

JCC RANCH CAMP

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The Summer Handbook

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JCC Denver

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How to use this handbook

First things first, there is A LOT of information in this handbook; more than you probably need and hopefully enough to answer 99% of your questions.

When you registered your camper, you began a partnership with our team. We will work together to set your camper up for success this summer. We look forward to forging a strong and effective partnership with you, your family, and your camper.

As you prepare for your camper's summer at Ranch Camp, use this handbook as a guide to ensure you're doing everything you need for a successful summer.

Keep a list of any questions that come up as you're reading through the handbook and if they aren't answered by the time you finish, please reach out to our team. We're here to help and answer any questions or concerns that may arise.



Critical Information in this Handbook

If you only remember a handful of things from this handbook, these are the things to remember:

1. You're part of an important partnership with our camp team. We'll work together to share information and prepare your family and your camper for a successful camp experience.
2. All camp forms are due on May 1, 2024. If you miss this deadline, your camper may not be able to attend camp or may have delayed arrival to camp.
3. Filling out your medical paperwork (Health History and Physician Forms specifically) correctly and on time is INCREDIBLY important especially if your camper takes medication.
4. Talking to your camper about camp in a positive and encouraging way is critical in preparing them for camp.
5. Label every single item that your camper is going to bring to camp with their first AND last name. Any unlabeled lost and found items will be donated at the end of the camp season.



Dear Ranch Camp Families,

Shalom and welcome to JCC Ranch Camp! We're thrilled to have you join our summer family. With so many options out there, we're truly honored that you've chosen us as your summer destination. Our commitment to excellence in programming and the well-being of every camper is at the heart of everything we do, and we're excited to partner with you to ensure an unforgettable experience for your camper.

This handbook serves as your go-to guide as you prepare for the summer ahead. It's packed with all the information you'll need to navigate the Ranch Camp experience, from important policies to tips for packing.

At Ranch Camp, we believe in creating an environment where campers can thrive physically, emotionally, and spiritually. We want every child to feel safe, supported, and encouraged to explore new challenges and grow in unexpected ways. As parents, guardians, and caregivers, your partnership is invaluable in helping us achieve this goal.

We often hear from our campers and staff that Ranch Camp is where they become their best selves. And that transformation happens when families like yours join forces with us to empower campers with the skills and confidence they need to succeed. We measure our success by the stories of friendship, resilience, and personal growth that campers bring home with them.

So, thank you for entrusting us with your camper's summer adventure. Together, let's create a community where we all shine as our very best selves.

Happy camping,
Katelyn Skeen
Director of Ranch Camp
kskeen@jccdenver.org



The mission of the JCC Ranch Camp is to provide a residential camping experience for youth that enables campers, staff, and families to strengthen their Jewish identity, become more caring and responsible members of society, and connect with the natural world through challenging and fun activities. Campers gain knowledge and skills, learn to build friendships, develop community, and build personal confidence. Ranch Camp is committed to being a home for all Jews, and for those who are willing to respect and support the Jewish faith and people.

In fulfilling its mission, the JCC Ranch Camp provides:

- Innovative learning opportunities for children and staff members in an inclusive, Jewish environment that challenges growth in mind, body, and spirit
- A safe place for children to be cared for by qualified professionals, with a commitment to safety, supervision, customer service, and Judaic programming
- Opportunities for children and adults to experience a nurturing community based on Jewish values

Ranch Camp Middot

At Ranch Camp we practice “seamless Judaism” by weaving Jewish values into the activities and experiences of camp. We focus on four central middot (values) to guide our actions and discussions at camp.

Kavod V’Chesed: Respect and Kindness | כבוד וחסד

We honor and value ourselves and others by being inclusive and accepting. We are considerate of the feelings of others. We treat others as they would like to be treated. We are supportive and compassionate.

Kehillah: Community | קהילה

We build each other up. We laugh together, we play together, we overcome challenges together, we learn together, and we grow together.

Tikkun Olam: Healing the World | תיקון עולם

We create a community that makes the world a better place. Together, we can make an impact on the world around us.

Hakh'lalla: Inclusion | הכללה

We welcome everyone. We make sure everyone feels included, seen, and safe no matter where they are coming from, what they look like, or how they identify. We embrace each other no matter what.

Ranch Camp Inclusion Statement

In alignment with our mission, vision, and values, JCC Ranch Camp is committed to the fundamental principles of personal freedom, equality of opportunity, and human dignity. We strive to create a community that welcomes diversity. We invite and engage all those who wish to participate including, but not limited to, people of any: race, ethnicity, religion, age, gender identity and expression, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, family structure, ability, marital status, culture, and spirituality. We will continually challenge ourselves and others in an environment of mutual concern and respect for the free expression of all individuals. Inclusion permeates our center. Inclusion is belonging.

Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Inclusion Statement

Ranch Camp shall ensure that all personally identifiable and medical information relating to an individual’s transgender or gender non-conforming status shall be kept confidential in accordance with applicable state, local, and federal privacy laws. All representatives of Ranch Camp, both paid and volunteer, shall not disclose any information that may reveal a camper’s transgender status to others, including other parents/guardians and other camp staff, unless legally required to do so, or unless the camper or staff has authorized such disclosure. All campers have the right to discuss and convey their gender identity and expression openly and to decide when, with whom, and how much to share private information. When contacting the parent/guardians of a camper, Ranch Camp staff should use the camper’s legal name and the pronoun corresponding to the camper’s gender assigned at birth unless the camper or parent/guardian has specified otherwise. Every camper has the right to be addressed by a name and pronouns that correspond to their gender identity. Regardless of whether a camper has legally changed their name or gender (or undergone any surgical or hormonal transitions), Ranch Camp will allow such campers to use a chosen name and gender pronouns that reflect their identity. It is recommended that Ranch Camp staff privately ask campers how they want to be addressed at camp and other programs and in the camp’s communication with the camper’s parent/guardians. If the camper or staff has previously been known at Ranch Camp by a different name, Ranch Camp leadership staff will direct Ranch Camp staff to use the person’s chosen name and appropriate pronouns. Campers will be bunked in cabins by their identified gender as indicated on their CampMinder application.

Licensure Abuse Statement

In the event of suspicion of child abuse or neglect of any enrolled children, staff members are required to report this to the director. The director or staff member will, in turn, report the findings to Child Protective Services as required by Colorado state law.



Registering for Ranch Camp

Camp registration happens online through the CampInTouch system. You must create an account or log in to an existing account to register. If you need help logging in or get locked out of your account, please reach out to ranchcamp@jccdenver.org or 303.316.6384. You can log in to CampInTouch through our website: www.ranchcamp.org.

Payment Options

Registrations are processed by either paying in full or through a payment plan. Payment plans include equal installments, a scholarship payment plan, or a custom payment plan. All payments must be collected before a camper attends camp unless you have set up a custom payment plan with the camp registrar. Alternative payment arrangements must be made with our camp registrar through email at registrar@jccdenver.org. For all payment options, a \$250 deposit per camper per session is required.

Scholarship Information

If you are interested in applying for scholarships you will select the "Scholarship Payment Plan" upon registration. This will ask for a \$250 non-refundable deposit (per camper, per session) followed by a payment plan of 10% of the remaining total will be charged on the 1st of each month concluding on March 1st. Once scholarship awards are announced in April 2023, our registrar will work with you on setting up a payment plan for any remaining balance.

- If you need to withdraw for financial reasons, we will evaluate refund options on a case-by-case basis. Your tuition may be 100% refundable minus the \$250 non-refundable deposit (per camper, per session).
- If you are unable to make this type of financial commitment, contact us prior to registration to set up a custom payment option.

We use FAST financial aid services to review and award financial need-based scholarships. Families applying for financial aid will need to complete an application and submit the necessary supporting documentation to FAST.

Scholarship Applications are due by March 15, 2024. If you have any issues with submitting your 2023 tax returns, you must contact the camp registrar directly to make additional arrangements at registrar@jccdenver.org or 303.316.6315.

Cancellations and Registration Changes

To make a change to or cancel your registration you must email our registrar registrar@jccdenver.org with the following information: (1) your name, (2) your camper's full name, and (3) your camper's registered session and dates. You will receive an email confirmation once the change is made. If you need to cancel for any reason within 24 hours of registering, you will receive a full refund of any payments made.

