guardian will be contacted to take the camper home early and the camper may be suspended from camp for the following day. If a suspension occurs, the camper and parent/guardian will meet with the camp administrative staff the next morning to help re-enter the camp program successfully.

Should another incident occur, the camper may be sent home early and suspended for the next day. A reoccurrence of the same or similar behavior will result in the camper being requested to leave camp. The parent/guardian will pick up the camper. No refunds will be given. The camp director reserves the right to make final decisions on any of the above guidelines.

Bullying (Cyber & Harassment)

Bullying involves a person expressing his or her power through the humiliation of another person. Camp J supports the rights of everyone to participate and enjoy all activities, free from any form of bullying. Camp J will make every reasonable effort to promote awareness of the problem of bullying among all its participants, and to respond quickly and effectively to complaints or disclosures of bullying.

Cyber-Bullying and Harassment: It has happened at camps around the country that a few campers have sent rude, demeaning, intimidating, or vulgar emails or messages to other campers; and some campers have created false screen names to harass members of the camp community or spread false and damaging information about them. Most internet communication is fun, positive, and an important way campers stay in touch with their friends. Our "Policy for Campers," which we are asking you to read over and then read with your child (on page 12 & 13), covers our response to this problem. In addition, we have outlined steps you or your child should take should they receive an abusive, inappropriate, demeaning, or otherwise threatening internet communication.

Being familiar with these steps is part of the overall safety and healthy practice you should have in place with your child if they are online, regardless of whether they attend camp or not. Sharing them with you is one way we feel we can support your effort to protect your children whether they are at camp or not.

Preparing for Separation

To prepare a camper for the summer, parents need to talk about who will be at camp: counselors, specialists, and new and returning friends. Part of the discussion is how camp might be different than before and how to manage expectations. This can be done by discussing what goes on during the day and describe the programs: playing, painting, singing, snacking, games, cooperation, and sharing. We recommend reminding them one or two days before camp to help them feel more secure.

Campers respond to new environments differently and can exhibit a range of emotions, and behaviors prior to camp beginning. Please speak to your campers about this and keep camp in the loop so we are ready to help in the transition.

We also need to prepare you – because of COVID policies that we will not be able to hug or give high fives. Also, all our staff will be wearing masks, so we all need to adjust to having our smiles be behind our masks.

Remember, we are here every step of the way to ensure that your child has a positive experience at Camp J. If you have any concerns about your child's separation, please contact Sarah Weissman, Camp J Camp Director.

Keeping Campers Safe

Camp J and The Roth Family JCC of Greater Orlando have developed a comprehensive plan and a set of protocols to help mitigate the risks of COVID-19. Even though we have a plan, the situation is fluid and things change quickly. We will continue to modify and update our protocols and procedures with assistance from the CDC and the American Camp Association. We pledge to notify you in a timely manner when we make these updates.

Our Protocols

Small groups – Camp groups this summer will have approximately 12 - 15 campers and two counselors. Mixing of groups will be on a limited and consistent basis. Physical distancing will not be required within the group. Each group will be required to stay physically distant from one another.

Masks – All Camp J staff and campers are required to wear masks throughout the day.

Enhanced Hygiene – There are outdoor touchless hand sanitizer dispensers set up throughout camp. Counselors will be trained on how to help campers wash their hands, which will help promote and enforce good personal hygiene and hand-washing throughout the day. This includes campers washing their hands after using the restroom, and before and after they eat lunch or snack.

Enhanced Cleaning - Camp J will utilize full-time JCC maintenance professionals to clean and disinfect facilities, including bathrooms, classrooms and playgrounds, frequently. Specialists will wipe down and disinfect their program areas after each group departs.

The Program – We have carefully selected activities for this summer that will promote a traditional summer camp experience while helping to mitigate potential risks. There is a good mix of enrichment based activities with group staff led games and playtime. The schedule also ensures that there will only be one group at each activity at any given time.

Illness at Camp - If anyone exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 after arriving at camp, they will be moved to our designated sick-room (separate and apart from the camp health center) while they await a prompt pick-up from their family. If someone is suspected of or becomes ill with COVID-19 related symptoms, we will immediately report to both state and local health departments. Under the direction of the health officials, we will communicate with camp families and staff immediately.

