

URJ GREENE FAMILY CAMP
2018 Family Guide to Summer Camping

[Introduction](#)

Mission Statement & Welcome
Staff
And Now a Word from our Sponsor - URJ
Funding & Support
Four Values at GFC

[Family Projects to Complete Before Camp](#)

Read this Manual!
Complete Camper Information Form
Complete Transportation Form
Complete Activity Forms
Camper Health & Medical Forms
Pack Your Bags!

[Opening Days and Closing Days](#)

Opening Day Schedule
Closing Day Schedule
Bus Information
Airline Info for Opening & Closing Days

[Activities Catalog](#)

Chugim
Hagigot
Gadol



[The Things That You Bring](#)

Clothing List and Inventory
Shabbat
Luggage
Laundry
Appropriate Attire
Valuables
Canteen
Electronics
Shipping
Lost & Found

[Communicating with Your Campers & Your Camp](#)

Contacting the Camp
Mail To & Mail From Camp
Faxes, Email, and Photo Gallery
Care Packages
A Word about Birthdays
Website

[Health & Safety](#)

Health House
Medications
Sick Call
Out-of-Camp-Care
A Note on Health Care Costs
Medical Departure
Food & Menu
Cabin & Unit Cleanup

[General Policies & House Rules](#)

For Parents
For Campers
General Note on Behavior
Non-Discrimination Statement
Licensing
Senior Staff
Feedback

The mission of Greene Family Camp is to create a fun, safe, educational friend-filled environment that teaches and practices Judaism. GFC encourages personal and spiritual growth through creative programs and varied activities. Below is the mission statement most recently envisioned by our summer and full time staff.



Greene Family Camp Mission

הִנְנִי - Hineini - Here I am

I am here to find my place and strengthen my connection to the Greene Family Camp community and the Jewish community.

I am here to make Judaism my own and explore my spirituality.

I am here to respect myself, this place, and others, putting my Jewish values into action every day.

I am here to create the best version of myself and to help you do the same.

I am here to make the most of every day, every situation, and every relationship with the people who are here with me.

אם אין אני לי, מי לי. וכשאני לעצמי, מה אני. ואם לא עכשיו, אימתי:

Im ein ani li mi li? U-ch sh'ani li'atzmi ma ani? Ve-im lo achshav, eymatai?
If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? If not now, when?
(Pirkei Avot 1.14)



WELCOME TO GFC

Each and every year, millions of young people attend summer camps. Their time at camp means having lots of fun, undertaking new adventures and experiences, and gaining life-long friends. It means learning life skills and acquiring an understanding of themselves within the context of a larger community.

Camp not only teaches the skills necessary to play ball and swim, but also teaches the independent living skills necessary to make one's way in the world. Campers not only learn how to make their beds and take care of their belongings, but also how to negotiate differences with fellow campers and determine the correct course of action when faced with choices.

When you set all of this fun and learning in a beautiful outdoor environment, you have a unique experience -- residential summer camping.

You have chosen the URJ Greene Family Camp for your child for this coming summer. This creates a partnership between you and us. This valuable and necessary partnership is instrumental in ensuring a wonderful and successful camp experience for your child.

Jewish camps definitely have an impact on the lives of participants -- on their personal and career choices, on their attitudes and opinions about society and their role within it, on who they are and how they choose to live their lives. Jewish summer camps are a source of Jewish memories, and all of our children should be given the opportunity to share in these experiences. Camp is an unforgettable religious, cultural, recreational, and emotional experience. Since 1976, the URJ Greene Family Camp (GFC) has served all of the Reform congregations in Texas and Oklahoma. Through both summer and year-round programs, the Camp provides opportunities to grow and learn while making Jewish friends from across our region.



There are a number of secrets to the success of GFC. First of all, the campers and their families are unshakable in their commitment that GFC will be a Jewish camp. Second, GFC offers a very fine balance between education and recreation. Recreational activities are designed so that everyone participates. GFC places a strong emphasis on personal growth and positive self-image. Finally, GFC provides a well-supervised and structured community.

But it's really our program staff...

GFC takes a great deal of pride in its staff members. The Staff is comprised of college students, graduate students and professionals in varying fields. They come from our region, across the country, and around the world, including a delegation from Israel – *shlichim* or “ambassadors”. The staff partake in various training opportunities prior to their arrival in Bruceville. They arrive at camp up to 14 days prior to the campers' arrival. This time is spent in a pre-summer Staff Orientation program, preparing activities and organizing materials. The Staff also participates in an ongoing in-service staff-training program throughout the summer. Staff members provide a stable and caring home for the campers throughout the summer.



Most of our staff members are individuals who spent many of their previous summers as GFC campers. They grew up at camp, and we are hoping that many of this summer's campers will one day follow in their footsteps and become members of the GFC staff.

In addition to our counselors and specialists, GFC boasts a specially trained safety and security staff, a health care staff of medical professionals and a support staff of kitchen personnel, maintenance workers, housekeepers, and administrators.

One of the unique elements of our staff is the large group of visiting clergy and other professionals from congregations and partner organizations in throughout our region. Rabbis, cantors, educators and youth professionals spend a week at camp. They are not only a key to our education program, but they are very visible adult role-models for our campers and our staff. They participate in and help lead activities throughout camp in all areas; you'll see them in arts & crafts, on the sports fields, and even at the pool and lake.

And now, a word from our sponsor...

