CAMP CHAI
Summer 2020 Guidebook
The Who, What, When, and Why Not!!

CAMP CHAI --
a special “kehilla” (community)
where each of us
can make a positive difference
in the lives of others and in ourselves!

EVERYTHING I NEEDED TO KNOW ABOUT LIFE
I LEARNED AT CAMP CHAI

*Always stay with a buddy*
*Cleaning up can be fun*
*You always get a new beginning--another chance*
*It’s important to finish everything you begin--
  except for lanyards*
*Make sure your counselor always knows where you are*
*There are all kinds of winners in every game*
*Being Jewish is a special kind of belonging*
*Cooperation is more important than competition*
*Leave the camp cleaner than the way you found it*
*If you stay around long enough, you get to be a counselor*
*Camp is your family--
you may not always like everyone but we all belong*
*It can always get hotter*
*You may leave camp, but camp will never leave you!!*
Dear Parents and Campers,

Welcome to Camp Chai Summer 2020!! We are busy getting ready for camp, and there are many things for you and your camper to do to get ready. Reading our Camp Chai Guidebook and all the forms and materials in this packet is the first step. We need your help and involvement to make for a great summer!

We look forward to seeing you and your camper at Orientation Night, **Wednesday, June 3 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.** in the Zale Auditorium. Campers will have the opportunity to meet their counselors and get to know their groups, while parents will learn more about the Camp Chai Experience.

This is the first step in our summer of sharing. That means we want you to share your concern, your questions, and your feedback with us. If you have any questions before camp begins, please call me at the JCC 214-239-7110 (my direct line). During the summer, feel free to call me at the Camp Central (214-239-7166) or leave a message for me at the JCC. You may also “talk” with me through e-mail: lseymour@jccdallas.org. With your help, we will keep you posted on your camper’s activities and progress during camp. This will be a special summer filled with memories, tradition and a sense of belonging.

Shalom,

Laura Seymour, Director
Tara Ohayon, Asst. Director
Camp Chai

Where to Find All You Need to Know!!

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What We Believe...

Camp Chai is a Jewish day camp which emphasizes individual growth and community building. At our J environment, campers have the opportunity to develop new skills through various activities, from team sports to crafts to swimming. Our program fosters positive attitudes and identification with Jewish traditions and values. The camp setting gives children the opportunity to belong to a group and to learn to respect each other, all in an atmosphere of adventure and excitement.

Camp Chai Components: Camp Chai serves children entering Kindergarten through 9th grades in its many components. Through our growing program, Camp Chai makes a difference in the lives of children as they grow in programs that meet their developmental needs. The camp experience promotes a sense of community and individual growth.

Camp Chai: Children are placed by grade in tribes (after the Tribes of Israel) and units - boys and girls are separated into tribes. As children grow, they are challenged by new activities and opportunities within the camp setting.

- Adat Chalutzim: This unit is specially designed for Kindergarten with opportunities for growth. Mornings are filled with swim lessons, games and more both inside and out while after lunch we settle down and do more indoor activities.
- Adat Chaverim: The unit for 1st graders is created to make the experience a growing one. Independence is gained through fun and choices of activities.
- Adat Shalom: Grades 2 and 3 are ready for more choices and opportunities. In Shalom, campers help with tribe planning and can choose “Chugim - Specialties.”
- Adat Giborim: Campers in Grades 4-6 will choose a morning focus from theater to creative arts to sports to techno/science. The afternoons will be spent in tribe activities and fun.

Leadership Training Camp: Our CITs (entering 9th grade) will be working hard this summer, learning all the skills they need to become great camp counselors. They will have structured learning times each day and will be working closely with mentor counselors. The campers love their CITs!!!

WHAT WE SHOULD DO NOW...

1. Fill out your “Getting To Know You Form” by May 8!!!
2. Immunizations Records must be sent in! ALL IMMUNIZATIONS MUST BE UP TO DATE!
3. Wait for your “Tribe Packet” (the week before camp) with:
   - Roster
   - Calendar
   - Bus Lists
4. Get new bathing suits and sunscreen

CALL WITH ANY QUESTIONS!!!!
Who We Are...

CAMP CHAI –

A Jewish camp for children...Not a camp for Jewish children!!

We believe that Camp Chai is more than a place for Jewish children to be together - it is a place to experience the beauty and the ethical values that Judaism has given to the world. We create a wonderful sense of belonging that is enhanced by Jewish culture. How does this work at camp?

