



Camp Safety & Security

Jewish camps face a variety of safety and security challenges, due to their affiliation and characteristics. The following information is intended to provide options for consideration and action to ensure the safety and security of Jewish camps, their staff, and campers.

Camp Security Measures

- Counselors and campers may not be familiar with the campgrounds. Provide tours of facilities to staff and campers alike. Even a simple fire drill can provide valuable familiarity with the camp's layout.
- Less experienced counselors and staff may require assistance carrying out their roles during an emergency. Ensure that more experienced staff are available to, and/ or paired with, less-experienced staff. (Consider a mentor-type program).
- Training can significantly improve the outcome of an emergency. Provide documented training in:
 1. Camp Security Awareness and Preparedness
 2. Situational Awareness
 3. Countering the Active Threat Training (CATT)
 4. Stop the Bleed
 5. Other subjects as needed based on any unique camp challenges.
- When interacting with parents and guardians, be alert to custodial interference issues and/or domestic matters. Educate counselors and staff on these issues, how to identify them, and address them. Consider a checklist.
- Maintain a list of those authorized to pick up children and vehicles that will pick them up. Consider providing parents unique passes to display on their dashboards at pick-up.
- Have appropriately trained staff to handle minor medical issues. Ensure they are equipped with automated external defibrillators (AEDs), allergic-reaction kits and other necessary equipment.
- Implement security procedures for off-site visits or trips, such as situational and area awareness, communication plans, medical, and security staff, if necessary. Emergency kits should be considered for off-site trips.
- When on field trips or traveling, have campers travel in supervised groups and conduct frequent head counts. Make sure you have the appropriate emergency information, such as contact numbers and medications, for every camper. Ensure this information is properly safeguarded. Consider

offering campers a bracelet or necklace with important information, such as allergies.

- Require identifiable shirts/uniforms and, or badges always, to include when leaving the camp area.
- Follow up with the appropriate contacts if a child does not show up for camp without prior notification to camp staff.
- Drop-offs, pick-ups, and visiting days/times present camper accountability challenges. Stagger drop-off and pick-up times and locations for different groups. Keep close track of campers and consider observing vehicles as they exit. When possible, assign dedicated safety/security personnel to monitor drop-offs and pick-ups.



Situational Awareness

Educate staff and campers to be alert for the following:

- Visitors without proper identification or escort.
- Unusual interest by neighbors of camp operations, procedures, vehicles, staff, or campers and/or hostility toward campers or staff.
- Recent damage (significant holes or cuts) in or around campground perimeter fencing or gates, or damage to perimeter lighting or other security devices; vandalism.
- Unattended items (e.g., backpacks).
- Suspicious packages or letters received by mail.
- A noted pattern or series of false alarms requiring a response by law enforcement or emergency services.
- Report suspicious activity to law enforcement, then SCN (see below).

Communication

The ability to communicate – to include both receiving and disseminating information – is one of the most critical components of any effective security and emergency response:

- Consider the use of two-way radios, public address systems, panic alarms, flashing indoor/outdoor strobes, warning siren systems, and runners (when safe to do so) to alert the camp to an emergency.
- Sign up to be a part of the Jewish community's national incident and emergency notification system, SCN Alert. Sign up for local (county/municipal) emergency alerts.
- Develop a notification protocol that outlines who should be contacted in case of emergencies, and how staff or campers may do so (consider the use of two-way radios, public address systems, panic alarms, and runners when safe to do, etc.)
- Develop and use a crisis communication plan.
- If using portable radios, conduct a training session to ensure all users know how to use them and the proper radio protocol.
- Implement a reunification system for children/parents and, or guardians.



Protective Measures

The following are key components of keeping your camp safe:

- Create a Safety & Security Committee, meeting regularly to discuss issues, concerns, or incidents.
- Ensure needed resources are obtained and readily available before an emergency occurs.
- Emergencies can happen at any time. Create plans that clearly identify roles and responsibilities for leadership and staff in responding to events and practice those plans with campers and staff.
- Conduct frequent head counts of campers.

Access Control

- Ensure there are adequate lockdown facilities for use in an active threat situation.
- Ensure that lockdown facilities are in good working order and have first aid kits, communication methods, food, and water.
- Issue photo identification badges to all employees and consider uniforms so campers can easily identify staff; require that the badges be displayed and verified to gain access to the facility.
- Issue parking permits for designated areas.
- Rooms and buildings should be secure when not in use.
- Use gates, fences, bollards, obstacles, signs and policies to restrict unwanted vehicles and pedestrians from entering the camp and large gathering areas.
- Require sign-in/sign-out for visitors and issue special identification badges, escort visitors where appropriate, and collect all badges when the visit is complete.

Additional Security Measures

- Regularly inspect campground perimeter, buildings, parking lots, locker rooms, equipment, and trash containers.
- Use cameras and/or sensors to monitor key areas including remote sections of the camp.
- Monitor all vehicles (cars and boats) and individuals approaching the camp for unusual activity.
- Develop a relationship with local responders. Ask them to be present at camper pick-up/drop-off and/or visiting day. Invite them to tour the property, attend special events, and participate in activities. Offer the camp as a resource area for officers, if they need a break, or a location to complete paperwork, or conduct training.
- Have local law enforcement tour the facility and provide them with camp emergency plans and maps with buildings clearly labeled.
- Host "First Responder Days" where local first responders can educate and familiarize campers and counselors with local public safety resources in a 'safety-fair' styled event.

Reporting

Emergencies: 9-1-1

Security incidents:

Duty Desk: 844-SCN-DESK (844-726-3375)

SCN Offered Training

- Camp Leadership Training
- Camp Staff Training
- Camp Counselor Training
- SCN Standard Training
 - Countering Active Threats in the Community (CATT)
 - Situational Awareness Training
 - 'Stop the Bleed' Training