

UPDATED MAY 3, 8:00 AM

Dear JCC Denver Camp Families,

Each year, hundreds of families entrust the JCC with their beloved children during the summer months. It is a remarkable responsibility and one that we not only treasure, but take very seriously. Our camp teams work year-round to build the physical community that campers and staff are a part of each summer. Whether you spend your summer months at the JCC, at Graland Country Day School, in Elbert, CO, on the tennis courts, or lighting up the stage in the Elaine Wolf Theatre, we are all one amazing community.

As the health and safety of our community remains our number one priority, it has become increasingly clear over the past few weeks that we cannot guarantee the safety and well-being of our camp community running camps in the way we all know and love. **After careful consideration and countless hours of planning, we have decided to make some drastic changes to our 2020 camp season.** These changes, outlined below, were developed with a singular goal in mind: to continue the tradition of summers at the J while making certain that campers and staff can have a safe summer experience.

GENERAL CAMP UPDATES – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

All JCC summer camp programs scheduled to run in-person, in June, have been cancelled. Please continue reading for the options available to you regarding your registration fees.

JCC Ranch Camp is getting a completely new look, launching a summer of JCC Family Camp open to in-state families. This option is designed to keep everyone involved safe and allow those able to not miss a summer at the Ranch. Please continue reading for more information about this program.

At this time, we plan to start Camp Shai on Monday, June 29 and Wolf Theatre Academy on Monday, July 6. Please continue reading for more information about the shape in which these programs will take when they start back up. Spoiler alert, it's very different, but will still be amazing!

Serve, Snack, and Splash has been cancelled for the summer. Please continue reading for the options available to you regarding your registration fees.

SUMMER 2020 PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Ranch Camp

Sadly, we have made the heartbreaking decision to cancel Ranch Camp as you know it for the entire 2020 season. The Ranch Camp experience is based on campers and staff being together – living in cabins, participating in activities, gathering around the campfire, and eating together in the dining hall. The CDC guidelines and the local Health Department requirements make this experience nearly impossible.

However, our Ranch Camp team has developed an exciting Family Camp offering that you may want to consider. It allows families to enjoy the beauty and solitude of Ranch Camp as a family unit.

[Learn more about Family Camp >](#)

Camp Shai

With the realities of COVID-19, Camp Shai has developed two models of camps this summer: Pod Camp (in-person camp) and Virtual Specialty Camps. These programs were designed using guidelines from the CDC and the American Camping Association and the Colorado Department of Health and Human Services, as well as with input from other local day camps.

[Learn more about Camp Shai's programs >](#)

Wolf Theatre Academy

The 2020 Wolf Theatre Academy summer will be comprised of three sessions – each two weeks long – offering specialized, intensive-style performing arts classes in “class pods” of 10 students or less. We will offer four unique classes/productions each session in four separate spaces. We will be providing all currently registered students with a survey to gauge interest in specific content for the summer, and will use this information to create specific class offerings tailored to the interests of our student population. Options might include classes in musical theatre, dance and acting as well as some selected, abbreviated non-musical productions. We may also offer an introductory class in theatre for younger/beginner students as well as an improvisation class. Course tuition can be transferred from Mainstage Production Classes directly to individual session courses.

[Learn more about WTA's potential offerings >](#)

Already registered for WTA? [Take our program interest survey >](#)

FINANCIAL OPTIONS – WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH MY REGISTRATION FEES

The financial implications of delaying our day camps and closing Ranch Camp are serious and we continue to make crucial financial choices to stabilize our finances that include cutting expenses wherever possible and pursuing CARES Act/SBA loan and grant programs. That said, the key drivers of the JCC's financial model are registration fees and philanthropy. **The loss of our registration fees means that we must depend more heavily on the generosity of people who love camp and value our place in the Jewish world and our future.**

Options for Ranch Camp Families, if your child(ren) are registered for Ranch Camp:

We will provide full refunds for camp registration fees paid to date. 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.

You may choose to donate a portion or all fees paid to date to Ranch Camp. Any donation made to the JCC is tax-deductible, qualifies for the Colorado Child Care Tax Credit (if resident of CO) and will be **matched dollar for dollar by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.**

You may use the fees as a credit to another JCC Denver program, 2020 Ranch Camp Family Camp, or roll the fees into registration for the 2021 Summer season at the Summer of 2020 rate.

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.

If you already know which option you intend to choose please **fill out this financial intent form**. Otherwise, please wait to hear from us for more detail before making your selection. If a choice is not received by May 15, your fees will automatically convert to JCC program credits that expire August 31, 2021.

Options for Camp Shai, Wolf Theatre Academy, and Tennis Camps Families:

We will provide full refunds for camp registration fees paid to date. 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.

You may choose to donate a portion or all fees paid to date to Camp Shai, Wolf Theatre Academy or Tennis Camps. Any donation made to the JCC is tax-deductible, qualifies for the Colorado Child Care Tax Credit and will be **matched dollar for dollar with a generous gift by JEWISHcolorado.**

You may use the fees as a credit to another JCC Denver program or roll the fees into registration for the 2021 Summer season at the 2020 Summer prices. This credit will expire August 31, 2021.

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WE ARE HERE TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS

Following this email, you will be receiving an email later today or tomorrow from each Camp Director based on the program(s) you are currently registered for. This email will provide additional detail about each camp offering and hopefully answer some of the initial questions you have.

We have also scheduled **Virtual (Zoom) Town Halls for Ranch Camp and Camp Shai** that will provide a chance for you to hear directly from each camp team and receive answers to all of your questions. Following are the days and times for these meetings:

Ranch Camp Town Hall: Monday, 5.4, 6:00 – 7:00 pm ([click here to join via Zoom](#))

Camp Shai Town Hall: Tuesday, 5.5, 4:30 – 5:30 pm ([click here to join via Zoom](#))

Our JCC Staff and Camp Teams will be calling each family starting this week to answer questions about our summer program options and to assist you in filling out your **financial intent form**. Please be patient as we make calls, we have many families to call and want to give each of you the time you need.

THANK YOU

We are so grateful for your generosity and for helping us to continue to build the kind of community we all so desperately need right now.

I would also like to give one final thank you to JEWISHcolorado and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation for their generous support during this time by matching any dollar donated from your camp registration fees.

In the meantime, we send good thoughts to everyone in our camp family and wishes for healing and wholeness to those who have been personally affected by this virus.

Stay healthy, stay safe, stay strong.

Sincerely,

Lara Knuettel

Chief Executive Officer

With support from:

