

PARENT GUIDE SUMMER 2025

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Parent/Guardian Orientation June 4 • Mandel JCC Stonehill Auditorium

Parents and guardians are invited to attend an orientation to meet the J-Day Camps Senior Leadership Team and to hear about the camp experience this summer. We recommend that families with campers in multiple groups attend the orientation for their youngest camper or for the program they are newest to. Please note, orientation is for adults only – campers are asked to stay home.

The Francine & Benson Pilloff Family Performing Arts Camp: 5-6pm

- Safran Park Rising K-1st Grade: 6-7 pm
- Halle Park 1st-6th Grade: 7-8 pm

Senior Director of Camping and

Youth Programming Jill Sadowsky jsadowsky@mandeljcc.org • 216-593-6258

Director of J-Day Camps and Children's Services Aubree Lieberman alieberman@mandeljcc.org • 216-593-6236

Safran Park Site Director Emma Miller emiller@mandeljcc.org 216-831-0700 ext. 1494

Halle Park Site Director Justin Passov jpassov@mandeljcc.org 216-593-6272

Inclusion & Camper Care Consultant Laurie Gross Kammer Igrosskammer@mandeljcc.org

Camp Registrar Rachel Hildebrandt rhildebrandt@mandeljcc.org • 216-593-6249

Youth Coordinator Paige Gordon pgordon@mandeljcc.org 216-831-0700 ext. 1351

Camp Office Safran Park Camp Office 216-593-6249 • safranpark@mandeljcc.org Halle Park Camp Office 216-593-6247 • hallepark@mandeljcc.org Parents may contact the county department or agency to make a complaint regarding the child's day camp.

Cuyahoga County Board of Health 216-201-2000

Cuyahoga County Children and Family Services 216-881-5554

Geauga Public Health 440-279-1900

Geauga County Job and Family Services 440-285-9141

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MISSION

J-Day Camps strives to create transformational summer programs that provide home-away-from home experiences for all.

CLICK HERE to read the full mission and vision statement.





General Camp Information

MEET YOUR COUNSELOR

Thursday, June 12 • 5 – 7 pm Mandel JCC Day Camps Building

Bring your camper to meet their camp staff, pick up your carpool cards, and drop off medications and stay-at-camp items.

Last name A - L @ 5-6 pm Last name M - Z @ 6-7 pm

Drop off any medication and bring any camper supplies you'd like to stay at camp.

Before Camp Starts

CAMPINTOUCH

All forms are posted to CampInTouch. Use this link to access your account: https://jdaycamps.campintouch.com.

CAMPER FORMS

As a safety precaution, and as required by the American Camping Association (ACA) standards, all campers must have all camper forms posted to their CampInTouch account before they can attend camp.

Those forms include:

- Physician Exam Form (signed by a physician and parents)
- Camper Confidential
- Health History
- Immunization
- Sunscreen Permission Form
- Authorized Adults for Pick-up

All special medical information on these forms is shared with a camper's supervisor and counselors. In case of any injury or health emergency, we make every effort to contact and consult with the designated contacts on the health form before taking any action on a camper's behalf.

Emergency contacts are used in the event that we are unable to reach parents or guardians. Please list additional contacts the office could reach in the event of an emergency.

Camp Hours – Drop Off & Pick Up

DROP OFF

All regular drop off and pick up will be at the Mandel JCC. Drop off begins at 8:30 am. All families will be given carpool cards before camp begins. Please display this card on your dashboard when dropping off. Camp programming starts at 8:50 am and Halle Park buses will board promptly at 9 am.

To ensure a smooth drop off process, we ask that campers are ready to exit the car when they pull up to the drop off site. By dropping your child off, you are confirming that they are free of all symptoms of communicable disease.

LATE DROP OFFS

Any drop off after 9 am is considered a late drop off. Halle Park campers who arrive after 9 am will not be able to join us for the day as busses will have already departed.

