

**Ross Jewish Community Center  
Claire & Emanuel G. Rosenblatt  
Camp Shalom**

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# Family Guide 2011

June 13th—August 5th



Dear Camp Shalom Families,

On behalf of our entire staff, it is our pleasure to welcome you and your child to Camp Shalom. Our camp philosophy is that children be provided with the opportunity to grow as individuals, build self-esteem, and make new friends, all in a safe, exciting, and stimulating environment. We are very confident that over the summer, your child will be learning new skills, strengthening old ones, and exploring the many wonders of camp life. We are extremely proud of our program and our experienced, enthusiastic staff who will lead our campers through this summer's dynamic camp experience.

This family guide was created to provide you with information related to our program and answers to questions you may have. Please take the time to read it with your children. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the camp office in Boynton Beach at 561-259-3000.

We are looking forward to a fun-filled, learning and growing experience with your children.

Happy Camping,

Yale David, Camp Shalom Director



## VISITING & SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

If you wish to visit your child(ren) during the Camp day, prior arrangements must be made through the camp office. Please keep in mind that visitors tend to inhibit the normal function of activity and supervision. Please sign in at the camp office and receive a visitor's badge. In this way we can provide a secure environment for all campers.

## PICK-UP POLICY

If you intend to pick up your child early from camp on any camp day, you **MUST** adhere to the following procedures:

On the day of pick up, please call the camp office & send a note to your child's Unit Head detailing the pick up (Child's name, group, time, and who will be picking up your child).

If someone other than a parent is picking up a child, we must verify it with the parent; please provide a phone number where we can reach you during business hours.

When you arrive for pick-up, please sign your child out in the camp office.

We have instructed all our camp personnel not to release any child, at any time, to anyone unless **ALL** the above procedures are followed. **Under no circumstances are children to be taken without notifying the office.** The same rule applies to late drop-offs. Please bring your child to the office in the morning, once you sign your child in one of our staff will escort your child to their appropriate location. Also, if you do not wish for your child to be released to a particular person, please inform the Camp Office immediately in writing.

**\*Please note, if you are picking up your child early, you must pick him/her up before 3:00. Early dismissal will end sharply at 3:00.**

## **CAMP SHALOM EXPECTATIONS: POLICIES AND CONSEQUENCES**

### **Our Philosophy:**

Although it is essential that campers understand the expectations and limits for conduct during the camp day, we believe that children should remain involved in camp activities as much as possible. Kids come to camp to be active, to socialize with other kids, and to have fun; therefore we do not believe in removing a child from an activity unless the child demonstrates behavior that is **unsafe** to him/herself or **unsafe** to others. Of course, it should be noted that our staff takes great care to organize and supervise some activities that involve large groups of children moving around at once in a fun, safe way; we expect our campers to respect the structure of these activities.

If a child is disrespectful of the rules that apply to the bus, a bunk, or an activity or if they are disrespectful to another camper or a staff member, the following consequences will be enforced:

**1st Time:** The child will receive a warning and be asked to explain what they did wrong. A written warning may be sent home.

**2nd Time:** The child will meet with the director. An adult family member will then be called. At this time, they will discuss ways to reinforce our expectations.

**3rd Time:** The child, an adult family member and the child's unit head must meet with the camp director at our camp office to discuss the latest incident to strategize how to resolve the problem. If there are any future conflicts, the child will be asked to not attend camp until they are able to control their behavior.

## **LOOKING FORWARD TO A SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL SUMMER!!**

## **CONTACT WITH CAMP**

We are extremely interested in hearing parents' comments both complimentary and constructive. You will find that problems brought to our attention are dealt with immediately and corrected when possible. Most importantly, it does not matter how trivial the matter may appear, we want to know about it. We welcome your calls and comments. The most important person at Camp Shalom is your child and we **NEVER** lose sight of that.

In case of an emergency please call the Camp Office in Boynton Beach at 561-259-3000. We will ensure the professional and discreet handling of any situation and will be your partners in the process.