Arrival & Dismissal

Carpool Procedures

Arrival (8:45am – 9:00am)

1. When you enter the parking lot, you will be in the middle of three rows.
2. Follow the road until you get to the end and make a left.
3. After you pass the tennis court lot on your right, you will see an opening in the road on the right.
4. There will be camp staff waiting there to let your children out of the car.
5. Please make sure to put your car in park.
6. Please make sure all backpacks are with your child/ren and not in the trunk of your car.
7. **DO NOT GET OUT OF YOUR CAR**
8. **A JCC STAFF MEMBER WILL COME OPEN YOUR CAR DOOR AND THEN YOUR CHILD MAY EXIT THE CAR**
9. They will be escorted to their group by a member of the Camp J staff.
10. It is imperative for the safety of the campers and members of the JCC that you drive with extraordinary caution in the parking lot!

Dismissal (4:00pm)

1. Please do not arrive for carpool before 3:45pm, so as not to disrupt the use of the parking lot for all other members.
2. Place the “Carpool Hanger” on your rear view mirror and make sure it is visible.
3. When you enter the parking lot you will be in the middle of three rows.
4. Follow the road until you get to the end and make a left.
5. Pull around and stop where you see the Camp J carpool signs (or pull behind the last car)
6. Your children will be brought out to the car once your car has reached one of the spots under the overhang.
7. **PLEASE DO NOT GET OUT OF THE CAR TO TALK TO MEMBERS OF THE CAMP J STAFF. If you would like to speak with someone please notify a member of the Camp J staff and park your car. Someone will go over to speak with you after carpool has ended.**

Dismissal Policies

If a camper is being picked up by someone other than a legal guardian:

- The adult picking up must be listed on the “Who is authorized to pick up your child from Camp J?” question completed on CampDoc before the start of camp, or the parent must notify the office in writing before the day starts.
- Government issued identification will be required to identify individuals picking up campers.
- Even though an individual may be on the family’s “Who is authorized to pick up your child from Camp J?”, we still need to know when your camper will be picked up by someone other than a legal guardian. Please proactively notify the camp office.
- If your child will be carpooling with another child on a regular basis, we will give you multiple carpool cards.

Late Arrivals and Early Pick-Ups

Late arrivals cause disruption within the camp group. We encourage campers to arrive on time at 9:00am; however, we know that sometimes things can happen. If your child will be late to camp, please notify the camp office as early as possible. Once you arrive to camp, please call the camp office at 407-621-4038 and someone will meet you and your child in the front of the building under the overhang.

If you need to pick up your child early, please call the Camp Office at 407-621-4038 **and** send an email to campj@orlandojcc.org. **All early pickups must be completed by 3:00pm.** Your child will be brought out to the front of the building under the overhang.

Late Pick-Up Policy

A child worries when everyone else has been picked up and he or she is the only one remaining at camp. Late fees are designed to compensate staff for their time and to discourage parents from being late. Please be advised that we enforce the following policy regarding late fees:

For Classic J, a parent or emergency contact will be called if the camper has not been picked up by 4:15pm. Parents will be charged a late fee of \$1 per minute per child starting at 4:15pm.

For PM Care Campers, a parent or emergency contact will be called if the camper has not been picked up by 6:00pm. Parents will be charged a late fee \$1 per minute per child after 6:05pm.

Upon pick-up, both a staff person and a parent will sign a late fee form verifying the date and time. The form will be kept on file and a copy will be issued to Accounting for billing.

Attendance & Absences

Please notify the Camp Office at 407-621-4049 or campj@orlandojcc.org by 8:30am if your child is going to be absent. The Camp Office will notify your child's counselors. There will be no refund for missed camp days.

Out of Town

If you plan to be out of town while your child continues to attend camp, please advise us accordingly and give us the name and contact information of someone who should be contacted in your absence. Additionally, we ask that you provide the Camp Office with a list of people who will be picking up in your absence.