The [Union for Reform Judaism](#) itself is the umbrella organization of the Reform movement in North America. Central to Reform doctrine is: the belief in one God; pluralism, including equality between men and women in all religious rituals and practices; the autonomy of the individual and finally the importance of Tikkun Olam (repairing the world). As a URJ camp, these principles are upheld in our camp environment. Overall, the URJ believes that camp is an extension of the Jewish home and synagogue. In essence, camp serves as a model Jewish community which upholds the values and beliefs determined by the lay leadership of the URJ. Part of the job as a staff member at camp is to implement those ideals.

Starting with its first regional camp in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin (1951), the Union for Reform Judaism found that its summer camps offer their participants challenging experiences in Jewish religious living.

In essence, the Camps serve as model Jewish communities, with a set of values determined by the URJ and implemented by the Camp personnel engaged to administer the program (i.e. the counselors, unit heads, specialists, assistant directors and camp director). In a very real sense, the Camp's tone and religious and cultural programs are made manifest by the staff.

The fourteen URJ Camps are administered under the auspices of the URJ Youth Division. Other programs offered by the Youth Division include the North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY), the national youth movement. Our local region, NFTY-TOR, serves Texas and Oklahoma. The NFTY in Israel office offers a full range of overseas programs in Israel and Europe.

The URJ's North American Camp Commission is responsible for developing new camp-sites, maintaining national operating and program standards, and ensuring the efficient and safe use of facilities. Greene Family Camp, and each of the other sixteen URJ Camps also has a local Camp Committee composed of professional and lay members of the region's member synagogues. The seventeen URJ Camps are:

Kutz Camp Institute – *Warwick, NY*
Camp Newman – *Santa Rosa, CA*
Joseph Eisner Camp Institute – *Great Barrington MA*
Camp Harlam – *Kunkletown, PA*
Camp Coleman – *Cleveland, GA*
Olin-Sang-Ruby Camp Institute – *Oconomowoc, WI*
Crane Lake Camp – *West Stockbridge, MA*
Myron S. Goldman Union Camp Institute – *Zionsville, IN*
Henry S. Jacobs Camp – *Utica, MS*

Greene Family Camp – *Bruceville, TX*
Camp George – *Parry Sound, Ontario, Canada*
Camp Kalsman – *Arlington, WA*
Six-Points Sports Academy – *Greensboro, NC*
Six-Points Sports Academy – *Los Angeles, CA*
Six-Points Science Academy – *Boston, MA*
Six-Points Science Academy – *Los Angeles, CA*
Six-Points Creative Arts Academy – *West Chester, PA*



FUNDING

All URJ Camps are financially self-sustaining. Each of our camps also raises funds both for scholarships and for the enhancement of our program, buildings and equipment.

GFC enhances its programs and facilities through the generosity of our alumni and supporters. "The Friends of Greene Family Camp" is our annual giving campaign. We are also engaged in an ambitious capital campaign. Information on these and other giving opportunities can be found on our [development page](#).

In addition to our summer camp and [year-round programs and retreats](#), GFC is available for rent to other organizations. For more information, please call the camp or visit our [facility rental website](#).

Four Values at Greene Family Camp

At Greene Family Camp, we believe that everything we do is connected to four main values that are ever-present in Judaism and in life. We hope that by bringing these four values to the forefront of our minds, we will be better able to create and maintain a safe, fun, and Jewish environment and community for our campers and staff members from summer to summer.

GFC has many **features** – A modern, air-conditioned facility, two pools and a lake, comfortable camper cabins, great food, and more activities than almost any other summer camp. We feature a great facility, a wonderful program, and a super staff of Jewish role-models.

What makes GFC really worthwhile and transformative are its **benefits** – and those are explained through our four core values. Below is a rundown of those values and the desired outcomes for our community.

Myself – *Hineini* – הניני

- Community members will become more directly involved with the individuals of their community, family, and friends.
- Community members will learn to stand up for themselves and others.
- Community members will develop an appreciation for the unique contributions they can make.

Friendship – *Reut* – רעות

- Members of our community will live in an environment where relationship-building and friend-making are central - skills that they will learn and practice.
- Community members will learn what it takes to be a good friend and what obligations friends have to each other.
- Community members will create friendships that are deep and last a lifetime.

Respect – *Kavod* – כבוד

- Community members will develop enhanced self-respect and self-confidence.
- Community members will develop enhanced respect for elders and others, and a greater appreciation for what they have.
- Community members will develop enhanced respect for the natural environment in which we live.

Jewish People – *Am Yisrael* – עם ישראל

- Community members will proudly identify as a “member of the tribe” and appreciate the importance of the Jewish people and the State of Israel.
- Community members will more likely continue to engage in Jewish family, synagogue and community life.
- Community members will have an understanding of the Jewish values of faith, inclusion and *tikkun olam* (pursuit of social justice).

Family Projects to Complete Before Camp

Read this Guide

Many of the questions that we are asked have answers in this Family Guide. Even if you are a veteran family, there is new information. If you are a new family, this Guide is an invaluable tool, complete with a chapter at the end just for you.

Complete Online Forms

Most of the forms below are completed online. You can login into the [CamplnTouch system](#) at any time to check the status of your account, make sure your contact information is up-to-date, and to complete the pre-summer forms.

All forms necessary for your camper(s) will be listed on your Forms Dashboard within your account. Please note that if you stop in the middle of completing one of the forms, what you have already entered will NOT be saved. It is important that you be prepared in advance to complete the forms.

Once you have submitted a form, you can review the information that you entered but you cannot edit it. You will have to get in touch with us if you want to change the information. For example, if you signed up for a Bus home and you want to cancel it or change to a different bus, please send an email to gfc@urj.org or call 254-859-5411 for additional instructions.

