



"The JCC has a fun and safe environment, a fantastic swim program and wonderful staff."

- Camp Chai Parent, 2025



June 1
to
July 24

(Specialty Camps vary by program)



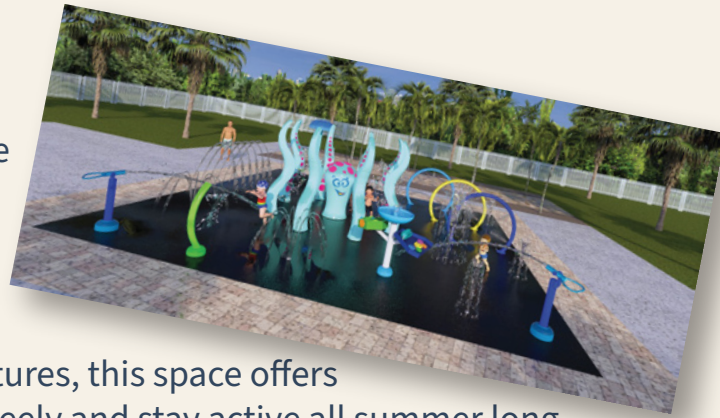
Where Summer
Comes to
Life



New This Year!

Splash, Play & Cool Off

Our reimagined outdoor play zone is designed with kids in mind. The new splash pad will feature interactive water play, and brand-new playground equipment—creating the perfect place for campers to cool off, laugh, and play on warm summer days.

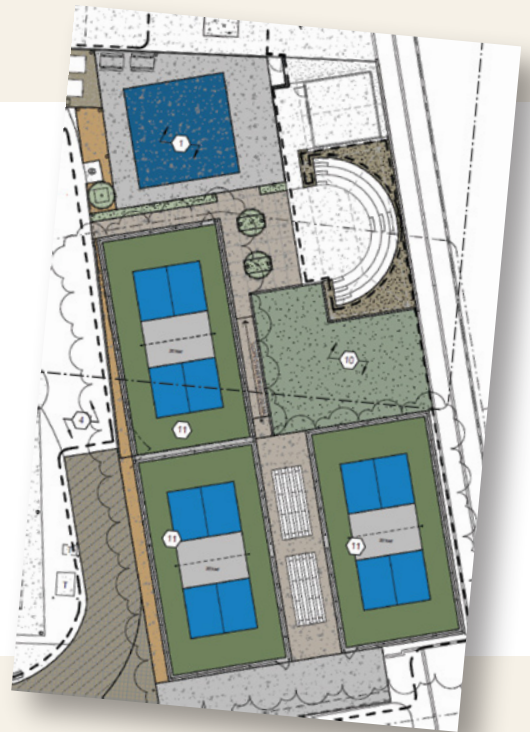


With a rubberized play surface and improved safety features, this space offers a fun, accessible environment where kids can explore freely and stay active all summer long. Whether it's a short splash break between activities or the highlight of the day, this will quickly become a camper favorite.

Pickleball Comes to Camp Chai!

We're bringing one of the fastest-growing sports in the country to the JCC! Our new outdoor pickleball courts will be incorporated into camp programming, giving campers a fun, energetic way to try something new, build skills, and play together.

Designed for all ages and skill levels, pickleball is easy to learn, fast-paced, and incredibly fun—perfect for encouraging teamwork, confidence, and friendly competition. Campers will get to experience this exciting new activity as part of their daily rotation, alongside all the camp favorites they already love.



Building Something Bigger—Together

These new amenities are more than just places to play—they're an investment in the joy, safety, and growth of our kids. Thanks to the generosity of our members who believe in creating exceptional experiences for the children in our community, Camp Chai continues to grow and thrive.

If you're interested in supporting future enhancements or getting involved in strengthening our camp facilities, we'd love to connect with you.

To learn more about supporting Camp Chai and the JCC, please contact:

Emily Fox , Chief Development Officer: EmilyF@jccabq.org

Welcome to Camp Chai!