Personal Property and Equipment

T-Shirts

Campers receive one camp T-shirt during the summer in the size indicated on the camper's application. If you did not indicate a size, we will guess what might fit a camper of a specific age and that is what your child will receive.

Lost & Found

A Lost and Found is maintained at the Camp Office. All unclaimed items are kept for two weeks following camp and then donated to a charitable organization. You are welcome to visit the Lost and Found at any time. As a reminder: please be sure to clearly label all items that come to camp! This will help our camp staff proactively return misplaced items.

Toys and other items from home

Campers must **not** bring toys, iPods, cell phones, video games, trading cards, candy, gum or other expensive personal items to camp (jewelry, cameras, etc.). They may get lost, stolen, broken and will be taken away for the day. Camp J is not responsible for items that may be lost or stolen and we thank you for your corporation.

Food at Camp

Lunch & Snacks

Each camper should bring a lunch and beverage with their name clearly marked on it. Lunches may **NOT contain Peanuts or Treenuts (including peanut butter, Nutella, etc.)**. Camp provides a daily afternoon snack. PM Care campers also receive a daily afternoon snack. All food provided by camp is kosher-style, meaning we never mix meat with milk. Please avoid foods that spoil easily. To ensure that campers meet their parents' dietary restrictions, and to protect against allergic reactions, we ask that campers do not share their lunch with others.

Lunch Suggestions

Bagels and cheese • Tortillas with cheese • Chicken Nuggets • Rice cakes with spread • Grilled cheese • Vegetables • Yogurt and granola • Rice • Couscous • Pastas • Egg salad/hard-boiled eggs • Yogurt

Sides

Carrot sticks • Celery sticks • Red pepper strips • Broccoli • Fruit • Dried fruit • Apple Sauce • Pasta • Chips • Granola Bars • Pudding • Jell-O snacks • Popcorn

Pizza Day

Each Monday is Pizza Day and ALL campers will enjoy pizza for lunch! Pizza lunches include cheese pizza, a side, and water. If your child can't or won't eat pizza, please pack a lunch for your child. Please contact the Camp Office if you would prefer to pack a lunch on those days so we don't include your child in the pizza count.

Birthdays

We are delighted to share in the celebration of your child's birthday. If you would like to celebrate your child's birthday at camp, please contact the camp director prior to your child's birthday to coordinate a snack to be brought in for your child's camp group.

Please note any dietary restrictions and food allergies on your forms and notify the Camp Office.

Health at Camp

It is very important to all of us that campers are in good health and free from any infections. For the health and safety of all campers, a current health statement form must be on file. If you need an additional form, please contact the camp office at campj@orlandojcc.org.

Illness

Parents are asked to cooperate with our camp by keeping children at home when there is any indication of illness, particularly symptoms of fever, stomach cramps, diarrhea, vomiting, rash, hives and/or lice.

Staff members are instructed in the recognition of early symptoms of illness.

Any camper with signs of illness during the day will be isolated and his/her parents will be notified. The parents must make arrangements for the camper's prompt pick-up. Any camper that has an elevated temperature of over 100 degrees cannot come/will be sent home from camp. Campers can only return to camp once they are fever-free without medication for 24 hours.

If a camper is absent for two or more days, his or her parents should call the Camp Office to explain the nature of the camper's illness, or other reasons for absence. Please be prepared to send a doctor's note with your child when they return to camp after being ill.

In the case of an emergency, every effort is made to notify parents first. If parents are unreachable, the emergency number will be called. If no one can be reached, the camper will be taken to the nearest hospital for emergency treatment. We will continue our efforts to reach a parent or emergency contact.

In order for your child to take full advantage of all of the activities at camp, it is important that he/she gets adequate sleep and a properly balanced diet.

Medications

If your child has medication that needs to be administered during camp hours, it should be sent with the Camp Medical Authorization form to the Camp Office. Medications must be sent in the original bottles with the prescribed dosage and the child's name indicated on the label. All medications are administered by the camp leadership team. Medications will not be administered unless a form has been completed. A log is kept to record the time and dosage of medication administered. Medication and special needs must be indicated on the health and medical forms. We strongly recommend that campers who take medication during the school year take their medication during camp.