- Blessings: before meals, after meals, and at special moments
- Singing together: both Hebrew and folk songs
- Pasek Z’man: a special time each day for each tribe to get together and talk about getting along in this world
- Jewish values: we talk about how each value “looks” and how each of us can act towards one another. Campers will “earn” value cards to reinforce the learning.
- Games: from Jewish trivia to GaGa
- Traditions: our tribe names, our unit names, our songs, our places, our “ruach” (spirit)!!

OUR STAFF

We are proud of our staff who bring life to Camp Chai. Many of our staff return each year and many were once Camp Chai campers. We hope to see your children on our staff roster soon.

Camp Director.............................................................Laura Seymour
Assistant Director..........................................................Tara Ohayon
Theater Specialist..........................................................Jessica Whiteman
Sports Specialist............................................................Kevin Steinberg
Unit Heads:
  Adat Chalutzim............................................................Michelle Ederi
  Adat Chaverim............................................................Tony Phuong
  Adat Shalom..............................................................Lindsay Thomas
  Adat Giborim.............................................................Elizabeth Kaner

Shlichim from Israel - we are excited to welcome 2 Israeli staff this summer & will be introducing them to our camp community soon.

Camp Chai Committee

The Camp Chai Committee is comprised of dedicated lay leaders of the Aaron Family Jewish Community Center who are involved in setting policy and improving the quality of our camps. Please feel free to contact any of our committee members to discuss your questions or concerns.

Matt Prescott, Chair
When We Do It…

Camp Dates:

Nine Week Session — Monday, June 8 through Friday, August 7
   1st Session: Monday, June 8 through Friday, June 26
   2nd Session: Monday, June 29 through Friday, July 17 (no Camp July 3)
   3rd Session: Monday, July 20 – Friday, August 7

Camp Hours:

Camp Chai hours are from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm each day. For the convenience of our parents, we offer care from 7:30-9:00 am and 4:00-6:00 pm. All campers in grades K - 6 who will be at the J before 8:45 or after 4:00 pm without adult supervision, MUST be registered in our Extended Care program.

EXTENDED CARE IS LOCATED IN THE LODGE - AT THE END OF THE TENNIS COURT DRIVE.

Extended Care registration is available AM only/PM only or Both. Activities include swimming, crafts, games and time to visit with friends in a supervised atmosphere. Registration is taken at the Front Desk of the J and must be done prior to camp start.

Before Care begins at 7:30 am. A staff member will be at the door to assist children out of the car and check them in

After Care is available from 4:00-6:00 pm. For pick up, park in the Tennis Lot and come into the Lodge. All campers will be out of the pool and in the Lodge by 5:45pm each day.

For occasional Extended Care registration, please make reservations 24 hours in advance by email to jcamp@jccdallas.org. The fee is $10 per hour, which is paid by check or cash each day.

Bus Transportation:

Bus Transportation is available from four sites in North Dallas, Plano & Frisco, and Bus Counselors are assigned to work each of the buses. It is convenient and easy for children and parents. Campers must be registered for the bus prior to camp beginning. Schedules of bus times will be sent out before camp begins. Please send a note if there are to be any bus changes for your child. Without written confirmation, we cannot allow a child to go home on a different bus, ride home with a friend in carpool, or be picked up from the J. Last minute changes can be made by calling the camp before 2:30 pm. For the safety of our children, please drive carefully and do not block the bus pick-up area or its path.

There will always be a minimum of 2 staff members on each bus. Often extra staff will be placed on the bus to help with children needing extra care. The Bus Counselor will carry all emergency numbers for every child in the Bus Bag. The Health Forms and information will be available via phone during transportation times.
Carpool, Drop Off & Pick Up Procedures
These procedures are for ALL CAMPS except Camp Simchah (preschool)!

ONE CARPOOL FOR ALL SCHOOL-AGED CAMPS!
(Chai, Gymnastics, Sports, Tennis, Performing Arts, Teen Travel Camp)

Camp Hours are 9:00 am – 4:00 pm daily.

1. **Car Tags:** all camp cars must have a camp car tag. Camp car tags will be used for entering the J and for carpool purposes. Both camp car tags and car pool numbers will be ready for pick up at the Front Desk starting on **June 1st between the hours of 9am – 9pm (except Fridays until 4pm)**. For Camp Chai families, Camp Car tags will also be available for pick up at the Camp Chai Orientation on **Wednesday June 3rd**.

2. **PLEASE BE PROMPT:** In the morning, it is best to arrive during the carpool times so that your camper starts the day with their group. In the afternoon, any campers not picked up when carpool ends will automatically go to Extended Care in the Lodge and you will be charged $10 per hour, with no proration for partial hours.