Camp Chai is where Summer comes to life!

From the moment they arrive, campers are welcomed into a caring community built on friendship, fun, and Jewish values.

With experienced staff leading daily swimming, exciting field trips, creative electives, and so much more, every child has the chance to try new things, build confidence, and create the kind of summer memories they'll talk about all year long.

Why families choose Camp Chai:

In our 2025 *post-camp survey*, parents told us they appreciate our experienced, caring staff who create a safe and engaging environment where kids can thrive.

They love that swimming is built into nearly every day, giving children the chance to build confidence in the water while having a blast. Our exciting field trips, hands-on electives, and specialty camp options mean there's always something new to discover. And for many families, Camp Chai is the only place in Albuquerque where their children can experience a full Jewish summer camp connecting with their heritage while making lifelong friends.

As one parent shared: *"We love the JCC camp! The kids come out being better swimmers and talking about the fun they had."*

Another said simply: *"My child loved it! You must sign your kid up!"*

From first-time campers to kids who count down the days until they can return, Camp Chai is where summer memories are made.

Register Early – Spots Fill Fast!

Camp Chai is in high demand, and sessions fill up quickly. Don't miss out on the summer experience your child will be talking about all year long! JCC Members get early access.

JCC Member Registration opens:

February 9, 2026 @ 9:00am

Public registration opens:

February 11, 2026 @ 9:00am

Mark your calendars and be ready to secure your spot.

Register at: jccabq.org/summer-camps



**Scan to learn
more and
register**



The Camp Chai Experience

For over two decades, Camp Chai has set the standard for summer excellence in Albuquerque—creating memories, forging friendships, and building confidence that lasts long after summer ends.

Under the leadership of Camp Director Matt Westerlund, now in his 22nd year with the program, Camp Chai offers an unmatched blend of daily swimming, hands-on learning, creative exploration, and outdoor adventure for campers ages 5–12. What makes Camp Chai truly special is our foundation in Jewish values—values like kindness, community, respect, and inclusion that resonate with families of all backgrounds.

As the Jewish Community Center, we're proud to welcome the entire Albuquerque community. Whether your family is deeply connected to Jewish life or simply looking for a camp where every child is valued and celebrated, **Camp Chai is a place where everyone belongs.**

Camp Chai runs Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, with convenient before care (7:00–9:00 AM) and after care (4:00–6:00 PM) services available at an additional charge for families who need them. Each two-week session is carefully designed to balance structure with choice, ensuring every camper has a summer filled with growth, discovery, and pure fun.

Finding the right camp for you:

Camp Chai offers something for every interest and every camper. Our flagship Camp Chai day camp provides a well-rounded experience with daily swimming, rotating electives, and field trips that keep every day fresh and exciting.

For campers ready to dive deeper into specific passions, our **Specialty Camps** offer focused, immersive experiences in high-demand areas like Lego Robotics & Intro to Drones, Arts & Crafts, Sports & Recreation, Horseback Riding & Aquatics, and “*Let's Get a Reaction*” Science Camp.

Read on to explore each program in detail and find the best fit for your camper!





Where Summer Comes to Life!

June 1 – July 24

Member Rate: \$540/session, registration opens 2/9

Non-Member Rate: \$665/session, registration opens 2/11

Session Dates:

Session 1: June 1-12

Session 2: June 15-26

Session 3: June 29-July 10

Session 4: July 13-24

Camp Details at a Glance:

Ages: 5–12

(entering Kindergarten through 6th grade)

Hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Before/After Care (available at additional charge):

7:00–9:00 AM & 4:00–6:00 PM

Program Length: Two-week sessions throughout summer

What Makes Camp Chai Special:

Daily Swimming & Expert Instruction

Every camper swims twice daily (Monday–Thursday) in our therapeutic and half-Olympic sized pools.

On day one, certified aquatics staff assess each swimmer and place them in the perfect group.

