

the jday  
camps

2019 Parent Manual



[jccstl.org](http://jccstl.org)



# DAY CAMP STAFF DIRECTORY



## **J Day Camps Director**

Brad Chotiner  
314.442.3423;  
bchotiner@jccstl.org



## **Camp Sidney R Baer Director**

Connor Flood  
314.442.3198;  
cflood@jccstl.org



## **Director of Programming**

Craig Neuman  
314.442.3434;  
cneuman@jccstl.org



## **Hyman Multin Sports Camp Director**

Natalie Lesko  
314.442.3104;  
nlesko@jccstl.org



## **Day Camp Operations Coordinator**

Jess Sanders  
314.442.3432;  
jsanders@jccstl.org



## **Chesterfield Specialty Sports Director**

Alex Langella  
314.422.3498;  
alangella@jccstl.org



## **Inclusion Coordinator**

Shamecka Nichols  
314.442.3198;  
snichols@jccstl.org



## **Sports and Recreation Coordinator**

Jason P. Davis  
314.442.3216;  
jpdavis@jccstl.org



## **Camp Essman Gadol Director**

Jess Bauer  
314.442.3431;  
jbauer@jccstl.org



## **Camp Essman Katan Director**

Debi Porfidio  
314.442.3456;  
dporfidio@jccstl.org



**Camp Nat Koplal  
Director**

Michelle Cheatham  
314.442.3220;  
mcheatham@jccstl.org



**STEAM Academy  
Director**

Lee'at Koertel  
314.576.6177;  
lkoertel@mirowitz.org



**Gymnastics Camp  
Director**

Taylor Huelsman  
thuelsman@jccstl.org



**Pre/Post Care  
Coordinator Creve  
Coeur**

Chloe Johnson  
cjohnson@jccstl.org



**Milton Frank Camp of  
the Arts Director**

Donald Guevara  
dguevara@jccstl.org



**Pre/Post Care  
Coordinator  
Chesterfield**

Emily Schenberg  
eschenberg@jccstl.org



**Teen Camp Director**

Gabe Raskin  
graskin@jccstl.org



We are delighted to have your camper join us at J Day Camps, where four generations of campers and staff have been inspired by the spirit of camp. We look forward to guiding your camper as they enjoy a marvelous experience filled with fun, friendships, new skills, and great activities.

This manual includes the answers to many of the questions you might have as you prepare your camper and yourself to join us at J Day Camps; please read it and keep it throughout the summer for reference whenever you have questions. If your question is not addressed or clarified, please don't hesitate to contact the Camp Director, Brad Chotiner 314.442.3423, [bchotiner@jccstl.org](mailto:bchotiner@jccstl.org), the Day Camp Operations Coordinator, Jess Sanders 314.442.3432, [jsanders@jccstl.org](mailto:jsanders@jccstl.org), or the director of your camper's specific program (listed in the directory). We look forward to creating a wonderful summer camp experience together!

## Important Dates

May 28	First Day of Blast-off Week
June 2	Open House
June 3	First Day of Camp
July 4	No Camp
July 29	Israel Tzofim Friendship Caravan
August 9	Last Day of Camp

## What is the Mission of J Day Camps?

The mission of J Day Camps is to provide a fun, safe, and inclusive community for all campers and staff. Through innovative programming, our expert staff promotes physical and emotional development and imparts universal Jewish values. The J Day Camps' enriching experience allows its participants to develop valuable skills, meaningful friendships, and lifelong memories.



## Can I meet my camper's counselors?

Yes, join us on Sunday, June 2nd from 10-11am for our Open House! Campers are also welcome to attend and to meet our counselors, so they can start their first day of camp with some familiar faces.

10:00 – 10:30am

***Camp Meet and Greet*** - This is an opportunity for you and your child to get acquainted with the counselors, meet other campers, see the facilities, and check out camp.

10:30 – 11:00am

***Parents' Informational Meeting*** - An orientation session, which is ideal for new camp families, but all are welcome.

Locations:

### **Creve Coeur - Stenberg Family Complex**

Meet & Greet - Camp Pavilion

Informational Meeting - Mirowitz Performing Arts Center (PAC)

### **Chesterfield - Marilyn Fox Building**

Meet & Greet- Wool Conference Room A

Informational Meeting - Lobby Meeting Room

## Can you tell me more about Instructional and Free Swim at J Day Camps?

Our Aquatics mission is that each camper has a safe and enjoyable experience while developing skills they can use for a lifetime. Each camper will be assessed on the first day of camp and placed into an appropriate swim class. All campers, except those in non-swimming camps (STEAM, Specialty Sports in Chesterfield, and all camps during Blast-off Week) are required to participate unless they bring a note from their parent stating the reason to excuse them from swimming for that day. During Instructional Swim, campers will work with our instructors to improve their comfort and skills in the water. Please note, Teen Camp participates only in Free Swim. During Free Swim, campers have the chance to use their new skills in the pool appropriate for their abilities and on our water play equipment.



