Registration Information 2021

We are excited to be planning for an in-person program for Summer 2021! The health and safety of our families has always been and will remain our top priority as we work to open camp safely. Living with the new reality of COVID-19, elements of camp life will look different, but we are committed to delivering the same level of excellence in programming and camper care as we always have.

We know that the best practices surrounding COVID-19 are continually changing. We will remain responsive to ever-evolving standards and protocols both within the camping industry and as required by our federal and local governing bodies and will be as transparent as possible as our summer plans continue to take shape.

As we meaningfully consider every aspect of our program and operation, we have provided the following information to help you understand how we are planning for the summer ahead. We will continue to update this information as it becomes applicable as we work to welcome us all back to Maple Lake for Summer 2021.

For more general information, please visit our FAQ page.

**Dates and Session Structure**

Dates and Rates for Summer 2021 can be found on our website. Our session structure remains consistent with how camp has been structured the last few summers. Should camp need to make a change to any camper sessions prior to the summer, families will be notified and have the opportunity to cancel a session without penalty (including return of any deposit). You will also be eligible for this change of session refund for all children in your household who are registered at Camp regardless if the sessions of the sibling(s) were not changed.

**Fees, Payments and Cancellations**

Our 2021 fees and payment schedules can be found on our website. We are so grateful to those who were able to roll over their paid tuition towards 2021 enrollment. As long as the amount rolled over is equal to or above the enrollment deposit, those funds will be counted as your 2021 deposit and you will not need to pay an additional deposit fee when you enroll. Everyone, regardless of whether they forwarded credit or made a donation, will pay the 2021 fees and is required to submit a camper application for 2021.

Every year the tuition at camp increases due to rising operating costs and ongoing improvements and upgrades to our program. This year, we also anticipate additional expenses related to COVID-19 around staffing, equipment, testing, and more.
We will remain nimble and responsive to ever-evolving local standards and protocols. If camp is unable or elects not to open camp due to government regulations or if camp chooses not to open at its own discretion, you will receive a full refund, including the deposit, without penalty.

If camp is required to make a change to a camper session prior to summer, families will be notified in writing. Camp will provide an opportunity at that time for families to cancel their registration without penalty (including the return of any deposit).

Should a family decide to cancel on their own, all normal cancellation policies will apply.

The URJ Camps refund policy states that:

- **Cancellation before April 5, 2020** (by 90 days or more prior to the first session start date) – 100% of tuition is refundable except for the administrative deposit ($600).
- **Cancellation between April 5, 2021 and May 20, 2021** (90 days and 45 days prior to the first session start date) – 75% of tuition is refundable.
- **Cancellation after May 20, 2021** (by 45 days or less prior to the first session start date) – no refunds will be given unless stated below.
- Camp reserves the right to refund any eligible refund in multiple installments as determined by Camp.

Additional details on the refund policy can be found in our [Terms and Conditions](#).

The URJ Camps payment schedule is:

- **Feb 4, 2021** – (150 days prior to Camp’s first session start date) – 25% of tuition payment is due;
- **April 5, 2021** – (90 days prior to Camp’s first session start date) – an additional 50% of tuition payment is due (75% of tuition paid);
- **May 5, 2021** – (60 days prior to Camp’s first session start date) – final payment is due.

Should the session start date change, these specific dates would be modified to apply to the same schedule.

**PAYMENT PLANS**

Upon registering and paying the $600 deposit, families will have three options for payment:

1. Payment in full at the time of registration
2. Payment in three installments – January, March and April
3. Monthly payment between November and April

**COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS**

We are working to open camp safely and will be as transparent as possible as we further develop our summer plans. We anticipate that elements of camp will look different this year. Areas that are currently under examination include dining hall and health centre procedures, hygiene protocols, capacity and spacing, programming, supply and equipment needs, PPE availability, limiting individuals coming and going from camp, physical distancing requirements, housekeeping protocols, staffing, etc.
We know that the best practices surrounding COVID-19 are continually changing. We will remain responsive to ever-evolving local standards and protocols. We are working with a team of medical experts, including infectious disease doctors, to guide our decisions and revamp our protocols and procedures. We are also working in close coordination with the Ontario Camps Association and Foundation for Jewish Camp to gather learnings and insights from the field. We continue to closely monitor Health Canada and CDC guidelines.

