



Jacobs Camp 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 some Jewish values that guide our programming. This summer, our values are *ometz lev* (courage), *binah* (wisdom), and *areyvut* (community mindedness). These values will receive specific programming written by our amazing faculty, and we'll also look to integrate them into the daily camp life — around the dining hall, on the disco course, and in the cabins. Of course, *amiyut yehudit* (Jewish peoplehood) is an integral part of every summer, not just 2026. Our campers will hopefully walk away more connected to Jewish people across the South and in Israel through personal interactions and exciting activities.

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.