

KAPLEN JCC on the Palisades

WHERE DIFFERENCES ARE CELEBRATED



A unique two-week camp for children and teens with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other intellectual, cognitive and developmental disabilities, who attend extended school year.



CAMP HAVERIM PROVIDES:

- SOCIAL SKILLS ACTIVITIES**
- SWIMMING AND WATER PARK**
- SPORTS AND ADAPTIVE PHYSICAL EDUCATION**
- MUSIC & MOVEMENT**
- ART & YOGA**
- COOKING**
- SENSORY ACTIVITIES**



CALENDAR & FEES

August 10-21, 2026
 AGES 5-21 | 9 AM-3 PM
 Members: \$2,100
 Guests: \$2,250

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

FUN FACT! "Haverim" means friends in Hebrew! This summer program began at the Kaplen JCC on the Palisades with four campers in 1994, and continues to grow today.

The Guttenberg Center for Special Services provides social, recreational, cultural and educational experiences in natural community settings, with appropriate supports, for children, teens and adults with disabilities. Our goal is to create a nurturing and inclusive environment and community, allowing each individual the opportunity to reach his or her potential.





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STAFF

Each group is staffed by a head teacher, head assistant, assistants and volunteers.

Head teachers and head assistants are post college-age adults who are either certified as a teacher of Special Education or have extensive experience with ASD and children, teens and young adults with disabilities. Group sizes are between 5-7 campers. With a 1:3 staffing ratio plus volunteers or PerformCare shadows.

All staff members meet the employment requirements set forth by both the Kaplen JCC on the Palisades and the state of New Jersey, including background checks and fingerprinting.

FACILITIES

The Kaplen JCC is a social service agency located on 29 acres of park-like property in beautiful, suburban Tenafly, New Jersey. It is barrier free and handicapped accessible.

Outdoor facilities include sports fields, three swimming pools and a waterpark, basketball and tennis courts, and a handicapped-accessible playground. Indoor facilities include two heated pools, two large gyms, a teaching kitchen, tumble room, walking track and auditorium.

HEALTH & SAFETY

The health, safety and welfare of our campers are top priorities. A registered nurse is on site, and staff are CPR and First Aid Certified. Red Cross Certified lifeguards supervise our swim program.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

JCC membership is NOT required for this program. New participants are required to have an intake assessment. Placement must be approved by the Camp Director and Inclusion Director.

Program acceptance is based upon a participant's ability to successfully transition into existing groups.

STATE FUNDING

The Kaplen JCC is a qualified New Jersey Department of Human Services Division of Children & Families (DCF)/PerformCare provider.

In order to receive services through the state, your child must be currently registered with New Jersey DCF/PerformCare before camp begins. For more information on summer funding and deadlines, go to www.performcarenj.org.

Applications are currently available.

We accept payments from other Service Agency Providers as well as sending school districts.

SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL AID

Limited financial aid and scholarship assistance is available for families with documented financial need.

Applications, along with all necessary documentation, must be submitted no later than April 15 for appropriate consideration for our summer program.



A UNIQUE FEATURE OF OUR CAMP

Our head teachers meet with all new camper families as well as communicate with returning camper families prior to camp to familiarize themselves with each camper.

All staff members are trained to work with every child in their group based on camper needs.

Our volunteers are junior and senior high school students who act as social role models for the campers—one of the most important components of Camp Haverim.

HOW TO APPLY

For new campers, please contact us by April 1, 2026 to schedule an intake.

For More Information

Please contact:

**TIMANISHA
HIGHSMITH**

Camp Haverim Director,
201-569-7900, x530
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