Cancellation Window	Refund Amount
October 1st - March 1st	Refund of payments made minus the \$250 non-refundable deposit per camper, per session
March 2nd - March 31st	Refund 75% of payments made minus the \$250 non-refundable deposit per camper, per session
April 1st - April 30th	Refund 50% of payments made minus the \$250 non-refundable deposit per camper, per session
May 1st - May 31st	Refund 25% of payments made minus the \$250 non-refundable deposit per camper, per session
After June 1st	Not eligible for refund

JCC Ranch Camp 2024 Dates

Session One

June 10 - June 23

Mini Camp A: June 10 - June 16

Mini Camp B: June 17 - June 23

ShaiVenture Bet - June 10 - June 23

Session Two

June 26 - July 14

Mini Camp A: July 1 - 7

Mini Camp B: July 8 - 14

ShaiVenture A: June 24 - July 7

ShaiVenture B: July 1 - July 14

Session Three

July 17 - August 4

Mini Camp A: July 22 - July 28

Mini Camp B: July 29 - August 4

ShaiVenture A: July 15 - July 28

ShaiVenture B: July 22 - August 4

Teen Village

July 10 - August 4

Family Camp

August 9 - August 11



Camp Policies: Pre-Camp Communication

Our team is here to get your camper to camp successfully and make their camp experience the best it can possibly be. To do that, we will partner with you to ensure we can support you and your camper before and during their time at camp. To make this easy, we've set clear expectations so you know what you can expect from our team and what we expect from you.

Ranch Camp 101 Emails

About a month before your camper's first day, you'll start receiving a series of four emails outlining health and safety at camp, how to talk to your camper about missing home and bullying, how to start packing for camp, and what to expect from us for summer communications. These emails will act as a guide to prepare you and your camper for the summer! They have a ton of information so please reach out with any questions related to our Ranch Camp 101 email series.

Virtual Information Sessions

We host several virtual information sessions in the springtime before camp for you and your camper to attend. These information sessions will cover everything from first-time campers and parents/caregivers, to campers going on trips, to health and safety policies, to paperwork, and more! You can find the list of our pre-camp virtual events and RSVP on our website: www.ranchcamp.org/currentfamilies.

Inclusion Intake Calls

If your camper might need a little extra support or specific accommodations during their time at camp, our team will reach out to you after your registration is processed and once you've completed your camper care survey to schedule an intake call. During this call, we'll ask questions that will allow us to create and implement custom care plans to set your camper up for success during the summer and provide them with the necessary support to have an incredible summer experience. We'll have more in-depth information about intake calls later in this handbook.



Camp Policies:

Summer Communication from Ranch Camp

We will share information about your camper's experience during their session while respecting the independence and growth that come from spending time away from home. In order to find this balance, we've outlined what you can expect to receive from us while your camper is at camp.

In the week before your camper arrives, you'll receive:

- An email confirmation of your arrival transportation selections
- "Know Before You Go" information about what you can expect on arrival day
- An introduction video from your camper's counselors with your camper's cabin number

While your camper is at camp, you'll receive:

- At least 100 photos posted in CampInTouch every other day that will give you a glimpse into the day-to-day happenings at camp - pictures will include group and individual shots of activities, cabin programs, all camp programs, and more
 - To access photos, please log in to your CampInTouch account and navigate to the "Photos" section
 - ***We only have satellite internet at camp, which requires us to travel offsite to upload photos - we appreciate your patience as photos get uploaded during your child's session***
 - Photos from backpacking trips (Toshavim, TASC, Pack n' Ride & Teen Village) will be uploaded before the end of the camp session - the priority when those campers return to camp is getting them de-gearred and debriefed safely
- A weekly blog post telling the story of camp posted on our website and social media pages
- At least four social media posts per week - follow us at JCC Ranch Camp on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok
- One emailed update about your camper's cabin and unit written by your camper's Unit Head and Camper Care Coordinator
 - For campers in full sessions, this update will also include a personalized update about your camper
- If your camper is attending Ranch Camp for the first time, you'll receive one "First Time Camper Update Call" within the first five days of their session (if you have a camper attending a Mini Camp, you'll receive your "First Time Camper Update Call" about halfway through the session)
- An email confirmation of your departure transportation selections

When your camper returns home, you'll receive:

- A Unit Directory with all the names and contact information of the campers in your camper's unit
- An end-of-summer survey to help us improve Ranch Camp for future summers

We will call you if your camper:

- Is struggling to overcome challenges outside of a normal time frame (i.e. intense and excessive missing home)
- Is struggling to overcome social/emotional challenges outside of a normal time frame
- Is unable to follow the rules outlined in the Camper Conduct Agreement
- Is causing harm to self, others, or the space around them
- Has to spend the night in the Clinic, needs to be taken home to recover, requires a new prescription medication while at camp, or needs to be seen by a healthcare professional outside of camp
- Is a frequent visitor to our Clinic
- Frequently needs additional or unanticipated support from our Camper Care Team
- ***You WILL NOT be contacted for minor physical or emotional health issues, such as scrapes, non-repetitive headaches or stomachaches, normal levels of missing home or social conflict, etc.***

Camp Policies:

Summer Communication With Your Camper

A steady flow of communication to and from home is important and will help promote your camper's positive feelings about camp and ease any worry they might feel about being away from home. There are a couple of ways that you can communicate with your camper while they are at camp.

How does your camper communicate with you?

Campers will be able to send you letters! To help us encourage your camper to write home and make the letter-writing process easy, you can send pre-addressed envelopes, stationery, and stamps. Ranch Camp delivers all outgoing mail to the Elbert Post office daily (except Sundays).

Campers are not permitted to call home or have visitors during their time at camp with the exception of emergency situations. Phone calls home and visitors are disruptive to the camper experience and can create or intensify feelings of missing home.

How do you communicate with your camper?

Letters sent through the mail

Campers will receive mail every day after lunchtime (except on Saturday in observance of Shabbat). Keep in mind that it typically takes 3 -5 days for letters to arrive to and from Ranch Camp. If you would like to pre-write letters, you can drop them off on arrival day. Make sure you label which letter you'd like delivered each day and we'll ensure it gets to your camper during mail time.

You can send mail to:

Camper's Name - c/o JCC Ranch Camp

Cabin #__

21441 N. Elbert Road

Elbert, CO 80106

Letters sent through CampInTouch emails

You can use your CampInTouch account to send one-way emails to your camper. You will need to purchase CampStamps, just like regular stamps, through your online account to use the service. Each day, except for Shabbat, we will print your emails and deliver them to campers along with letters.

Packages

Campers may receive one package per session. Any additional packages that a camper receives will be held in the camp office and available for pick up at the end of the session. We suggest that you focus on sending letters and CampInTouch emails. You may send non-food items such as games, cards, etc - the best care packages include things that the entire cabin can participate in together.

DO NOT SEND FOOD OR ANYTHING EDIBLE IN CARE PACKAGES! Food in bunks attracts critters and interferes with our allergen-friendly environment and Kashrut supervision policies. Any food sent in care packages will be confiscated and thrown away.

What about cell phones and other devices?

Leave it at home! Ranch Camp prides itself on being a completely screen-free environment. Campers are not permitted to have cell phones, iPods, smart watches, e-readers, or other devices with screens and internet or data connection capabilities. Any electronic items that are brought to camp will be held in the camp office and delivered back to campers at the end of the session. If your camper needs a device to support their physical, mental, emotional, social, or spiritual health or B'nai Mitzvah learning, please contact us before your camper arrives to set up a plan for device usage.

Additionally, Ranch Camp is not responsible for lost or damaged personal property while a camper is at camp.

Camp Policies: Physical Health and Wellness

Medical Needs at Camp

Ranch Camp has an on-site Clinic (mirpa'ah) that is staffed by a medical staff consisting of a Registered Nurse and a Clinic assistant (an EMT, paramedic, CNA, or another certified professional) with a doctor available by phone at all times. If your camper needs physical health support at camp, you should encourage them to talk to their counselor about visiting the Clinic. Counselors will visit the Clinic with campers for a variety of reasons including but not limited to persistent headaches, stomach aches, physical injuries like twisted ankles, scrapes, bumps, bruises, heat exhaustion or dehydration, suspected fevers, and other symptoms of illness. Campers who take medications will also visit the Clinic or Clinic team for medication administration.

Should your camper need to see a doctor or specialist outside of camp or spend the night in the Clinic, our Camper Care Team and Clinic staff will call and discuss the options with you before taking your camper to a provider/before they spend the night in the Clinic. If we need to call EMS we may not be able to reach you until your camper is on the way to a hospital. For non-emergency dental or orthodontic issues (i.e. lost filling, chipped tooth, broken/loose bracket), we will contact you to discuss options available for dental care. Any camper that arrives with eggs, nits, or lice will be sent home and can return after being lice-free for 24 hours.

