

TELLING STORY

our

Finding a Camp That Offers It All

Benjamin and all his "Big, Idea" friends on the JCC camp field



Camp is a special time in every kid's life – a time to explore, make amazing friends and enjoy around-the-clock adventures. But in addition to all that, one of the most valuable things we look for as parents is a camp experience that allows our kids to enter a new and welcoming world, where they can venture outside their comfort zone, embrace new challenges, discover new interests, and grow with confidence summer after summer.

The Chubak family was thrilled to find just that at the Neil Klatskin Summer Camps at the JCC. Jamie grew up in Englewood, NJ, attended the Neil Klatskin Day Camp (NKDC) at the JCC as a child, and believes her memorable experiences there helped shape her life. Now married with children of her own, Jamie was on a mission, eager to launch meaningful camp journeys for her kids. They explored a lot of options. In the end, their search led them back to NKDC. "I want my children to treasure their summers and enjoy all the freedom they offer," says Jamie, but at the same time...

"It is really important to me for our kids to have camp experiences that encourage personal growth and teach them about trust and teamwork and respect for nature. And after revisiting NKDC, I found that it truly provides that extra something you rarely see these days – a perfect blend of amazing facilities, exciting programs, caring counselors, and a dedication to important values that keep us coming back year after year."

Three of Jamie and her husband David's children currently attend camp at the JCC, where every summer builds on the last. They grow with the programs, discover new passions, and bond with their friends and counselors. Jamie couldn't be happier, as her kids have different interests and the range of offerings allow each child to find hobbies and activities they enjoy, all in one great place.

"In addition to the perfect setting, with woods and fields and grounds to roam, there are pools and a splash park and incredible Red Cross Swim programs," Jamie continues "and since our kids are all huge sports fans, the sports fields and tennis courts and rope courses with zip lines are all huge hits as well. But one of the things I love best as a parent is the fact that everything takes place within the safe and secure environment of the JCC community itself, where kids can escape the sweltering heat or a summer storm, and go inside to enjoy crafts or play in an air-conditioned gym. It's a world onto itself, and to top it all off, they get to spend their days learning about important things like generosity and leadership from incredible counselors, who are amazing role models they can look up to and emulate."

Neil Klatskin Summer Camps truly grow with campers, offering exciting, fun, and age-appropriate programs and camp structure at every stage.

"The JCC specialty camps are great for campers as they grow," Lindsey adds. "They give the kids the chance to concentrate on what interests them most, creating a base to build on from one year to the next."

Our oldest, Lindsey, who is now 11, started at NKDC when she was five. In those early years, she just drank camp in and would come home at night so excited she could barely fall asleep. To this day, she has really happy memories about the wear-your-pajamas-to-camp day and the big camp carnivals. Now that she is older, she attends sleepaway camp for part of the summer, but she has us plan her schedule so she can still attend the JCC tennis camp for a full month. It's the place where she discovered her passion for tennis and she wouldn't miss it for the world. Every summer, I see her skills and confidence soar under the exceptional coaching she receives."



Lindsey on the JCC courts at tennis camp

“We are so grateful that the JCC designs camp programs that can grow as the kids grow - allowing them to hone in on the things they really love so they can be nurtured and challenged to be their best.”

Jamie's two sons, who are both camp lovers to the core, start counting the days for camp to begin long before school even lets out. Benjamin, who is nine and in 3rd grade, started NKDC in Pre-K and can't wait to play his favorite sports and reconnect with all his summer friends at the JCC. Baseball, hockey and Gaga are his favorites, and now that he is old enough to participate in the JCC's Neil Klatskin Specialty Camps, he is planning to take a whole variety of weeklong sports intensives, which will allow him to concentrate on all his favorite pastimes. Judah, who is six, began his JCC camping experience when he was only three and now enjoys his camp adventures with classmates from his school, who joined NKDC after Jamie told the other parents that it was the best camp they'd ever find.

“Our kids rave about camp all summer long and it thrills David and me to witness their enthusiasm and observe their growth from year to year,” says Jamie. “And we can't wait for Rachel, our one-year-old, to join her siblings, who are having amazing experiences they'll remember all their lives.”

“I love that my children are attending the same camp I did,” Jamie concludes. “The idea of family continuity really appeals to me, but it is only a small part of why I admire the JCC camps the way I do.”

What makes it so special is the people, the energy, the offerings and the investment everyone there makes in helping each child discover their personal talents and identities. Everyone on staff goes the extra mile. They listen; they encourage feedback; and they do whatever it takes to make the experience work for both you and your kids. That's pretty unique and why it has been the right choice for us and for so many others. I'd tell anyone searching for a great camp experience to look no further!”

Looking for a camp experience like the ones Jamie's kids enjoy each summer? Sign up for a JCC Neil Klatskin Summer Camp today! And, for the first time ever, all our camps are open to the public - so grab your friends and head over to the J for the best camp experience around. See pages 4-5 for a list of all our incredible camp options. For more info about Neil Klatskin Day and Specialty camps, or to sign up, visit jccotp.org/camps or call 201.567.8963



Judah, arriving on the 1st day of day camp!