



Camp Shalom



a program of
Jewish Federation
of Madison

Updated For Summer 2026

FAQs - Questions On The Camp Shalom Experience

- **What are the goals of Camp Shalom?**
 - Make every day a great day. Every Camper. Every Day.
 - Provide positive experiences through the lens of Jewish culture, traditions and values.
 - Create a camp culture that cultivates a sense of belonging, inclusion and connectedness amongst campers.
 - Celebrate campers' unique strengths, interests and experiences by providing a wide variety of engaging opportunities.
 - Support camper growth by modeling positive, respectful interactions throughout the session.
 - Provide a daily experience that is free of relational-bullying, restrictive or demeaning stereotyping, and discriminatory language, action and behavior.
 - Provide a safe emotional and physical space where kids can be kids.
 - Provide campers with new experiences and a safe, supportive environment in which to try on those experiences.
 - Consciously provide opportunities that promote camper independence, leadership, self-confidence, and growth.
- **Is part-time camp an option?**
 - Our registration is for full sessions only; we do not reimburse for missed days of camp. If your camper will not be attending every day, we ask that you let us know in advance so we can plan accordingly.
- **We are a first-time family. Is there an orientation?**
 - We will send out invitations to first-time Shalom (K-5th) and NOBO (6th-9th) families later in the spring to attend an orientation session. These sessions take place at our camp on a weekend, and all family members are invited to join in to get oriented to our campus, meet staff members, attend an info session, ask questions, and play.
- **Does my camper need extra support at camp?**
 - If the answer to questions like this is yes, your camper will need extra support.
 - Does my camper have paraeducator support, part- or full-time, at school?
 - Does my camper receive additional support at extracurricular activities?
 - Does my camper need assistance to make safe choices?
 - Does my camper need support to stay with a group of peers?
 - Does my camper need assistance with toileting, eating, mobility, or other personal care tasks?
 - Does my camper benefit from regular breaks during the school day?
 - Campers with disabilities or special needs may require more supervision and support than our group counselors can provide, as ongoing 1:1 supervision and individualized support cannot be provided by counselors. We ask that families clearly indicate camper support needs on all registration materials so that we may talk directly to determine the best route for support and if our camp is a good fit for your child. Failure to provide accurate information may result in our being unable to serve your child when camp

begins.

- Please review our [Support At Camp guide](#) for more information, and reach out to us at camp, to UCP, or to another third-party organization for support as needed for your camper.

- **What should my camper bring/wear to camp?**

- Please label all items from home with your camper's name.
- Clothing that campers can move and play in. Clothes will get messy so please don't send campers in their favorite clothes!
- Plastic bag with extra clothes (to keep in the backpack just in case).
- Swimsuit and towel in a bag.
- Sneakers or shoes they can be active in, and that are okay to get wet. We recommend closed toed shoes. We wear our shoes at all times except when at the pool.
- A healthy and filling lunch in a lunch bag with an ice pack.
- Sunblock and bug spray.
- A refillable water bottle.

- **What should my camper bring/wear for an overnight?**

- Noar-Bogrim campers, and 4th-5th grade campers, have the opportunity to participate in overnights. Further details will be shared closer to these experiences.
- Please send your camper with a sleeping bag, pillow, pj's, a toothbrush and toothpaste, extra layers for being outside in the evening, and clothes for the next day/s. Campers are invited to bring tents and books. Please do not send snacks or electronics.
- Overnights for campers in grades 4th-8th grade are on the third Wednesday of Sessions 1 and 2. 9th grade campers have an extended overnight trip during the third week of Sessions 1 and 2.

- **How will we receive updates during the summer?**

- You will receive a weekly email newsletter with information on themes, special events, the snack schedule - for Noar-Bogrim, information and sign-ups are provided in advance for field trips and on-site activities - and more.

- **What happens during a typical day at Camp Shalom?**

- During the camp day, campers engage in a variety of activities! Campers engage in group time with their small group; Teva (nature), Omanut (art), swimming, and Unit time with all same-grade campers and their counselor teams; attend full-camp song rallies and choose an activity at Chugim, a full-camp choice period.

- **What happens during a typical day at Camp Shalom Noar-Bogrim (NOBO)?**

- NOBO is a program filled with choices for middle school campers. Campers make choices between off-site and on-site activities and will choose week-long specialty activities at Yitzeerah. Off-site experiences primarily bring campers to outdoor spaces to hike, bike, kayak, participate in scavenger hunts, and explore. Activity choices back at camp include theme days and everything from swimming to marshmallow dodgeball to cupcake decorating to fishing.

- **What does Judaism look like at Camp Shalom?**

- We generally have a theme of the week that is inspired by Jewish values, and is quite universal in nature. Values such as *tikkun olam* (repair the world), *g'milut chasadim* (acts

of loving kindness), and *lomed m'kol adam* (learn from everyone) are common. Hebrew is used in some songs, and is also used to name some locations, activity periods, and staff positions. Like many Jewish summer camps, we host Maccabiah, a camp-wide Israeli Olympics-style theme day. In closing the week on Fridays, we gather for a Shabbat song session, recite prayers over snacks and candles, and campers have quiet time to reflect on the week with their group while enjoying traditional challah and grape juice.

Camp is infused with Jewish culture so that we can be a safe place of introduction and build upon prior knowledge. Our expectation is that respect for all cultures and religions is shown by staff and campers.

For our Jewish campers, being at Camp Shalom may be the only time all year in which their customs feel mainstream. For our non-Jewish campers, this may be their first exposure to Jewish culture. We are proud of our ability to bring a positive experience to campers from a variety of backgrounds, while providing Jewish campers with an opportunity to spend time with kids who share their backgrounds and traditions.