Secure Community Network Announces Partnership with Union for Reform Judaism to Expand Jewish Camp Security Program

New Agreement Builds on Support from Foundation for Jewish Camp and UJA-Federation of New York

The Secure Community Network (SCN), the official safety and security organization for the Jewish community in North America, today announced a partnership with the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) to provide enhanced security training and consulting services for all 15 URJ summer camps in North America. This represents the latest expansion of SCN's Jewish Camp Security Program, which now formally includes nearly 75 camps and makes SCN's services available to hundreds more. The first-of-its-kind initiative launched in 2020 in partnership with the Foundation for Jewish Camp (FJC) and with the generous support of UJA-Federation of New York.

"Jewish camp is a cherished experience for generations of campers, staff, and parents, and SCN is proud to help make sure everyone stays safe and secure," said SCN National Director and CEO Michael Masters. "As summer officially begins, camps have spent months preparing for a wide variety of potential risks. Whether it's a rural sleepaway camp in the mountains or an urban day camp in the city, SCN's comprehensive training and assessment services help camps identify and mitigate hazards so campers can simply have fun."

The agreement between SCN and URJ includes a holistic review of safety and security plans and protocols, training for senior camp leaders and seasonal staff, and security consultation services. The new agreement builds on the longstanding partnership between SCN and URJ regarding security matters and helps URJ expand on years of investment in security by leveraging SCN's network of security professionals, tools, and technology. This includes sharing of best practices and emergency planning documents; ongoing communication with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies; and intelligence sharing and analysis through SCN's National Jewish Security Operations Command Center.

As a component of the partnership, SCN has launched a newly enhanced Camp Security Awareness & Preparedness training program for URJ, a comprehensive combination of in-person and online courses that reinforce the critical role camp staff members play as stewards of their campers' safety and security. The curriculum includes how to identify and report safety hazards, suspicious activity, and other threats; what to do in common medical emergencies such as heat stroke or insect bites; how to

prepare for the possibility of an active threat and what to do if one occurs; and many other topics particular to the camp environment.

Since summer camps were not held in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, SCN used the opportunity to conduct threat, vulnerability, and risk assessments at 18 camps. These assessments helped establish initial security baselines, develop camp-specific safety and security protocols, and support applications for state and federal grant funding for physical security enhancement, training, and preparedness planning efforts. SCN also provided grant support and mentorship that more than doubled the number of applicants for the federal Nonprofit Security Grant Program between 2020 and 2021, leading to a 46% increase in grant funds awarded. As camps returned to limited operation in summer 2021, SCN conducted training for approximately 1,300 staff members serving more than 6,500 campers.

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The Secure Community Network (SCN), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is the official homeland safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America. Founded in 2004 under the auspices of The Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, SCN serves as the central organization dedicated exclusively to the safety and security of the American Jewish community, working across 146 federations, 50 partner organizations, over 300 independent communities, and other partners in the public, private, nonprofit, and academic sectors. SCN is dedicated to ensuring that Jewish organizations, communities, life, and culture can not only exist safely and securely, but flourish. Learn more at securecommunitynetwork.org.