## **What should my camper bring to camp and what should be left at home?**

Please bring to camp each day:

- ✓ Lunch, preferably in a reusable soft lunch sack (unless registered for Plus Lunch)
- ✓ Swimsuit and towel
- ✓ Sunscreen to reapply during the day
- ✓ Full water bottle (we will refill throughout the day)
- ✓ Closed-toe shoes and socks (optional: pool shoes)
- ✓ Backpack

Please leave the following at home:

- ✗ Toys and stuffed animals
- ✗ Cell phones and other electronics
- ✗ Swimsuits with metal rivets or accessories as these cause damage to our slides and play equipment
- ✗ Backpacks with wheels or tote bags
- ✗ Open-toe shoes such as flip flops or sandals (except for use as pool shoes)

## **What should my camper wear to camp each day?**

Please send your camper in closed-toe shoes with socks each day. They should wear something comfortable and suited for the activities of their camp program. Please refer to your Welcome Letter each week to determine if your camper should wear or pack their swim suit each day. Please apply sunscreen to your camper each day before leaving home. We regularly remind campers to reapply their sunscreen. Don't worry, we can help your little camper reapply throughout the day as well.



### **What should I pack my camper for lunch?**

Campers are to bring lunch in a reusable soft lunch sack (or a brown paper bag) Monday through Friday. Out of concern for the health of other campers, please refrain from bringing items containing nuts. If your child has food allergies, please notify the Day Camp Operations Coordinator. Due to the different food needs of all our campers and staff, individual lunches may not be shared. Since all lunches are refrigerated, your choice of items to send is vast; the most important elements are nutrition and variety.

### **Are there any other lunch options besides the sack lunch?**

If you choose to use our Plus Lunch program, we will provide your camper with a Kosher, nut-free lunch each day. This includes a main entree, vegetable/fruit, dessert and drink each day for only \$30 per week. To see a full menu of entree items, please visit our website. The Plus Lunch program can be added up until one week in advance of your child's attendance each week. To add Plus Lunch, please contact the Day Camp Operations Coordinator.

### **Can I send my camper with snacks?**

We provide campers with a Kosher, nut-free snack daily. If your camper has any other dietary needs, please speak with the Camp Director, Brad Chotiner, before sending a snack from home.



## I signed up my camper for Pre- and/or Post-Care; where do I drop off and/or pick up my camper?

If you are using our Pre- and/or Post-Care Service, please enter the building at the main entrance (marked in the diagram). If your camper is signed up for Pre-Care, you may drop off any time between 7am – 8:45am. If your camper is signed up for Post-Care, please pick up your camper any time between 3:15 – 6pm. Campers in STEAM Camps signed up for Pre- and/or Post-Care will be transported to and from The J. The bus leaves at 8:40am and will return around 3:20pm.



## When and where can I drop off/ pick up my camper?

To keep the carpool line running safely and smoothly, please make sure you place your carpool tag in the dashboard of your car so that your camper's name is clearly visible. For safety reasons, there are no walk-up pickups during carpool; please remain in your vehicle. Carpool tags will be included in your Welcome Letter email sent the Friday prior to the start of your camp. Campers will only be released to individuals you have authorized to pick up.

## **Chesterfield**

### **Camp Essman Gadol and Specialty Sports Camps**

Please use the carpool system indicated in the diagram on the opposite page. Carpool begins at 8:45am, but you may enter and wait in the carpool line any time before then. Please have your camper dropped off by 9am each day.

Pick up is at 3pm each day for Camp Essman Gadol and 12pm for Campers in Specialty Sports Camps not attending Overtime; please use the same carpool system as in the morning.

### **Camp Essman Katan**

Please drop off and pick up your camper using the Early Childhood Entrance. In the case you have an older camper as well, please drop off the older camper prior to dropping off the younger camper. Drop off begins at 8:45 am and ends at 9am. Pick up is at 12:30pm for half day campers and 3pm for full day campers.