In the event that the Palm Beach County area experiences an occurrence during which a "state of emergency" is declared, you can get up-to-date information by calling our camp office in Boynton Beach at: 561-259-3000 or visit our website at [www.JCOnline.com](http://www.JCOnline.com).



## **Don't Forget to Call**

## TIPPING POLICIES

Each summer, parents ask us about our guidelines for tipping. Our position is that tipping is personal, between parent and staff member. We only ask that the procedure be professional and low key.

If you do choose to tip, please send clearly labeled, sealed envelopes with your child(ren) during your camper's last week at camp. These envelopes can also be given to the camp office to be delivered.

## LUNCH AND SNACK

On Thursdays of each week, Camp Shalom will be serving pizza for lunch. On all other days, campers need to provide their own lunch. Please remember that it has to be a **DAIRY** kosher lunch. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND MEAT FOR LUNCH.** The Ross JCC is a dairy facility and we need your help and respect to maintain it as such. All lunches must be brought in a bag with the **child's name and group** clearly printed on the bag (Large Ziplock type bags work best). Upon arrival at camp, the lunch will be collected and stored in an air conditioned room until lunch time when it will be returned. Please send your child's lunch in with an ice pack to help keep it cool. **If your child has any allergies, please let camp know in writing.** Snacks such as fruit, ices, and chips are provided each afternoon for all campers. On occasions when your child is on an overnight, dinner & breakfast will be provided. **If your child has specific dietary needs or restrictions please inform us in writing.**

Remember:

Please do not send meat for lunch!

## WEATHER EMERGENCIES

*(If the weather emergency occurs prior to the JCC opening, overnight, early morning)*

Listen to the TV stations WPEC (channel 12) or WPTV (channel 5) or radio stations WRMF (97.9 FM) or WJNO (1230 AM) to learn about the Centers closings. Stay tuned to these stations as conditions and our response may change overnight. There will also be a recorded message on 740-9000 as to the status of the JCC opening/closing.

*(If the weather emergency occurs during operating hours)*

Everyone will proceed to the gym. All areas of the main JCC building will be cleared. There are no exceptions.

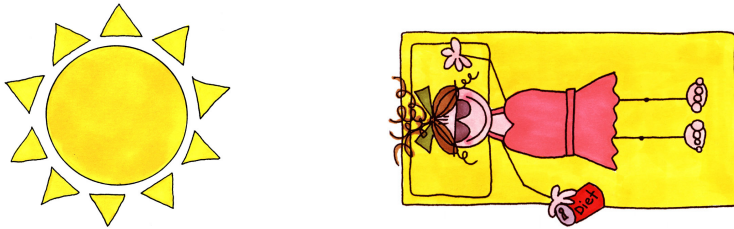


## STAFF

Each Camp Shalom group has a minimum of 2 counselors. Camp Shalom staff are composed of skilled counselors who are carefully screened, interviewed, and trained prior to the beginning of camp. Their strengths lie in their dedication to helping children develop socially, cognitively, and physically. Our team of unit heads, counselors, and specialists are selected for their positive energy, enthusiasm, and commitment to caring for your children. The staff receives ongoing staff training and supervision by the Camp Directors.

## SUNTAN LOTION AND WATER

Summer days can be excruciating and the sun is very strong. Please apply sunscreen to your child in the morning before he or she arrives at camp and send a bottle of sunscreen in his or her camp bag to be applied additionally. Campers are encouraged to drink plenty of water during each day. Please remember to label the sunscreen bottle.



# Don't Forget SUNSCREEN!

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

General counselors are directly responsible for the health and safety of their children. They have the time and the training to devote themselves to this very important part of their job.

**A child who has a cold, sore throat, fever, stomach virus, or other communicable disease should not be sent to camp.** When possible, please notify the camp office if your child will not be attending camp on a particular day. Your cooperation is needed in this area. Since it is the policy of the Ross JCC to inform parents of certain contagious conditions or illnesses, we expect that you will let us know if your child contracts any such condition.

