



Jewish Community Center

SONOMA COUNTY

Parent Information for Camp Chai 2018

Program/On-Site Director: Brandon Binder

Sessions 1 and 2 of Camp Chai will be held at Sonoma State University Campus.

The campus' actual address is:

1801 E Cotati Ave, Rohnert Park, CA 94928

Before the start of Camp, feel free to call the JCC's main office number at (707) 528-4222 or Ellen Blustein directly at (707) 528-2549 to discuss your camper, the program, to make financial arrangements, or to address any concerns you may have.

COMMUNICATION:

Most communication with you will be through regular emails sent from us to you. It's important to make sure you check for daily updates, reminders and other important information regarding your camper's time with us. It is important to not unsubscribe to these emails.

Camp Chai phone # for **Director Brandon Binder** is: (707) 327-6321.

Camp Chai **BUS** phone # for **Spencer Gibson** is: (707) 217-9915

Directors can be reached during camp hours in an emergency, or to notify staff about a late arrival or an early pick up. The best way to get a message through may be by text. Discussions about camp or your camper should wait until camp is over for the day, so the staff can devote their time to making the Camp Chai experience the best it can be for everyone.

Session 1

July 9-13

Monday through Friday

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Session 2:

July 16-20

Monday through Friday

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

If your camper is registered for Session 1 and you'd like to add Session 2, please let us know before the end of that week to allow us to properly prepare.

Directions to SSU drop off and pick up

Drive to SSU Campus from any direction and use the **1801 East Cotati Avenue** entrance. Turn into the campus onto Sequoia Way. Where you see the entry kiosk turn left onto West Redwood Drive. This road will curve to the right. Drive to the end. Reserved Parking Lot A will be on your right. The **Environmental Center** and residential parking lot

will be on your left. Turn into the far end of the residential parking lot. A **sign-in table** and counselors will be at the **southwest corner of the lot** to take your children to the camp field.

Staff will be busy preparing for the camp day and are not available for before camp child-care. Please do not arrive more than five minutes early in the morning to drop off your camper.

Brandon Binder and the Camp Chai staff will not stay at the camp site past pick up time. There is no after-care scheduled.

Since we know that unexpected things happen, it's important for you to have a back-up plan in place in case you find yourself late for pick-up.

Bus Schedule: The JCC is pleased to offer free bus service to and from camp.

Morning pick up

Stop 1- Analy High School parking lot, Sebastopol 7:25 am.

Stop 2- Windsor High School parking lot, Windsor 8:00 am.

Stop 3- Congregation Beth Ami west parking lot, Santa Rosa 8:30 am.

Afternoon drop off

Stop 1- Congregation Beth Ami west parking lot, Santa Rosa 3:30 pm.

Stop 2- Windsor High School parking lot, Windsor 4:00 pm.

Stop 3- Analy High School parking lot, Sebastopol 4:30 pm.

The Campers will be accompanied on the bus by **senior counselor Spencer Gibson**. The bus cannot wait for parents who are late. **Call the camp phone and/or bus phone with scheduling issues.** The JCC must know whether you intend to use bus service and which stop you will be using prior to the beginning of camp.

Safety and Security at Camp Chai

Camp Staff will be stationed where the parking lot meets the park area to greet you and your camper. You'll see a Camp Chai sign and a table where you'll be expected **to stop and sign in your camper**. Your camper will then be escorted by staff to our field.

Campers will come to the area where they were dropped off to meet you at the end of the day. Please be sure to **sign out your camper** before leaving the area or bus stop.

Failure to sign out your child will cause a ripple effect of precautionary action taken by the staff, to find what we will consider to be a lost child. **We need to have the names of ALL people authorized to pick up your child from Camp/Bus in writing. We will not release your child to anyone not on your list.** Please provide the JCC office with this list of authorized people. You can indicate this on the Transportation Release Form.

If staff is insistent about the sign-in / sign-out policy, please know they are following good safety practices.

Mature staff will be on all-day supervision and head counts are taken regularly.

Making sure your camper wears his/her camp t-shirt, wristband, and/or a t-shirt in the same color family, is always a good idea.

Lunch and Snacks

Each camper should bring a sack lunch every day unless notified otherwise.

Since so many children have peanut allergies, we strongly urge you to refrain from sending peanut butter with your child's lunch during the time they are at camp.

Campers MUST bring their own water bottle to camp daily.

Please provide healthy snacks for your camper every day.

Experience has shown that our younger campers also may need a snack before lunch. If you send one, please make sure it is healthful and does not require refrigeration. Camp Chai will provide lunch on Fridays. Shabbat lunch will be vegetarian pizza, watermelon and organic ice cream. Please, let us know if your child needs an alternate food choice. We will have a few healthy snacks on-hand if your camper needs one.

