



F.A.Q. for “Taste of Camp” Weekend – Fall Camp 2018

1. This is my child’s first experience with Camp Newman. What can we expect?

Thank you for sending your child to camp! “Taste of Camp” weekends are designed with the beginning camper in mind. All of our staff are trained to help kids new to the camp experience, and all activities are age-appropriate and selected with the idea of allowing kids to try out the activities they’ll do in greater depth at camp.

Campers will be greeted by two staff members on each bus, who will welcome each camper and help them meet other campers and create friendships right away. At camp, they’ll join 200-300 campers, who will be evenly distributed and housed by grade. While each cabin sleeps up to 16 people during the summer, at “Taste of Camp” events there are an average of only 12-14 campers per cabin, which encourages bonding and friendships over the short weekend.

2. Who are our staff?

Our staff are college graduates, college students, and high school seniors. All have experience as summer camp counselors, counselors-in-training, or working with children in other settings. Most have been on staff at URJ Camp Newman in past summers.

Our staff members are carefully trained and assigned to provide each camper with the best support and experience possible. Both junior (high school seniors) and senior (college students) counselors will be living in cabin with your child. Typically, there are 12-14 campers per cabin and 2-3 staff members.

We also occasionally have special staff on site specifically to support campers with special needs and those who might need a little extra support (homesickness, etc.). They are led by a senior staff member who has experience in this area, as well.

3. What activities will my child participate in?

We will bring in Shabbat together with a camp traditional Shabbat dinner, dancing, and song session. (Shabbat at camp is unique! Be sure to ask your camper about it when they get home.) We will have ice breakers by cabin and *eidah*, Shabbat morning services, sports, arts, fun and silly programs, a campfire, and more. All this while we build a unique community of caring, fun, and friendship. Check out [this blog](#) of a past “taste of camp” retreat to get a sneak peek of what to expect.

4. Should I drive my child to camp or put him on the bus?

You may drive, though most of our campers ride the bus. It’s a great way to begin the weekend and make new friends. A bus schedule can be found on the event page. You will receive an email from us when everyone arrives letting you know the weekend has begun!

5. Can I speak to my child during the weekend to check in?

Please understand that with the number of campers we have on camp, we are not able to bring each camper to the phone without disrupting the weekend experience for your camper and the other campers in the cabin. If you need to call camp for any reason, including to check on your child, you are welcome to call our camp office at 415.392.7080. Our staff will be happy to speak with you and let you know how your camper is doing.

6. My child is on medication. How do you handle this?

When your child arrives at the bus (if riding) or at camp (if driving), the medication will be collected and given to the infirmary staff. We have a doctor and nurses on staff during the weekend who will administer most medication at meal times; nighttime medication will be distributed before bed. If you have specific questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call us.

7. What happens if my child becomes sick during the weekend?

Your child's counselor will bring the camper to the infirmary, where they will be assessed by our medical team. You will receive a phone call if your camper has a fever, injury requiring a trip to the emergency room, or otherwise as determined by our medical team. Over-the-counter medications are administered as per instructed. Camp is located 30 minutes from Stanford Hospital in case of emergencies.

8. How are food allergies addressed?

Camp Jones Gulch is well versed in helping our campers with food allergies and sensitivities. Please note any allergies on your registration form and call our office with any specific questions or concerns.

9. What should we pack?

You may use our packing list on (which will be posted on the "taste of camp" event page) as a guide to packing for the weekend. It is our policy that footwear have either a covered toe or an enclosed back/backstrap (like sneakers/sandals). Flip flops may be worn in the cabin ONLY.

It is best to be prepared for all types of weather at camp. Layering is the best way to be prepared for the changing temperatures. Weather conditions in the Bay Area are very unpredictable, so to be prepared, please check the weather the night before the weekend for the most up-to-date information.

10. Is there a lost and found during the weekend?

Yes! We recognize that things sometimes get lost at camp. All lost and found items are brought to the front office and displayed so that campers can periodically check for lost items. **Please label all items** with your child's first and last name for easy identification. If something is left at camp, we will do our best to find it and return it to your family.

Please do not bring expensive or valuable items to camp. Camp is not responsible for items that are lost or broken during the weekend.

11. Can my child use her phone or other electronics during the weekend?

We recommend that your child powers down, unplugs, and takes what we're certain is a well- needed break from the world of electronics. Cell phones, video games and MP3 players are **NOT ALLOWED** at weekend events. We recommend disposable cameras or an inexpensive digital camera to capture memories. Please be respectful of the usage and content limitations we have in place.

12. What is your cancellation policy?

Camp Newman recognizes that our participants may need to cancel after registering. The policy considers our financial obligations for the event and our desire to refund as much of the registration fees paid as possible. All cancellations must be sent to our registrar, Kim Press (kpress@urj.org) via email by one of the

Parents/Guardians listed during registration. Refunds are processed approximately 2 weeks after the event. Please note that we do not offer credits in exchange for refunds.

If you need to cancel, the registration fees you paid will be refunded as follows:

Up to three weeks before the event – 90% of the registration fees paid

Up to two weeks before the event – 75% of the registration fees paid

Up to one week before the event – 50% of the registration fees paid

Less than one week before the event – 0% of the registration fees paid

Cancellation requests due to illness or accident prior to the camp session start date require a physician's written verification. Upon receipt of verification, we will issue a full refund. If you have questions, please contact our Registrar Kim Press, kpress@urj.org.

Last updated 9/12/18. If you have additional questions, please contact our Registrar Kim Press at kpress@urj.org or 415-991-0259