With lifeguards on stand, staff poolside, and instructors in the water, safety is our top priority. As

one parent shared: "The kids come out being better swimmers and talking about the fun they had."

Morning Classes Led by Specialists

Art • Science • Movie Making • Theater • Dance • Martial Arts • Outdoor Education • Gymnastics (K-2)

Cultural Studies • Sports, and more! Campers rotate through 8–10 different activities each session, experiencing things they'd never try at home or school.

Afternoon Electives: Camper's Choice

On day one, campers choose two electives based on their interests—from cooking and DIY crafts to outdoor survival and digital media. These counselor-led activities let kids dive deep into their passions every afternoon.

Exciting Field Trips

Every session includes an off-site adventure to places like the ABQ BioPark, Cliff's Amusement Park, Urban Air, Main Event, and more—plus on-site field days with water slides and BBQ fun!

The Village System

Campers are grouped by age into "Villages," each with dedicated counselors.

This creates tight-knit friendships and a true sense of belonging with a low Counselor to Camper ratio.

Specialty Camps

LEGO® ROBOTICS & INTRO TO DRONES CAMP

July 27 – 31

Member Rate: \$335 | Non-Member Rate: \$435

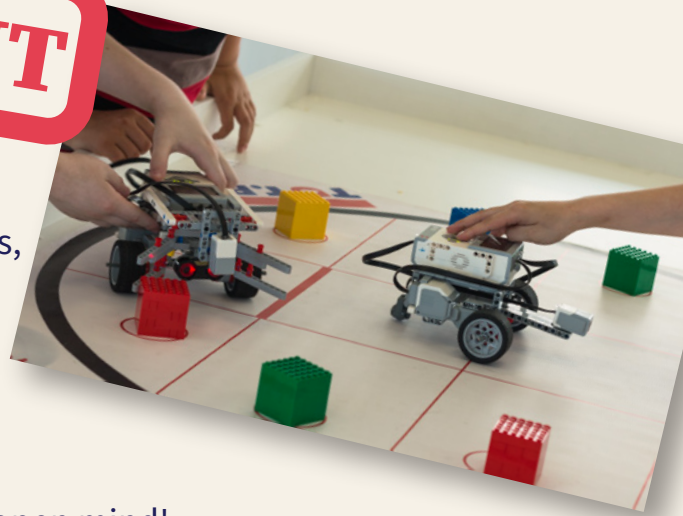
Build it. Program it. Fly it.

SOLD OUT

This high-demand camp combines two of your kids' favorite things: robotics and drones!

Campers dive into the fundamentals of designing and constructing their own robots using LEGO® bricks, motors, gears, and electronic components. Then, they'll take to the skies learning drone maintenance, flight techniques, and the science of aviation. Through individual challenges and small-group projects, campers develop critical problem-solving skills while having a blast.

All materials provided—just bring your creativity and an open mind!
Daily swimming at the JCC keeps campers cool between building sessions.



ARTS & CRAFTS CAMP

July 27 – 31

Member Rate: \$325 | Non-Member Rate: \$405

Calling all young artists!

SOLD OUT

Spend an entire week immersed in creative exploration and hands-on art making. Each day brings a new medium and exciting theme: sculpt with clay, explore 2-D multimedia projects through drawing, painting, and collage, and construct 3-D masterpieces from recycled materials.

Whether your camper is a budding Picasso or just loves getting their hands messy, this camp celebrates creativity in all its forms. The JCC's arts and craft room is where masterpieces are waiting to be made!



Specialty Camps

SPORTS & RECREATION CAMP

July 27 – 31

Member Rate: \$325 | Non-Member Rate: \$405

Get ready to move!

This action-packed camp is perfect for kids who love to play. From basketball and soccer in our gym to outdoor adventures on our field and playground, every day brings new games, challenges, and team-building fun.

NEW THIS YEAR: We're thrilled to introduce PICKLEBALL on our brand-new, state-of-the-art courts!

Campers will learn this fast-growing sport from expert instructors and enjoy friendly tournaments throughout the week.

