CAMP CHAI

Summer 2021 Guidebook

The Who, What, When, and Why Not!!

WE HAVE CHANGED OUR HOW BUT NOT OUR WHY!!

CAMP CHAI --
a special "kehillah" (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!!

Summer 2021

Dear Parents and Campers,

Welcome to Camp Chai Summer 2021!! During our amazing 2020 summers, many things changed and yet we always have the many wonderful parts of camp that we all love. We are busy getting ready for Camp Chai Summer 2021, and there are many things for you and your camper to do to get ready. Reading our Camp Chai Guidebook, the All K-9 J Camps Guidebook and checking out all the forms that are needed on our website is the first step. https://jccdallas.org/camp-resources/ We need your help and involvement to make for a great summer!

We are scheduling our ZOOM ORIENTATION NIGHT for you to hear about camp and meet our staff – watch for date and time! We want you to share your concern, your questions, and your feedback with us before, during and after the summer. If you have any questions before camp begins, please email me at lseymour@jccdallas.org or call me at the JCC 214-239-7110 (my direct line). During the summer, feel free to call the Camp Central (214-810-2377) 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
Camp Chai

Tara Ohayon, Asst. Director
Camp Chai

Where to Find All You Need to Know!!

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ALL GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ALL K-9 CAMPERS SEE THE GUIDEBOOK FOR J CAMPS 2020!!

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 6th 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. All will swim plus have times in their home base, the gym and in our great outdoor spaces.

- **Adat Chalutzim:** This unit is specially designed for Kindergarten with opportunities for growth. Our days 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.
- **Adat Giborim:** Campers in Grades 4-6 will be working together with their counselors to plan activities that will challenge them and, of course, be FUN!!

CIT (Counselor in Training): Our CITs (entering 8th & 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 15!!
2. Immunizations Records must be sent in! ALL IMMUNIZATIONS MUST BE UP TO DATE!
3. Watch for all updates and communications – we will be sending emails, posting on our facebook page, on the J website and social media galore!
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
Art Specialist……Zahida Ahmed
Camp Office Manager……Jenny Ingram
Unit Heads:
Adat Chalutzim……Michelle Ederi
Adat Chaverim……Tony Phuong
Adat Shalom……Lindsay Thomas
Adat Giborim……Gabriella Ohayon

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

What We Need To Wear…

Children should dress in clothes that enable them to participate in all camp activities. **ALL CLOTHING & BAGS MUST BE LABELED WITH YOUR CHILD'S FULL NAME.**

Daily Needs:

Shoes for camp — tennis shoes are best, sandals are o.k., **NO OPEN BACK SHOES!!!**
Bathing suit with change of clothes
Tee-shirts WITH APPROPRIATE DESIGNS!
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 make sure lunches are clearly marked with your camper's name.
2. 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/crackers in the morning and ice pops in the afternoon. 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. 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. BIRTHDAY TREATS MUST BE SENT IN A WRAPPED INDIVIDUAL PACKAGE FOR EACH CHILD. 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 214-810-2377. 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 8:30 am until 4:30 pm. Messages may also 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. Please let us know if your child will be absent from camp for more than two days.