ABSENCES

If your camper will not be attending a day of camp, please notify us by emailing or calling their camp site:

- Safran Park Camp Office 216-593-6249 and safranpark@mandeljcc.org
- Halle Park Camp Office 216-593-6247 and hallepark@mandeljcc.org

PICK UP

Pick up will begin at 3:45 pm and goes until 4:10 pm. All families will be given carpool cards before camp begins. Please display this card on your dashboard when picking up. If you do not have your card, a photo ID will be required and your pick-up time could be delayed.

If your camper is not picked up on time, they will go to our extended care program and you will be billed accordingly.

EARLY PICK UPS

Early pick ups should be communicated at least 24 hours in advance when possible. Please send written communication to the appropriate camp site for your camper at safranpark@mandeljcc.org or hallepark@mandeljcc.org with the subject line: EARLY PICK UP: Camper Name, DATE.

We cannot guarantee accommodations for pick-up requests received after 10am day of. Early pick-ups cannot take place between 2 pm – 3:45 pm at which time we transfer to our traditional carpool line.

EXTENDED CARE

Extended care is available to any camper through 6th grade. Advanced registration is required. AM & PM Care activities include arts & crafts, board games, sports and more.

AM CARE • 7:30 - 8:30 AM

AM Care drop off may not take place after 8:30 am. Drop off for AM Care will take place at the Stonehill entrance.

PM CARE • 4 - 6 PM

Campers will be escorted by the staff to the Day Camp Building at the end of the regular camp day. Parents can pick up their camper(s) any time until 6pm. Parents must sign their camper(s) out each day and present their unique carpool card.

If carpool card is forgotten, a photo ID is required. Parents will be charged \$5/5 minutes after 6 pm.

What to Bring

LABEL EVERYTHING!*

- Insect repellent
- Sunscreen
- Protective hat
- Refillable water bottle
- Bathing suit
- Towel
- Performing Arts Camp campers should bring their script to camp each day

To help campers keep track of their belongings, we ask that all campers bring their daily supplies in a large tote bag or backpack (labeled with their name) that can be left in their moadon (shelter).

* Bottle labeling tip – for water bottle, sunscreen and bug repellent, we advise labeling the item with a sticker or label and then covering the circumference with packing tape. This will prevent ink from smudging.

DAILY LUNCHES AND SNACKS

Campers need to bring a lunch and drink each day. Refrigeration is available. A morning snack and afternoon snack are provided daily.

WATER

We require campers to bring labeled refillable water bottles to camp. We have multiple water refill stations located at all camp sites. If a camper forgets a water bottle, we will provide them with a reusable water bottle and your credit card on file will be charged \$5 per bottle.

HOW TO DRESS FOR CAMP

A lightweight shirt with shorts or pants is appropriate with a sweatshirt or light jacket for cooler days. We advise dressing campers in clothes that can get dirty.

To save time changing, it is recommended your camper wears their swimsuit underneath their clothes. We suggest boots and raincoats for days when rain is predicted.

Closed toe shoes are MANDATORY for campers while participating in non-water activities. Crocs and jelly sandals are not appropriate, and campers without appropriate footwear will not be able to participate in camp activities for the day. We encourage water shoes for Halle Park campers to wear when they visit the lake.

Performing Arts Camp campers should wear clothes and shoes that are comfortable and safe for movement, dance, and rehearsing.

J-DAY CAMPS T-SHIRTS

Every camper is given a J-Day Camps T-shirt to wear each Friday. T-shirts will be distributed during your camper's first week of camp. Please label your camper's shirt with their first and last name. Any camper who does not wear their camp shirt on Friday will receive a new one. \$5 will be charged to the credit card on file for every new shirt.

SUNSCREEN

Please apply sunscreen before coming to camp, even on cloudy days. Please include sunscreen in your camper's backpack each day. Our staff will set aside time daily to reapply sunscreen. If your camper(s) require assistance, our staff will provide help.