Daily recreational swimming provides the perfect cool-down after all that action. If your camper loves sports, friendly competition, and staying active, this is their camp!



HORSEBACK RIDING & AQUATICS CAMP

Session 1: June 8–12 • Session 2: July 27–31

Member Rate: \$495 | Non-Member Rate: \$595

Saddle up for the adventure of a lifetime!

Campers spend each morning at a professional riding facility learning the fundamentals of horseback riding, hands-on grooming, leading techniques, and basic horse care. With approximately 1.5–2 hours in the saddle daily, professional instructors provide both individual and group lessons tailored to each rider's skill level.

After a morning with the horses, campers return to the JCC for a refreshing afternoon splash in our beautiful pools. It's the perfect combination of outdoor adventure and aquatic fun—and one of our most beloved specialty camps!

Being able to ride horses and go swimming all in one day was a highlight for many campers last summer!

SOLD OUT



"LET'S GET A REACTION" SCIENCE CAMP

July 27 – 31

Member Rate: \$335 | Non-Member Rate: \$435

Explosions, transformations, and mind-blowing discoveries await!

Our world is full of reactions—electrical, chemical, biological, and physical—and this camp explores them all. Led by certified elementary education teachers, young scientists investigate the beauty and magnificence of chemistry, biology, and physics through hands-on experiments and interactive demonstrations.

From volcanic eruptions to food science, nature's wonders to the reactions happening inside your own body, every day brings new "aha!" moments. Daily recreational swim sessions provide a refreshing break between experiments, and the week concludes with an exciting off-site field trip.

As one parent shared: "My child loved learning in the classes. It was fun, hands-on learning." Science camp delivers exactly that!



The Israeli Ambassador Program (Shlichim)

The JCC needs families to host our two Israeli Schlichim camp counselors during the summer. This is a great way to bring an incredible cultural experience into your home for your campers and family! Host families will be asked to host for a minimum of two weeks, and during that time will be expected to provide: all meals; a comfortable, private bedroom space; and daily transportation to and from camp.

For more information please contact Alyssa at 505-418-4480 or alyssaa@jccabq.org.



Host families that commit will receive a 10% discount off their 2026 camp enrollment!

Camp Lunches & Snack Bar

Camp families have the opportunity to create an online account with the on-site cafe, Rhubarb & Elliott, where you can:

- Order Lunches
- Add-on Drinks
- Add-on Snacks
- Pre-pay Cafe Tab

Scan for
More Info



Rhubarb & Elliott

rhubarbandelliott.com

Rhubarb & Elliott has been feeding communities throughout New Mexico since we first started cooking delicious lunches and delivering them to local schools and community centers. We began our adventure more than ten years ago, when a Manzano mom (Rhubarb) started R&E in the school kitchen. Back then, it was just Rhubarb, her mother, and ambition: to bring fresh, creative food to the community. Today, while we serve more than 2,000 students, we remain committed to our core principles and to the communities we serve. We believe that by providing healthy, diverse food, we help everyone. We help students focus, teachers engage, and parents have one less thing to worry about.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: When does registration open?

A: JCC Members: February 9, 2026, 9am | Public: February 11, 2026, 9am

Q: Can I register for just one week?

A: Camp Chai runs in two-week sessions. Contact us if you have specific scheduling needs.

Q: Do I need to be a JCC member?

A: No! We're open to everyone. Members receive early registration access and discounts.

Q: What does a typical day look like?

A: 9 AM–4 PM with morning assembly, two specialist classes, daily swim lessons, recreational swim, lunch, and two camper-choice electives. See our schedule for full details.

Q: How much swimming do campers do?

A: Campers can swim up to twice daily (Mon–Thurs)—structured lessons in the morning and recreational swim at lunch.

Q: How do electives work?

A: On day one, campers choose two electives based on their interests. They participate in these every afternoon for the full two-week session.

Q: What are your pool safety protocols?