Camper Information Form

The Camper Information Form must be completed for each individual child attending. This information will be very helpful for the camper's counselors, and it will contribute to the best summer possible. You will need:

- The names and all phone numbers for your two summer emergency contacts.
- Your child's t-shirt size.
- Your camper's bunk requests - one child with whom they want to bunk.

Transportation Form

The Transportation Form must be completed for each individual child attending. **Whether campers are riding with parents, arriving or departing at an airport, or taking GFC charter buses, you need to complete this form.** If your camper will be picked up for a special event and returned to camp during the session, please email gfc@urj.org in advance with departure and arrival dates and times. This also applies to early departure at the end of a session. Only a parent may sign out a camper in the absence of written permission from that parent.

Activity Forms

The Activity Form must be completed for campers in Shorashim, Niviim, Kohanim, Shoftim, Melachim, and S'ganim. This is the form that you fill out to choose some of your own daily activities. We have some new activities, so make sure that you look through the catalog before registering.

The Horseback Riding Release is required for campers interested in riding during their session. Campers will sign up for, and parents will give permission to participate in, the horseback riding program with this form. This does not guarantee participation, but will allow your child to participate if they are eligible and interested. You can read and electronically sign the release on the online form. This form will only be listed on your Forms Dashboard if it is applicable to your camper (units Shoftim, Melachim, S'ganim, Kibbutz and Avodah).



Health and Medical Forms

Camper Health History: This is an ONLINE form that can be completed fully by a parent. You can provide a medical history, dietary restrictions, emotional concerns, and medication information. Please have your insurance information as well as immunization records available to provide information during completion.

URJ Vaccine Policy Acknowledgement: This form will provide you with our immunization policy and also serves as acknowledgement that you have reviewed and agree to comply with these guidelines. This form will be completed online.

Medical Examination Form: Please print this form and give it to your child's physician for completion. This form will need to be printed, completed by your child's physician, scanned, and uploaded back to your Camp-in-Touch account.

Insurance Card and Authorization to Treat Form: This form MUST be signed and serves an important purpose in case of an emergency while your child is at camp. We do need the insurance card information provided on the form. This form will need to be printed, completed, scanned and uploaded to your account. Your camper also needs to sign this form acknowledging their participation at camp.

Packing List

[Click here for GFC Packing List.](#) This should be filled out while packing and sent to camp in the luggage. Keep a copy at home. *Please note: there is a special section for Kibbutz on this form.*

Pre-Summer Resources

[Click here for more Camp Information](#)

The 2018 Family Guide, Ready-For-Camp Checklist, Info for New Parents and Campers, links to all of the forms, and lots of other information is now available on our website. As we approach the summer, additional resources to help you prepare will be included on this site.

Finances

Your invoice is also available through your [CampInTouch account](#). It includes camp tuition charges. It also includes payments that you have made and camperships that you have received that we know about. You can pay your balance by printing the statement and sending it with a check to us at POB 1468, Bruceville, Texas 76630, or you can pay your account by [credit card online](#).

All balances are due on May 1. If you paid your deposit with a credit card, you will be reminded prior to that date, and your balance will be charged to that card the week of May 1. Please ensure the credit card saved in your account is accurate and up to date.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please email gfc@urj.org or give us a call 254-859-5411 and we will be happy to assist you. Visit our website, www.greene.org. We will be updating it regularly with exciting information about the summer ahead.

OPENING DAYS

Session One **Sunday, June 17, 2018**
Shorashim **Sunday, June 17**
Bonim **Sunday, July 1**

Session Two **Sunday, July 15, 2018**
Shorashim **Sunday, July 15**
Bonim **Sunday, July 29**

Parents have always been welcomed and encouraged to bring their campers to GFC on opening day, and that has become the GFC tradition. Opening Day provides the opportunity to see the Camp, and to meet the Director, Staff, and Counselors. A [map to camp](#) and video guides are on our website.

We really believe that there is great value in the family being here together to start camp, and we want to encourage you to come and meet the counselors and visit camp.

Arrival times are planned to allow time for check-in, eating lunch, meeting staff, and getting settled. Families will be met at the front gate and directed to the luggage and parking areas. Luggage will be tagged and transferred to trucks for cabin delivery after a brief security screening and interview. All cars must remain in the parking lot until parents are ready to depart.

Opening Day Schedule:

The entire GFC Team has worked to develop a number of changes to opening day. We eliminated some of the lines that occur when large groups of campers and their families arrive at camp early and all at the same time.

- Cars will arrive and park.
- Luggage will be unloaded, tagged, and moved to the camper cabins.
- Families will check-in.
- Camp clothing and other items (hats, T-shirts, etc.) will be available for purchase.
- The Camp's medical staff will screen each camper and collect campers meds.
- Parents will help their campers move into their bunks.
- A buffet lunch for campers, parents, and visitors will be served in the *Chadar Ochel* (Dining Room).

There will also be an orientation for first-time parents of first-time campers, and everyone else is invited. Meet the camp directors and members of the camp administration.



CLOSING DAYS

Session One **Tuesday, July 10, 2018**
Shorashim **Tuesday, June 26**
Bonim **Tuesday, July 10**

Session Two **Tuesday, August 7, 2018**
Shorashim **Tuesday, July 24**
Bonim **Tuesday, August 7**

If someone other than a parent is picking up your child(ren) on closing day, please let the Camp know ahead of time and in writing. This is for the protection of the camper. These individuals should be prepared to show ID.

Charter Bus for Closing Days

Buses will not operate TO GFC on Opening Day. We feel it is important for parents to visit camp and meet the counselors at the beginning of the summer.