**Registration Capacities**

As a precautionary measure, we will not be initially opening registration at full capacity. We are being mindful that COVID protocols may necessitate the need to maintain additional space in camp. We will be monitoring our numbers and our needs on an ongoing basis.

**Scholarships**

Applications for fee assistance will be accepted. Scholarships awarded from previous years will not carry forward. Families who wish to apply for assistance will submit new applications for Summer 2021. This applies to both the Camp George scholarship process and any One Happy Camper Grants. Please note that changes to the One Happy Camper Grant program for the Greater Toronto Area have been made. More information can be found on our fee assistance page.

**Camper Grade and Unit Placements**

We know that missing out on a whole summer at camp was challenging. While much was missed, campers should register for the unit that they should be in based on their current grade for the 2020/2021 school year. Every camper (including CITS) will move up to their appropriate unit this summer regardless of missing out on last summer.

**Trips**

Out of an abundance of caution, out of camp trips (canoe, trips, beach day, bike trips, etc.) may not be possible this summer. This also includes the annual CIT Rafting and Ottawa trip. Should conditions and restrictions allow, we will consider including trips in the schedule (applicable fees may apply).

**Visitors Day**

To protect our campers, staff, and our families, we will not be planning to host Visitor’s Days this summer. We will look forward to welcoming our families back to camp in a future summer!

**Guests and Faculty**

We are sensitive to the fact that any outside guests could present additional risks to the camp community. We will be evaluating all our visiting guests’ practices and policies and will update families as we have more information to share.

**Staffing**

We pride ourselves on having amazing staff whose focus is the care and wellbeing of our campers. This year will be no exception. We know that our staff are eager to return to Maple Lake. Staff will be trained in the latest health and safety precautions, including COVID training. Days off and staff excursions out of camp may have limitations. Each year we hire amazing international staff, from Israel and beyond, who
bring a wealth of skills and experience to our community. We are working closely with our international staffing agencies to continue this process. We will follow their lead with regards to restrictions, work permit allowances, etc. The same holds true for our American staff. Work permits and entry to Canada will depend on border restrictions for camp counselors and could, if required, include a quarantine period.

**MINI MENSCH PROGRAM**

Registration for our Mini Mensch Program does not open until mid-January. We will wait until the new year to determine if it will be possible for us to run the program. Space limitations and our capacity to welcome new campers mid-way through a session will all be considered.

**TRANSPORTATION**

We will be closely examining our transportation procedures. Health screening, camper arrival and departure by car, parent pick up for shorter sessions, and camper groupings on buses will all be considered. We anticipate some changes to our typical process and will keep families up to date as this become clearer.

**SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY**

We recognize that while a return to camp life is much anticipated and exciting, it also brings with its anxieties and concerns. Our campers and staff have lived anything but normal lives over number of months, some of whom may have suffered their own losses due to COVID. Changes to our camp program and routine will bring some unfamiliarity and adjustment. Our staff will be trained in supporting our campers and building community at this unusual time. Our top-notch Community Care Team made up of mental health care professionals, as well as our excellent Medical Team, will provide additional support to campers and staff. As always, we will communicate and partner with families as challenges arise. We know that the connection, routine, and support that camp life offers will be eagerly welcomed and is exceptionally important today for our campers and staff.

**STAYING CONNECTED YEAR ROUND**

We look forward to staying connected throughout the year. As always, we will be visiting congregations and running some year-round camper programs – albeit it largely virtual! Stay up to date with all that is happening through our website and social media channels.

We also encourage you to check out the URJ’s [RJ on the Go](https://www.reformjudaism.org/programs/rj-on-the-go) program that connects and offers amazing year round programming for families. One of the many benefits to you and your family when you join a camp community is that you are joining the broader URJ Reform Movement community, a global network of families like yours, synagogues, camps, scholars, artists, educators, leaders and organizations who are committed to creating a more just compassionate world through shared Jewish values. Be on the lookout for exciting updates and opportunities through RJ on the Go that will only be available to registered families!
THE CAMP GEORGE CONNECTION

We are grateful for the trust and support you have offered us, especially during this turbulent time. While we could not have imagined a year ago what 2020 would look like, our community proved its steady strength and resilience. We can’t wait to leverage our communal power as we come together for a summer like none other. Stay tuned for updates throughout the year and please be in touch any time with any questions you may have.

We are so excited to be planning for an amazing summer! We cannot wait to be with you on Maple Lake!