A: We constantly have lifeguards on stand, staff poolside, instructors in the water, plus counselors swimming with campers. Every camper is assessed on day one and placed in an appropriate swim group.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS | Continued

Q: What are drop-off and pick-up times?

A: Drop-off: 8:45–9:00 AM | Pick-up: 4:00–4:25 PM. Pull into the designated lane—staff will assist your camper!

Q: Do you offer before/after care?

A: Yes! Before care: 7–9 AM | After care: 4–6 PM. \$80/session (prepaid) or \$8/day (drop-in).

Q: What should my child bring daily?

Swimsuit & towel, sunscreen, water bottle, snacks, lunch (or pre-order hot lunch), extra clothes, and closed-toe shoes for gym/sports.

Q: Do you provide lunch?

A: Campers bring lunch or pre-order hot lunch from our café (link provided in orientation email).

Q: What about food allergies?

A: Complete your health form fully and contact Camp Director Matt Westerlund (mattw@jccabq.org) for severe allergies. We'll create a safety plan.

Q: How are medications handled?

A: All medications are stored securely in the camp office. We'll coordinate protocols for emergency medications during orientation.

Q: When are field trips?

A: First Friday of each session (off-site adventures). Second Friday features on-site field days with water slides and special activities.

Q: What if my child arrives late on a field trip day?

A: Let us know in advance—we'll provide the location for direct drop-off.

Q: How do I reach my child during camp?

A: Call the JCC at 505-332-0565. We'll deliver messages promptly. All communication should go through the office, not cell phones.

Q: What's your cell phone policy?

A: Phones must stay in backpacks in classrooms. We encourage a screen-free camp experience. The camp office is not responsible for lost/damaged devices.

Q: How will I receive camp updates?

A: Emails from camp staff will include schedules, spirit day themes, and announcements. You'll also receive an orientation email the weekend before your session starts.

Q: Can my child do Camp Chai and a specialty camp?

A: Yes! You are able to register for both types of camp while space is available.

Summer Camp Policies & Important Information

Our camp policies are designed to help ensure a safe, well-organized, and positive experience for every camper and family. Please review the following information carefully before registering.

Registration, Deposits & Payment

A non-refundable deposit is required for each camp session at the time of registration.

All deposits are non-refundable, regardless of cancellation or circumstance.

Camp tuition must be paid in full prior to the start of each session.

Camper with unpaid balances may not be permitted to attend camp.

Cancellations & Refunds

No refunds or credits will be issued for cancellations, late withdrawals, no-shows, or dismissal from camp.

Absences are not refundable.

In cases of prolonged illness or injury, a prorated refund may be considered on a case-by-case basis and requires written documentation from a licensed physician.

Camper Behavior & Expectations

Camper are expected to follow camp rules and demonstrate respectful, safe behavior at all times.

The camp reserves the right to dismiss a camper whose behavior is unsafe, disruptive, or inconsistent with camp expectations.

No refunds or credits will be issued in cases of dismissal.

Health & Illness Guidelines

Camper must arrive healthy and able to participate in daily activities.

For the safety of all participants, the camp may require a camper to go home if they become ill or show symptoms of contagious illness.

Medical clearance may be required before returning to camp.

Illness-related absences do not automatically qualify for refunds.

Program Changes & Safety

Camp schedules, activities, or locations may be adjusted due to weather, safety concerns, or other unforeseen circumstances.

Every effort will be made to provide a high-quality camp experience while prioritizing camper safety.

Registration Agreement

A complete Registration & Liability Agreement must be acknowledged during the registration process and governs all camp participation.



Where Summer Comes to Life



JCC Member Registration opens February 9, at 9am



Where Summer Comes to Life

A fun, safe, unforgettable
summer for kids ages 5–12!



To register
visit
jccabq.org

New this Year: Pickleball Lessons & Interactive Splashpad

At Camp Chai, Kids...

Build **confidence**

Form real **connections**
& make

Lifelong **memories**

