

the **j**day
camps

2024 Parent Manual



jccstl.org



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Key

SFC = Staenberg Family Complex in Creve Coeur
Fox = Marilyn Fox Building in Chesterfield



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 either of our Camp Directors. We look forward to creating a wonderful summer camp experience together!

Important Dates

June 3	First Day of Camp
July 4	No Camp
August 9	Last Day of Camp at Fox
August 16	Last Day of Camp at SFC

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. J Day Camps is a place where kids can Play, Connect and Grow.



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 preschool - 2nd grade camper will be assessed on the first day of camp and placed into an appropriate swim class. During Instructional Swim, campers will work with our instructors to improve their comfort and skills in the water.

In Creve Coeur (SFC), 3rd-6th grade campers do not have swim lessons unless parents request them. If lessons are requested, campers will get lessons in the morning. In Chesterfield (Fox), 3rd-6th grade campers have swim lessons twice per week.

All campers will have free swim throughout the week. During free swim, campers have the chance to use their 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, unless registered for Nat Koplal, Essman Katan or Plus Lunch. Lunches are refrigerated.
- ✓ Swimsuit and towel (optional: goggles)
- ✓ Sunscreen to reapply during the day (preferred spray sunscreen)
- ✓ 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 camp activities. 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 your camp director. Due to the different food needs of all our campers and staff, individual lunches may not be shared. You can send food your camper enjoys; 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 and dessert each day for only \$40 per week. To see a full menu of entree items, please visit our website. To add Plus Lunch, please contact camp director. Lunches must be purchased by Monday the week prior to your camp week. (For example, Monday, June 5 for the camp week of June 12.)

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 your camp director.



New check-in and check-out procedure.

Campers will need to be signed in by a parent and signed out by a parent in person. Pickup people will need to bring a valid ID.

Chesterfield

Camp Essman and Essman Focus (K-6)

Drop-off begins at 8:45am, Please have your camper dropped off by 9am each day. Pick up is at 3pm each day.

Camp Katan (Pre-K)

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, and pick up the younger camper prior to picking up the older camper. Drop off begins at 9:00am and ends at 9:15am. Pick up is at 12:30pm for half day campers and 3:00pm for full day campers.

Creve Coeur

Camp Baer, Baer Focus and Baer Adventures (K-9)

Drop-off begins at 8:45am, Please have your camper dropped off by 9am each day. Pick up is at 3pm each day.

Camp Nat Koplak (Blue Route) (Pre-K)

If you have any older campers, please drop them off first. Drop-off begins at 8:45am. 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.

I signed up my camper for AM and/or PM Care; where do I drop off and/or pick up my camper?

In Creve Coeur, AM Care drop-off and PM Care pick-up will be at the pavilion.

In Chesterfield, for AM Care, drop off is in Conference Room A which is the first room to the left of the front desk. For PM Care, find your campers location on the white board in the lobby.

If your camper is signed up for AM Care, you may drop off any time between 7:30 – 8:45am. If your camper is signed up for PM Care, please pick up your camper any time between 3:15 – 6pm.

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 notify your camp director. 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 PM 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 contact your camp director.

How can I speak with my camper's staff?

To easily send messages from home, email your camp director. 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 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

Chesterfield - Conference Room A, Pool, and Front Desk

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

Please contact your camp director 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 staff is trained to help with minor illness, bumps, cuts, and bruises. If your camper is sick a staff member will call to notify you of the situation.

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

Each Friday a welcome email will be sent to all families with campers attending the following week. The letter will include links to the carpool tag, general schedule and roster of all the campers.

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

We email 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. In addition, we have a private Facebook group for each location. Access instructions will be via email.

How do rainy or excessive heat 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 rain occurs during drop off or pick up, we will have someone available to direct you through indoor carpool procedures. The Weather Hotline is 314.442.3200 for Creve Coeur and 314.442.3448 for Chesterfield.