Buses will operate FROM GFC to Dallas and Houston on Closing Day of Sessions One & Two and Bonim. The cost for this service is \$50.00. Payment must be made after filling out the Transportation Form to reserve a seat. Bus reservations or cancellations of existing reservations made less than 14 days prior to your camper's Closing Day will result in a \$10 charge. Members of the Camp staff will accompany the campers and we will provide sack lunches for the trip.

There are no charter buses for the Shorashim closing days (June 26 and July 24).

Airline Information for Opening and Closing Days

There is a \$50.00 charge per trip for picking up or dropping off campers at Dallas Love Field, the same as the cost for a charter bus trip, and you should sign up on the Transportation Form. A \$30 charge per trip is applicable for picking up or dropping off campers at the Waco Regional Airport.

Please note that the Dallas Love Field operation is ONLY for campers FLYING in and out of the airport. It is not a drop-off location for Dallas-Ft Worth area families.

Dallas Love Field via Southwest Airlines

The Camp arranges for GFC staff members to meet Southwest Airlines flights into and out of Dallas Love Field (DAL). They will help your camper claim luggage, and wait with them until a GFC driver arrives to pick them up and bring them to camp. You need to make your own reservations and purchase your own airline tickets. Any tickets/flight information/cell phones will be collected on arrival at camp, and stored safely until session's end. Please let us know flight numbers and arrival times at least two weeks prior to Opening Day. This information is included on the Transportation Form.

- **Arrange for flights to arrive at Dallas Love Field between 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM on Opening Day.**
- **Arrange for flights to depart from Dallas Love Field between 2:30 PM and 4:00 PM on Closing Day.**

Waco Regional Airport via American Airlines, Delta Airlines or United Airlines

Campers who are arriving from cities *not* served by Southwest Airlines into Love Field Airport (DAL) should plan to fly American or United Airlines into the Waco Regional Airport (ACT). Parents should be aware that the airline offers a service to meet flights and help children make connections through Dallas (American) or Houston (United).

- **Arrange for flights to arrive at Waco Regional Airport between 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM on Opening Day.**
- **Arrange for flights to depart from Waco Regional Airport between 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM on Closing Day.**



Activities Catalog

At GFC, campers participate in a wide variety of athletic and recreational activities. All of our activities seek to strike a balance between skill development and personal enjoyment, and a constant effort is made to meet the needs and wants of the campers.

The Activities Catalog is meant to give campers the opportunity to participate in the planning of their summer prior to their arrival at camp; *Shorashim, Niviim, Kohanim, Melachim and S'ganim* campers choose the actual activities that they will participate in while at GFC. Having campers register for activities in advance allows us to purchase supplies, assign staff and plan activities appropriately.

Bonim campers will participate in a variety of activities around camp with their bunk and counselors. Participants in this session will not sign up for activities prior to the summer.

NOTE: There are a limited number of spaces available for each activity, so complete your activity sign-up form as soon as possible. If there are not enough campers signed up for an activity, it may not be offered. However, on many evenings there will be the opportunity for each camper to choose an activity for that evening. See *Chufsha* under **The Daily Schedule** for more details.



Each unit's activity schedule is different and is designed to meet the needs of each age group.

The staff members who lead and supervise each activity have had experience in their specific activities. Some of our specialists are counselors living in our bunks with the campers. Some are hired specifically for their skills and spend most of their day engaged with their activity areas. Many have professional certification in their areas of expertise.

Making Your Selections

The Activity Form asks campers to select four activities for each activity period (Chug and Hagigah). Of these, we will schedule three. The order of the activities on the Form does not indicate 1st choice, 2nd choice, etc. We will do our very best to honor 3 of the camper's 4 preferences, but many activities have limited space.

First, take a look at all of the activities in the Activity Catalog (coming soon...).

Then, choose your activities on the Activity Form. This form is located on the Forms Dashboard of your [Camp In Touch account](#).

THE THINGS THAT YOU BRING

- **Clothing List & Inventory** - A suggested list is available on the [GFC forms website](#), under “Additional Information”. Please look over it carefully and adapt it to your needs. An attempt should be made to send old clothing to camp. **Bonim campers should follow the same clothing list.** Please ensure that your camper comes to camp with at least two hats and a water bottle. Hats and water bottles are mandatory for health and safety reasons.

As you are packing, fill out the packing list with the amounts of everything being packed. At the end of the summer, it will serve as a reminder of everything packed. We will make every attempt to reunite campers with their possessions prior to leaving. Remember that a major goal of camp is to help prepare campers for independent living. Learning to care for personal things is an important part of camp.

- **Luggage** - Campers should bring their belongings to camp in soft sided luggage that can fit under the bed when unpacked. This creates more open space in the cabins. We request that everyone bring only soft-sided luggage.

DO NOT bring plastic drawers! They break, they open while being transported, and most importantly, they have become a major safety hazard. They take up valuable floor space and people trip over them.

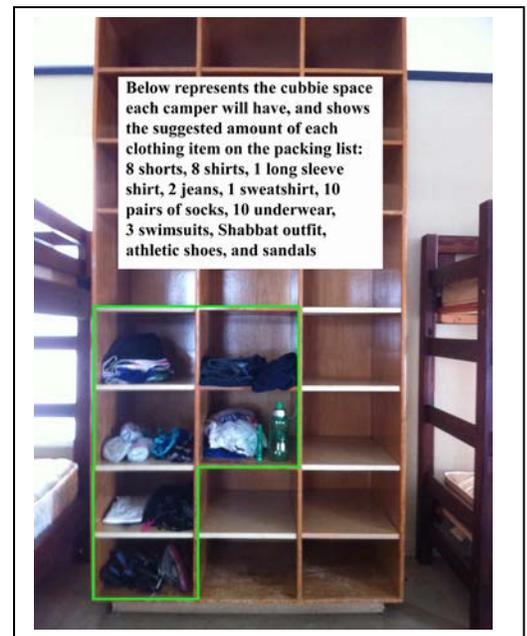
INSTEAD – We provide more cubby space in the cabins! We recently changed the configuration of our cubbies in the cabins. All of the space for hanging clothing moved to the cabin foyer. The cubbies inside the cabin are now a uniform size and every camper is assigned an equal amount of storage space.

