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Adventure Camp 2026

Parent Handbook

Welcome to Adventure Camp!

Dear Camp Families,

Welcome to Adventure Camp at Hillel Academy!

We are so excited that your family will be joining us this summer. Whether your child is returning for another summer of fun or attending Adventure Camp for the first time, we are honored that you have entrusted us with your most precious gift, your child.

At Hillel Academy, we believe childhood should be filled with opportunities to learn, explore, create, build friendships, gain confidence, and experience joy. Summer camp provides a unique opportunity for children to discover new interests, develop independence, strengthen social skills, and create memories that last a lifetime.

Adventure Camp is an extension of Hillel Academy's mission and values. While our summer days may look different from the traditional school year, our commitment to children remains the same. We strive to create an environment where every camper feels safe, known, valued, respected, and loved.

For Summer 2026, campers will enjoy exciting specialty camps, enrichment opportunities, water play, outdoor adventures, creative experiences, and community-building activities. Our talented team of teachers, counselors, specialists, and administrators is committed to making this an unforgettable summer.

Most importantly, we believe relationships matter. We value our partnership with families and encourage open communication throughout the summer.

Thank you for choosing Adventure Camp. We look forward to a summer filled with friendship, laughter, exploration, growth, and fun!

Warmly,

Amy Basham
Head of School

About Adventure Camp

Camp Open House & New Family Orientation Breakfast

Sunday, June 7th: New Family Orientation Breakfast

- **9:15 am - 10:00 am**
- New families join us in the Event Center for breakfast.
- Meet the Head of School, ask questions, and learn more about your child's new school home!

Sunday, June 7th: Camp Open House

- **10:00 am - 11:00 am**
- Meet your Counselors & Summer Camp Staff!
- Receive your camp shirt and carline card.

Hillel Academy Mission

Hillel Academy is an inclusive community anchored in a culture of Chesed (kindness) that empowers students of all backgrounds to develop their individual potential and identity, shaped by a comprehensive academic program and dynamic Jewish life and learning.

Our Camp Philosophy

Adventure Camp is designed to help children:

- Build friendships
- Develop confidence
- Explore new interests
- Learn new skills
- Create lasting memories
- Experience the joy of summer

Every activity is designed with safety, fun, engagement, and personal growth in mind.

Summer 2026 Camp Model

Adventure Camp features weekly specialty camps for students entering Kindergarten through Grade 9.

Mornings focus on specialty camp experiences led by talented instructors and educators. Afternoons include recreation, water activities, enrichment opportunities, special events, and traditional camp fun.

Our Early Learning Center campers participate in themed summer programming designed specifically for young learners while maintaining developmentally appropriate routines and activities.

Important Contacts

Head of School
Amy Basham
abasham@hillelacademytampa.com

Director of Operations & Auxiliary Programs
Casey Moran
cmoran@hillelacademytampa.com

ELC Director
Melissa Shapiro
mshapiro@hillelacademytampa.com

Front Office
813-963-2242
shalom@hillelacademytampa.com

Communication with Families

We believe strong communication creates the best experience for children.

ELC Families

Kaymbu is our primary communication platform for ELC families. Through Kaymbu, families will receive updates, photos, and information about their child's day.

K-9 Families

Important camp communications will be sent through email and Sawyer.

Questions or Concerns

If questions arise, please contact the ELC Director or the front office. We ask that families avoid discussing concerns during arrival and dismissal, as staff members are actively supervising campers.

We are always happy to schedule a phone call or meeting.

What to Bring to Camp

Please label all belongings with your child's first and last name.

Recommended daily items:

- Water bottle
- Lunch
- Two snacks
- Sunscreen
- Towel (on water days)
- Swimsuit (on water days)
- Change of clothes (younger campers)
- Backpack

Closed-toe shoes are required for most camp activities.

Food, Lunches, and Snacks

Campers work hard, play hard, and build big appetites!

Please send:

- Lunch (or purchase through school)
- Two snacks
- Water bottle

As a program of Hillel Academy, Adventure Camp maintains a kosher-style environment.

Please do not send:

- Meat
- Shellfish

If a camper forgets lunch, we will ensure they have something to eat and communicate with the family regarding the replacement meal.

Water Park and Water Play

Water activities are often a favorite part of camp!

Please send:

- Swimsuit
- Towel
- Sunscreen
- Change of clothes

Camp staff actively supervise all water activities.

Families should apply sunscreen before camp each morning.

Please label all water-related belongings.

Safety is always our highest priority.

Attendance, Arrival, Dismissal, and Extended Care

Every camper must be checked in and out daily.

Attendance Systems

ELC:

- Kaymbu attendance
- Sawyer rosters

K-8:

- Sawyer attendance

Authorized Pick-Up

Campers will only be released to individuals listed as authorized contacts.

Photo identification may be required.

Early Dismissals

Please notify the office in advance whenever possible.

Extended Care

Available until 6:00 pm in the ELC, but must be scheduled in advance as part of your enrollment agreement.

Health and Medication Policies

The health and safety of our campers is extremely important.

Please do not send your child to camp if they are ill.

Children must remain home if they have:

- Fever
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Contagious illness
- Any condition that would prevent successful participation

Medications

All medications must:

- Be in the original container
- Be provided directly to the office
- Have required authorization forms completed

Medications may never be sent in backpacks or lunchboxes.

Accidents and Injuries

Parents will be notified of significant injuries, head injuries, facial injuries, or other situations requiring medical attention.

All accidents and medical treatments are documented according to school procedures.

Behavior Expectations and Culture of Chesed

At Hillel Academy, we believe every child deserves a safe, supportive, and respectful environment.

Our culture is anchored in Chesed - kindness.

Campers are expected to:

- Follow directions
- Treat others respectfully
- Use appropriate language
- Participate safely
- Care for camp property
- Contribute positively to the community

Our staff uses positive behavior support strategies focused on teaching, coaching, and problem-solving.

We partner closely with families when concerns arise.

Safety and Security

The safety of our campers and staff is our highest priority.

Security procedures include:

- Visitor check-in procedures

- Controlled campus access
- Identification requirements
- Emergency response protocols
- Staff training

Families must enter through designated entrances and check in when visiting campus.

Registration, Tuition, and Camp Policies

Registration is not considered complete until required deposits and paperwork have been received.

Camp fees, payment schedules, cancellation policies, and change fees are outlined in the registration materials.

Adventure Camp reserves the right to modify programming, schedules, activities, instructors, and offerings as necessary due to enrollment, weather, staffing, safety considerations, or operational needs.

Partnership with Families

The most successful camp experiences occur when families and camp staff work together.

We value your trust, communication, and partnership.

Thank you for sharing your child with us this summer. We look forward to creating a safe, joyful, meaningful, and memorable experience for every camper.

Welcome to Adventure Camp 2026!