



Jewish Camps USA

Handbook





Welcome to Jewish Camps USA

Thank you for deciding to spend your summer with Jewish Camps USA and working at the best Jewish summer camps in America.

We hope that this handbook supplies you with all the information that you will need to understand the programme and your role this summer.

Being part of the Jewish Camps USA experience is a life changing opportunity and one that we hope will live with you forever. We are a close camp family and we are delighted and excited for you to be part of it.

As part of our high class service the staff that we represent are the best students and young professionals throughout the whole of the UK and abroad.

We will provide you with everything you need for the memories to last a lifetime

Our motto is “British Jewry changing the lives of children for a better future.”

Why JCUSA and what does it mean?

We will work personally with you and camp to bring you a Jewish journey. Our priority is to make sure that you go to a camp that suits what you want; we are the only camp organisation that does this as your experience matters to us.

- a. The right Jewish overnight camp – You can be assured that you will feel comfortable and right at home.
- b. The correct role – Counsellor/Specialist; at camp there are many different roles and we will decide from your application and interview what will suit you and camp best. We will look into your previous experiences and focus on what you need for your future.
- c. Where you want to go and who you wish to go with – We cannot guarantee that we can meet these requirements because we do not offer you the contract. However, we will do what is best for each individual. Please keep in mind like any job, you may not get offered a job after your first interview, if this happens, don't worry, we will give you more opportunities to gain yourself a job at Jewish summer camp.
- d. Fees – The JCUSA fees are structured to be the cheapest, most convenient and helpful. You will get paid in your first year between \$1500 and \$2500 upon completion of your camp contract. We believe strongly in Jewish values and being able to give as many staff and campers the opportunity to go to camp. You will get the most from our programme than anywhere else. Yet we recommended if you are looking for a well-paid summer job, camp is not for you.
- e. Camp ready – You will have specific training for your role at camp so you will go fully prepared for your job. You will be part of a British delegation going to camp and will know everyone before going. You will go to camp with a mission and a purpose. Camp loves British staff because of our values, traditions and culture.

Jewish Camps USA are here for you every step of the way making your experience personal and friendly. We are contactable 24 hours a day, 6 days a week. Your interests are at our heart.



WORK AT THE BEST JEWISH CAMPS IN AMERICA OR
CANADA AND BE PART OF OUR CAMP COMMUNITY



Summer 2019

APPLY NOW: WWW.JEWISHCAMPSUSA.COM

SUITS ALL OF YOUR JEWISH NEEDS
UP TO 30 DAYS TRAVELLING AFTER CAMP



INFO@JEWISHCAMPSUSA.COM



[@JEWISHCAMPSUSA](https://twitter.com/JEWISHCAMPSUSA)



[/JEWISHCAMPSUSA](https://www.facebook.com/JEWISHCAMPSUSA)



[JEWISHCAMPSUSA](https://www.instagram.com/JEWISHCAMPSUSA)

PTO FOR MORE INFORMATION



About us

- WE ARE THE ONLY JEWISH ORGANISATION IN THE WORLD SENDING JEWISH STAFF TO CAMP (OUTSIDE OF ISRAEL)
- INTERVIEWS TAKE PLACE ON CAMPUS
- ONE ON ONE ONGOING SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS
- TOP TRAINING PROVIDED
- GO TO CAMP AS A DELEGATION

Why apply

- WE ONLY WORK WITH JEWISH SUMMER CAMPS
- JEWISH CAMPS USA SUCCESSFULLY SENDS EVERYONE TO CAMP THAT APPLIES
- MEET FRIENDS FOR LIFE
- GAIN A SECOND HOME
- ENHANCE YOUR SKILLS
- YOU WILL EARN FROM \$1500 TO \$4500





The Process for Summer 2019

To Jewish Camps USA applicant,

Below is a breakdown of the process that you will go through from start to finish. Jewish Camps USA will help you throughout the whole process for you to experience the best summer of your life. Tick as you go along!

1. Apply to Jewish Camps USA
 - Fill out application
2. Interview
 - £50 paid before interview
3. Keep in touch via email
4. Interview with camp director(s) on Skype or face to face
5. Hired at a camp
6. Payment once you are hired
7. Communicate with camp and us
 - Contract signed and sent
8. Gain police check
9. Gain J-1 Exchange Visa
 - Jewish Camps USA guide you throughout this whole process from how to arrange your visa interview to what to do on the day – a full guide will be sent out. \$160 approx. subject to change.
10. Book Flights – price varies
11. Medical Form, first aid course, American background checks (depending on camp) all camp policies and procedures to be completed
12. Gain travel insurance
13. Attend orientation day(s)
14. Pack

Have the summer of your life!!



Testimonials

Here are some testimonials from staff who have gone to camp and why being part of JCUSA is an important role for your experience.

Yoel Levy, Camp Wise

Thanks to JCUSA, I had a brilliant time working at Camp Wise, the home of happiness. I created long-lasting friendships with people from all over the world. My experience at Camp Wise was awesome, being a camp counsellor has given me the opportunity to learn, teach and inspire children and staff.

