

TEAM PALISADES

JCC MACCABI GAMES[®]

2022

July 31st- Aug 5th

Jewish 13-16 year olds



Hi!

We are thrilled that you are interested in learning more about the JCC Maccabi Games experience, and possibly participating with the 2022 Team Palisades delegation.

After a 2 year hiatus due to COVID-19, we are thrilled to once again compete with teams from across the globe and represent our community. In 2019, our delegation began to rebuild and sent 25 teens to join the “J-Team” a continental delegation. Our teens traveled to Atlanta, GA to compete with 3,000 Jewish teens from across the US, Canada, Israel, Europe, and Latin America. We are thrilled to have built such a strong foundation and aim to keep the tradition going with our very own delegation traveling to San Diego in 2022.

As the largest Jewish Youth event in the world, the JCC Maccabi Games creates an experience that you will remember for a lifetime. Our teens, coaches, and families form meaningful relationships that transcend the week of Maccabi and the boundaries of geography. JCC Maccabi athletes have gone on to compete in the World Maccabiah Games®, the Pan American Maccabi Games®, professional sports, and even the Olympics. The community of participants includes familiar names like Olympic swimmer Lenny Krayzelburg, Jason Lezak, Survivor’s Ethan Zohn, and actor Jason Segal.

You will get to know your fellow Team Palisades teammates during pre-season practices and events. Then have countless opportunities to get to know teens from around the country and the globe throughout the week of the Games. Get ready to feel the spirit of Maccabi when meeting new friends, competing, participating in community service, and partying at a one of a kind social event each night.

You will receive a uniform bag with tons of gear that you will wear throughout the week and when we march into the Olympic style opening ceremony. Picture yourself walking into a stadium representing our community in front of thousands of spectators and looking around knowing all the other teens participating are also Jewish. You will make new friends from across the globe as you trade your swag for kangaroos, sombreros and British union jack attire.

Whether you bring home the best swag, a gold medal or a lifelong friend, there is no doubt that you will have the time of your life at the 2022 JCC Maccabi Games.

If you have any questions, or are interested in learning more, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Raychel Reilly, Team Palisades Delegation Head
reilly@jccotp.org; 201-408-1481

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are The JCC Maccabi Games® ?

The JCC Maccabi Games are an international athletic competition for Jewish teenagers run much like the Olympics. Athletes have the opportunity to compete against Jewish teens from all over the United States as well as delegations from Israel, Great Britain, Mexico, Canada, and more! The games are played with a focus on “rachmanus” or sportsmanship with the intent to foster long-lasting memories and identification with Judaism and Israel. The Games also promote community involvement, teamwork, and pride in being Jewish. The Games are the largest Jewish teen event in the world; each summer over 6,000 Jewish teens participate. Over 100,000 teens have benefited from the JCC Maccabi Games since 1982. At this Jewish Olympic style event, each athlete participates in one of fourteen sports, social events, and an opportunity to give back to the community during this week-long experience, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

Check out this JCC Maccabi video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NNiOX46vrd0&ab_channel=JCCAssociation

2. Who is eligible to participate in the JCC Maccabi Games?

- a. Jewish teens between the ages of 13-16 are welcome to try out for the JCC Maccabi Games.
- b. All athletes/artists must be Jewish, which is defined as follows: One of the athlete’s parents is Jewish and the athlete is being raised Jewish, or is a Jew by choice and is being raised Jewish. In the spirit of Maccabi, if the parent or child does not believe that they are Jewish on a year-round basis, then the athlete should not participate in the JCC Maccabi Games. In the athlete online registration, there is a declaration that contains the aforementioned eligibility requirements; both the athlete and their parent(s) must sign this declaration.
- c. All athletes must have current medical insurance and be up to date on all age appropriate vaccines including COVID-19 vaccine.

3. Who is eligible to compete for Team Palisades?

Jewish teens between the ages of 13-16 are welcome to join Team Palisades at the JCC Maccabi Games. To participate in the Games, athletes must be aged 13 to 16 years old as of July 31, 2022.

Teens do not need to be members of the JCCOTP (JCC on the Palisades), but must live closer to the JCCOTP than any other JCC with a Maccabi delegation. For example, if you live closer to the Rockland JCC, but they are not sending a delegation in 2022, you are welcome to try out for Team Palisades.

4. Where are the Games this year? What sports are offered?

There is only one set of Games this year which will be held in San Diego, California from July 31st- August 5th. They are hosted by the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center.