If a camper is diagnosed with a contagious condition, such as pink eye or strep throat, has three or more symptoms of illness, or has a fever they will remain isolated from the rest of camp for the first 24 hours after their diagnosis or symptom onset. If they are prescribed antibiotics, they will remain isolated for the first 24 hours they are on antibiotics. Campers must be symptom and fever-free without medication for 24 hours before returning to programming. Campers will be housed in our Clinic during isolation periods. If a camper has a prolonged illness or fever resulting in them having to spend more than two consecutive nights and two consecutive days in the Clinic, they will have to be picked up to return home to rest and recuperate. Campers are welcome to rejoin programming once they are symptom or fever-free without medication for 24 hours.

Medication at Camp

- Medication includes prescription medications, over-the-counter medications, vitamins/supplements, homeopathic medications, essential oils, and anything that can be inhaled, absorbed, or ingested while the child is attending the program.
- **You must submit all required information about all medications your camper will take at camp in the Health History and Physician Form before the form's deadline, May 1, 2024.**
- All information on these two forms MUST MATCH EXACTLY and MUST MATCH the prescription and dosage information listed on the physical medication bottle and/or packaging.
- All medications are dispensed by the Clinic staff with the careful recording of their usage per state law, state licensing, and ACA standards.
- All medications must be checked in with the Clinic Staff by parents/caregivers on the first day of camp.
- Any medications found that are not checked in will be confiscated and may result in early camper dismissal.
- All medications must be in the original packaging (do not "pre-package" yourself OR put medications in mixed bottles or bags) and must not be expired.
- Dosage and administration information listed on the medication packaging MUST match the information on your Health History and Physician Form.
- **Medications that are not listed correctly on your Health History and Physician Form WILL NOT be accepted at check-in and bringing medication that is not correctly documented may result in a delay in your camper attending camp.**
- If your camper takes as-needed medication at home that you anticipate they might need to take regularly at camp, like an allergy medication, it must be listed on their Health History and Physician Form.
- Contact our office pre-summer if your child will be taking growth hormones, using insulin injections, or other refrigerated medication.
- Campers using inhalers or Epipens must bring two inhalers/epi-pens (new, original packaging).
- We carry the majority of over-the-counter (OTC) medications (cold/sinus, allergy, etc) so you do NOT need to send your camper with any as-needed medications.
- Expired medications CANNOT be accepted.

Camp Policies:

Mental and Behavioral Health and Wellness

Inclusion and Support at Camp

Ranch Camp is a place where ALL campers in our care can feel safe, nurtured, and accepted. We do our best to support the individual needs of all campers while providing a safe, healthy, and inclusive social environment for the greater camp community. Core to our mission, Ranch Camp welcomes many campers with identified needs, so long as we are able to support them and provide the appropriate level of care without compromising the safety and well-being of them, their peers, and their staff. If your child has learning, cognitive, and/or behavioral differences or identified needs, or mental health needs, please contact us before your camper's enrollment, so that we can determine whether we can provide the necessary resources and accommodations to support your camper.

Pre-Camp Intake Calls

If you indicate that your camper has identified needs or needs additional mental health support on your camp application and Camper Care Survey, the Ranch Camp team will reach out to you before the start of camp to schedule an intake call. We'll also reach out to schedule an intake call if you request one or if we believe that your camper might benefit from having additional support at camp. These intake calls allow our staff to create and implement custom care plans to set your camper up for success during their summer and provide them with the support to have an incredible summer experience. All information shared during these intake calls is only shared with relevant staff members and otherwise kept confidential.

All camp staff are trained in the most current inclusive behavior practices, and for campers with higher needs, Ranch Camp has a Camper Care Team and Inclusion staff that are trained and supported by camp social workers and psychologists.

Behavioral Interventions at Camp

Ranch Camp strives to support the individual needs of its campers while providing a safe, healthy, and inclusive social environment for the entire community. Conflict resolution, restorative justice practices, and positive reinforcement are used to encourage desired behaviors. If your camper is struggling to adhere to the Camper Conduct Agreement, our Camper Care Team will work with them, their staff, and you to get them back on track. If needed, our Camper Care Team might deem it necessary to place your camper on a behavior contract, an agreement in which campers will be encouraged to advocate for their needs, and will identify how camp staff can support them in following the Camper Conduct Agreement. In a behavior contract, campers will work with staff to identify behaviors to stop, start, and continue, will outline consequences for not adhering to the contract, and will brainstorm rewards for succeeding in following the contract.

The Camp Director team reserves the right to dismiss a camper without a refund or to cancel the enrollment of any camper whose conduct, influence, or behavior is deemed unsatisfactory, unsafe, or not in the best interest of the program or the camper's experience or the experience of others campers and staff.



Camp Policies:

Mental and Behavioral Health and Wellness

Behavior Expectations

If a camper is struggling to follow the following expectations in the JCC Camper and Family Conduct Agreement their Camper Care staff and bunk staff will address the behaviors with them. Camper Care staff will be in communication with parents/caregivers if any of these rules are breached and/or unacceptable behavior is persistent. Campers' behavior may have implications on their ability to remain at Ranch Camp and/or participate in other JCC Programs. Following these rules will help Ranch Camp be a safer, happier environment for everyone.



JCC Camper Conduct Agreement

Ranch Camp is my, and other children's, home for the summer and I agree to make it a safe place. For the benefit of other campers, the staff, and myself, I agree to conduct my behavior in the following ways:

- I will respect myself and others.
- I will listen to others including staff and fellow JCC participants.
- I will control my own behavior and use appropriate language.
- I will not cause physical or emotional harm to other participants or staff.
- I will follow the program rules and schedule.
- I will respect the environment, program equipment, property, and other participants' belongings.
- I will wear appropriate clothing and footwear for all program activities.
- I will not possess or use alcohol, tobacco, illegal substances, marijuana, or any other paraphernalia.
- I will not possess or bring weapons of any shape or size.
- I will not engage in or threaten abuse (physical, verbal, or emotional) of any kind.

JCC Family Conduct Agreement

JCC has the right to suspend and/or terminate a family's ELS, camp, or program agreement due to disorderly, disruptive, or abusive conduct, illegal activities, or failure to abide by the individual program or Center's policies, rules, and regulations. This suspension or termination is extended to a student's or camper's behavior or parent/family member's conduct leading to a breach of any provision of this Agreement, including failure to make any payment when due. Without limiting the foregoing, JCC shall have the right to suspend and/or terminate this Agreement if a student, camper, or parent/family member make disparaging statements (whether orally or in writing) about the business or operations of JCC or commences, threatens, organizes, or participates in (a) legal proceedings against JCC, its owner, or its operator, or (b) a picket, boycott, strike, or similar act against JCC. The JCC will provide a 30-day written notice to suspend and/or terminate a family's school or camp contract unless conduct necessitates immediate termination of their contract. For families in the ELS, families are required to pay out a 30-day notice if their contract is suspended or terminated. Furthermore, for all programs any tuition processed for the month or upcoming ELS, camp, or program will not be eligible for a refund.

Camp Policies:

Mental and Behavioral Health and Wellness

Early Dismissal

In certain situations, a camper may have to leave camp early due to behavioral and/or mental health issues. Early dismissal is often determined on a case-by-case basis. If this is the case with your camper, the camp team will reach out to you and discuss the situation and the best way to move forward. We will create a plan with the best interests of your and other campers' experience in mind and consistently follow up with you regarding your camper's needs and the evolution of the situation.

However, in some situations, Ranch Camp has hard behavioral and mental health limits that will result in immediate early dismissal:

- If a camper makes a conscious and intentional effort to leave camp property despite repeated instructions from staff members not to, they will need to leave camp within 12 hours of the incident.
- If a camper expresses suicidal ideation in conjunction with an intentional plan or action or participates in suicidal or self-harm actions, they will need to leave camp within 12 hours of the disclosure.
- If a camper intentionally physically harms a staff member or another camper, they will need to leave camp within 12 hours of the incident.

Camp Policies:

Emergency Procedures and Security

If you or your family has an emergency while your camper is at camp, please call our camp office at 303.316.6384. If you cannot reach anyone at the camp office, you can call our emergency line which will be emailed to you before the start of your camper's session.

In the event of an emergency at camp, our team will make every effort to contact you and keep you updated on the evolving situation. If we cannot reach you, we will contact your listed emergency contacts and keep them updated on the evolving situation.

In the event of an emergency, an early dismissal, or other unexpected situation at camp, you or another authorized adult must be available to pick your camper up from camp within 24 hours at any point during their program. Please keep this in mind especially if you are coming from out of state or planning on traveling during your camper's time at camp.

During camp sessions, Ranch Camp is patrolled by at least one armed security guard, 24 hours every day. Our entrances are monitored. We maintain a good relationship with our neighbors and county law enforcement. Security-related policies, procedures, and infrastructure are implemented according to the recommendations of the Department of Homeland Security, the Anti-Defamation League, and the JCC Association. Please contact us if you have questions or concerns about security at Ranch Camp.