- **A Word about Water** – Many campers and staff have brought their own water to camp in disposable plastic bottles. The water in camp is provided by the Bruceville-Eddy Municipal Water Company and is a thoroughly tested and regulated utility. We want campers drinking more water per day than they could possibly bring to camp with them. The water brought on opening day takes up valuable storage or floor space, and is a tripping hazard.

DO NOT bring cases of water to camp!

INSTEAD – We have added more drinking stations and water fountains around camp.

- **Laundry** - The clothing list is based on a ten-day supply. We attempt to do all campers’ laundry at least once each week – every five to seven days. Laundry is done by bunk. Each bunk separates their laundry into darks and whites and sets it on the porch for pickup. The laundry is then washed, dried, folded and returned to the bunk later in the day for sorting by the campers and staff. **All clothing and other belongings must be clearly marked with the camper’s full name.** This may be done with a laundry-marking pen, or sew-on or iron-on labels.
- **Shabbat** – “Shabbat Whites” have been a tradition in Jewish Camping for decades, and we made it even stronger at our camp – almost everyone wears white. It is something so special that brings the entire camp community together. **Please bring white clothing for Shabbat.** This means a white outfit such as white shorts & shirt or white skirt & blouse. This can also mean pairing a white shirt with khakis or jeans. White GFC T-shirts are great for Shabbat.
- **Appropriate Attire** - **Parents, please make sure that your child does not bring inappropriate clothing to camp.** Please monitor what your child packs and brings. Your child will be asked to change out of inappropriate clothing. Parents, remember that this is a summer camp for children and ensure that the clothing that you send is appropriate in whatever way you define it. If it is not appropriate for school or synagogue, it is not appropriate at camp. Here are our specific requests:
 - Watch the messages, ads and drawings on T-shirts. No profanity, or ads for tobacco, alcohol, etc.
 - Excessively revealing bathing suits, skirts, shorts and tops are becoming an increasing problem at camp. We instituted a new swim suit policy with our staff and campers, with great success. We are asking our full community to follow the policy. Please ensure your camper’s swim suits are appropriate for camp. ([full policy](#))



Parents: You are buying the clothing and can exercise your judgment in what your children will wear.

- Campers will not be allowed to wear shoes with wheels in the heels, shoes with open backs, or high heel shoes. All footwear must attach at the heel. Flip-flops and Crocs can ONLY be worn in the bunk.
- **Valuables** - Campers are asked to leave all articles of value at home as the Camp is absolutely NOT responsible for any camper's belongings. There is no need for jewelry or expensive items at camp. Campers will not need cash during the summer. The camp will cover all expenses for all field trips. *Kibbutznikim* can bring \$50 for their out-of-camp field trips.
- **Canteen** - Should a camper need more toothpaste, shampoo, soap, etc., we will have a supply of "sample-size" sundries available free-of-charge until a refill can arrive from home. Film, batteries, stamps, etc. will not be available. Please try to send enough of these to last for the entire session. Camp clothing can be purchased on opening days in the registration area. During the session, each camper will receive two GFC T-shirts.
- **Mamtak** - Three days each week, campers may go to the canteen for a snack food item or a soft drink. These special treats are included in the camp fee.
- **Electronics** – Over the last few years, a discussion has been growing about electronics in summer camps. Based on our post-summer survey, where many GFC parents have voiced a preference that the camp becomes technology free, we are continuing with our successful technology policy. Here is a summary of that policy ([full policy](#)):

Along with all URJ camps, we have never allowed cell phones of any kind ("smart" or not), television sets, DVD players, laser pens, or laptop computers. We do not allow our campers to access the internet.

Like many URJ camps, we are adding video games, e-readers, and tablets to the list – anything with a screen/touch screen should remain at home and not come to camp. Electronic games (and tablets and e-readers that provide games, videos, internet access, etc) have become the major source of conflict and division in bunks. They take time away from the person-to-person interactions that everyone wants for our campers.

You may bring MP3 players without a screen or CD players for use only in your cabin at specific times. You can also bring a simple digital camera. In the interests of safety and privacy, however, no pictures are allowed inside the bunks. Camp does not assume any responsibility for items lost, broken, or borrowed.

- **Shipping** - If your camper will be flying to camp and you don't want to check your luggage with the airline, or if you have limited room in your car, you should plan to ship your luggage ahead of time via the US Postal Service, UPS or FedEx Ground. Please plan for baggage arrival at least four days prior to opening day. Inform us of your plans on the Transportation Form.

If you are shipping anything to camp, it should be shipped to the camp's PHYSICAL address – 1192 Smith Lane, Bruceville, TX, 76630. (Please do not ship luggage to our P.O. Box. UPS and Federal Express will not deliver to a P.O. Box.). If you would like your luggage picked up on closing day camp by one of these services, please call them to arrange for pickup at camp.

- **Lost and Found – Please label all items!!**
The Camp cannot assume responsibility for lost or damaged items. During the camp season, items misplaced around camp will be brought to the Lost-and-Found in front of the dining hall. If there is a name on the item, we will often attempt to locate that camper and return the item. Items left at camp will be stored for several weeks and made available for families wishing to retrieve them. There is a much better chance of finding misplaced items if they are labeled with the camper's name. All items not claimed within 30 days after the final session of camp will be donated to a charitable institution.