Please make sure that the sunscreen is labeled with your camper's name and village on it.

We strongly encourage the use of spray or stick sunscreen as it's easier for campers to apply. All aerosol sprays are used outdoors or in well-ventilated areas.

WHAT TO LEAVE AT HOME

- Smart watches
- Toys (including fidget spinners)
- Cell phones, iPods, iPads, electronics
 of any kind
- Money
- Trading cards
- Slime
- Jewelry
- Stuffed animals
- Pokemon cards

WE'RE UNPLUGGED AT CAMP!

Cell phones, iPods, iPads, tablets, Nintendo DS, fidget toys, trading cards and all other toys distract from the social aspect of our community. Please be certain that your camper leaves these items at home. Inappropriate use of technology will result in suspension or expulsion and no refund will be given.

The Mandel JCC cannot be responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged personal items. Please be aware that any confiscated items must be picked up by the parent/guardian before or after traditional camp hours.

Communication

CAMPANION APP

We will be using the Campanion app this summer to share photos and post updates. We will send a user guide that will help families download the app and log in, and we encourage you to check it regularly.

SPECIFIC CAMPER COMMUNICATION

The most effective way to communicate questions about logistics, including lost & found, pick up and drop off, is to email your camper's campsite email at safranpark@mandeljcc.org or hallepark@mandeljcc.org. For questions about camper care or programming, be in touch with your camper's camp director. For Halle Park, email Justin at jpassov@mandeljcc.org. For Safran Park, email Emma at emiller@mandeljcc.org. You can reach the camp office by phone at:

- Safran Park Camp Office 216-593-6249 and safranpark@mandeljcc.org
- Halle Park Camp Office 216-593-6247 and hallepark@mandeljcc.org

If a parent has any concerns or questions about their camper's experience at camp, please call our camp office to arrange for either a telephone conference or a meeting with your camper's village supervisor and/or the camp director.

When special situations arise, parents may be asked to come in and meet with a camp director so we can assist the camper in having a safe and enjoyable experience.

In all cases, we strive for the best collaboration and communication with parents to make every family's day camp experience the best.

EMERGENCIES

In case of an emergency, parents should call the camp office:

- Safran Park Camp Office 216-593-6249
- Halle Park Camp Office 216-593-6247

In case of an emergency at camp, the camp office will be in constant communication with you via text message, email and through our camp app.

CAMP CALENDAR AND THEME DAY THURSDAYS

You will find the Camp Calendar with Theme Days on page 8. Please send your child to camp dressed according to the theme on Thursdays.

CAMP NEWSLETTER

The camp newsletter will be emailed to you every Friday.

Additional emails, reminders and updates will be emailed to you throughout the camp season. It is important that you check your email and your Campanion app regularly to ensure you don't miss anything.

If you are not receiving emails from us or would like us to update your email, please call 216-593-6249 and provide us with your preferred email address.

CAMP PICTURES

We have a photographer that is tasked with taking pictures to showcase what a day at camp looks like. Photos will be shared through the Campanion app.

Swimming

Free swim takes place each day, weather and program permitting. While in the water, campers are supervised by certified lifeguards as well as their counselors. Halle Park campers also swim in the lake and are encouraged to wear water shoes during lake time due to natural terrain. Campers in kindergarten and first grade will also participate in Instructional Swim. All campers will wear life jackets in and around the lake, and kindergarten-aged campers will wear life jackets at the pool unless the Aquatics team determines otherwise.

Health & Safety

SECURITY

Rest assured, our camps at Halle Park and Safran Park are watched over by friendly active-duty law enforcement officers, ensuring a safe and secure environment for all campers to enjoy their adventures.

ILLNESS POLICY

Parents are expected to monitor their camper's health and keep them home if they exhibit any symptoms of illness including, but not limited to: fever, congestion, cough, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. Campers must be symptom-free without medication for 24 hours before returning to camp. A doctor's note may be required at the discretion of the Camp Director.