Camp Policies: Key Takeaways



Communication

- You are the expert on your camper and we're the experts on camp. We will create a partnership to ensure we can support you and your camper before and during their time at camp.
- In the months leading up to camp, you'll get preparation emails, be able to attend information sessions, and meet with our team to talk about supporting your camper.
- While your camper is at camp, make sure to write them letters consistently (either through CampInTouch or via snail mail) and keep an eye on your mailbox for letters that they write to you!
- We will call you if anything out of the ordinary comes up with your camper while they are at camp.
- Ranch Camp is a screen-free environment.

Physical, Mental, and Behavioral Health

- Ranch Camp is a place where all campers have the right to be included, seen, and safe, and we've created policies to prioritize the physical, emotional, and spiritual health safety, and well-being of all campers.
- We have resources available if your camper may need extra support while at camp (think anything from taking medications, to needing sensory breaks, to making friends) that are most effective when we know about your camper in advance.
- If your camper takes medication at camp, it must be documented correctly and completely in line with our policies otherwise your camper may not be able to attend camp or start their camp session on time.
- In certain situations, a camper may have to leave camp early due to physical, mental, or behavioral health issues. If this is the case with your camper, we will call you to talk about the next steps.

Camper Forms

Throughout this handbook, we'll reference the partnership that is created between you, your camper, and our team when you sign up for camp. This partnership starts with your camper forms. Once your camper registration is processed, you'll have access to start completing your camper forms through your CampInTouch account. The information you provide will help us get better acquainted with your family and camper. In particular, your Physician's Form, Health History, and Camper Care Forms will assist our staff in caring for any needs your child may have.

All camper forms must be completed and submitted by May 1, 2024.

If you have not completed your camper forms, your camper may not be able to attend camp and you will not receive a refund. We require forms to be submitted well before your camper arrives to give our team enough time to review all the information and reach out to you if clarification or additional communication is needed to ensure your camper has a successful and memorable camp experience.

Camper Forms Checklist

Please use this checklist to ensure all your forms are filled out correctly by the deadline.

General Forms

- Are all your electronic forms submitted and marked as received by 5/1/2024?
- Are all your physical paper forms scanned, uploaded, submitted, and marked as received by 5/1/2024?
- Did you miss the Pick-Up Authorization Form? It's listed below your camper's forms & documents under "Forms & Documents for Your Family."

Behavioral and Mental Health Forms

- Is your Camper Care survey completed with the detail needed for us to support your camper?
- If relevant, have you uploaded any additional documentation like an IEP, 504 plan, or BIP?
- Have you reviewed and signed the Camper Conduct Agreement with your camper?
- If needed, have you scheduled an Intake Call with our team?

Physical Health Forms

- Are the Physician Form and Colorado Certificate of Immunizations filled out completely on the provided forms and dated with in one year of your camper's program start date?
- If relevant, have you uploaded your camper's allergy, anaphylaxis, or asthma care plans?
- Does the medication information listed in your Health History match exactly the Physician Form?
- Is the medication information listed in your Health History/Physician Form correct and complete?
- Does the medication information listed in your Health History/Physician Form match the information on the packaging/label and prescription on the medication itself?
- Have you contacted our team if your camper takes growth hormone, is using insulin injections, or will need other refrigerated medication?

Instructions for Completing Camper Forms

Below, you'll find instructions to complete each camper form, an overview of what each form is, and why we're collecting the information. If you have any questions while you are completing camper forms, please reach out to us at ranchcamp@jccdenver.org. If your camper forms are not completed correctly, they will not be accepted and you'll need to correct them before the camper forms deadline, May 1, 2024.

General Forms

Pick-Up Authorization and Emergency Contacts

The Pick-Up Authorization form is an electronic form completed in CampInTouch and is used in tandem with your emergency contacts. In the event of an emergency, all efforts will be made to contact the parents/guardians of the camper. If we are unable to contact the parents/guardians, we will then try to contact the Emergency Contacts that you have provided. Please make sure to include the names, relationships, and phone numbers of people to whom you give permission for us to contact in the event that you are not available.

Someone who is NOT listed on the Pick-Up Authorization form will not be able to pick up your child in the event of an emergency.

Ranch Camp Transportation

Campers arrive either by car, bus, or plane and depart either by car or by plane. There are arrival day buses to Ranch Camp that leave from Denver available for an additional fee. The Ranch Camp Transportation form is an electronic form that allows you to indicate who is dropping off and picking up your camper if they are arriving and departing by car OR allows you to provide our team with their flight information. If your camper is arriving and departing by plane we can pick them up and drop them off directly at their gate - we coordinate a team of staff members to transport campers to and from the airport. We ask that you help us by booking a flight that lands/departs from the Denver International Airport between 9:30 am MST and 12:30 pm MST - or as close to that window as possible. We will reach out to confirm your flight information and give you the contact information for your airport staff member about a week before camp starts.

All transportation information must be finalized at least one week before arrivals and departures at the latest. Transportation changes, especially if arriving or departing by plane, made within one week of arrival and departure day may not be accommodated by our team.

Ranch Camp Handbook Acknowledgement

The Ranch Camp Handbook Acknowledgment form is an electronic form completed in CampInTouch. Completing this form means that you've read and agree to all policies and procedures outlined in this handbook.



Instructions for Completing Camper Forms: Mental and Behavioral Health Forms

JCC Camper Care Survey

This is an electronic form that will take 15 - 30 minutes to complete in CampInTouch. Please take the time to complete the Camper Care Survey with as much detail as possible - we always prefer too much information rather than not enough. This is especially valuable when a camper has identified needs, might need extra support at camp, or there has been a recent disruption in family or school life. We only have the best interests of your camper in mind, and we cannot help or support your camper if we do not have background information. Once your Camper Care Survey is submitted, a member of our team may reach out to schedule a call to discuss how we can best support your camper at Ranch Camp. Discussions with the camp staff will remain confidential.

IEP/504/BIP Documents

If your camper has any support, accommodations, or care plans in place at their school, like an individualized education plan (IEP), 504 plan for accommodation or behavior, behavior intervention plan (BIP), or another equivalent support plan, we may ask that you upload it to CampInTouch. We can often mirror or offer similar accommodations to replicate what your camper is familiar with in their school setting at camp.

JCC Camper and Family Conduct Agreement

All families and campers participating in JCC programs sign and agree to the camper and family conduct agreement. This form is signed electronically through CampInTouch both by your camper and you. You can find the JCC Camper and Family Conduct Agreement on page 12!



Instructions for Completing Camper Forms: Physical Health Forms

Physical Health forms are some of the most important forms we collect. The information you and your camper's doctor provide on these forms must be accurate and as up-to-date as possible. Please follow this step-by-step guide for medical forms.

Step One: Understanding Medication at Ranch Camp

What is medication defined as at camp?

Medication includes prescription medications, over-the-counter medications, vitamins/supplements, homeopathic medications, essential oils, and anything else that can be inhaled, absorbed, or ingested while the child is attending the program.

How do I ensure my camper will be able to take their medication while at camp?

The information you submit in the medication section of your camper's Health History form **MUST MATCH** the medication information that your camper's doctor will complete in the Physician Form **EXACTLY** or your camper will not be able to take their medication while at camp and may not be able to attend camp.

If medication information is missing or incorrect when you check in medication, it WILL NOT be accepted and your camper's arrival may be delayed.

Our team may reach out to you if we have questions or need additional clarification about your camper's medication or medical needs before camp.

Step Two: Completing the Physician Form

This is a form that must be completed and signed by your camper's doctor, dated within one year of your camper's program start date, and submitted on the JCC Denver Physician Form. Your doctor should complete this form **BEFORE** you complete the Health History form. You can upload the completed form through CampInTouch. If your child takes any medications, they need to be documented correctly and completely on this form. If you cannot submit your Physician Form before the deadline due to insurance restrictions, please email our office ASAP at ranchcamp@jccdenver.org.

Step Three: Completing the Health History Form

This is an online form that you will complete after your camper's doctor has completed your Physician Form and it's been uploaded through CampInTouch. If you are a returning family, your camper's information in the Health History Form may auto-populate from their past summer. Please review this information carefully and update it to reflect any changes from the past year. If you are a first-time family, please fill out this form completely and accurately. Our Camper Care and Health Center staff read through every form for daily medicines, dosages, times, etc. Medication information on the Health History must match exactly what is listed on the Physician form. We may call you to verify accuracy and to work with you to adjust your child's normal routine to a camp setting.