If you have lost and found items that you would like us to check on, please email gfc@urj.org . Give us as detailed a description as possible of the item and where and when it may have been left. Make sure you include your name, your campers name and a contact phone number. (Tip: If you are still sending disposable cameras, label them). Postage will be charged to the family.

Communicating with Your Campers and Your Camp

Contacting the Camp

Office: (254) 859-5411 Fax: (254) 859-5225

General E-mail: gfc@urj.org

Mailing address:

URJ Greene Family Camp

P.O. Box 1468

1192 Smith Lane

Bruceville, TX 76630

Summer office hours are:

Sunday-Friday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM CST

Saturday 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM CST

The telephone is answered 24 hours a day, seven

days a week for emergency calls. Voicemail is also checked at least once each evening.



We will be happy to answer any questions you might have at any time during the summer. Your concerns about your child's welfare are ours as well. Parents are welcome to call the camp during the summer to find out how their campers are doing. After we receive your call, your camper's Counselor, Unit Head, or the Camper Care Team will call you back, usually the same day within a few hours. Camp is a very busy place. Please bear with us if a response is not immediate.

Remember, "*No news is good news!*" If you do not hear from us, you should assume that everything is going well. You will be contacted if there is an issue.

In case of an emergency concerning your camper's health, we will inform you immediately. We do not call home if the problem is not of a serious nature.

We ask that you do not contact any of your child's counselors directly by e-mail. We ask instead that you contact our Camper Care team regarding your child's summer experience. They can be reached by calling the camp office (254-859-5411) or by e-mail at gfc@urj.org.

Mail To and Mail From Camp

It is strongly recommended that parents write to their campers at least three times a week. A card or letter, arriving regularly, does more for camper morale than anything else. If a camper receives no mail from a parent for five days, we will call home.

The Camp tries to ensure that campers mail letters to their parents at least two times each week. It is a required activity. Please send some stamped, pre-addressed envelopes to camp with your camper. Two days each week are designated as letter days when we encourage campers to write a letter home. This is our way of trying to ensure that you receive a regular letter from your camper. **Remember to send your camper with stationary, envelopes, and stamps.**

Addressing envelopes before camp might be helpful to your camper.

E-mail and Photo Gallery

As we have done in the past, you may also e-mail your camper through your CampInTouch account, as well as view photos via the online photo gallery.

Prior to the camp session, you will receive additional information about the Summer Services within your Camp In Touch account. We have photographers constantly snapping pictures at GFC. The photos are uploaded once each day. The upload time depends on the photographer's schedule and the data transmission speed of our internet connection on any given day. We try to get every camper's picture onto our site, but some campers run towards the camera and some run away. Please be patient!



Care Packages

We discourage the shipping of packages containing “trinkets”. We have discovered that most of the waste, litter, and rubbish generated in our cabins comes from the contents and shipping materials of “care packages”. We would like to better model sustainable living by not consuming as much. We encourage you to send an occasional magazine or small meaningful gift but remember that an interesting and interested letter or email is the best care package. **A more thorough package policy will be updated and sent to parents prior to the summer.**

When packages are received at camp, we positively identify any sender. If a package arrives with no return address, it will be discarded. **When a camper receives a package (anything larger than a basic letter-size envelope), it is opened and searched. We are looking for items that might affect camper safety. We are also looking for food and chewing gum.** Food and chewing gum are not allowed in the interest of camper health and safety (including cabin cleanliness and pest control). We do not allow snack food in the bunks since bugs like it, too. This includes packages addressed from camper parents to counselors.

Again, the best care packages are interesting and interested letters on a regular basis.

A Word about Birthdays

Birthdays are fun celebrations at camp. We present a decorated, personalized birthday cookie-cake, a birthday button, sing a birthday song, and have decorations. Feel free to send a birthday present or package to camp through our Camper Care team. **Please do NOT send birthday cake or other treats.**

Our Web Site & Blog

We understand that the occasional letters from campers may not be enough to keep you fully informed about what is going on at camp. Therefore we will be updating our website, www.greene.org, regularly throughout the summer. You will find updates from our staff, pictures of camp activities and other special summer features. You can even check the weather at camp and view our summer menu at any time. We update this information constantly throughout the session, so please check the website often.

GFC Blog – <http://greene.org/blog/>

Facebook – <http://www.facebook.com/urjgfc>

Twitter – <http://twitter.com/urjgfc>

Instagram – <http://instagram.com/urjgfc/>

Health & Safety

- **Health House** - While we hope and expect that most campers will stay healthy throughout the summer, occasionally they do get ill or injured at camp. We have a professionally staffed infirmary.
- **Medications** - Campers requiring medications on an on-going basis while at camp receive them in the dining room during meals and in the infirmary at night. Regular medication times are breakfast, lunch, supper and bedtime. If your camper takes bedtime meds, and they can be given at supper instead, we recommend that your physician specify that, so they don't have to miss any of the evening activities. Allergy and other injections are usually given at night. Please let us know specifics on the Medical Form.



The only medications that will be allowed at camp are those prescribed by a doctor. **Over-the-counter drugs will not be accepted unless prescribed by your child's physician. This includes vitamins, herbal remedies, etc.** We will return any excess medication to you at the end of the session.

If your child has seasonal allergies and occasionally uses antihistamines or decongestants, these allergies may flare up at camp. You may want to ask your physician to prescribe that these be taken on a regular, daily basis.

More information about medication and our medical procedures will be available closer to the summer on our website and will also be sent to parents prior to the summer.