If a camper becomes ill during the camp day, they will be removed from their group and supervised in the Camp Office until a parent/guardian can pick them up. Campers must be picked up within 30 minutes of notification.

Refunds or prorated credits will only be issued in the event of a documented medical emergency, such as hospitalization or diagnosis of a serious condition, and must be accompanied by a doctor's note. All refund requests must be submitted in writing and will be reviewed by the Camp Director. Minor illnesses (fevers, strep throat, flu, COVID, etc.) are not eligible for refund or credit.

ALLERGIES

J-Day Camps continue to strive to be allergy aware. Upon request, J-Day Camps can provide ingredient labels and manufacturer information for snacks.

All snacks provided by J-Day Camps are kosher and nut free. Snacks may be manufactured in a factory that also processes other allergens. Allergen-free snacks will be available to campers with food allergies.

After lunch and snacks, campers in groups with children with food allergies or other medical conditions will be required to wash their hands with soap and water or hand wipes. We understand that all food allergies are different. Prior to the start of camp, if requested, a meeting will be set up between a family, Camp Director and all necessary J-Day Camps staff members.

The Allison Rose Foundation will train all staff on prevention, recognition of symptoms of allergic reactions and proper storage and administration of epinephrine auto injectors prior to the start of camp.

While we take these steps to minimize the risk of a food allergy reaction, J-Day Camps is not an allergen-free facility. Your understanding and cooperation is appreciated.

All accommodations, within reason, will be made to ensure your camper has the safest and best experience this summer.

LICE POLICY

If there is evidence that a child has a head lice infestation, the child will be immediately removed from the program. The parent will be called and asked to retrieve the child and to treat the head lice. You may wish to consult your physician. The child will be readmitted to the program 24 hours after the initial treatment.

MEDICATIONS

All medication (prescription or nonprescription) that your camper needs during the camp day must be kept and administered in the camp office.

The medication must be in its original container with the following information labeled directly on it: 1. Camper's name

- 2. Name of medication and dosage
- 3. Doctor's name
- 4. Whether medication needs refrigeration

Parents are required to give explicit written instructions on the administration of the medication. If your camper requires medication during the camp day (either prescription or non-prescription) you will need to fill out a medication permission form that you be found on your CampInTouch account with the forms & documents. Please bring your camper's medication during our Meet the Counselor event. J-Day Camps staff is unable to dispense any medication to a camper that is not supplied by the camper's parent(s) or guardian(s).

In some special cases, campers may keep and administer their own medications (ie: asthma inhalers). These cases must be discussed in advance with the camp director, and information must be provided to us in writing, including permission for the camper to hold and administer their own medications.

Bus Behavior

BUS BEHAVIOR POLICY

Campers are expected to follow all camp behavioral expectations while riding the bus to and from camp. This includes:

- Remaining seated at all times
- Using respectful and appropriate language
- Listening to and following the instructions of bus staff and drivers
- Keeping hands, feet, and belongings to oneself
- Not throwing objects or causing distractions

Failure to follow bus behavior guidelines may result in loss of bus privileges. All infractions will be documented and reported to the Camp Director. The same consequences for inappropriate behavior at camp apply to the bus as well.

Code of Conduct

BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

We are committed to maintaining a physically and emotionally safe camp environment. All campers are expected to:

- Treat all individuals with kindness, dignity, and respect.
- Listen to and follow directions from all camp staff.
- Use appropriate and respectful language at all times.
- Keep hands, feet, and objects to themselves.
- Be honest and take responsibility for their actions.

- Respect all property, including camp equipment, buses, and fellow campers' belongings.
- Act safely and participate positively in all camp activities.

Unacceptable behaviors include, but are not limited to: bullying, physical aggression, verbal threats, disrespect, vandalism, and inappropriate language or gestures.