Step Four: Completing the Allergy, Anaphylaxis and Asthma Care Plans

If your camper has an allergy that requires an additional care plan, an allergy that causes anaphylaxis, or asthma your camper's doctor must complete the relevant care plan. These plans must be filled out correctly and specifically, signed by your camper's doctor, dated within one year of your camper's program start date, and submitted on the Colorado-specific forms. You can upload completed care plans through CampInTouch. Camp staff will not be able to make adjustments to allergy and asthma care plans that are not updated, in writing, by your camper's doctor.

Instructions for Completing Camper Forms: Physical Health Forms cont.

Colorado Certificate of Immunizations

Colorado law requires all participants attending Colorado licensed child cares to be vaccinated against certain diseases, unless a medical exemption is filed. As a Colorado state licensed child care facility, we require that all participants attending JCC Denver programs be up to date with their vaccinations as outlined by Colorado state law. All participants and staff members are required to submit their immunization records prior to the start date of their specific program(s). As a private organization, JCC Denver is not required to recognize religious or personal exemptions. JCC Denver bases this decision on the responsibility to protect all children and adults associated with JCC Denver from infections that can be prevented or ameliorated by immunizations.

Your immunization form must be completed and signed by your camper's doctor, dated within one year of your camper's program start date, and submitted on the official Colorado Certificate of Immunization form found in CampInTouch. You can upload the completed immunization form through CampInTouch.

Consent to Treat

The Consent to Treat form allows Ranch Camp staff to provide, seek, and consent to routine health care, administration of prescribed medications, and emergency treatment for my child, as may be necessary, including, but not limited to x-rays, routine tests, and treatment, and/or hospitalization. It also gives permission for Ranch Camp to arrange related transportation and release of any records necessary for treatment, referral, billing, or insurance purposes. This is an electronic form that you will sign online through CampInTouch.

Health Insurance

Ranch Camp does not provide camper insurance. Each child must have personal health insurance. Camper medical costs incurred during the summer including prescriptions, doctors' visits, or hospital bills, will be charged to the parents and their insurance. Insurance information is requested on the Health History form.

All camper forms must be completed and submitted by May 1, 2024.

Have questions about forms? Let us know!

Email us at ranchcamp@jccdenver.org or call 303.316.6384.





Camper Forms: Key Takeaways

- **All your forms MUST be completed by May 1, 2024.**
- If you do not complete your forms on time, your camper may not be able to attend camp or may have a delayed arrival to camp.
- Your Physician Form and Colorado Certificate of Immunizations must be completed on the forms provided by the JCC.
- If your camper takes medications, take **EXTREME** care as you complete your Health History form and as your camper's doctor completes your Physician Form.
 - If medication information is not filled out correctly in both the Health History and Physician Forms, does not match the information on the packaging of the medication, or is incomplete or incorrect in any way your camper **MAY NOT** be able to attend camp.
 - If medication information is missing or incorrect when you check in medication, it **WILL NOT** be accepted and your camper's arrival may be delayed.
- Take time to fill out your Camper Care Survey thoughtfully as it allows us to support your camper in having a successful camp experience.
- You should review the JCC Camper and Family Conduct Agreement with your camper before you both sign the form.

Preparing Your Camper for Camp

Camp is a HUGE experience for campers - especially if they have never gone before. It can feel exciting and adventurous but it can also be worry-inducing and daunting if you don't know what to expect. Talking to your camper about what they will encounter on a day-to-day basis at camp is as important as registering and completing your forms on time.

We've compiled information and an FAQ for you to review with your camper before they arrive at camp.

Daily Life at Ranch Camp

Even though camp days are jam-packed with activities and fun, we stick a schedule to allow campers to develop and sink into a routine at camp. Here is a sample daily schedule:

Morning

7:00 AM - Boker Tov! Good Morning!

7:45 - 8:00 AM - Morning circle and Degel (flagpole) ceremony

8:00 - 8:45 AM - Breakfast

8:45 - 9:15 AM - Cabin Clean Up: daily chores to get you and your cabin ready for the day

9:25 - 10:25 AM - Activity 1

10:25 - 10:40 AM - Snack

10:40 - 11:40 AM - Activity 2

11:50 AM - 12:50 PM - Activity 3

Afternoon

1:15 - 2:00 PM - Lunch

2:00 - 3:30 PM - Menucha: rest hour to recharge, write letters, and prepare for the rest of the day

3:20 - 4:20 PM - Weekly Chug: free choice activity that lasts the whole week or multiple days

4:30 - 4:50 PM - Snack

4:50 - 5:50 PM - Daily Chug: free choice activity that changes every day

5:50 - 6:10 PM - Prepare for Dinner and Evening Program

Evening

6:15 - 7:00 PM - Dinner

7:00 - 8:30 PM - Evening Program: an all-camp evening program that is typically a surprise until dinner

8:30 - 9:00 PM - Prepare for Bed and Evening Ritual

9:00 PM - Lila Tov! Good Night!

While most days follow this schedule, there are special program days that campers might participate in during their session. Special Program Days are typically surprises that are broken during wake-up and morning prep times by staff members. Here are the Special Program Days:

Maccabiah

Maccabiah is an all day all camp color competition where 4 teams take part in various competitive events and relay races all day.

4th of July

4th of July at camp is an action packed carnival style day filled with swimming, face painting, bouncy houses, cotton candy and popcorn, and more.

Mayhem Day

Mayhem Day is an all day camp activity where campers who aren't at camp for the 4th of July get to experience all the fun of the carnival.

Yom International

On Yom International, our international staff get the opportunity to run stations that show case their culture and activities from their home country.

Preparing Your Camper for Camp

Daily Activities at Ranch Camp

We do our best to get campers to all of our activity offerings multiple times during the course of their session. We are a “challenge by choice” program, which means that while we encourage campers to try all the activities, they are not pushed to participate in activities that they do not want to do. Campers participate in activities with same-aged, mixed-gender groups.

During a Traditional Session, we attempt to get all full-session Ranch Program campers to each activity at least twice during their session with two to three horseback riding opportunities. Campers can also choose to go to activities again during chug periods. During a Specialty Camp, 5th - 8th graders in a full session will select either EQ (Equestrian Camp) or OA (Outdoor Adventure Camp) where they will focus on activities in their chosen specialty. All Mini Campers will still participate in a traditional session and will participate in a rodeo-style riding experience. Here is a list of many, but not all, of the activities, offered at camp:

- Archery
- Arts & Design
- Court & Field Sports
- Hiking
- Horseback Riding
- Israeli Culture & Judaics
- Low & High Ropes Course
- Mountain Biking (5th & older)
- Music
- Onsite Campouts for ALL campers
- Offsite Trips (8th & older)
- Rikkud (Dance)
- STEM
- Swimming (onsite pool!)
- Teva Farm & Garden
- Team Building
- Theatre & Drama
- Tie Dye



Activity Limitations

Inclement weather during the session can require that some activity periods be canceled. We will do our best to reschedule activity groups for certain activities such as horseback riding, archery, pool, and ropes course, as time and schedules allow. Please note that Mini and Baktanna Campers are scheduled at least once for all activities that they are eligible to participate in. These programs are a “taste of camp” experience and the short time frame does not often allow for campers to get to do many of the activities more than once or participate in all of our special program days.

First Time Campers

We've created a guide of all things Ranch Camp for first-time families and campers to use as they prepare for camp. You can find it on our website: <https://www.ranchcamp.org/current-families/>. In addition to the guide, our Assistant Director of Camper Wellness is dedicated to first-time family and camper communication and the first-time camper experience.

Preparing Your Camper for Camp

Jewish Life at Ranch Camp

In addition to our scheduled activities and program, the Ranch Camp team strives to connect campers — mind, body, and spirit — to their Jewish heritage, the Jewish community, and to the natural world around them. Ranch Camp provides campers with spiritual and innovative Jewish programming, including:

- Kabbalat Shabbat (Friday night) services in our outdoor Pavilions
- Saturday morning services in beautiful and peaceful Eddie's Corner
- Musical Havdallah looking out over the front meadow or at the campfire
- Spirited Shabbat song sessions
- Israeli dance, music, and culture
- Supervised Kosher Kitchen

Surrounded by nature and the warmth of old and new friends, campers experience Judaism as never before. Together they share Jewish rituals and traditions and better understand the special way in which we are all connected to one another – connections that will last a lifetime.

We seek to have campers access Judaism in a way that fits them best. We have special traditions that are both a part of Judaism as well as linked with the history of Ranch Camp. We incorporate our mentality of 'challenge by choice' into everything we do. Want to take part in lighting the Shabbat candles? Come up and join our staff, praying alongside them and maybe even getting to do the actual lighting! Want to lead a song for Shabbat services? Jump on stage and take part. We aim to weave Judaic values into every part of camp, getting campers to learn and appreciate an aspect of Judaism while having fun and bonding with new friends.