If a camper has an injury or illness requiring anything more than routine care, the camp will contact the parent/guardian to discuss treatment plans. (\*Routine care implies band-aids, ice-packs and similarly minor treatments.) The camp has an infirmary with a full-time nurse. A camper who has a fever higher than 98.6 must be kept out of camp for 24 hours after the symptoms have subsided.

## ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL

We encourage camp families to take advantage of a full day at camp, please arrange for your child to arrive between 8:45 and 9:00am to start camp. Campers are released to busses, carpool and aftercare at 3:45. Our counselors are on duty based on the scheduled drop off/pick up time for camp.

No camper will be released to someone who is not on the authorized list. Any changes must be in writing and given to the group Unit Head.

## PRESCRIPTION AND NON-PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION POLICY

In order for the camp nurse to dispense either a prescription or non-prescription medication (aspirin, creams, etc.) to a camper the following procedure must be followed:

\*It is imperative that for any medication to be dispensed that the Camp Shalom Medication Form is completed and signed by a physician and parent prior to camp.

**Medication cannot and will not be distributed without it. This is for your child's safety.** All medications for late nights and overnights will follow the same procedure.

**All medication must be in the original prescription container.**

\*Parents will be notified if your child is vomiting, has a fever over 98.6 or any injuries that may require your immediate attention.

\*We would like to also state that your child's privacy will be respected. Medication distribution is done in the most sensitive way possible.

## SWIM

Our swim program, provided by Quality Swim, is designed to promote progressive skill development for each and every camper, regardless of his or her swimming ability. The instructional swim periods focus on appropriate Red Cross skills to be mastered at each level. All campers are tested and placed in swim groups based on their ability during their first week of camp and as deemed appropriate by the swim staff throughout the summer. You will receive progress reports throughout the summer.



### **Backpack Basics**

#### **What to pack for camp daily:**

- Towel(s)
- Sunscreen
- Undergarments
- Change of dry clothes
- 1 swimsuit
- Sneakers and socks
- Water Bottle
- Plastic bag to place wet items in
- Insect Repellent (optional)

#### **What to leave at home:**

- Heelies
- Gameboys, PSP's and/or any other electronic games
- MP3 players, Ipods, CD players, radios, flashlights
- Stuffed animals, including Webkins
- Water-guns and other toys
- Pets or any animal
- Cell phones
- Trading cards including Yu-gi-oh
- Money (unless on a trip)

*\*Camp Shalom is not responsible for the loss or damage of any of the above listed items if they are brought to camp.*

**\*\* The use of drugs, alcohol, and weapons are prohibited and will result in immediate expulsion from Camp Shalom.**

**LABEL, LABEL, LABEL**  
Everything we bring to camp!!



### **CLOTHING / THE CAMP DAY**

Campers spend the day involved in a diverse range of activities including sports, art, music, swimming and much, much more. Children should come to camp each day dressed comfortably in shorts, t-shirts, and sneakers (**NO SNEAKERS WITH WHEELS WILL BE ALLOWED**). Every Friday your camper should wear their Camp Shalom t-shirt, as part of our preparation for Shabbat. \*Shirts will be distributed prior to camp. Camp t-shirts must also be worn on **ALL CAMP TRIPS**. If you would like to purchase additional tee shirts, they are available in the camp office. Parents should use their best judgment when dressing children for camp, sending sweatshirts, rain ponchos, etc. when the weather is cold or rainy. Regardless of morning weather, please pack a bathing suit and towel. Bathing suits and towels will be returned home daily.

#### **ALL ITEMS MUST BE PROPERLY IDENTIFIED WITH A BLACK MARKING PEN OR NAME TAPE**

We make every effort to prevent the loss of clothing. Please identify your child's belongings by clearly marking the items with child's name (first and last) & group name. **You are the first defense against lost and found!** Please help us help you by labeling your child's belongings and clothing. It will be helpful to send a zip lock bag for your child's wet bathing suit.