DISCIPLINE & CONSEQUENCES POLICY

J-Day Camps maintains a zerotolerance approach to ongoing disruptive, unsafe, or disrespectful behavior. While we believe in second chances and supporting children as they grow, repeated violations of our behavior expectations will result in removal from the program.

Incident One:

The camper receives a formal verbal warning. The incident is documented, and parents/guardians are notified by phone or email.

Incident Two:

The camper is removed from their group and meets with camp leadership. Parents/guardians are contacted immediately. A formal behavior plan may be developed at the discretion of the Camp Director.

Incident Three:

The camper is dismissed from J-Day Camps with no opportunity to return and no refund provided.

IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION OR DISMISSAL:

J-Day Camps reserves the right to bypass steps and immediately suspend or remove a camper for severe behaviors including (but not limited to): physical violence, threats, possession of weapons or harmful substances, ongoing bullying, or any act that compromises safety.

No refunds will be issued for campers suspended or dismissed due to behavior.

WEAPONS AT CAMP

For the safety and well being of all campers, weapons of any kind are strictly prohibited on camp premises. Campers found in possession of any weapons will be immediately removed from camp, as insuring a secure and safe environment is our top priority. No refunds will be issued in such cases.

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

J-Day Camps strictly prohibits the consumption/distribution and possession of alcohol, illicit drugs and tobacco by camper and staff alike. Any campers found violating this policy will be dismissed from camp immediately, no refund will be issued.

And a Little Bit More

VISITOR POLICY

Visitors are not permitted on the camp grounds during camp hours. If parents need to come to camp during the day (to pick up a camper early, to drop something off, etc.) they must call ahead.

- Safran Park Camp Office 216-593-6249
- Halle Park Camp Office –
 216-593-6247

LOST AND FOUND

All personal belongings (clothing, towels, bags, lunch bags/boxes) must be clearly labeled with the campers first and last name. Misplaced labeled items will be returned directly to campers as they are found.

Unlabeled lost and found items will be collected and stored in the Day Camps Building. We will hold lost and found items for no more than 10 business days. Unclaimed items are sent to a charitable organization.

The Mandel JCC is not responsible for any lost personal items.

KASHRUT

(The Jewish dietary laws observed by the Mandel JCC)

All food provided at, or by, the Mandel JCC is kosher. Campers are not required to pack kosher lunches. Campers and staff are not permitted to share food. Please refrain from sending pork products and/or shellfish.

Dairy snacks are typically served Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, but may be served other days of the week as well. Parve snacks are typically served on Wednesdays and Fridays.

BIRTHDAYS

Campers whose birthdays fall during their time at camp are celebrated and recognized during the camp day and given a camp-provided treat. Because we have many campers with dietary restrictions and food allergies, and because of the laws of kashrut, we do not allow any distribution of food that is not provided by J-Day Camps.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

The safety of our campers is our top priority, especially during inclement weather conditions. We have established comprehensive procedures to address various weather scenarios, including thunderstorms, air quality, extreme heat, or heavy rainfall. Our experienced staff closely monitor weather forecasts and are trained to implement appropriate measures to ensure the well-being of all campers.