San Diego July 31th-Aug 5th

Team Sports Include:

- Boy's Baseball (14U and 16U)
- Boy's Basketball (14U and 16U)
- Girl's Basketball (16U)
- Boy's Flag Football (16U)
- Boy's Ice Hockey (16U)
- Boy's Soccer (14U and 16U)
- Girl's Soccer (16U)
- Girl's Volleyball (16U)

Individual Sports Include:

- Bowling
- Dance
- Tennis
- Golf
- eSports
- Swimming
- Star Reporter (Sports Journalism)
- Table Tennis
- Track & Field

5. What is the athletic competition like?

The competitive level of the participants will vary. There are teens that are very athletic and then those that are there for the experience. Some of the sports will have different divisions based on skill levels. Throughout the week, players can expect to play around four games/matches before tournament play begins on Wednesday. Gold, silver and bronze medals are awarded to the top three winners. Although it is competitive, the JCC Maccabi Games emphasize the Rachmanus Rule, which is you do not show up your opponent. The experience is about more than just sports. It focuses on an all-around experience including friends, community service, social and educational activities.

6. What is a mixed team?

A mixed team is composed of athletes from multiple delegations. This is fairly common and happens when a delegation does not have enough athletes to field a full team. Mixed team athletes still practice and identify as Team Palisades, but have the opportunity to be on a team with athletes from various cities and countries. Being on a mixed team can be a great experience and foster lasting friendships with Jewish teens around the world!

7. How does community service play a role in JCC Maccabi?

Community Service is a key component to the JCC Maccabi Games and ArtsFest experience. Each set of Games includes a JCC Cares project where athletes and artists set aside

competition and workshops for a morning and work to improve the local community, through activities like planting a community garden, bowling with adults with special needs, or doing art projects one-on-one with children from underserved communities. Teens can receive community service hours for their participation.

8. Can I earn community service hours for Maccabi?

Yes! Teens can earn a minimum of 2 hours for their participation during Maccabi as well as up to 40 additional for service prior to the Games. Contact your Delegation Head for details.

9. Is Maccabi just a one-week commitment?

Being part of the JCC Maccabi team gives teens something to be involved in throughout the year. This includes tryouts, practices, team events, community service opportunities, and more. Yearlong activities are designed to enhance the teen's JCC Maccabi experience, and it is highly recommended that teens attend everything that they are available for, however you may remain on the team regardless of how much you participate throughout the year. Participation in the full week of the games is mandatory.

10. What is the fee for the JCC Maccabi Games 2022?

Our all-inclusive fee per teen is \$2,050 (Members) and \$2,350 (Guest) per teen. However, you can lock in the early bird discount rate and take an additional \$100 off by registering before December 31, 2021. **There are only 15 spots available for Team Palisades 2022, so we highly recommend registering early.** Registration includes submitting the completed registration and payment authorization form, personal contact info, \$500 non-refundable deposit paid, and agreement to the non-refundable balance to be charged on April 1, 2022. Additional registration steps are required at later dates. Please see the registration form or contact your delegation head for details.

11. What does the fee include?

JCC Maccabi is an all-inclusive experience. Program fees include Games registration fees, travel/transportation, uniform, Team Palisades gear, Pre and post Games family dinners, adult supervision and coaches, practices, meals, social events/team activities, and all other accommodations throughout the week. Teens do not need to bring any spending money.

12. Are there adult chaperones at Maccabi?

Of course! Team Palisades has one of the lowest athlete/ artists to adult ratios. Every athlete is assigned to a Team Palisades coach/chaperone whether they are on a team sport, individual sport, or mixed team with a coach from another delegation. Head coaches are all over 21 and have passed intensive background checks.

13. Where will my teen stay?

During the week of Maccabi Sunday- Friday all teens will stay with a host family. Many teens say that the host families were one of their favorite parts of the experience. Host families are Jewish homes in Atlanta and Detroit that are part of their greater JCC communities. Host families are background checked, screened, and required to attend a mandatory orientation.

Teens can request specific homes that meet their needs such as dietary and pet allergies. Participants may not arrange their own housing or stay in hotels. The home hospitality experience is an important part of the Games and ArtsFest experience. We are very gracious to these host families as they serve as interim parents for the week transporting the teens to and from Maccabi, provide breakfast, laundry, and give your teen an unforgettable home hospitality experience. Many teens will stay in touch with host families for years to come!

14. Can you tell me about security at Maccabi?

Security is taken very seriously at the JCC Maccabi Games & Artsfest. Background checks are utilized for all adults involved and all participants, spectators, coaches, host families, etc. are required to wear a credential to access any Maccabi facility. The host community also works closely with local enforcement to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all.

