



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: You've announced JCamp Plus and that it includes a distance learning support program. What is that exactly?

A. JCamp Plus is an extension of the amazing JCamp program we have been offering for years now, but with all of the modifications for our current world. We recognize that many families are looking to continue camp programs before school is in session or once distance learning has begun.

For those looking for an opportunity to combine the fun of JCamp with distance learning, JCamp Plus will provide a safe environment for your grades K-5 children to attend virtual classes, and complete their educational requirements, while being in a social environment with access to a number of great JCamp activities. We will support them by helping them log on to classes, making sure they complete assignments, tracking their schedules, and providing physically distant activities when they are not participating in classes or school-related projects.

The program will give your child a sense of normalcy for the school year, providing a daily schedule and routine. Our team of counselors and staff will maintain a learning environment and a fun, camp-like atmosphere when not engaged in distance learning.

For more questions and answers about distance learning, please scroll down for more specific information.

Q: How are the children grouped and will they stay with their group with the same counselors? How many children are in a group?

A. The children will be grouped by grade in bunks. Campers will also be grouped by school when possible. We will base our group sizes on public health guidelines, a maximum of 12 children in a group with two counselors. While this cap may fluctuate, once formed we will keep changes to a minimum in order to maintain consistency, follow health regulations, and adhere to appropriate physical distancing.

Q: What are the safety precautions being taken and policies in regards to physical distancing and masks?

A. Staff will wear masks except when eating. Children are encouraged to wear masks all day but will only be required to do so during pick up, drop off and transition times. Our mask policy is subject to change based on evolving conditions.

In addition, our travel policy asks that all staff and families notify the Program Director in regards to any travel by the staff member, child, or someone residing with the child which involves travel outside the State of California, or in a bus, plane, train or boat. The Program Director must be notified a week prior to the trip, depending on the travel plan, a self-quarantine for 14 days, or negative Covid19 test result, may be required before the staff member or child can return to the program.

Q: What will the schedule look like?

A. Each day camper will begin the day with outdoor play as others arrive. The main program will run from 9am to 3:15pm. The day will include time for distance learning, if needed, art, music, snack, drama, games and a host of other activities to fill a camper's day and provide them with fun activities. JCamp Plus will conclude each day with a closing circle and physically distanced free play as campers are picked up between 3:15pm and 4 pm.

Q: Will food be available?

A. Participants will provide their own lunch. There will be kosher, nut free snacks provided.

Q: When are the deadlines to register?

A. Registration for each week of JCamp Plus, based on availability, must be made by the THURSDAY prior to the next week of camp. Late and walk up registration cannot be honored.

Q: How will you handle disciplinary issues?

A. The behavioral policy can be found in the JCamp Parent Manual.

Q: Will you offer scholarships?

A. Yes, there will be limited scholarships available to support our community as we recognize this was not something that families anticipated or budgeted for. Please send an email to Program Director, Edana Appel, eappel@westsidejcc.org to inquire about a scholarship for JCamp Plus.

Q: What will the schedule look like?

A. A camper's individual schedule will be based largely on their school schedule. However, based on what we know about school offerings, children will arrive between 8-8:50 AM and spend time in the morning in their classroom, which will include supervised online learning, ending with lunch. Following lunch, campers with additional online learning will return to distance learning. Campers who have completed their distance learning will take part in group activities. All children will be picked up between 3:15-4 PM.

We recognize that this will look different for children in grades K-2 than it does for grades 3-5, and will cater each bunk to the requirements of the grade level, school, and individual. In addition to virtual learning, there will be time for lunch, outside activities, brain breaks, snack, and other activities. Campers will remain in their small bunk groups for the entire day.

Q: If my child finishes their classes and work, do they have to stay in the classroom? Can they participate in another activity while the others finish their work?

A. As much as possible, children will be grouped together based on similar schedules. Parents should provide enough supplementary educational materials to fill their child's classroom learning time beyond their online learning, school work, and additional computer learning. Additionally, there will be access to some educational materials and games. Staff will be empowered to provide activities and time outside the classroom while first adhering to distance learning needs. If a critical mass of campers are finished with their classroom learning, staff will have a number of ways to engage them in activities while other campers complete their assignments.

Q: Will teachers be available to support my child's learning?

A. We are able to support online learning and assignments provided by schools. However, we are not a school. We will have high school and college aged counselors available to provide academic assistance related to school assignments and online classes. We will check for completion and help campers with questions but cannot offer personalized instruction.

Q: My child has an IEP or 504. How will you support them?

A. The program is designed around the needs of each individual child. Please contact the Program Director in regards to any particular learning needs of a child.

Q: Can you take children from districts other than LAUSD or private schools?

A. Yes, we will take children from any school as long as their schedule fits within the 8am to 4pm JCamp Plus framework, and you can provide an individualized learning plan for your camper based on their enrolled school's distance learning plan.

Q: What is the cancelation and refund policy?

A. Notification in writing to the Program Assistant and Camp Director of any cancelations at least 14 days prior to the start of the camp week will result in a full refund, less the non-refundable deposit. No prorated or full refund shall be offered if the camper leaves before the end of the week. There shall be no refund for missing camp due to illnesses. We do not offer a partial refund for days missed.

Q: What is the refund policy if JCamp Plus needs to close due to government order or natural or unforeseen circumstances.

A. Should JCamp need to close due to government order or natural or unforeseen circumstances the week in session will NOT be refunded. Any un-started program weeks paid in advance of a mandated closure will result in a full refund or account credit, less the non-refundable deposit.

Q: What does my camper need to bring with them for distance learning?

A. Your camper should bring a tablet or computer that allows them to access their online learning, a pair of headphones and all school supplies required by their teacher. Since each teacher has unique requirements, we will not be able to provide supplies beyond the basic pencils, white printer paper, glue sticks and scissors. If your child does not bring the necessary supplies, we cannot guarantee that their school work will be completed.

Q: As a parent, what is expected of me?

A. Communication will be key throughout this program. As a parent, you will need to make sure your child comes to the Westside JCC prepared with their distance learning supplies (tablet or computer and headphone and necessary school supplies), all logins and passwords; and their assignments. You will need to provide our JCamp Team with any teacher correspondence or updates. Upon registration, JCamp will provide a way for you to share information necessary to log on to camper portals, zooms, or any other form of online learning. Our team will reach out as needed for additional expectations and requirements. This is a team effort and we cannot be successful without your help!

In some cases, we may find that the online learning and accompanying assignments are not enough work to occupy your child's classroom time. While there will be access to educational games and tools, it will be the job of the parent to contribute supplementary educational materials (such as workbooks) to help make your child's time in the classroom worthwhile.

Q: How will I know how my child is doing?

A. There will be ongoing communication between staff and parents. We will reach out when necessary, but your main contact about your child's educational progress should be your child's teacher.

Q: How do we register?

A. jcampwestside.org