



Jacobs Camp Essential #3: Safety and Security

At Jacobs Camp, our top priority is creating a safe environment for our campers, staff and community for our campers to have fun and enjoy the summer. Over the last two years, we have increased our security measures significantly, and we continue to implement sophisticated strategies in consultation with partner organizations, and provide extensive training for our staff.

We have deep, long term relationships with partner organizations which include a security firm that works with all Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) camps, the Foundation for Jewish Camp, the Secure Community Network, and our regional Jewish Federations. We have extremely strong relationships with our local police, fire, and emergency response teams, and our own Nadav Herman currently serves as Deputy Fire Chief of Utica. We also receive funding from the Department of Homeland Security to maintain and upgrade our security cameras, lighting, and other security equipment.

While many of the security updates we make from year to year are behind the scenes, last year we had a new perimeter fence installed, and we hired a new security firm which will allow us to have an increased number of security guards on duty. We are exclusively using off-duty law enforcement officers.

Here are some key elements of our protocols and procedures at camp:

- A thorough pre-summer review of all security and safety systems and plans that take into consideration current events and best practices
- Work with an on-site security company that works with Jewish institutions throughout the country including **24-hour security on-site at all times**
- Pre-summer meetings and ongoing coordination with the Hinds County Sheriff Police & emergency services, including a direct line of communication to law enforcement officials
- Nighttime supervision (in addition to professional security staff) of all camper residential areas, supplemented by members of the Summer Leadership Team
- Professional Staff member on-duty to monitor all security and safety systems every evening and available for emergency response and calls
- Various systems for communications on-site and with families, as needed, throughout the summer.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to us directly if you have any questions or concerns about safety and security.