THE SEARCH FOR SUMMER FUN

PARENTS’ GUIDE TO FINDING THE RIGHT JEWISH OVERNIGHT CAMP FOR YOUR CHILD
WHY JEWISH CAMP?

Summer overnight camp is about so much more than campfires and color war. It’s a chance for kids to explore who they are and who they want to become. At Jewish camp, ruach (spirit) is part of every activity—from dancing to hitting a home run—allowing campers to explore their connection to the Jewish community while having the summer of their lives.

JEWISH CAMP IS MORE THAN JUST CAMP.

For your child, Jewish camp is just plain fun. But it’s much more than that—it’s camp with a soul.

- **Camp is exciting!** Your kids will have the summer of their lives while also discovering values like independence, friendship, community, fairness, diversity, giving back, inclusion, and heritage.
- **Jewish camp is packed with action:** boating, basketball, filmmaking, rock climbing, cooking, archery, painting, drama, dance—you name it!
- **Camp promotes your child’s individual growth** in an enriching Jewish environment. At camp, kids have cool, Jewish role models. Staff members inspire confidence and independence, guiding your child to hone their skills, build self-esteem, and discover interests and talents.
- **The impact of overnight Jewish camp is immediate and lasting.** Studies show that children who go to Jewish camp are more likely to become adults who value their heritage, are engaged in their communities, support more causes, and take on leadership roles throughout their lives.
- **There’s a Jewish camp for everyone**—no matter what your background is, there’s a Jewish camp where your child will have fun, be comfortable, learn more about themselves, and explore their Jewish identity.

With over 150 camps to choose from, our Find a Camp tool makes it easy to discover camps you and your kids will love, based on information such as where you live, your child’s grade, and the type of activities your child is looking for. Visit OneHappyCamper.org/FindaCamp to get started!

Need help narrowing down your options? Read on for a guided camp search and a list of camps that cater to your area.

OneHappyCamper.org
WHERE TO BEGIN?

Take a few minutes and think about the type of environment in which your child thrives. What kind of program will benefit them the most? What kind of experience are you and your child expecting from the summer? The right camp for your child becomes an extension of your home and your family’s values.

START WITH YOUR CHILD’S NEEDS.

Finding the right camp is often about finding a community your child can be part of for summers to come. There are no right or wrong answers. Here are some questions to help in your family’s camp search.

- Do I want a traditional camp that gives my child a wide variety of experiences, or do I want to select a specialty camp that focuses on a particular activity or set of skills?
- Does my child need lots of instruction and structure? Or would they prefer to have more choices?
- Does my child have any special dietary or physical needs that the camp will need to accommodate?
- What size camp will make my child feel comfortable?
- Do I want the camp to be affiliated with a particular movement or organization?
- What session length will appeal to my child and to our family plans for the summer?
- What type of location are we looking for? Consider options like mountains and lakefront, but also distance from home.
- What is my budget for camp tuition?

Once you have thought a bit about what you are looking for, arrange a time to talk with your One Happy Camper representative, Claire Winthrop, clairew@cjp.org or visit OneHappyCamper.org/FindaCamp to start selecting the camps you are interested in.

About tuition.

First-time campers may be eligible for a One Happy Camper grant of up to $1000. Contact Eric Weiss at ericw@cjp.org to apply. Many camps offer early registration incentives or sibling discounts. Scholarships may be available from your camp, synagogue, or other Jewish organizations. Visit JewishCamp.org/camper-scholarships and contact your local synagogue or federation for additional information.

OneHappyCamper.org
GET DOWN TO DETAILS.

Every camp is different. From philosophy to facilities to food, there are as many unique approaches as there are camps. Asking questions, talking to staff, and getting familiar with what several different camps have to offer is the best way to narrow down which one is right for your child.