MEDICAL FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE CAMP LEADERSHIP ADMINISTERS ANY MEDICATION TO A CHILD. IF YOU HAVE MISPLACED YOUR MEDICAL FORMS PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE AT 407-621-4049.

Safety & Security

Camp J and the Orlando JCC take everyone's safety seriously. We have safety and security protocols to keep everyone at camp safe. Some of these protocols you will see, like uniform shirts and name tags that all staff wears every day. Others are how we screen our staff with professional background checks and diligent reference checks. Some of these protocols you will not see and are not published for safety reasons. Staff are trained with the best practices in the youth camp industry, with topics including positive discipline, emergency procedures, and child abuse awareness. Our protocols have either been created with or shared with local officials to coordinate responses to emergencies. We will practice these procedures during the summer drills, so everyone at camp knows how to respond in case of an emergency. The Orlando JCC continues to upgrade its security infrastructure and protocols and is in constant communication with local law enforcement.

Please know that communication with our camp families is an integral part of our plans, via emails. Please make sure you add SarahW@Orlandojcc.org as trusted emails so they do not get blocked.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP?

1. Make sure that your emergency contact information & email addresses are up-to-date in your CampDoc account.
2. Make sure that people other than the legal guardians are listed as "Emergency Contacts", especially those "Authorized Grownups" who could be picking up your camper(s) from camp.

Aquatic Program and Pool Safety

Lifeguards/swim instructors at Camp J are all certified by the American Red Cross in:

- WSI (Water Safety Instructors)
- Lifeguarding
- First Aid
- CPR/AED

The outdoor pool at the JCC caters to all swim abilities

Determining swim abilities – The Camp J instructional swim program is consistent with the American Red Cross "Learn to Swim" program. This program consists of six levels that contain the skills needed to instruct swimming for a beginner to the most advanced swimmer. At Camp J, our Aquatics Program is designed to provide the best possible environment for each camper's success.

Each camper's initial placement into a swim group is determined by reviewing the prior year's records and his or her performance during the individual swim evaluations conducted on each camper's first day of swim.

In order to provide the best possible experience, each camper is placed in a group according to his or her swimming ability. Swim groups are sometimes adjusted in order for each camper to get the most success from our swim program.

Inclusion Program

Camp J is an inclusive environment open to every camper and their family. We do not discriminate based on religion, gender, race or one's abilities. We ask that everyone join us in welcoming one another in our camp community so that everyone feels comfortable. Everyone at camp must respect each other for who they are. Honest and informative discussion can come from this, but no one can make anyone feel like their rights or dignity are being compromised.

Our goal with each camper is to be inclusive, proactive, and supportive. We provide services to meet the needs of campers with varying abilities to the most comprehensive extent possible. We trust parents will inform us of their child's individual needs (physical, emotional, cognitive, or sensory) as soon as they are able, to allow appropriate planning time.

Camp is Technology Free

Cell Phones

We have a "no cell phone" policy at camp. Aside from the fact that cell phones are expensive, can get lost or stolen, and that the physical camp environment is not kind to such items, there is a fundamental problem with campers having cell phones at camp, and that is trust. When children come to camp they, and you, are making a leap of faith, temporarily transferring their primary care from you as their parents to their counselors and our staff.

This is one of the growth-producing, yet challenging aspects of camp. As children learn to trust other caring adults, they grow and learn, little by little, to solve some of their own challenges. We believe this emerging independence is one of the greatest benefits of camp. It is one important way your child develops greater resilience. Contacting you by phone essentially means they have not made this transition. It prevents us from getting to problems that may arise and addressing them quickly. Sending a cell phone to camp is like saying to your child that you as the parent haven't truly come to peace with the notion of them being away from you and in our care.

We agree to tell you if your child is experiencing a challenge in their adjustment to camp. You can help by talking with your child before they leave for camp and telling them that there is always someone they can reach out to, whether it is their counselor, a trusted specialist, or the director. We are all here to help, but if you don't trust us, your children certainly won't either.