LATE NIGHTS

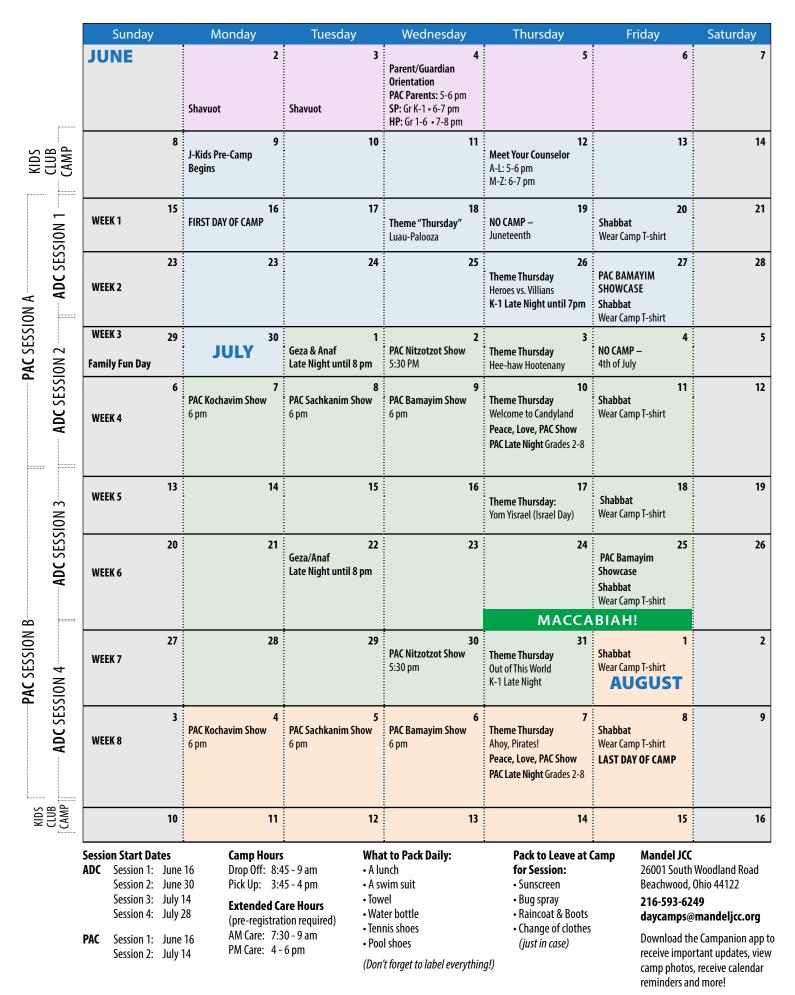
Campers have special opportunities to join us for Late Nights depending on their age. These experiences are camp highlights, filled with special activities and extended fun. Please see the attached calendar for Late Night dates. Meals and snacks are provided at each Late Night. If your camper has allergies or dietary restrictions and you would like to see a list of ingredients present in our food, please be in touch. Alternatives will be provided upon request. Important information for Late Nights will be emailed to you during the summer.

PERFORMING ARTS CAMP SHOWS

Each Performing Arts Camp village performs in a splashy, spectacular show at the end of each 4-week session. Campers rehearse each day to work towards this culminating production which includes a featured role – including speaking lines and a musical solo – for each camper. Performances are open to the public and we encourage family and friends to attend. On the day of their show, campers stay after camp to get into costume and enjoy pre-show traditions as a group.

PAC campers also perform in Peace, Love, PAC, our traditional end-ofsession show. This performance includes all PAC campers on stage together and showcases the talents of each camp group. You won't want to miss this creative celebration!

The week prior to performances, camp families will have the opportunity to send a "Shout Out" to be included in the playbill for their camper's shows.



Safran Park Camp Office: 216-593-6249 | safranpark@mandeljcc.org | Safran Park is located at the Mandel JCC in Beachwood Halle Park Camp Office: 216-593-6247 | hallepark@mandeljcc.org | Halle Park is located in Burton, OH

Glossary

Anisfield Day Camp: (ADC) Located at both Safran Park and Halle Park, campers will participate in a variety of activities throughout the day. Everything from swimming, archery, arts & crafts, nature, drama and more. There's something for everyone at Anisfield! **Village:** Your camper's age group

Adama: Hebrew word for "ground" – Kindergarten Safran Park Mayim: Hebrew word for "water" – 1st Grade Safran Park Shoresh: Hebrew word for "root" – K & 1st Grade Halle Park Geza: Hebrew word for "trunk" – 2nd-3rd Grade Halle Park Anaf: Hebrew word for "branch" – 4th-5th Grade ADC village

The Francine & Benson Pilloff Family Performing Arts Camp:

(PAC) Campers of all experience levels will stretch their imaginations, gain confidence on and off the stage, find their voices and build lifelong friendships. PAC campers try new things and shine just by being themselves. Each day, campers participate in performing arts core classes: dance, drama, music, improv and technical theater, as well as swimming, arts & crafts, outdoor play, yoga and more.