Gemma Shoheit, Camp JCA Shalom

I just wanted to say how grateful I am for being given the opportunity to have this incredible adventure, thank you again!

Hannah Wise, Tamarack Camps

I have had the most amazing and life changing experience at Tamarack Camps thanks to JCUSA, they made the process so stress free and I can't wait to go back to the greatest place on earth again next year!

Joe Mason, Camp Mountain Chai

Camp has been a great experience, far beyond what I thought it could be. I have had the best time, have made true friends and already have a strong connection to camp and everyone there. Being a Maccabiah captain in my first year was amazing. I'm grateful to JCUSA for helping to give me this wonderful adventure. They were so helpful and made everything so easy and thanks to them I love camp and was given this opportunity.

Talia Austin, Camp JCA Shalom

JCUSA allowed me to take part in a life changing experience that I will never forget. I have made friends from all over the world and loved becoming a part of the global Jewish community. I'm so grateful for this once in a lifetime experience!

Ellie Seftel, JCC Camp Kingswood

Nothing could have prepared me for the incredible atmosphere at Kingswood. I am so happy I got to experience this.



Facts about Jewish Camps USA

We are a Jewish ran organisation from past and present Jewish students and camp alumni wanting to give you the same experience that we had.

We only work with the best Jewish overnight summer camps. We will personally pick camps for you where you will be safe, well looked after and have the best experience of your life.

You will meet Jewish and non-Jewish people from all over the world, learn about new cultures and create life changing friendships that will last forever. We work alongside The JCC to provide you with a life changing summer experience and throughout the year we support Jewish student life on campus.

We are the best Jewish student experience in the world.

We have a 100% success rate each year. Everyone who stays committed to the programme throughout the year went to camp.

Summer 2014 – 22 staff – 100% hired

Summer 2015 – 113 staff – 100% hired

Summer 2016 – 170 staff – 100% hired

Summer 2017 – 194 staff – 100% hired

Summer 2018 – 208 staff – 100% hired

There are opportunities to work with JCUSA after camp that can help you in the field that you may be studying or working in which you can use to enhance your C.V.

You can be part of camp all year round with our JCUSA ambassadors who create a sense of camp on campus; this includes social events all across the UK. We also provide opportunities to do fundraising and charity work for projects at camp, this is our chance to give back to camp as a community once we are back home.



Packing List

This is the Jewish Camps USA packing list. As well as using this as a guide we recommend looking at your camps website as they will often have a packing list that you can use to help you too.

- Toiletries enough for 1-2 weeks (can go to Target/Walmart on first day off to stock up on this)
- 2 towels (one for shower and one for pool/sea)
- Take one sunblock and then buy more out there – it's cheaper and better out there
- Jewish Camps USA Tshirt
- A week and a half's worth of tshirts and shorts (you may change once a day so bear that in mind) make sure you do not mind them getting dirty or ruined (Nothing that is too short!)
- Tops of the following colours for Maccabia (colour war): red, blue, green, yellow, black and white
- Blue and white Israeli Tshirt if you have
- Something nice for days off and travelling
- Swimming costumes; you will be in the pool pretty much every day so bring a few (bikinis – check with camp as they may require girls to wear all in one suits)
- Shoes you do not mind getting ruined – rules vary with camp regarding flip flops and open heel shoes – please check.
- Good trainers for possible hikes
- Long shorts/leggings for ropes course and horses
- Underwear
- Sun hat/something to cover your head with
- Sun glasses
- A couple of thick jumpers for when it gets cold at night (this does happen!!!) and some camps will do overnights
- Tracksuit bottoms/jeans (maybe 2)
- A watch (cheap) so you get your campers to the right place at the right time





For Shabbat – this will vary with each camp:

- Check with camp but some camps will have an ‘all white’ dress code on Friday nights – could be whole outfit or just top half.
- Boys – white polos, white shirts and a kippa if you have (any colour) and formal shorts or jeans.
- Girls – white dresses, white blouses/tops.

Additional things to take:

- England flags/UK flags/Israel flags/any flags for cabin decorations and themed days
- English decor from poundland/primark
- Fancy dress
- American to UK plug adapters
- Ipods with camp music
- You don’t need to take your laptop as camp will provide you with access to computers
- Books if you want
- Check with camp director if they will provide you with a sleeping bag and/or pillow (most will)
- Bed cover and pillow case (optional)
- Money – you will most likely not get paid until your last day off (varies with each camp). We advise to take \$300 cash, you can also use UK cards in shops, restaurants and ATMs.
- Rucksack
- Water bottle

Top tips:

- Do not take anything to camp that you will be upset if it got lost/stolen/damaged
- You can buy everything out there if you forget anything e.g. torch
- Label everything!
- You can go to laundrettes on your days off, some camps will have in house laundries and some will provide you with the option of sending your clothes off to be cleaned.
- If you like spray deodorant – take enough with for the whole time, they do not seem to sell this in the USA, only roll on