- **Sick Call** - Sick call is held twice every day. With the nurse's recommendation, the camper may see the doctor after the meal at the infirmary. If the doctor prescribes a course of medication (antibiotics, etc.), then we will call home. Parents will be billed for these prescriptions.

If a camper becomes a "frequent-flyer" (a consistent visitor to sick call) we will phone home. Usually, this involves five or more visits to the health house involving complaints for which our medical staff is unable to make a definitive diagnosis.

Campers who are running a fever or show other symptoms of illness will stay overnight in the infirmary to decrease the chance of passing along the bug. If your child is confined to the health house for more than one night due to minor illness or injury, we will call home.

- **Out-of-Camp Care** - If your camper is taken to the hospital for illness or injury, you will receive a call from the hospital staff, requesting your permission for treatment. Of course, in the case of serious illness or injury, you will be notified immediately.

Situations and emergencies not handled at the Camp will be referred to [Scott & White Clinic and Hospital](#) or [McLane Children's Hospital at Scott & White](#) in Temple, Texas. They provide a full range of pediatric services and pediatric subspecialties as well as an emergency room. Should you need to reach them directly, their telephone numbers are:

Scott & White: (254) 724-2111

McLane Children's Hospital: (254) 724-5437

- **A note on health care costs** - If a camper requires medical attention from health care providers outside the Camp, the policy is as follows: For accident, injury, or illness, charges for physician's services, emergency room fees, medication, etc. will be billed directly to the camper's parents or their health insurance carrier as named on the Medical Form. For accidental injury, the Camp's accident insurance will cover costs above those reimbursements made by the parent's health insurance plan up to a maximum of \$2,500.00. All non-accident health care requirements will be at the parent's own expense. The insurance settlement must accompany all claims for health care reimbursement.

All campers and staff must carry health insurance during the time that they are at camp and come to camp on opening day with confirmation of their health insurance. If a camper is not covered, a policy must be obtained and in force during the camper's time at camp. It can be obtained through [Travmark Insurance](#)

- **Medical Departure** - If the Camp physician determines that a camper must leave camp for medical reasons prior to session's end, it is the parents' responsibility to pick up the camper at camp.
- **Food & Menu** – The Greene Family Camp is proud of our kitchen and the food that we serve. Our initial menu was developed through a menu survey. It is reviewed annually by camp staff and parents. Menus are also reviewed annually by a registered dietician for calorie count, healthfulness and balance. The menus are also available prior to the summer on our website for review by parents and friends. If you have any questions about the food at camp and our ability to provide for a camper's specific needs, please email gfc@urj.org and we will call you, write back to you, or refer you to our Dietician.

On a normal camp day, bunks sit together with their staff for all meals. Most meals are served buffet-style. Juice, hot & cold cereal, milk, fruit, and a hot entrée are always available at breakfast. For lunch and dinner we offer a variety of hot items as well as a soup and salad bar.

The Greene Family Camp is not a kosher facility, and we do not have a kosher kitchen or kosher plates and utensils. However, we do not serve pork, shellfish, or products containing them, and do not permit such products on campgrounds.

Whenever meat is served, a vegetarian option is offered. At least one snack is served every day. We are also able to accommodate campers on special, allergy or health-related diets. Please make us aware of your needs and requirements on the Health History Form and Camper Information Form.

- **Cabin & Unit Clean Up** – Responsibilities for this activity lie with the campers, under the supervision and with the help of the staff. Jobs are usually rotated among members of the bunk (counselors included) and there is a set of standards to be reached. The health and safety of the campers is contingent on a clean bunk. Inspections are made daily by the unit head and weekly "inspection winners" are duly rewarded. In addition to the camper's clean-up efforts, a daily cleaning and disinfecting of the bathroom is done by our housekeeping crew.



GENERAL POLICIES AND “HOUSE RULES”

“House Rules” For Parents

- There is no visitation during camp sessions. Visits by parents and relatives disrupt the Camp program and can initiate homesickness in other campers. Please inform grandparents, other relatives, and friends of this rule.
- Please do not call to talk to your camper. We cannot page campers to the phone. If we allowed phone calls, this would create a major source of homesickness at camp. These policies have made homesickness a rare event, so campers can spend most of their time and energy having fun.
- **There is no tipping at camp.** We feel that our salary structure and the rewards of working at camp adequately compensate our staff. Staff members have been instructed that it is against the policy of the Union for Reform Judaism to accept gratuities.
- While there is no dress code at Greene Family Camp, we discourage campers from wearing “inappropriate attire.” This particularly applies to T-shirts bearing ads for alcoholic beverages and cigarettes. It also includes bathing suits, skirts, shorts and tops that are particularly revealing. We urge all parents to monitor what their campers bring to camp.
- We are on a major anti-graffiti program at Camp and have spent \$20,000 to remove graffiti from our beds and furniture. Parents will be charged if their camper writes on or defaces camp property.

“House Rules” For Campers

- No camper is permitted to leave the Camp grounds or to be absent from any scheduled camp activity without permission from the Camp Director, nurse, or doctor.
- No boys are permitted in girls’ cabins, and no girls are permitted in boys’ cabins. No camper is permitted to violate the curfew hour for their unit.
- Campers will be held responsible for willful destruction of camp, public, or private property. This includes graffiti (see above). Parents will be asked to pay the repair costs for any damages or clean-up.
- The Camp Director reserves the right to expel any camper for infractions of camp rules or for consistent verbal or physical abuse of fellow campers and/or camp staff. A camper may be asked to leave due to intolerable behavior.
- Alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs are not permitted on camp grounds. No contraband is permitted in camp. Campers are not allowed to smoke cigarettes. State laws regarding minors are enforced. No weapons of any kind are permitted on camp.
- Laser pointers, cellular telephones, pagers, game devices and mobile internet devices are not permitted.
- The “House Rules for Campers” are focused on your child’s safety. Ignoring or disobeying these rules may result in a camper being asked to leave our program.

