



2024 Jacobs Essentials #3: *Open and Safe Community*

At the core of a successful camp experience for any child is their sense of safety. Each child should feel that they belong, are included, and bring value to the community. To achieve this takes intentional thought and action. The leadership of Jacobs Camp has crafted the following statement that explains who we are and who we strive to be as a community. Our decisions and actions are guided by this statement and we feel it is important that our community members – campers, staff and families – are familiar with, and aligned with this philosophy.

Open & Safe

Jacobs Camp's Commitment to a community that welcomes and values everyone!

The Jacobs Camp community is established and reinforced as a sacred *Kehillah* (community). In keeping with the camp's mission to be a true and holy Reform Jewish community, our leaders have recommitted themselves to making sure that Jacobs Camp is a true reflection of today's families: we are all individuals of different sizes, different shapes, different colors, with different backgrounds, feelings and of different beliefs. **Because of that, we uphold one of our most cherished values, the belief that we are B'tzelem Elohim – created in G-d's image.**

For all people that are part of our community, we are dedicated to making Jacobs Camp an environment that will be open, understanding, accepting, and where bias and prejudice will not be tolerated. To meet this challenge, our leadership and staff work with various organizations and professionals to develop further strategies and establish greater sensitivity to people in all segments of the Jewish community that are represented at Jacobs. In addition, we continue to focus on improvements that further our success in creating a more inclusive camp program and facility.

For more than thirty years, the Reform Movement has been at the forefront of the Jewish world ensuring a welcoming environment for interfaith families and their children. Our commitment to interfaith families is at the very core of who we are and we strive to do every single day.

Jacobs Camp will be a place where each child, staff member and any person who walks onto our idyllic campus should be safe and have the opportunity to become the best versions of themselves, able to enjoy all that our program has to offer.