



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CAMP ACHIEVE – AGES 5–13

Marcy Hallerman, Program Director for Social & Support Services
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WHO DOES CAMP ACHIEVE SERVE?

Camp Achieve is Camp Friedberg's Division for children with developmental disabilities. We serve children ages 5 - 13 who are on the Autism Spectrum, as well as those with other learning and speech disabilities.

WHAT MAKES CAMP ACHIEVE DIFFERENT THAN THE OTHER DIVISIONS OF CAMP FRIEDBERG?

Camp Achieve is designed for children that need a more intimate setting than our other camp divisions provide. We participate in many of the same activities that children in the other divisions do, but the program is tailored for children with disabilities. We use a lot of visual aids, like picture schedules, to help campers understand what the day looks like, and the staff is able to modify the activities to each child's strengths and needs. Camp Achieve also uses a reward system to help campers stay on track. Children receive Camp Achieve Bucks when they are following the rules, helping out other campers or their counselors, and listening. Camp Achieve Bucks are cashed in at the end of the week for fun prizes.

WHAT IS A TYPICAL CAMP DAY LIKE?

Campers arrive at School 9E, an elementary school in the Oceanside School District at approximately 10:00 AM. Upon arrival, children are escorted by staff to two air conditioned classrooms, where we begin our day. Once everyone arrives, we have morning round-up, where we share the day's announcements. During the morning at the school, each group participates in sports on the outdoor fields with our Adaptive Sports Specialist, climbing fun on one of two age appropriate playgrounds, and spends time in the air conditioned classrooms playing camp games. At 11:45, the bus arrives to bring campers back to the JCC for the afternoon. Upon arrival at the JCC, campers are served a kosher lunch. Campers then follow a schedule of traditional camp activities, including arts and crafts, yoga, sports, cooking, and gaga. All campers swim in the JCC's indoor heated pool for 30 minutes daily - 20 minutes of Red Cross swim instruction, and 10 minutes of free swim. Everyone enjoys snack before heading home. Special events and weekly themed activities take place as reflected on the camp calendar.

HOW ARE CAMPERS GROUPED?

Campers are grouped according to age. Camp Achieve typically has 3 groups - our youngest campers (kindergarten and first graders) are in group 1, campers in grades 2 - 4 are in group 2, and our oldest campers are in group 3. Boys and girls are grouped together. If there are a lot of campers on a particular age group, we will split the larger group into two smaller ones.

WHO ARE THE STAFF MEMBERS THAT WILL BE WITH MY CHILD?

Each group has at least 1 senior counselor (age 21+) who has experience working with children with disabilities in either an educational or recreational setting. Many of our senior counselors are special education teachers, or paraprofessionals in classrooms. All groups also have junior counselors, who are college and high school students (age 16+) who have experience or interest in working with children with disabilities. Some groups may also have volunteers, high school students who want to get more experience working with children with special needs. Volunteers do not count in staff-to-camper ratios.

WHAT ARE THE STAFF-TO-CAMPER RATIOS?

Camp Achieve has low staff-to-camper ratios. Most groups maintain a 1:3 ratio. Our oldest campers, depending on the needs in the group might have a 1:4 ratio.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS TO REGISTER FOR CAMP?

All campers interested in attending Camp Achieve need to have an intake appointment with the Camp Director prior to enrolling. This intake appointment will give the director a chance to meet the child, learn more about their needs, and will ensure that they will be successful in Camp Achieve. Once this intake appointment has been completed, and the Camp Director has been provided with the child's IEP or 504 plan, the camper can be registered through the JCC's front office.

DO I NEED TO BE A JCC MEMBER TO COME TO CAMP?

No, our camp is open to everyone. JCC members do save money with preferential pricing. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact us at 516-766-4341 or email linnellavenne@friedbergjcc.org. Membership can pay for itself in many cases.



15 Neil Court
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www.friedbergjcc.org
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DO I NEED TO BE JEWISH TO COME TO CAMP?

No, anyone can be a camper at Camp Friedberg. We are operated by the Friedberg Jewish Community Center. Our camp program is based Jewish values, which are values most people can get behind: Friendship (Haverut), Kindness (Hesed), Community (Kehila), Respect and Honor (Kavod).

DO YOU OFFER TRANSPORTATION?

Yes, from certain areas on the South Shore of Nassau County, and it is included in your tuition. Most campers are picked up door-to-door. Children in the Lawrence School District are picked up at centrally located stops at schools in the district. Busses are driven by professional drivers employed by the JCC, and there is always at least one bus counselor on the bus as well.

HOW LONG IS THE CAMP DAY?

Our buses pick up at varying times depending on the bus route, but on average our stops begin approximately between 8:45 am and 9:30 am, and drop off between 3:45 pm and 4:30 pm.

IS EXTENDED CARE AVAILABLE?

Extended care may be available both in the morning before camp starts and in the afternoon after camp ends if we have enough campers who are requesting it. Please call the Camp Director for more information.

WHAT HAPPENS AT LUNCH?

Lunch is included in the cost for camp. Each day, a catered Kosher lunch is served. Daily lunch features kid-friendly and nutritious items like pasta, bagels with tuna, egg, salad or cream cheese, French toast, mac and cheese, and grilled cheese! Each day there is fresh fruit and veggies, and alternative items are available such as yogurt and cheese sandwiches. If your camper has dietary restrictions, please discuss them with the camp director prior to camp so we can best accommodate their needs. Campers may also bring their own lunch they prefer.

WILL CAMPERS SWIM?

Yes, every day. Swim instruction and recreational swim takes place daily, in the JCC's heated indoor pool. Counselors enter the pool with the campers, and also skim along the sides. Lifeguards monitor for safety. Instructors are American Red Cross Certified. Each camper will be evaluated on their first day of camp. Non-swimmers are given an orange wristband to wear, while deep water swimmers are given a green band. Progress reports are sent home at the end of the camp season.

DO CAMPERS NEED TO WEAR ANYTHING SPECIAL?

Campers must wear their camp t-shirts daily. You will receive two free when you register. More are available for purchase at the JCC when we hold the Parent Orientation. Closed-toe shoes are required daily as well.

IS THERE ANY OPPORTUNITY FOR INCLUSION?

Camp Achieve spends several days during the summer at our Camp Friedberg site on the Henry Kaufmann Campgrounds, home to our Junior and Explorer divisions. Located in Wheatley Heights, the property features an outdoor multi-pool swim complex, indoor basketball courts, sports fields, amphitheatre, a low ropes course, playground and train rides. Camp Friedberg is situated on a hilltop campsite with shelters and picnic groves surrounded by nature and FUN! While on the campgrounds, Camp Achieve campers will remain together with their own counselors and staff, but will have lots of opportunity for interaction with our typical campers.

For more information, stop in or contact Marcy Hallerman
at 516-634-4173 or mhallerman@friedbergjcc.org.



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