Services are held at camp in observance of Shabbat on Friday night and Saturday morning, and Havdallah on Saturday evening. They are run by campers and staff and are inclusive to everyone. Ranch Camp is committed to being a home for all Jews, and for those who are willing to respect and support the Jewish faith and people. Ranch Camp provides an environment where campers and staff can observe Shabbat according to their own traditions but we are not Shomer Shabbat as a community.



Our Staff and Counselors

Our staff is a big part of what makes Ranch Camp such a special community. From our year-round team to our summer staff, each person hired has a commitment to ensuring the emotional, physical, spiritual health, safety and well-being of each camper in our care. Staff attend on-site training from 10 – 17 days depending on their position.

Our general staff training includes: Child Abuse Reporting, Camper Care best practices, Program Planning, Missing Home, Bullying Identification and Prevention, Cabin Management, CPR/First Aid, Emergency Procedures and Preparedness as well as lots of area-specific and age-specific training. We want to prepare them to focus on safety while facilitating strong, positive connections between their peer group!

When hiring staff, each applicant, whether they are new to our community or returning, participates in a personal and standardized interview. Staff members are also reference-checked and background-checked through multiple agencies.

Preparing Your Camper for Camp

Making Friends and Missing Home

Our staff are experts in helping campers who miss home re-engage in camp activities and truly have the best summer ever. By sending your camper to camp, we are beginning a partnership. We will work together to help them grow, experience all the wonderful aspects of camp, meet new friends, have a blast, and learn the kinds of skills that will prove invaluable as they mature. Here's how you can help prepare your camper for the summer:

The Do's:

- Use language like 'I know you will have a fun, terrific time at camp, and we can't wait to hear about your experience,' 'you might struggle at times, but those feelings will pass and you'll still have fun!' and 'we are so proud of you for going to camp on your own and being brave' rather than 'we will miss you so much' and 'we can't wait for you to come home.'
- Practice independence with your camper! Give them the space to be responsible for themselves in their at-home routines. Try out a sleepover or two if you haven't already.
- Talk to your camper about what their cabin will look like, what sleeping in a bunk bed is like, what eating buffet-style in a dining hall is like, and what using a shared bath house is like.
- Send a letter ahead of time so there's something from you waiting for your camper on the first day of mail and continue to send your camper letters and camp stamp emails throughout the session.
- Pack personal items from home like a favorite stuffed animal or a family picture.
- Help your camper understand that they can trust and confide in their counselors or another camp staff member to help them with any needs. It is crucial for them to know that they have people at camp with their best interests at heart.

The Don'ts:

- Do not bribe your camper in any way to enjoy camp; instead talk to them about finding confidence, independence, and best friends while at camp.
- Do not tell your camper that they can come home or call home if they are having a difficult time. This gives campers an incentive to make a difficult time for themselves and leave camp early.
- Do not tell your camper that you will be sad/worried/anxious/nervous while they are gone; instead, talk to them about how excited you are to hear about their experience at camp.



If you receive a "homesick letter," do not panic! Remember two things:

- It passes. By the time you receive a letter describing a tough time, your camper probably isn't missing home anymore. In the time it takes for their letters to reach you, we've been building friendships, jumping into activities, and ensuring campers feel heard, seen, felt, and ultimately, included.
- If you receive something that concerns you in a letter, please don't hesitate to reach out. Campers, especially in their first years at camp, are more apt to share with their parents and caregivers than go to their counselors about some things. Let us know what's going on so we can support your camper as best as possible

Preparing Your Camper for Camp

Food and Dietary Needs

Food is a key part of the camp experience and we eat three meals together each day as a community. We also have snacks twice per day in between meal times and fruit is always available in the dining hall. We can accommodate a wide range of dietary restrictions including but not limited to: vegetarian, gluten-free, celiac diet, corn-free, dairy-free, and a wide variety of specific food allergies. Please contact our office in advance of the summer to discuss your camper's food restrictions or dietary challenges and we will be happy to work with you to develop a plan that will have your camper eating healthy, balanced meals to keep their energy up for the fun stuff!

A typical day of meals at Ranch Camp:

Breakfast

Sample Option 1:

- Pancakes
- Scrambled Eggs
- Breakfast Potatoes

Sample Option 2:

- Biscuits and Gravy
- Scrambled Eggs
- Soy Sausage

Always available:

- Cold cereal w/ milk
- Fresh and chilled fruit

Lunch

Sample Option 1:

- Quesadillas
- Beans and Rice
- Sour Cream/Salsa

Sample Option 2:

- Sloppy Joes
- Fries
- Peas and Corn

Always available:

- Fresh Salad Bar
- Sun Better and Jelly

Dinner

Sample Option 1:

- Grilled Chicken
- Rice
- Mixed Veggies

Sample Option 2:

- Pasta Bar
- Breadsticks
- Broccoli

Always available:

- Fresh Salad Bar
- Sun Butter and Jelly

Snacks

- Fresh Fruit
- Chips
- Granola Bars
- Trail Mix

Dietary Needs

Vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, dairy-free, gluten and dairy free, and other dietary and allergy alternatives are always available.

Group Living

Our cabins become a home away from home for your camper while at camp! There are two separate villages divided by age at camp – the North and South Villages. The South Village, home of the Chalutzim Unit (2nd - 4th grade) and half of the Metapsim Unit (5th - 6th grade) is a 7-cabin village with beautiful, rustic red cabins. The historic heart of camp and reminds us that camp was originally a working Colorado ranch. The North Village, home of the other half of the Metapsim Unit and the Toshavim Unit (7th - 8th grade), is a 6-cabin village with a modern feel. Each of these cabins has a wrap-around porch perfect for sitting and relaxing with your friends in the shade on a hot summer day. All our cabins have bunk beds and shelving for campers to unpack and set up as their own. Each cabin houses 10 - 14 campers and 3 - 4 staff members. Our oldest campers participating in TASC live in TASC Village, a cluster of platform tents with canvas siding and cots for each camper. Bathhouses are a short walk, under a minute, away from each cabin and include single-stall toilets and showers. Cabin living is one of the best aspects of camp!





Preparing for Camp: Getting to Ranch Camp

*We recommend Google Maps only. Other GPS apps and devices may not provide accurate guidance.

From I-25

- Take I-25 S to Founders Parkway (exit for the Outlets at Castle Rock)
- Exit the highway and turn onto HWY 86/Founders Pkwy
- Continue on HWY 86 turning left at the light for HWY 86 (5th Ave)
- Take HWY 86 through Franktown and Elizabeth
- Turn right at the stoplight for CR 17 (last light in Elizabeth)
- Continue on CR17/21 until you reach a yield sign
- Turn left at the intersection onto CR 106 (do NOT take dirt roads!)
- Turn right at the stop sign onto Elbert Rd
- Continue past the town of Elbert for approximately 3 miles
- Camp will be on your right after the Boy Scout Camp

From Denver on Parker Road

- Take Parker Rd (Hwy 83) to Franktown
- Turn left (east) at the stoplight in Franktown onto HWY 86
- Take HWY 86 through Elizabeth
- Turn right at the stoplight for CR 17 (last light in Elizabeth)

From Denver on Parker Road cont.

- Continue on CR17/21 until you reach a yield sign
- Turn left at the intersection onto CR 106 (do NOT take dirt roads!)
- Turn right at the stop sign onto Elbert Rd
- Continue past the town of Elbert for approximately 3 miles
- Camp will be on your right after the Boy Scout Camp

From Colorado Springs

- Take I-25 N to US-24
- Take US-24 east past Falcon
- Go approximately 3 miles, look for a sign on the left for Elbert Rd
- Turn left onto Elbert Rd and continue for approximately 13 miles
- Camp will be on your left
- If you've passed the Boy Scout camp and/or the town of Elbert, you have gone too far

When you arrive at camp, please enter through our gate. If the gate is open, leave it open but if the gate is closed, please close it after you enter. Drive straight up our road until you reach our main office and park in the designated spots.

Preparing Your Camper for Camp

Packing for Camp

Please label each item with the camper's FULL FIRST AND FULL LAST NAME even on socks and underwear!! Initials are not sufficient to enable us to return missing items to campers. Items that end up in the lost and found that are not labeled correctly will be automatically donated at the end of the summer.

The best luggage is a large, top-open duffel bag or trunk. Most items will be unpacked onto shelf space in the cabin. Extra items can be kept in their bags and stored under their bed. Please make sure your camper helps pack for camp so they feel comfortable knowing what they have and where everything is located. A reminder that medications need to be checked in with our Clinic Team and should not be packed in luggage.