Nitzotzot: Hebrew word for "sparks" – K & 1st Grade PAC Village **Kochavim:** Hebrew word for "stars" – 2nd & 3rd Grade PAC Village **Sachkanim:** Hebrew word for "actors" – 4th-6th Grade PAC Village **Bamayim:** Hebrew word for "directors" – 6th-8th Grade PAC Village

Halle Park: Our Burton, Ohio campsite, where campers are able to experience a variety of programming on our beautiful campus. Campers will participate in all that camp has to offer. Everything from archery, boating, lake, swimming, and more. No two days will ever feel the same at Halle Park.

Safran Park: Our Beachwood, Ohio campsite on the campus of the Mandel JCC, which houses some of our K-1 Anisfield campers and our Performing Arts Camp. Campers enjoy our outdoor grounds, sports fields, indoor classrooms, and outdoor pool and sprayground.

Rock The Rock: The best way to start the day!! Each day we begin with Rock the Rock where campers are welcomed with a big song session, dance party and so much more. This is where we celebrate camper and staff birthdays, announce our Hebrew Word of the Day, and make any special announcements about the day ahead.

Major: Your Anisfield camper selected their major based on their interest or how they wanted to spend their summer.

Shlichim: An outstanding group of Israeli emissaries, Shlichim are called to manifest our collective heritage in communities around the world. They provide a living connection to Israel by promoting Israeli experiences, facilitating Jewish social activism, and speaking authentically about faith and culture.

Theme Thursday: A weekly celebration of different themes created and chosen by our outstanding programming team. We invite campers to dress to impress in their theme-related attire!

Late Night: Campers stick around for an evening of extended fun with their village. From pool parties to creative programming, it's a summer highlight. Dinner is included!

Maccabiah: A true highlight of everyone's summer, Maccabiah is a two-day event where all of camp is split into four teams and they take part in friendly competition as they work towards becoming maccabiah champion!

Family Fun Day: Join J-Day Camps and PJ Library for a fun day out at our Halle Park campsite. All camp activities will be open and available for families to participate. This event is free to current camp familes and community members are also welcome to join for \$20/family. Pre-registration is required. More information will be sent out as we get closer to the event.

Shabbat: Most often the highlight of the J-Day Camps week, we come together as a community to celebrate Shabbat (the Jewish Sabbath) in our own JDC way. From singing to dance, celebrating and more, campers enjoy the camp traditions and talk about them week after week.

Whoosh Clap: One of the ways that we show appreciation at J-Day Camps. Three claps and then you send a BIG WHOOSH of energy. A way to say thank you, kol hakovod (the Hebrew word for good job), I appreciate you, I'm proud of you, etc.

Techie: PAC campers have the choice to participate in their show either as actors or as "techies" or stage crew. Techies spend rehearsal time learning about scenic design and creating props. They also make special cameo appearances in each performance and participate on stage in Peace, Love, PAC.

PAC Show: Each PAC village performs in a splashy, spectacular show at the end of their camp session. Each camper has a featured role with speaking lines and a musical solo, and enjoys this opportunity to shine on stage.

Peace, Love, PAC: PAC's end-of-session show, which features special performances from each camp group and from our talented staff. You don't want to miss this culminating celebration!

Chugim/Electives: Campers choose a new elective each week from options like creative writing, costume design, hip hop dance, sports and more. At ADC, campers in 2nd grade and older have the opportunity to choose daily and/or weekly electives such as dance, archery, sports, drama, lake activities and more.

Shabbat Shenanigans: PAC campers spend a bit of time each week working with their village on an art, drama, dance or music project inspired by that week's Torah portion or by a specific Jewish value.