15. Our family observes Shabbat and keeps kosher. Will my teen's needs be met at Maccabi?

Yes, all food served at Maccabi is kosher and all transportation is schedule for teens to return home on Friday with plenty of time before Shabbat.

16. Can I use my son or daughter's school or camp medical form for Maccabi?

No. Maccabi Central will only accept the JCC Maccabi Medical Form. In the case of a medical emergency, the Delegation Head will act as the participant's guardian and will communicate with the parents to get any treatment necessary. Information such as the parent/guardian's birth date and social security number is sometimes necessary to utilize insurance.

17. Can parents be spectators at the JCC Maccabi Games and ArtsFest?

Parents, family members, and friends are welcome to attend the Games and ArtsFest as spectators. A spectator pass gives access to the opening ceremony, sport events, and ArtsFest final show. No one will be admitted to a Games site who is not wearing an approved credential. To register as a spectator you will use the same website as when registering your teen. Please note deadlines and early bird pricing dates.

While we encourage families to consider attending to support their teens, the athletes have programs and activities going on for the entirety of their time at the Games and thus only see visitor's courtside at their sporting events. At no point during the week can spectators or parents remove the teens from the program or take them off-site for any reason.

18. How can I sign up to be part of Team Palisades at the JCC Maccabi Games 2022?

Registration is open NOW! Please contact your Delegation Head, Raychel Reilly to request the registration packet and secure your spot on Team Palisades. rreilly@jccotp.org or 201.408.14581.



Week at a Glance Itinerary
Sunday, July 31- Friday, Aug 5

Sunday	Daytime- Delegation travels by plane to San Diego. Athletes/Artists settle into host family accommodations Evening – Opening ceremony
Monday	Daytime- Athletic competition Evening – Evening party (TBD)
Tuesday	Daytime- Athletic competition Evening – Evening party (TBD)
Wednesday	Daytime- Tournament competition begins Evening – Host Family Night
Thursday	Daytime- Tournament Medal Rounds Evening – Closing Party/Ceremony
Friday	Morning – Fly back home to NJ.
<i>Throughout the week- JCC Cares Community Service Project, HangTime & Support Team Palisades and New Friends in Other Sports Competitions</i>	

Team Palisades EXPERIENCE CALENDAR 2022

- **Nov 10th** → Registration opens!
- **Dec 12th** → Info Session for Parents/Athletes @7pm
- **Dec 31st** → Early Bird Deadline Registration- Price goes up!
- **Feb 15th** → Online athlete registration (separate from Team Palisades reg.) due excluding medical form (*\$150 late fee from JCCA applies after this date per item*)
- **April 1st** → Final payments due
- **April 15th** → Maccabi Medical Form (**NO school or camp forms**) Due (*\$150 late fee from JCCA applies after this date*)
- **January TBD** → Uniform try-on @ JCCOTP Fitness Desk (*during open hours*)
- **June 17th** → Team Strength & Conditioning/JCC Cares @ JCC @3pm
- **July 24th** → Team Palisades Team Dinner (Info Meeting, Uniform Handout, etc.)
- **July 31st- Aug 5th** → JCC Maccabi Games- San Diego, CA
- **August 21st** → Team Palisades Reunion & Award Ceremony

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Still not convinced? Hear what previous participants have to say!

“2018 was my first year of Maccabi and I couldn’t have asked for a better week! I had so much fun running and met the most amazing people from all around the world that are now some of my closest friends!”

- Rachel Morros- Track & Field

“Maccabi brings out the best of the best in the community. The volunteers, the coaches, and athletes all come together to celebrate sports and being Jewish. There is nothing like it.

-Ilan Lakritz- Soccer Coach

“When I describe Maccabi to my friends I always say it’s the **most fun week of the year, ...every year.”**

- Davey Singer – Basketball and Flag Football

For four years I would count down the days until the next Maccabi Games. After stepping off the bus to go home from my first set of games, I immediately told my mom to sign me up for the next year. Traveling the country with Team OC brought me closer to Jewish teens from not only Orange County, but around the world. Stepping out onto the field each day brought me so much joy knowing that I was playing with and against some of my best friends. Wherever I travel in the US, I know that I will have a place to stay with an old friend. My maccabi memories will last me a lifetime and **I will never forget the amazing times I had with Team OC.**

- Aaron Firth, 4 years baseball/captain

Maccabi gave me the opportunity to be a mentor to some of the most amazing girls. I learned a lot about what it takes to be a great leader, and hope to use my Maccabi experience to help me in future life endeavors. Also, to hopefully be able to coach in future games!

- Hannah Press - Softball CIT

If you would like to secure a spot on Team Palisades, please reach out using the below contact information.

2022 Delegation Head

Raychel Reilly

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