Critical Items:

These items are CRITICAL for your child to have a safe and enjoyable summer:

- At least two full-sized water bottles
- Sunscreen (MUST be labeled with first and last names)
- Closed-toe shoes and clothes for active programming

A Few Items NOT to Bring:

Some items can cause environmental or behavioral problems at camp and are not allowed due to licensing. Please read this list carefully and ensure that NONE of these items make it into your camper's luggage. We need your partnership with packing to make certain that the camp has a fun, safe, and clean environment.

- Food! (please reach out to our team if you have a camper who would benefit from bringing their 'comfort' foods to camp)
- Money (other than for plane travel)
- Cell phones, electronic games, e-readers, and iPods (other than for air travel or bar/bat mitzvah studies)
- Silly string, stink bombs, and other gag gifts/toys that are disruptive to group living
- Weapons of any shape or size, including knives
- Roller blades and/or skateboards
- Clothing that advertises alcohol, sex, drugs, violence, or cigarettes
- Digital Cameras are allowed, though not recommended and Ranch Camp is not responsible for any loss or damage.

Lost and Found

Although we do our very best to ensure that your camper returns home with all the items they came to camp with, lost and found is inevitable. We will do our best to reunite you with any lost items in line with our lost and found guidelines:

- All lost and found items that ARE LABELED with a camper's first and last name will be available for pick up at the JCC in Denver in August after the camp season closes.
 - Unfortunately, we cannot help you reunite with your lost item during the summer.
 - Photos of the labeled lost and found will be available on CampInTouch.
- If you are an out-of-state family with labeled lost and found we can mail your lost items to you and will charge your CampInTouch account for any required postage.
- All lost and found items that ARE NOT LABELED with a camper's first and last name will be donated to a local thrift store or charity after the camp season closes.
 - We CANNOT search for lost items that are not labeled with a camper's first and last name.
- Ranch Camp is not responsible for lost or damaged personal property.

General Packing List

This is your go-to packing list if your camper is enrolled in our traditional program during Sessions 1, 2, or 3. EQ and Trips (8th Ranch, TASC, Teen Village, Pack 'n Ride) campers need to refer to additional packing lists. Mini Camp campers should also refer to program-specific packing lists.

Please call the office if you have any questions about what or how much to pack. The temperature at camp allows for shorts and t-shirts during the day (75-90 degrees), but somewhat warmer clothing is needed for the evening (55-70 degrees). A reminder that medications need to be checked in with our Clinic Team and should not be packed in luggage.

Clothing

- 1 pair of tennis shoes or hiking shoes
- 1 pair of sandals with a back strap
- 1 set of WARM pajamas
- 1 set of summer pajamas
- 1 sturdy raincoat
- 12 pairs of socks
- 12 pairs of underpants
- 10 t-shirts
- 10 pairs of shorts
- 2 pairs of jeans (must be worn for horseback riding)
- 3 - 4 pairs of long pants
- 1 - 2 bathing suits
- 2 sweatshirts or warmer sweaters
- 1 pair of sweatpants or warm pants
- 1 warm jacket (something lightweight and wind/water resistant with a hood)
- 1 brimmed hat
- 1 - 2 white cotton items for tie-dye
- Red, yellow, blue, and green clothing items for Maccabiah
- 1 - 3 Shabbat outfits (slightly nicer but still camp-appropriate clothing like sundresses, nicer pants, collared shirts, blouses, and skirts)

If your camper regularly uses the following items, bring them:

- Sunglasses
- Belt
- Long underwear
- Bathrobe
- Kippot/Tallit

Camping Gear

- Sleeping bag (yes, ALL campers should bring a sleeping bag)
- Sleeping pad
- Flashlight
- Daypack or small backpack

Toiletries

- 2 full sized water bottles labeled with first and last name
- Sunscreen labeled with first and last name
- Bug spray labeled with first and last name
- Shower caddy to carry toiletries
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Toothbrush and toothbrush holder
- Toothpaste
- Hairbrush or comb
- Lotion
- Chapstick
- Deodorant if needed
- Hair ties if needed

Linens

All items on this list are mandatory, as required by Colorado State Childcare Licensing laws.

- 2 sets of bed sheets (fitted AND flat sheets)
- 2 pillowcases
- 1 blanket or comforter
- 1 bath towel
- 1 pool towel
- 1 washcloth or hand towel
- 1 mesh laundry bag
- at least 1 pillow

Traveling from out of state? Your camper can borrow linens from us. We'll send you a sign-up email about a month before your camp session starts.

Other Items

- Pre-addressed envelopes, stamps, and letter-writing supplies
- Journal and pens
- Disposable camera (optional, please don't bring digital cameras!)
- Books/magazines (no e-readers)
- Cards and other group games
- Comfort items like stuffed animals or family pictures

Mini Camp Packing List

This is your go-to packing list if your camper is enrolled in our Mini Camp Programs. Full session, EQ, and Trips (8th Ranch, TASC, Teen Village, Pack 'n Ride) campers need to refer to additional packing lists.

Please call the office if you have any questions about what or how much to pack. The temperature at camp allows for shorts and t-shirts during the day (75-90 degrees), but somewhat warmer clothing is needed for the evening (55-70 degrees). A reminder that medications need to be checked in with our Clinic Team and should not be packed in luggage.

Clothing

- 1 pair of tennis shoes or hiking shoes
- 1 pair of sandals with a back strap
- 1 set of WARM pajamas
- 1 set of summer pajamas
- 1 sturdy raincoat
- 7 pairs of socks
- 7 pairs of underpants
- 5 - 7 t-shirts
- 4 - 6 pairs of shorts
- 1 pairs of jeans (must be worn for horseback riding)
- 2 - 3 pairs of long pants
- 1 bathing suits
- 1 - 2 sweatshirts or warmer sweaters
- 1 pair of sweatpants or warm pants
- 1 warm jacket (something lightweight and wind/water resistant with a hood)
- 1 brimmed hat
- 1 - 2 white cotton items for tie-dye
- Red, yellow, blue, and green clothing items for Maccabiah
- 1 Shabbat outfit (slightly nicer but still camp-appropriate clothing like sundresses, nicer pants, collared shirts, blouses, and skirts)

If your camper regularly uses the following items, bring them:

- Sunglasses
- Belt
- Long underwear
- Bathrobe
- Kippot/Tallit

Camping Gear

- Sleeping bag (yes, ALL Mini campers should bring a sleeping bag, not required for Baktanna)
- Sleeping pad (not required for Baktanna)
- Flashlight
- Daypack or small backpack

Toiletries

- 2 Full sized water bottles labeled with first and last name
- Sunscreen labeled with first and last name
- Bug spray labeled with first and last name
- Shower caddy to carry toiletries
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body Wash
- Toothbrush and toothbrush holder
- Toothpaste
- Hairbrush or comb
- Lotion
- Chapstick
- Deodorant if needed
- Hair ties if needed

Linens

All items on this list are mandatory, as required by Colorado State Childcare Licensing laws.

- 1 set of bed sheets (fitted AND flat sheets)
- 1 pillowcases
- 1 blanket or comforter
- 1 bath towel
- 1 pool towel
- 1 washcloth or hand towel
- 1 mesh laundry bag
- at least 1 pillow

Traveling from out of state? Your camper can borrow linens from us. We'll send you a sign-up email about a month before your camp session starts.

Other Items

- Pre-addressed envelopes, stamps, and letter-writing supplies
- Journal and pens
- Disposable camera (optional, please don't bring digital cameras!)
- Books/magazines (no e-readers)
- Cards and other group games
- Comfort items like stuffed animals or family pictures

EQ Additional Packing List

This is the EQ Additional Packing List. Some of these items may overlap with the General Packing List. These items should be brought IN ADDITION to what is on the General Packing List.

EQ Specific Items

- 4 - 6 additional pairs of jeans or riding pants (jeans or riding pants MUST be worn for horseback riding)
- 1 pair of riding boots (camp has boots you can borrow if needed)
- 1 riding helmet (camp has helmets you can borrow if needed)
- Please make sure t-shirts cover shoulders (tank tops are not permitted for riding)

Pack 'n Ride Additional Packing List

This is the Pack 'n Ride Additional Packing List. Some of these items may overlap with the General Packing List. These items should be brought IN ADDITION to what is on the General Packing List.

