



May 11, 2020

Dear Camp Shalom Families,

We would like to thank you all for your patience and support as we work to navigate the ever-changing and uncertain landscape of the COVID-19 pandemic. At Camp Shalom, our guiding value is always to protect the physical, social, and emotional well-being of everyone in our camp community.

For many months, we have been dreaming about and planning for an amazing Camp Shalom experience to happen this summer. Since the APJCC closed its doors on March 12th, we have carefully followed guidance from the Santa Clara County Department of Health, local officials, the American Camp Association, and the CDC, seeking to understand how all of this will impact summer camp. Sadly, we are now forced to accept that the health and safety of our campers, families, and staff could be at risk if we proceed as initially planned.

Mindful of the Jewish precept of *pikuach nefesh*, putting health first, **we have made the difficult decision to cancel our in-person camp sessions for grades K-10. Instead, we are excited to announce that, beginning June 8th, we will be offering “Camp Shalom to Go” for grades K-8! This virtual camp experience will reconnect our campers with the spirit and community of Camp Shalom, allowing everyone to join their friends and beloved counselors from home, until we can be together in person again.**

When you register your camper for Camp Shalom To Go, **they’ll be provided with a weekly “camp-in-a-box” kit, containing all the materials needed for that week’s activities.** Activities will be led by our fun team of counselors and specialists **live online**, and **campers will get to see and interact with their friends in real-time.**

For campers in 1st-8th grade, each week-long session will consist of a schedule of activities and plenty of time to play. We’ll start and end our day together with songs and camp spirit fun, and each week will feature our favorite Camp Shalom traditions, including dress-up day, glug counts, and more! We will also offer a specialty camp every week led by our favorite STEAM partners like Mad Science, Mind Games Academy, and more! Yeledim (kindergarten) campers will receive a full box of activities to enjoy at home and will have the chance to participate in morning songs and one group activity every day, such as yoga, storytime, and freeze dance!

As soon as we can safely be together this summer, our hope is to offer fun and safe, small group activities. As guidance changes and new recommendations emerge, we will continue to evaluate the possibilities, and we will stay in constant communication with you regarding our plans. All aspects of Camp Shalom this summer will be designed with Camp Shalom values, your needs, and strict adherence to health and safety standards in mind.

If you have a camper in Camp Pashoshim or Camp Katan (preschool-aged camps), you will receive a separate email with details regarding anticipated changes to our youngest campers' summer schedule.

For more information about Camp Shalom To Go, visit www.campshalomjcc.org. Online registration will open on Monday, May 18th.

We are confident that, in spite of having to do things very differently this summer, Camp Shalom 2020 will be full of joy and connection with friends. Thank you for your trust and partnership.

L'Shalom,

Alix Davidson
Camp Shalom Director