Digital Photographs

Another drawback of having cell phones at camp is their built-in cameras. It has happened at some camps around the country that children have secretly taken photographs of other campers or staff during changing or showering times and later uploaded those images onto the internet. To lessen the possibility of this happening we have decided to ban all digital cameras and suggest that if your child wants pictures from camp, that they bring a disposable film camera, or visit our Facebook page, with you.

We take a lot of photographs during the summer. Information on how to access these photos is included in our email newsletter. Camp families can view pictures, download pictures, etc. Please help us maintain a safe environment by explaining this to your child (see our note on the next page about "Policies for Campers"). You should know that any camper that takes a compromising photograph of another camper or staff member and uploads it on the internet or makes it public in any way may be subject to dismissal from Camp J and may not be allowed to return. If the law is broken, the appropriate authorities will be notified.

Working Together to Keep Your Children Safe

We see many positive and exciting ways for children to enjoy the healthy benefits of the Internet and other technologies. As advocates for children, we want to work with you to keep those experiences safe, healthy, and positive. That is why we have taken the time to write these policies, include some resources for you, and urge you to talk with your children—both about camp and their online activity in general.

Policy for Campers and the Internet

We view email, instant messages, and social networking sites, like Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and Twitter, as positive ways for you to express yourself and keep in touch with your friends. As a camper at Camp J, you have the right to exchange online information with other campers and invite other campers to be on your "friends" list in any way that you and your parents see fit.

Regarding email, messages, and comments you might make to other campers on their social networking site, we ask you:

- Keep what you say positive and respectful of staff and campers alike
- Not to use obscenities, vulgar, or sexual language
- Not to say mean or threatening things to or about other campers or staff
- Not to post pictures online that would embarrass or violate anyone's privacy
- Not to pose as another camper online or spread false information about anyone or say damaging or threatening things to or about anyone
- Not to use a website, blog, or email to talk about things that are against camp policy, like using drugs or alcohol, bullying, or sexual topics

Most internet communication is positive, and that's great! In the rare case where there might be negative messages to other campers or staff, our policy is to call the parents of campers who send those messages and share the content with them.

We will use any legal means available, including contacting the police and the FBI, to attack the source of any offending or threatening Internet communication if we need to.

Any camper who violates any of our policies regarding the Internet or other communication might have to leave camp, might not be able to come back to camp, and might even have to answer to the police or other law enforcement authorities.

We want you to be safe on the internet. If you receive a threatening e-mail, IM, or message - one that is mocking, uses vulgar or harassing language—here is what you should do:

- Do not respond to the message or retaliate, because it might encourage the sender or get you into trouble.
- If possible, record the message onto your hard drive.
- Print a copy of the message, then close it but do not delete it.
- Tell your parents about it and have them notify the local police or, if necessary, contact your Internet service provider.
- If you suspect that the sender is from camp, please call us immediately.
- You or your parents can also contact Pedowatch (www.pedowatch.com) or the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (www.nemec.org).

Camp J is meant to be a fun, safe, and happy place for all of us! We need your help to keep the way people communicate with one another positive and in the spirit of camp—a way that makes everyone feel safe.

Your Kids, Our Staff, After Camp

Our pledge is to put your children in the company of the most trustworthy and capable young adults we can hire—counselors who are well-suited to the task of caring for our campers. The effort we put into screening and selecting our staff is part of that pledge.

Our staff work with your children in the context of a visible, well-scrutinized environment that has many built-in checks and balances. Counselors are supervised by full-time staff and guided by clear, firm policies regarding behavior. Their actions are also visible to coworkers and campers. By hiring them we are not recommending them as babysitters, nannies, or child companions outside of camp. In general we discourage our staff from having contact with your children after camp since we cannot supervise it. We hire our staff for the camp season so we do not take responsibility for their behavior off-season or after hours.

As a parent, you are, of course, free to make your own choice in this matter. While we cannot keep you from allowing your child to visit with one of our staff members, in doing so you take full responsibility. We also know that many children exchange contact information (e.g. email address, profile names, cell phone numbers) with counselors without our, or your, specific awareness or permission. We recommend that you, as the parent, supervise your child's online activities just as you do other aspects of their life in your home, and oversee any off-season contact our staff members and your child has. You take full responsibility to oversee any contact that results.