3. **Morning Carpool** is from 8:45–9:00 am. **ALL CAMP CARPOOLS WILL USE THE FAR RIGHT LANE AND ALL CARS MUST HAVE CAMP CAR TAG TO USE THIS LANE.** Follow the signs to drop off – all campers must exit from the driver’s side of the car. Proceed to Valleydale to exit the J.
   a. **Late Drop-off Procedures:** If you arrive after 9:00am, you must bring your camper to Camp Central to **SIGN IN** (required) and they will be taken to their camp. Parking in the Tennis spaces and walking across the carpool line to drop off or pick up your child is not permitted. You may park in the main lot and come in the Main Lobby entrance to drop off or pick up.

4. **Afternoon Carpool** is from 3:45–4:00 pm and will follow the same procedures as morning carpool (see #2 above).
   a. **Late Pick-Up Procedures:** Any campers not picked up when carpool ends will automatically go to Extended Care in the Lodge and you will be charged $10 per hour, with no proration for partial hours. If you arrive after carpool has ended, please follow the signs to pick up your child from After Care in the Lodge.

5. **Early Pick Up Procedures:** We do not recommend early pickup, as it can be very disruptive to the camper’s day. If you must pick up your camper early, they must be picked up before 3:00pm or after 3:45pm (once camp carpool has started). To pick up early, send an email **no later than the day before** to jcamp@jccdallas.org with the following information: camper(s) names, camp(s)/tribe(s), time you will be picking up, and who will be picking up the camper(s). We will have your camper waiting in Camp Central at the time you specify, so please be prompt. **YOU MUST GO TO CAMP CENTRAL TO SIGN OUT YOUR CAMPER.** If you must pick up your camper for unforeseen reasons, we will do our best to accommodate requests sent at least 2 hours prior to pick up. **Requests sent less than 2 hours prior to pickup will require at least 15 – 20 minutes to bring your camper to Camp Central, so PLEASE PLAN AHEAD.**

6. **Carpooling with Other Families:** You must complete the carpool form on [www.jccdallas.org/campforms](http://www.jccdallas.org/campforms) no later than **May 22nd**. Please list all names and camp attending. Single family carpools still need a number, but will not need to complete the carpool form.

7. **In case of inclement weather,** all drop-offs and pick-ups will be in the front of the JCC Main Lobby. **Check our JCC Dallas Summer Camps Facebook page or the JCC Camp Website for updates.**

**THINGS TO REMEMBER**
- Make sure your camp car tag is always visible
- Please have your J Membership Card or Camp Friend Card with you at all times in the JCC building.
When Parents Come to Camp...

**Orientation Night**

Orientation Night will be **Wednesday, June 3rd from 7:00-9:00 pm** in the Zale Auditorium at the J. Campers will meet with their groups and counselors, while parents will have an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the camp program.

**Family Programs**

Thursday, June 25: a special event for families to join with us.
Thursday, July 23: closing evening for families!
Thursday, August 6: final camp program for families

**General Visiting During Camp**

Parents are welcome to schedule a visit during the camp days. We would like your help so that our activities are not disrupted. Additionally, we know that occasions arise when you must drop off later or pick up earlier in the day. Please help us:

1. Have your J Membership Card or Camp Friend Card to show at the Front Desk.
2. If arriving to drop off, we will take your camper to his/her tribe.
3. If arriving to pick up early, please make arrangements in advance and we will bring your camper to Camp Central for your convenience. Be prepared to wait for your child as it often difficult to interrupt activities.

What about trips and overnights?

Each unit will take a special trip away from camp and an overnight/late night each three-week session. The experiences vary by age group as do the expectations for the campers. Prior to each trip or overnight/late night, specific information and details will be sent home. We recognize the safety issues necessary for trips and overnights out of camp, and we plan with these issues in mind.

1. On each trip additional staff join the unit to help with supervision. Our goal is to lower the camper/counselor ratio. Additional supervisory staff also go on each trip with specific responsibilities such as stationing at entrances or handling emergencies, medications, etc.
2. Campers wear camp shirts or wrist bands (for water parks) to help with identification.
3. Walkie Talkies and mobile phones are brought on each trip.
4. The rules, expectations and safety measures are reviewed with the campers. There will be meeting areas, check in times, and behavior guidelines appropriate for the age group.

We have been taking campers on trips for many years, and at every facility, our staff and campers have been complimented on our organization and care for campers. Not only do we take care of the details, but we also take care of the worry — so you don’t have to! If you have specific questions when the trip and overnight information comes out, please feel free to call us.