## **Creve Coeur**

### **All K-9 Camps: Baer, Sports, Gymnastics, Art, Teen (Yellow Route)**

Please use the carpool system indicated in the diagram on the opposite page. Carpool begins at 8:45am, but you may enter and wait in the carpool line any time before then. Please have your camper dropped off by 9am each day. Pick up is at 3pm each day; please use the same carpool system as in the morning.

### **Camp Nat Kopljar (Blue Route)**

Please use the Kopljar carpool system indicated in the diagram on the opposite page. If you have any older campers, please drop them off first. Carpool begins at 8:45am, but you may enter and wait in the carpool line any time before then. Please have your camper dropped off by 9am each day. Pick up is at 12:30pm or 3pm each day depending on whether your camper is in half or full day camp; please use the same carpool system as in the morning.

### **STEAM Camps**

STEAM Camps take place at Saul Mirowitz Jewish Community School:

348 South Mason Road, 63141. Drop off is at 9am and pick up is at 3pm.

STEAM Campers must be dropped off and picked up at Saul Mirowitz Jewish Community School. Only campers signed up for Pre and/or Post care will be transported to and from The J in Creve Coeur.

## **What should I do if I am running late?**

Please always aim to use our designated drop off and pick up times; however, in the case you are running late, please give our Day Camp Operations Coordinator a call at 314.442.3432. Please note that if your camper is not picked up by 3:15pm (or 12:45pm for half day camps), s/he will be escorted to our Post-Care program and a fee of \$25 will be applied to your account. If your camper is not picked up by 6pm, an additional \$25 fee will be applied to your account for the first 1-10 minutes with an additional \$1 fee for each minute thereafter.

### **What should I do if my camper will be absent?**

In the case your camper will not be attending camp for whatever reason, please email our Day Camp Operations Coordinator at [jsanders@jccstl.org](mailto:jsanders@jccstl.org) or send us a Quick Note the day prior.

### **How can I speak with my camper's staff?**

To easily send messages from home, fill out a Quick Note with the information you would like to convey and send it with your camper to camp. For your convenience, blank Quick Notes will be emailed to you the Friday before your camper begins their session. If you would like to speak directly with the staff, you may park in the parking lot during drop off or pick up and speak with your camper's counselor in person. Your camper's director also has an email listed in our Camp Directory.

### **My camper did not come home with everything; do you have a lost and found?**

Although we make every effort to make sure your camper has all their belongings at the end of the day, things do get misplaced. Please help us by labeling all your camper's belongings and only sending them with the listed required items. J Day Camps is not responsible for lost or damaged items, but we may help you search for an item if you let us know what is missing. Similarly, if your camper comes home with something that does not belong to them, please give us a call.

The summer camp lost and found tables are located:

Creve Coeur – Day Camp Pavilion, Pool, and Fitness Front Desk

Chesterfield - Conference Room A, Pool, and Front Desk

### **What if my camper needs medication given to them during camp hours?**

Please call our Camp Operations Coordinator, Jess Sanders, and we will devise a plan for dispensing the medication. All medications must be stored with the Wellness Coordinator in their original packaging and pharmacy label.

### **What happens if my camper gets sick or injured while at camp?**

Our Wellness Coordinator is trained to help with minor illness, bumps, cuts, and bruises. If your camper requires a visit to the Wellness Coordinator, you will receive a call notifying you of the situation.

### **What information can I expect to receive prior to my camper's session?**

The Friday before the start of each camp week, you will receive an email containing a Welcome Letter, carpool tag, blank Quick Notes, general schedule, and roster of all the campers in camp.

### **How can I become more engaged with the J Day Camp Community?**

We email out a weekly newsletter containing pictures and commentary on our current and upcoming camp projects and focuses as well as other camp parent information. Please keep an eye out for The J Day Camps Chall'er in your inbox each week your camper attends camp.

Your family is also invited to join our J Day Camp Community for a special performance from the Israel Tzofim Friendship Caravan. The Caravan is made up of boys and girls from Israel chosen for their talent in the performing arts, among other criteria. They have spent a year training and will be ready to perform for us on Monday, July 29. Please join us at our Creve Coeur location at 7pm to be a part of this exciting event.

### **How do rainy days affect camp programming?**

We are always prepared to run camp, rain or shine. Indoor programming will be unaffected, and all outdoor programming will be moved indoors. While some programming may need to be altered, such as swimming and outdoor sports, our staff are always ready with new and exciting indoor play. If the rain occurs during drop off or pick up, we will have someone available to direct you through indoor carpool procedures. The Rain Hotline is 314.442.3200 for Creve Coeur and 314.442.3448 for Chesterfield.



