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 camp away from camp and a family and we are delighted and excited for you to be part of it.

As part of our high-class service we will provide you with everything you need for the memories to last a lifetime.

Our motto is “Global 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 summer experience. 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 – Counselor/Specialist; at camp there are many different roles and we will decide together 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 camp.

d. Fees – The JCUSA fees are the cheapest, most convenient and helpful in the market. You will get paid in your first year between $1650 and $2400 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. 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 delegation going to camp and will know everyone before going. You will go to camp with a mission and understanding the JCUSA values. Camp loves international 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 in our heart.
THE ONLY GLOBAL JEWISH ORGANISATION
SENDING COUNSELLORS TO WORK AT THE
BEST SUMMER CAMPS IN THE USA AND CANADA

TOGETHER ONE JOURNEY

JEWISH CAMPS USA

APPLY NOW FOR SUMMER 2020
WWW.JEWISHCAMPSSUSA.COM

UP TO 30 DAYS TRAVELLING AFTER CAMP
SUITES ALL OF YOUR REQUIREMENTS
HAVE THE CHANCE TO GO TO CAMP WITH A FRIEND
LEARN NEW SKILLS & ENHANCE YOUR CV

INFO@JEWISHCAMPSSUSA.COM  JEWISHCAMPSSUSA
WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- You are guaranteed a position at a Jewish camp once you are on the JCUSA program
- You will work at the best camp in the right position suited to you
- Interviews take place at a convenient location
- On-campus support
- Preparation for your camp interview
- Camp will pay between $1500 and $2200
- Police check and visa documents
- Medical insurance
- Visa appointment support
- Pre-camp orientation day
- Help booking your travel
- Go to camp part of a JCUSA delegation
- 24 hour support throughout the year
- Meet friends for life
- Gain a second home
- JCUSA events throughout the year
- Free JCUSA t-shirt and swag
- Support from returners going to your camp
The JCUSA Programme

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. JCUSA 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. Communicate with camp and us
   - Contract signed and sent
7. Receive background check and medical insurance
8. Gain J-1 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 paid to US embassy, subject to change.
9. Book Flights – price varies
10. All camp policies and procedures to be completed
11. Attend orientation day(s)
12. 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
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.

Summer Goodkind
JCUSA has been an unwavering support from the minute I signed up. It gave me the opportunity to go to the most amazing place in the world, meet the most amazing people and look after the most amazing campers. My experience would not be the same without JCUSA and I am grateful that my experience with the organisation extends beyond my summer camp into a family.

Hannah Wise
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 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.

Georgia Giness
I just want to thank you so much for giving me the best summer ever and the opportunity of a lifetime! I wouldn't have been there without you and wouldn't have met the amazing people or make the unforgettable memories that I did without JCUSA! Thanks for everything.

Hannah Freund
JCUSA is the best because they help you every step of the way. They make sure you will have the best summer possible at a camp that fits your personality perfectly! Thanks to JCUSA I’ve now had 2 incredible summers at my favourite place in the world!!
Facts about Jewish Camps USA

We are a Jewish ran organisation run by camp alumni wanting to give you the same experience.

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 are the largest UK Jewish student summer experience and operate in Israel, Australia, South Africa, Uganda, Europe and beyond.

We have a 100% success rate each year. Everyone who passed the JCUSA interview and continues on the programme 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
Summer 2019 – 351 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 CV/ Resume.

You can be part of camp all year round with our JCUSA ambassadors who create a sense of camp on campus. 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.
3 Jewish Camps USA values

Inspiring Impact
On campus, at your camp, for the Jewish community and across the globe.

Inspiring People
The individual builds the organisation and the organisation builds the individual.

Inspiring Leadership
Providing the largest summer leadership experience for Jewish students in the United Kingdom.

Jewish Camps USA
Jewish Camps USA participants decided on these 3 values. We want to inspire people’s lives from all over the globe.

www.JewishCampsUSA.com
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