Critical Items

- 1 sleeping bag 15 - 30 degrees range that packs light and small
- 1 foam or inflatable camping sleeping pad
- 3 - 4 pairs of jeans or riding pants for the trip
- 1 pair of comfortable and broken-in riding boots

Additional Clothing

- 1 riding helmet (camp has helmets you can borrow if needed)
- 1 pair of high-ankle, waterproof, comfortable hiking boots
- 6 pairs of riding socks (wool/polypropylene blend, wicking material, tall enough to prevent blistering from riding boots)
- 1 - 2 pairs of warm socks for cold nights
- 1 pair of long underwear (polypropylene blend, wicking material)
- 1 warm hat for cold nights
- 2 pairs of gloves: 1 leather for riding, 1 non-cotton for cold weather
- 1 warm, non-cotton, long sleeve fleece
- 1 water-repellent rain jacket with hood (NO PONCHOS)

Camping Gear

- 1 mess kit (bowl, fork/knife/spoon, mug)
- 3-liter water bottles or water bladder
- 1 headlamp with extra batteries



8th Grade and TASC Additional Packing List

This is the Trips specific Packing List. Some of these items may overlap with the General Packing List. These items should be brought IN ADDITION to what is on the General Packing List.

Critical Items

- 1 backpacking pack (should be properly fitting and about 55 liters)
- 1 sleeping bag 15 - 30 degrees range that packs light and small
- 1 foam or inflatable camping sleeping pad
- 1 pair of high-ankle, waterproof, comfortable hiking boots

Additional Clothing

- 5 - 6 pairs of hiking socks (wool or polypropylene blend, wicking material)
- 1 pair of long underwear (polypropylene blend, wicking material)
- 1 warm hat for cold nights
- 1 non-cotton pair of gloves for cold weather
- 1 warm, non-cotton, long sleeve fleece
- 1 water-repellent rain jacket with hood (NO PONCHOS)
- 1 pair of water-repellent rainpants
- 1 - 3 pairs of non-cotton shorts for the trip
- 2 - 3 pairs of hiking pants (leggings, joggers, or light sweatpants are okay, no cotton please!)

Camping Gear

- 1 pair of hiking poles (required for TASC, optional for 8th grade)
- 1 mess kit (bowl, fork/knife/spoon, mug)
- 3-liter water bottles or water bladder
- 1 headlamp with extra batteries
- 1 whistle (not built into backpack)



Teen Village Packing List

The best way to pack for Teen Village is to bring three bags: one backpacking pack, one daypack, and one small duffel bag. All clothing should be a synthetic polypropylene blend, wool or other wicking material. Cotton can lead to hypothermia, chafing, and mold! A reminder that medications need to be checked in with our Clinic Team and should not be packed in luggage.

Critical Items

- 1 backpacking pack (should be properly fitting and about 55 liters)
- 1 sleeping bag 15 - 30 degrees range that packs light and small
- 1 foam or inflatable camping sleeping pad
- 1 pair of high-ankle, waterproof, comfortable hiking boots

Clothing

- 8 - 10 pairs of hiking socks (wool or polypropylene blend, wicking material)
- 12 pairs of underwear (non-cotton recommended)
- 1 pair of long underwear (polypropylene blend, wicking material)
- 1 warm hat for cold nights
- 1 brimmed hat
- 1 non-cotton pair of gloves for cold weather
- 1 warm, non-cotton, long sleeve fleece
- 1 water-repellent rain jacket with hood (NO PONCHOS)
- 1 pair of water-repellent rainpants
- 6 - 8 pairs of non-cotton shorts
- 3 - 4 pairs of hiking pants (leggings, joggers, or light sweatpants are okay, no cotton please!)
- 8 - 10 t-shirts (non-cotton, wicking material)
- 1 pair of sandals with a back strap (no flip flops)
- 1 swimsuit

Camping Gear

- 1 pair of hiking poles
- 1 mess kit (bowl, fork/knife/spoon, mug)
- 3-liter water bottles or water bladder
- 1 headlamp with extra batteries
- 1 whistle (not built into backpack)
- 2 bottles of sunscreen labeled with first and last name
- Bugspray labeled with first and last name
- 1 small bag for the following toiletries
 - Shampoo
 - Conditioner
 - Body Soap
 - Toothbrush and toothbrush holder
 - Toothpaste
 - Hair brush/comb
 - Deodorant

At Camp Items

- 1 Shabbat outfit (slightly nicer but still camp-appropriate clothing like sundresses, nicer pants, collared shirts, blouses, and skirts)
- 1 pillow and pillowcase
- 1 daypack or small backpack
- Any other regularly used items from the general packing list

FAQs

My camper has allergies - what should I do?

We can accommodate most food allergies and restrictions. If your camper has specific dietary needs, please contact us before camp via phone or email so that we can discuss our allergen-friendly food options. If your camper has environmental allergies and takes OTC medications we recommend continuing your at-home protocol at camp. Make sure you follow our medication guidelines for any OTC allergy medications.

My camper is studying for their B'nai Mitzvah, can they continue this at camp?

Yes - please email us to let us know if your camper needs Bar/ Bat Mitzvah support. A trained staff member will meet with campers twice during their session, reviewing any study material that they have brought with them to camp and making sure that they stay on track in their studies while at camp. Personal music devices can be used for studying and will be kept in the office.

My camper's birthday will happen while they are at camp! What do you do for birthdays?

At Ranch Camp, every birthday is a special day. We have our own way of celebrating within our camp community including a decorated cabin, birthday treats for the cabin and a camp-wide birthday song. We will send you birthday photos of your camper! We encourage parents to send packages with decorations and/or party favors for the cabin to help celebrate (generally 6-12 bunkmates.) The very best birthday packages can be enjoyed by everyone in the bunk! Unfortunately, campers cannot call home or accept outside visitors on their birthdays.

Can I request for my camper to be in the same bunk as another camper?

Yes - you can request bunkmates in your camper application. We do our best to accommodate everyone. Due to various cabin sizes, we cannot guarantee bunking requests. You can request bunkmates in your camper applications. We try to honor old friendships, encourage new ones, and create a community in which all can be happy. If you have a particular concern, please email us or call our office.

Is your food kosher?

The JCC Ranch Camp is a Kosher facility. We maintain a supervised Kosher kitchen (not Vaad supervised), and monitor all foods campers eat while at camp. Our mashgiach visits our site regularly to ensure standards are met.

Will my camper do laundry at camp?

Campers' laundry will be done once during full sessions. No laundry will be done during Mini Sessions or Baktanna and limited laundry will be offered to TASC, Pack n' Ride, and Teen Village due to their shortened time onsite. All laundry is done on the premises by a trained staff member.

Can I tip my camper's staff members?

Jewish ethics teaches that "a mitzvah is its own reward" (Pirkei Avot 4:7). In keeping with our heritage and the guidelines of the American Camp Association (ACA), gratuities are not accepted by our staff. A short note or verbal thank you is the best form of appreciation or, if you would like, you may make a donation in someone's honor to our Staff Appreciation Fund or Camper Scholarship Fund. Please be sure to notify the director about exceptional staff members.

**Have other questions? Reach out to our team.
We are always available for conversations about camp!
Email us at ranchcamp@jccdenver.org or call 303.316.6384.**

Our Full Time Team



Katelyn Skeen

Camp Director

Katelyn first joined the Ranch Community as a camper in 2007. She's spent almost every summer at camp since then. Now she's part of the team creating an inclusive environment enabling campers to create, learn, and thrive. Katelyn understands firsthand, the importance of providing children with opportunities to reach their fullest potential.



Rachel Szurek

Assistant Director of Camper Wellness

Rachel is so excited to be joining the Ranch Camp Community as of Spring 2024! Being a Midwestern gal, Rachel grew up as both a camper and counselor with Minnesota 4-H Summer Camp. After starting her career as a teacher, Rachel continued to work during her summers at the JCC of Milwaukee's Rainbow Day Camp. Camp quickly became her safe space, pride and joy, and the place where she always felt valued.



Max O'Hara

Assistant Director of Programming

Max came to Ranch Camp for the first time in 2011 and had the best summer a fifth grader could dream of. Ever since then, he has fallen in love with everything camp has to offer returning year after year. Over the past 6 years, Max has taken his friends and skills from Ranch Camp hiking, camping, and climbing his way throughout Colorado. Now, he is excited to apply all those experiences to crafting the most magical summer experiences possible.



Tuyet Nguyen

Jay & Rose Phillips Family Foundation of Colorado Inclusion Specialist

Tuyet had her first camp experience after moving to Colorado in 2001, where she learned archery, identifying rock cycles, and the constellations. Since then, camp has encouraged her to dive into everything with excitement and optimism, from traveling abroad to learning new skills every day. She is excited to work to create a welcoming environment and memorable experience for all campers and families.



Courtney Jacobson

General Manager of Camps and ELS

Courtney is a Denver native, growing up attending JCC Ranch Camp. She caught the "camp bug" early on in life and she can think of no better way to spend the summer! Courtney has a Master's degree in Social Work and Non-Profit Management and loves working with campers and staff development. Her preferred title (in life) is the Camp Fairy Godmother.