**Overnights and Late Nights:** Great experiences and wonderful memories!!

- Adat Chalutzim will have a late night of fun each session. They will enjoy a special program and a great dinner. Pick up will be at 7:00 pm.
- Adat Chaverim, Shalom and Giborim will each have an overnight each session. Each unit will enjoy exciting activities geared for their age.
**What About Health and Safety...**

We are concerned with the health and safety of every camper at Camp Chai. Staff are trained and certified to handle all medications and first aid.

Immunization records with doctor’s signature must be sent by your doctor and turned in before camp begins. The authorizations on your Registration forms will enable us to give your child emergency treatment in the event that you cannot be reached. This policy is for the health and safety of all campers.

**Medication Procedures**

1. If your child has any allergies or activity restrictions, it is important that you indicate this on the medical form.
2. If your child must take medication during the day, please send the PRESCRIPTION BOTTLE with complete instructions including the name of the child, the name of the drug, frequency and reason for giving. We cannot give medication without this.
3. All medication must remain in Camp Central. We cannot give over-the-counter drugs without written notification. A prescription/note must be sent in.
4. Please use the AUTHORIZATION FOR DISPENSING MEDICATION FORM.

Please help us by keeping your camper home if he/she is ill. We will call if your camper becomes ill at camp. Should your child contract a contagious disease, such as chicken pox, lice, etc., please let us know. Lice is a common problem that can be controlled if infected children are treated immediately. We will do periodic checks.

Feel free to call us during the day to discuss any particular needs your child may have, and we will call you if we have any concerns or questions. We will call to report any injuries that are deemed more serious.

**Insurance**

Camp insurance is provided by the JCC for all campers who attend camp. The maximum benefit is $25,000 per injury with no deductible. Dental is treated as medical under the plan as long as the treatment pertains to the injury. This is supplemental insurance and you must submit to your own insurance company first.

**What We Need To Wear...**

Children should dress in clothes that enable them to participate in all camp activities. **BE SURE THAT ALL CLOTHING AND BAGS ARE LABELED WITH YOUR CHILD’S FULL NAME.** Our Lost and Found Table is located in the Matnas (Senior Assembly Room). We go through the items daily, and you are welcome to check as well.

**Daily Needs:**

Shoes for camp — tennis shoes are best, sandals are o.k., NO OPEN BACK SHOES!!!
Bathing suit usually worn all day
Tee-shirts WITH APPROPRIATE DESIGNS! (Camp shirts for trips and picture day)
Send sunscreen every day! Shorts, socks, towel, canteen or water jug (optional)
CAMPER MAY NOT BRING WEAPONS OF ANY KIND OR KNIVES OF ANY SIZE!!
When Do We Eat??...Lunch and Snacks!

1. Please send a lunch with your child Monday through Friday. All drinks and snacks will be provided by the camp. Please use only paper sacks, clearly marked with your camper’s name for lunches. Do not send lunch boxes.
2. Lunches will be collected by the staff when your child arrives and kept inside in a cooler, except on trip days. However, we ask that you not send food that spoils easily.
3. Fino will be offering a lunch program, and you may register for this service by the three-week session.

Camp Chai provides two snacks each day — cookies in the morning and ice pops in the afternoon. The camp provides all meals on the overnights. If your child has specific allergies, please let us know, and we will work together to provide alternatives.

THE JCC PRACTICES A KASHRUTH POLICY:
- Please send either a kosher meat or a dairy sandwich. All meats should be on pareve bread.
- Do not mix milk and meat products within the lunch you send.
- Under no circumstances should you send shellfish, pork or lard products.

For birthday or special tribe treats, we request that you send only kosher items with a recognized marking. If you are not sure what to buy or where to buy it, please call us and we will be glad to help.

What else do we need to know?...

The Camp Central phone number is 214-239-7166. The J camps email (for all camps) is a great way to connect with us: jcamp@jccdallas.org. Feel free to call during the summer with any questions or concerns. The camp phone will only be answered from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm. Messages can be left by calling the Front Desk at 214-739-2737.

1. Personal equipment such as speakers, handheld video games, trading cards, etc. should not be brought to camp unless the parent has spoken with the Camp Director and special arrangements have been made. The camp is not responsible for items brought to camp. Any inappropriate or dangerous items will be confiscated immediately. The camp reserves the right to check the camper’s bag with the camper present.
2. Cell phones should not be brought to camp. Campers who need to make phone calls can come to the camp office.
3. Please let us know if your child will be absent from camp for more than two days.
4. If someone other than the parent will be taking the child, please notify the camp of that person’s name and relationship in writing. Identification will be required.
5. Please do not extend gratuities. There are opportunities to honor staff through contributions to the Camp Scholarship Fund.

Camp App – directions and information on how to download & receive notifications will be available soon.