



## 2024 Jacobs Essentials #2: *Jewish Life*

The mission of Jacobs Camp is to create a vibrant, fun, and caring camp community that enriches and strengthens Reform Jewish identity and values while creating and maintaining lifelong friendships. Our campers truly love being Jewish and we strive every day to craft new ways to make Jewish learning an energetic and joyful part of the day. With the help of our dedicated team of clergy, educators and youth professionals, our kids learn about what it means to be a Reform Jew for themselves, their community, and the world around them. Being Jewish at camp isn't something extra, it's at the core of what we do.

Each summer, we choose a Jewish theme that guides our programming. This summer, our theme will be based on a quote from Rabbi Hillel, **"If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?"**

Especially in this tumultuous time, understanding "myself" means feeling solidly rooted in, and proud of their Jewish identities. Our tradition also has a lot to say about how our Jewish identity calls us to act, and we will explore what it means to extend our sphere of concern to include ever more people, including hands-on social justice projects. We will also talk about the power of now, and "never wasting a moment."

In addition, we are always guided by the core values of Jacobs Camp, which include:

- **Hakarat Hatov** - A Culture of Gratitude
- **Hachnasat Orchim** - "Welcome Home" hospitality that makes each member of our community feel welcome and valued
- **Simcha** - Find your joy
- **Zerizut** - Make ordinary moments extraordinary

As always, our campers pour themselves into truly celebrating Shabbat and Havdallah together and are invited to share their creativity through meaningful, camper-led services. From the Shabbat Walk to Shabbat dinner followed by the fun of Israeli dances, our sacred day of rest continues to be the highlight of Jewish life at camp.

We sprinkle Hebrew education throughout camp life, and all of our campers participate in Kehillah, which is creative and fun Jewish programming that includes Israel education, shira (music), and t'fillah (prayer). [Israel education](#) is always evolving and age-appropriate as it relates to the current situation. At the end of the day, our focus is always on a love of being Jewish, and on connection with our Israeli counselors.