

UPDATED, MAY 3, 9:00 AM

Dear JCC Ranch Camp Family,

We know that our campers, staff, and families alike count down the months, days, and minutes until the start of Ranch Camp each summer. In Judaism we constantly lean on text to help us navigate moments of grief and explore feelings of uncertainty, to offer us clarity when we cannot see and to embrace us in the warmth of a hug when we cannot touch. This piece, by Jamie Anderson, so beautifully captures our heartache:

“Grief, I’ve learned, is really just love. It’s all the love you want to give, but cannot. All that unspent love gathers up in the corners of your eyes, the lump in your throat, and in that hollow part of your chest. Grief is just love with no place to go.”

JCC Ranch Camp is more than just a summer camp. It is a community and a home away from home, where so many are able to be their best selves, connect to nature, develop deep friendships, and explore Judaism. Our top priority summer after summer is the physical, emotional, and spiritual safety of everyone who comes through our gates. Without meeting this basic need, none of the magic that fills every moment at camp can happen.

With a heavy heart and a clear mind, we have made the very difficult decision to cancel our 2020 season to ensure the safety of our community. The CDC Guidelines and the local Health Department requirements make our normal camp experience nearly impossible. We have recorded a [short message from us to your families](#), please feel free to view with your campers.

We would like to offer the following options with regards to your camp tuition:

Full Refund

You can request a refund for tuition you have paid. Third-party scholarships and One Happy Camper grants will be refunded to those organizations directly. Please anticipate 45 days to receive your refund via your original method of payment. If this timeline poses hardship for your family, please reach out to us directly.

Donation

You may choose to donate a portion or all fees paid to date to Ranch Camp. While many of our

expenses occur during the summer season, a significant portion of our costs are fixed and spent regardless of operating during the summer. Any donation made to the JCC is tax-deductible, qualifies for the Colorado Child Care Tax Credit (if you're a resident of CO) and will be **matched dollar for dollar by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation**. This option can be combined with any of the other options.

JCC Credit

Roll your tuition over to 2021. You can reserve your spot for Summer 2021 AND lock in the Summer 2020 rate. There is a minimum \$250 credit to hold your spot for 2021. Additionally, you can use your credit for other JCC Denver programs. Credit expires August 31, 2021.

Family Camp 2020

We have put together an alternative Family Camp program. We will offer six 5-day sessions that will allow for appropriate safety precautions and an opportunity to be at camp. Please read more about our new [2020 Family Camp](#) experience. If this program is of interest to your family, you can roll your tuition over to Family Camp 2020. Registration will open on Friday, May 8.

For health and safety reasons, this is for in-state families only.

Current Ranch Camp families will have priority registration.

Registration will be first come, first served.

Current "Family Camp" registrants will have priority for Week 6 registration (the week that overlaps with the original Family Camp weekend dates).

Running this program is contingent upon the current and updated recommendations of the federal, state, and local government.

You can select which option works best for your family by completing the [financial intent form](#). **We ask that you please complete your form by Friday, May 15. If you have not completed your form by May 15, we will default your selection to Ranch Camp or JCC Credit.** If you need to make changes to your form or need support completing it, please don't hesitate to let us know.

In order to make the most informed decision, current statements will be emailed to all families this week. If you would like to access your current statement before then, please log into your [CampInTouch Account](#). Scroll down to "Your Family" and click "Financial Management." On this page

you will see an overview of your payments and balance. On the bottom left you can select “View Statement” to see your statement in more detail. If you need support accessing your statement, please email Allison Marshall at amarshall@jccdenver.org.

We will be calling all of our families starting this week so that we can answer any questions you might have and to let you know that we are with you during this incredibly sad and challenging time. Please be patient as we make calls; we have many families to call and want to give each of you the time you need.

In addition to individual calls, we will be hosting a Ranch Camp Town Hall via Zoom tomorrow night, **Monday, May 4, at 6:00 pm MDT** to answer any and all questions you might have. You can access the [Town Hall Zoom Link here](#).

Many of our families also participate in other amazing programming offered at the JCC. Please be sure to see the specific details for [Camp Shai](#) and [Wolf Theatre Academy](#).

While we can't be together in the way we had planned this summer, there will always be a way for us to share our love for one another. Ranch Camp isn't the cabins we sleep in or the walls we sign. It is the people who make us feel seen, loved, whole, and safe. This is what creates the Ranch Camp magic and we know it reaches so much farther than our 400 acres.

Until we see a Colorado Sunset together,

Noah Gallagher | JCC Ranch Camp Director

Ryan Bocchino | JCC Ranch Camp Associate Director

Carly Coons | JCC Ranch Camp Assistant Director