



GFC JFAM Family Camp FAQs

URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) Greene Family Camp is excited to offer JFAM Family Camp three times a year, once in the fall and twice in the spring.

What is GFC JFAM Family Camp?

JFAM Family Camp is a weekend for just that- you and your family! Spend the weekend at Greene Family Camp (GFC) in Bruceville, Texas celebrating Shabbat, and enjoy quality time with your family, experience traditional camp activities, and more! Please read below for details including accommodations, meals, schedules and more.

When are GFC JFAM Family Camps?

- GFC JFAM Fall Family Camp- November 10-12, 2023
- GFC JFAM Winter Family Camp- February 9-11, 2024
- GFC JFAM Spring Family Camp April 12-14, 2024

Arrival time on Friday is between 4:00-5:00 PM, with dinner around 5:45. If a later arrival time is required, we are happy to keep food hot for you and just ask that you let us know your estimated time of arrival.

Where is Greene Family Camp?

URJ Greene Family Camp is about 30 minutes south of Waco and 1.5 hours north of Austin, on I35. The address is:

1192 Smith Lane
Bruceville, Texas 76730

GFC is nestled in Central Texas amongst hills, trees, and a lake. This natural setting provides our campers and families with the fullness of unsurpassed beauty and charm. We have multiple indoor and outdoor spaces, sports and arts facilities, beautiful scenery, and the best sunsets in Texas!

Where will My Family Sleep?

During Family Camp, you will be housed with your family unit. We have a variety of different accommodations depending on the size of your group – we will place you in the housing that is the best fit for your family. All housing is fully air-conditioned and has a private bathroom. Beds are a mix of queen, twin, and twin bunk beds.



Faculty Center 'Motel' Rooms: Each of these rooms contains either a queen bed, 2 twin beds, or a mix of both. Half of these rooms interconnect to a second room with a lock on either side- allowing for a "grown up room" and "kid room."



Staff Cabins: These cabins have Jack and Jill style rooms, with a shared bathroom between the two rooms. Each room has either a queen bed, or two twin beds.

Camper Cabins: Our camper cabins hold up to 14 people per side (bunk). Each cabin has 2 bunks, attached by a foyer and the restroom. Cabins are fully air-conditioned and have plenty of cubby space. Each bunk has 7 bunk beds, 2 shower stalls, and 2 toilets in stalls.

All accommodations will be based on family unit size, needs, and registration date. We will do our best to have a mini fridge in each room, but also have a shared full-size refrigerator in our Faculty Center.

Bedding and linens are included! If you need a Pack 'n Play or bed rails for smaller children, those can be provided upon request. We also provide monitors, inflatable baby bathtubs, and highchairs as needed. Prior to the weekend, we will ensure that we have the correct gear set aside for each family!

What Will We Eat?

Meals are important at GFC! All meals will take place inside our *chadar ochel* (dining hall).

Each meal will include hot items and choices for kids and picky eaters. We will also provide snacks available throughout the day and late-night snacks for grown-ups! All food is served kosher-style, meaning we do not serve pork or shellfish products and do not serve beef and cheese in the same dish. Our dining hall will offer space to relax and dine or to move around and play.

Sample menu for the weekend (subject to change):

- Friday Shabbat dinner: Fried and baked chicken, cooked vegetable, fresh challah, matzo ball soup, starch such as rice or potatoes, and brownies
- Saturday breakfast: challah French toast, scrambled eggs, turkey bacon or sausage
- Saturday lunch: grilled cheese and tomato soup
- Saturday dinner: Spaghetti and meatballs with cooked vegetables
- Sunday breakfast: pancakes and scrambled eggs

Breakfast also includes a cold breakfast bar containing cereal, milk, hot oatmeal, fresh fruit, cottage cheese, and more. Breakfast will be served at 8:00am each morning, but coffee and cereal is available beginning earlier for any early risers during our Family Camp.

Lunch and Dinner includes a salad bar with lettuce, a variety of freshly cut vegetables and toppings, beans, cheese, protein options, and dressings.



Sliced bread, sun butter, and jelly are also available at all meals, as well as a toaster.

Juice or tea and coffee is always available.

Snacks such as applesauce pouches, goldfish, granola bars, and fresh fruit will be available throughout the day. We will also have scheduled snacks during our programming.

Special dietary requests or allergies? We can accommodate most dietary restrictions, but please let us know ahead of time. Each meal will have gluten free, dairy free, and vegetarian options, but we are also happy to meet other dietary needs.

How 'Jewish' is GFC JFAM Family Camp?

Jewish camping has been a big part of Jewish American culture for the last century. Camp is a place where we can feel comfortable being our full self, whether that means being very connected to our Judaism or not. At the beginning of each meal, we will recite the *motzi* (blessing over bread) and will conclude our meals with a short version of the *Birkat HaMazon* (blessing over the meal).



On Friday nights over the summer, the entire camp community comes together dressed in white (as a symbol that Shabbat is a special time separate from the rest of the week) to recite blessings and eat dinner, then enjoy a special song session, outdoor Shabbat *tfillah* (prayer service), and Israeli dancing. However, during JFAM Family Camp, we know that most families may be tired upon their arrival on Friday evening, so Shabbat looks a little different. We will recite blessings over the candles, wine (grape juice), and challah, and then enjoy Shabbat dinner as a community, before a guided song session and bedtime. We will have prayer cards available with Hebrew and transliteration, as well as a translation, available whenever necessary.

On Saturday, we will have a family-friendly Shabbat torah service in the morning filled with song and movement. We welcome you to pray or participate to your comfort level. Our director, Rabbi Erin Mason, and our full-time staff are happy to answer any questions that may arise before or during the weekend about our Jewish practices.

What's Included in the Weekend?

This is an all-inclusive experience. Your registration will cover your room(s), meals, snacks, coffee, activities, programs, a t-shirt, etc.