A General Note on Behavior at Camp

At camp, we try to create a fun and safe environment for everyone. When a camper’s behavior endangers the positive experiences of others at camp, we will take certain actions. We will attempt to change the behavior through discussions and other behavior modification attempts, including “*time-out*.” If these are not successful, we will contact you, the parent(s), for advice and suggestions. If your suggestions are also ineffective, we will set up a conversation between you and your camper.

Parents are encouraged to discuss the following topics with their campers prior to their session:

- Taking responsibility for one’s actions
- The inappropriateness of fighting, tripping, etc. at camp
- The use of inappropriate language
- Making new friends and sharing
- Trying new activities
- Listening to the staff members, particularly in areas regarding the camper’s health and safety.

A note from the Executive Director & Summer Camp Director:

With the Family Guide, you have become a real part of the process of “getting ready for camp.” Up until now, we here at GFC have been spinning our webs and making our plans. Now it’s your turn. Throughout the Camp season, we are struck by how much of a partnership the Camp endeavor really is each year. The partnership between the campers, their parents, and the staff continues with your part in preparing your camper physically and emotionally for the upcoming summer season.

Physically “getting ready for camp” means assembling all of the necessary clothing and supplies. This is probably the easiest part of the process, but the one over which many families experience the most anxiety and on which they spend the most time.

Prior to camp, parents have the opportunity to help their children succeed emotionally. A positive mental attitude can be the key to an easy adjustment to camp. This is true not only for new campers, but for veterans as well. All of the online forms should be filled out as a joint project of campers and their parents. They open up some great avenues for discussion about the summer. Camper’s concerns about health as well as homesickness and other concerns can be openly discussed while completing the Online Camper Information Form. Campers can become excited about the summer when they fill out their Activities Sign-Up Form.

As parents, we have to empathize with and imagine what concerns might be going through our camper’s mind: “Will I make friends? Will my counselors be nice? Will I have fun? Will I be taken care of?” Parents need to strike a careful balance. The balance is between soft-pedaling a camper’s real concerns and amplifying them through additional parental concern and discussion, such as “I am sure that you’ll miss us when you are away.” “Be encouraging” -- that should be our motto as parents.

Once your child is at camp, the best people to deal with his or her adjustment to camp are the cabin counselors, unit heads, camper care team, camp director, and the rest of the staff. Most of our staff members have been to camp before and remember what it was like. They all participate in a seven-day orientation prior to camp to study counseling techniques, problem solving, group dynamics and much more. They participate in an ongoing staff in-service training program throughout the summer as well. If you have cause to be concerned about your child at camp, please let us know so that we can deal with those issues before they become problems.

During Staff Certification, we attempt to instill in our staff the following motto: “Every camper is the most important person in the world.” We know that every camper is the center of someone’s universe, and we want everyone to leave here with the sense that they have done something worthwhile, that they have grown, and that they can feel better about themselves and of what they are capable. Like almost everything else in life, what campers get out of camp will depend heavily on what they put into it. You as parents can help prepare your children to invest a lot in their own camp experience; you are certainly investing in it!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns before, during, or after the summer, please feel free to call us directly. We’re looking forward to the summer, and know that you are, too.

--Loui Dobin, Executive Director

--Stefani Rozen, Summer Camp Director



Non-Discrimination Statement - Rules for acceptance and participation in the program are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, age, sex, handicap, or national origin.

Louis J. Dobin	Executive Director	State of Texas
Stefani Rozen	Summer Camp Director	Camp License Number
Rabbi Andrew Terkel	Year Round Programs Director & Camp Rabbi	155-001
Larry Nathan	Director of Advancement	Federal Tax ID Number
Jessica Dangott	Assistant Director	75-1528433
Emily Caulfield	Assistant Director	American Camp Association
Mindy Michaels	Assistant Director/NFTY-TOR Regional Advisor	Accredited Camp & Approved Site
Ethan Lane-Miller	Assistant Director	
Michele Ozer	Assistant Director, Marketing and Communications	
Linda Matthews	Business Manager	
Rose Allbright	Registrar & Office Manager	
Jonell Strickland	Food Service Manager	
Francesca Martinez	Housekeeping Manager	
Andres Vasquez	Plant Operations Manager	
Carol Margolis	Camp Committee Chairman	
Mark Levine	Camp Committee Vice-Chairman	
Rabbi Alan Freedman	Rabbinic Advisor	

FEEDBACK

After your summer session, you will receive an invitation to fill out an evaluation form on line. At that time please take a few moments with your camper to fill it out as completely as possible.

Camp Directors almost never hear enough from parents after the camp session ends. It is important for the Director to hear suggestions, as well as compliments. Camp is a dynamic institution in which changes are implemented regularly. Let the camp director know what you liked and disliked about camp. Your opinion is important and appreciated. It helps the camp better serve its community.

We would like to thank the following for their contributions to our Family Guide:

Loui Dobin, Stefani Rozen, Jessica Dangott, Michele Ozer, Scott Braswell, Rabbi Ana Bonnheim, Rose Allbright, April Grogan, Linda Shirley, Jonathan Cohen, MSW (Former Director, URJ Henry S. Jacobs Camp), Rabbi Ron Klotz (Former Director, URJ Goldman Union Camp Institute), Liz Anes Solka (Former Staff Member and Current Camper Parent), The American Camp Association