



## Campership Checklist – Summer 2023

### **Step 1: Read Steps 2-7.**

Familiarize yourself with what's required. Make notes. Ask questions.

### **Step 2: Register for camp.**

In order to for us to consider your request for assistance, please [register for camp](#).

### **Step 3: Apply for a One Happy Camper grant, if eligible.**

**First-time campers attending GFC for 23-days are eligible for a one-time, non-need based \$1,000 grant from *One Happy Camper*.** (Jewish day school students and campers attending 10-day Bonim sessions are ineligible.)

If that's all the assistance you need, register for camp, sign up for an OHC grant **and don't apply for a campership.**

To sign up, visit [One Happy Camper](#). If you're from San Antonio, contact the [Jewish Federation of San Antonio](#).

## □ **Step 4: Apply for a campership from GFC.**

Once you've registered for camp, [apply for a campership from GFC](#).

Before you begin, remember that:

- This year, you may apply for a campership from September 28, 2022 through December 31, 2022. Your application will be reviewed at the beginning of the month after it was received, and you will be notified of any financial assistance shortly thereafter.
- Financial assistance may not be available for those who apply after December 31, 2022.
- Your application cannot be saved, and thus must be completed in its entirety before submitting. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Again, if your child is eligible, apply for a \$1,000 non-need-based incentive grant from One Happy Camper, **which is separate from a GFC campership**.
- Narratives should be written and uploaded in Word (not as a PDF, text, PM, etc.). If yours is vague, has limited information or is incomplete, it will directly impact the amount of money you may receive.
- **Camperships are confidential.**

That said, GFC's campership application is very straightforward. We do not require tax returns or detailed financial information. Still, one of the most common questions families struggle with is, "How much do I ask for?" The answer begins by figuring out how much *you* can contribute.

**To do so, "Get to \$0."** In other words, start with the cost of camp, subtract what you can contribute, as well as what you hope to receive from our Funding Partners, and ultimately, what you hope to get from GFC. If everything works according to plan, your balance will be \$0.

For example:

- A 3 ½ week session costs \$5,295. You can afford to pay \$2,000, which means you need \$3,295 in financial assistance.

- You receive a \$1,000 One Happy Camper grant. You now need \$2,295.
- Next, you request \$500 from your synagogue and \$500 from your local Federation or Jewish community foundation. You now need \$1,295.
- You request \$1,295 from GFC.

There's no guarantee that you'll receive the amount of assistance you request. But getting to \$0 in your application shows that you are realistic and honest about your financial need. Asking for more than is necessary shows that you're not.

Keep in mind that the minimum amount you're required to contribute for a 23-day session is \$1,000 per camper and \$500 per camper for a 10-day session.

That said, please don't give the minimum if you can contribute more than what's required. This way we can award more money to more families with greater financial need. Similarly, don't ask for the maximum amount (\$1,500 per full-session camper and \$750 per 10-day camper) if you need less.

**Again, contribute what you can and ask only for what you need.**

## □ **Step 5: Apply for additional assistance from at least two Funding Partners.**

GFC awards approximately \$250,000 in camperships and incentive grants every year. Still, we rely on the generosity of our Funding Partners, like synagogues, federations, and foundations to provide additional help to families like yours.

**So when you apply to GFC, please also apply for scholarship from at least two of our Funding Partners.** In other words, don't apply to your synagogue and local federation and wait for an answer before applying to GFC. Doing so puts you at risk of missing our deadline. Apply to GFC, your congregation, and any other funding you qualify for **at the same time**. And again, our Funding Partners have deadlines, too, so don't delay!

For a list of GFC's Funding Partners, [click here](#).

If you aren't a member of a synagogue or live in a city or town that does not provide summer camp scholarships, don't worry. You can still apply for assistance from GFC by reaching out to Jewish Children's Regional Service and your synagogue (if you're a member).

The amount of scholarship awarded from our Funding Partners varies. That's why your best bet, again, is to "Get to \$0" by being realistic about what you can contribute and budgeting appropriately.

## **Step 6: Don't wait to apply for financial assistance.**

We can't emphasize this enough. If you don't apply to your congregation or our Funding Partners before their deadlines, you run the risk of not being able to afford camp. And chances are, if you miss one deadline, you'll miss most, if not all the deadlines, and GFC cannot make up the difference. So even if you aren't sure you can afford to send your child to GFC this summer, register for camp and apply for a campership. You can always cancel and plan ahead for next year.

## **Step 7: Complete the Scholarship Checklist.**

- Yes, I've registered my child(ren) to attend GFC this summer!
- Yes, I've applied for a \$1,000 incentive grant from One Happy Camper (if eligible).
- Yes, I've applied for a campership from GFC.
- Yes, I've applied to at least two of the following Funding Partners:
  - Synagogue
  - Jewish Children's Regional Service
  - Federation
  - Jewish Community Foundation

We hope this helps! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Rabbi Erin Mason at [emason@urj.org](mailto:emason@urj.org).

Thank you!