Medication Policy

No medication, prescription or over-the-counter, may be administered at Camp without **written permission** from the parent or guardian. This includes ADHD medications, asthma medication or inhalers, antibiotics and cold or allergy treatments. All medications must be in a properly labeled container and written instructions must accompany the medication. Indicate medical conditions on the **Camp Chai Agreement and Medical Authorization Form**.

If your child has asthma, you must provide extra medication that will be with your camper at all times.

If your child has a medical condition that requires extra attention, please make sure you inform the Camp Director, so that we can best serve your child.

What to Wear to Camp

Campers must return to Camp each day wearing the wristband (with the camp phone number) they are given on the first day of Camp. We have limited wristbands and it's important for each child to safeguard their wristband and wear it daily while at camp. Only one will be issued to each Camper. This is for their safety because it has the Camp phone number on it.

Campers should wear their camp T-shirt (given on the first day and included in your tuition or one in the same color family, and comfortable play clothes that allow for freedom of movement and messy play. Sneakers or sturdy shoes are preferred. No flip-flops or water sandals for areas *not* at the pool.

Hats at Camp Chai are a necessity. While the children will have many opportunities to be in the shade, camp is outside. Sun and heat can be a problem without proper protection. Please, send your child with a hat labeled with his/her name – we will do our best to make sure it is worn.

Please label all clothing and hats. Our lost and found can become overwhelming without a way to identify the owners of all items. All unclaimed articles are given to charity at the end of the camp season.

What Not to Send to Camp

Camp is filled with so much outdoor traditional play - please do not send any personal toys or equipment to Camp unless specifically requested by staff. This includes playing cards, and all tech toys and cell phones. Camp Chai cannot guarantee the safety of those items. The Director reserves the right to secure and hold any item until the end of the day, at which time it will be returned to the camper. Please do not send money to Camp.

Swimming

Camp Chai will enjoy recreational swim at the campus pool on **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday**. Before being allowed to enter the pool, all campers will be given a swim test by the certified lifeguards at the pool, regardless of their declared ability. **The Sonoma State Lifeguards have the final say regarding a child's swim capabilities. Each child may retake the swim test the following day in hopes of reaching the desired swim level. Camp Chai staff must abide by the life-guard's decision for the safety of the child and the other children.**

Campers will be supervised by the certified lifeguards employed by the Center, with additional supervision by our counselors.

If your child cannot or you prefer that they not participate in recreational swim, Camp Chai provides alternate activities.

Please send extra sunscreen, a swimsuit and a towel on these days.

Scheduled days will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday, though they may be subject to change. Check your emails for any changes.

Camp Chai Agreement and Medical Authorization Form Our insurance carrier asks that each camper have a completed **Camp Chai Agreement and Medical Authorization Form** on file before the start of camp. Any camper, who does not, will not be allowed to participate in Camp activities.

The form is included as an attachment, or is available

at <http://www.jccsoco.org/camp/about-camp-chai-summer-day-camp/>

Transportation Release

In the unlikely event that your child may need to be transported from the Camp Chai site, we'll need a signed release form from you. Please include it with the rest of the submitted paperwork. The form is included as an attachment, or is available at <http://www.jccsoco.org/camp/about-camp-chai-summer-day-camp/>

Payment Information

Tuition for all sessions is due no later than **June 15, 2018**. You may use a Visa or MC (call (707) 528-4222 in the case you want to pay by credit card) or send a check to JCC, 1301 Farmers Lane, Suite C103, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Need to make financial arrangements? Call Ellen Blustein at 707 528-2549.

Scholarship is available; please call Ellen to find out more. We want to be your child to attend camp.

Refunds for cancellation will only be processed if notification has been received 30 days prior to the start of the Session your child is registered for. Camp Chai makes no refunds for withdrawal, dismissal, failure to attend during the full enrollment, or delayed attendance. The Director(s) reserve the right to dismiss a camper when in his/her opinion; the action is in the best interests of Camp Chai.

A Typical Day at Camp Chai

9:00-9:15 All camp *Kumsitz* – this includes songs led and taught by Brandon and staff, skits, crazy antics and special announcements.

9:15-10:00 Rotation 1 - campers by age group participate in activities such as soccer, disc golf, gaga, arts and crafts, and more

10:00-10:15 Snack

10:15-11:00 Rotation 2

11:00-11:10 CIT Cheers - crazy songs led by our CITs

11:00-12:00 Chug - weeklong electives including board games, improv, soccer, and more.

12:00-12:30 Lunch

12:30-1:15 Free Choice Activity - lanyards, ultimate Frisbee, puzzles, and more.

1:15-1:30 Walk to the Pool

1:30-2:30 Pool

2:30-2:45 Walk back to main camp

2:45-3:00 All Camp Shalom Chaverim - when we gather together at the end of the camp day to reconnect with each other, prepare for the close of camp that day, and get excited about what tomorrow will bring.

Please note that times and activities are subject to change.