EXPLORE SEVERAL CAMPS.
The best way to get started is to visit each camp’s website, where you can find photos, maps or virtual tours of the camp facilities, and sample daily schedules. Websites will also inform you of key information about the directors and senior staff members, important dates, and registration information. From there, you can contact the camp speak to the director, schedule a visit with a camp staffer when they are in your area, set up a time to meet the parent of a current camper, or visit the camp if that is an option.

Below, you’ll find information on regional camps and a list of questions to guide you as you gather information. However, each family’s search is different, so focus on what is relevant and important to you. You can discover more Jewish camp options at OneHappyCamper.org/FindACamp.

CAMPS TO CHECK OUT

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<tr>
<th>Camp Avoda, Middleborough, MA</th>
<th>Camp Bauercrest, Amesbury, MA</th>
<th>Camp JORI, Providence, RI</th>
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<th>URJ Crane Lake Camp, West Stockbridge, MA</th>
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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

About the Camp
- What are the camp's values and philosophies? What makes the camp special?
- Is the camp co-ed? What is the interaction like between different ages and different genders?
- What is the size of the camp? How are the campers grouped? How many kids are in each bunk?
- What percent of campers return each year?
- What is the total cost of the camp? Are there specialty programs or trips that cost extra? Will you need to provide spending money?
- How does the camp ensure campers' safety and security? How is security handled out of camp?
- How are behavioral and disciplinary problems handled?
- What is the camp's technology policy?
- Does the camp offer transportation to and/or from camp?
- What is the minimum age of the counselors? What kind of staff training is provided?

Judaism
- Is the camp affiliated with any movement?
- How are Jewish experiences incorporated into the camp program? (i.e., Shabbat, services, rituals, Hebrew, etc.)

Facilities and Programming
- What facilities are there, such as a lake or pool?
- What are the sleeping arrangements? Are showers/bathrooms in the cabins or in another building?
- What is the schedule like? Is the program structured or does it emphasize elective and individual choices? In what areas does the camp focus on skill-building?
- What type of instructional swim program is offered? Is it required? Until what age?
- What other instructional or specialty programs are offered?
- What types of programs and facilities are available in the event of bad weather?
- How does the camp program meet individual needs and differences?

Food and Medical
- What types of food are offered at camp? Can food allergies or other dietary needs be accommodated? Are snacks offered throughout the day?
- Is the kitchen kosher?
- How does the camp handle individual medical needs? What medical facilities are nearby?
WHAT IS ONE HAPPY CAMPER?

One Happy Camper provides grants of up to $1000 to families with children attending nonprofit Jewish overnight camp for the first time.

ABOUT ONE HAPPY CAMPER

One Happy Camper is a program of the Foundation for Jewish Camp (FJC), in partnership with local Jewish federations and other organizations, providing need-blind grants to families like yours.

How do I apply?

1. **Register your child.** Once you’ve found the right camp for your child, register directly with the camp.
2. **Apply online for a One Happy Camper grant.** Once your child’s registration at camp has been confirmed, visit OneHappyCamper.org and complete our simple online application form.
3. **Check back in two to four weeks.** Your local One Happy Camper administrator will contact you once your application has been approved, or you can check your status online by logging in and selecting "Track My Grant." Once your application has been approved, funds will be paid directly to the camp and will be credited towards your balance. Funds are paid to the camp each spring.

Is my child eligible?

To be eligible for a One Happy Camper grant, typically your child must be:

- Registered for an overnight camp listed on the Foundation for Jewish Camp’s website.
- Attending an approved overnight camp for the first time for at least 19 consecutive days; or 12 consecutive days if attending a camp in one of the 13 western states.
- Not currently participating in a daily immersive Jewish experience, such as a Jewish day school or immersion program. (Check with your One Happy Camper administrator for relevant opportunities.)
- Additional requirements and opportunities may be in place in some areas.

If you have questions about eligibility or regarding your application, please follow up with your local One Happy Camper administrator Eric Weiss at ericw@cjp.org. To find administrator listings by state, visit OneHappyCamper.org.