

Camp Jotoni Frequently Asked Questions

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Camp Jotoni Frequently Asked Questions

Registration & Enrollment

What programs do you offer at Camp Jotoni?

Summer Camp

Camp Jotoni's primary program is our Summer Camp, which runs from late June through late August. We offer several types of sessions:

Day Camp

- Two one-week day camp sessions are offered each summer. Sessions run Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
- Optional AM and PM care is available for an additional fee (AM: 8:00–9:00 a.m.; PM: 3:00–4:00 or 5:00 p.m.).

Overnight Camp

- Five one-week sleepaway sessions. Drop-off is Sunday between 1:00–3:00 p.m.; pick-up is Friday between 2:00–3:00 p.m.
- One two-week sleepaway session. Drop-off is Sunday between 1:00–3:00 p.m.; pick-up is on the second Friday between 2:00–3:00 p.m.

Spring/Fall Respite Weekends

We host sleepaway Respite Weekends in both the Spring and Fall. Drop-off is Friday at 5:00 p.m., and pick-up is Sunday between 1:00–3:00 p.m. Typically, six weekends are offered each season.

Special Events

During the Winter, we offer a variety of seasonal programs. Some events are held on Saturdays (drop-off at 9:00 a.m.; pick-up at 5:00 p.m.). Others take place on weekdays (drop-off at 5:00 p.m.; pick-up at 9:00 p.m.). These events are usually themed around holidays, though dates may vary each year.

What ages do you serve?

We serve campers starting at age 5 and have no upper age limit. While our sessions are not divided by age, we aim to group campers with peers of similar ages whenever possible.

Camp Jotoni Frequently Asked Questions

Where is Camp Jotoni located?

51 Old Stirling Road, Warren, New Jersey 07059.

Can I tour Camp Jotoni before I sign my camper up?

Private tours are not available. However, we host an annual **Camp Showcase Night**, typically on a weeknight in mid-June, where families can tour the camp with our staff. The exact date will be announced through our newsletter.

When does registration open?

- **Summer Camp:** Opens in February and remains open for one month. The exact date is announced in November.
- **Spring Respite Weekends:** Open in January; the exact date is announced in November.
- **Fall Respite Weekends:** Typically open in June/July; the exact date is announced in May/June.
- **Winter Special Events:** Typically open in September/October; the exact date is announced in August/September.

What do I need to prepare before I register?

You won't need much at the time of registration, and if you make a mistake or are missing information, we can update your application later. We recommend deciding in advance which sessions, weekends, or events you want to request so you can list your preferences quickly—**your preference list is what we work from if we are able to place your camper.**

If your camper will be using **PerformCare** or **DDD** funding, please have their ID number and DDD tier available, if known. Most other information requested during registration is basic.

If you are new to our **CampBrain** registration portal, you can click here to view a YouTube walkthrough video we created in 2024. Please note that while the process is largely the same, some questions may have changed since the video was made.

Camp Jotoni Frequently Asked Questions

When will I know if my camper has been accepted to Camp Jotoni? What is the process after acceptance?

You will receive an email regarding your camper's status within **4–6 weeks** of submitting your application. Each registration will list a target date by which confirmations should be received. If you do not hear from us by that date, please contact us.

If your camper is new to Camp Jotoni, or has not attended for several years, an **in-person intake meeting** is required before we can process the application. We will email you to schedule this.

Once accepted, you must complete all required paperwork before your camper can attend. Most forms can be submitted online; however, a **physical examination form** from your physician and **Genoa Pharmacy enrollment forms** must be completed separately. Paperwork is required **once per year**, unless your camper's medications or behaviors change.

Why is my camper on the waitlist?

Camp Jotoni has limited staffing—especially during the Spring, Fall, and Winter—so we accept campers based on available staff. As we hire additional team members, spaces may open and your camper may be moved off the waitlist. We also have a limited number of spots for campers who require 1:1 support. To ensure everyone's safety, we only accept campers when we have the staff necessary to support them properly. If a space becomes available, we will notify you immediately.

I'm interested in applying for Camp Jotoni, but registration is not currently open. How can I be notified when registration dates are released?

The best way to stay informed about upcoming registration dates is to **sign up for our newsletter**.

My camper needs 1:1 assistance. Can they still attend camp?

Yes! We accept campers who require 1:1 support, whether it's due to mobility needs, elopement risks, or behaviors requiring additional supervision. However, because of staffing limitations, each session has a limited number of 1:1 spaces. We recommend registering as soon as registration opens for the best chance of securing a spot. Camp Jotoni provides all 1:1 staffing - families cannot provide their own aides.

Camp Jotoni Frequently Asked Questions

Can my camper attend camp the whole summer?

Probably not. While we do not have a formal limit, we prioritize giving as many campers as possible the opportunity to attend at least one session before offering a second. Due to current staffing levels, it is unlikely that a camper will be accepted into more than two sessions.

If your camper is accepted into back-to-back sessions, please note that they must be picked up for the weekend and dropped off again at the start of the next session.

Is transportation to camp provided?

No, Camp Jotoni does not currently provide any transportation services for any of our programs.

Camp Schedule, Facilities & Activities

What is a typical schedule for a day at Summer Camp at Camp Jotoni?

During both Day Camp and Residential Camp sessions, campers enjoy a variety of activities. Each day begins with morning exercise, followed by half the day spent on activities and the other half at the pool. Daily activities include Arts & Crafts, Music, PE, Nature, and the Sensory Barn. Our schedule follows an A/B rotation—if pool time is in the morning on Monday, it will be in the afternoon on Tuesday. Lunch is around 11:30 a.m. or noon, depending on their schedule.

During Residential Camp weeks, campers have an additional afternoon swim. In case of bad weather, swim time is replaced with indoor activities like movies, bingo, or other games. After the afternoon session, campers have an hour of rest in their cabins. Following dinner, everyone gathers for a night activity, which may include campfires, talent shows, karaoke, dance parties, Jeopardy, Minute to Win It, scavenger hunts, movie nights, and more! During a residential session, campers typically go to bed around 9:00 p.m. and wake up at 7:00 a.m.

What is a typical schedule for a respite weekend at Camp Jotoni?

Our Respite Weekends feature many of the same activities as our summer sessions - Arts & Crafts, dance parties, campfires, and more - but on a more relaxed schedule. With smaller groups, we can tailor activities to campers' interests. A key highlight of each weekend is a community outing. Past trips have included the cinema, bowling, Liberty Science Center, pumpkin patches, Rita's Italian Ice, mini golf, and visits to arboretums.

Camp Jotoni Frequently Asked Questions

What type of facilities are at Camp Jotoni?

Camp Jotoni offers a variety of accessible and modern facilities, including:

- Air-conditioned and heated cabins (built in 2021 and 2022)
- Dining hall
- Activity pavilions and barn
- Outdoor pool
- Sensory garden
- Nature trail
- Monarch butterfly station

How deep is your pool?

The pool is 7 feet at its deepest point. A shallow end is roped off from the deep end for campers who cannot or prefer not to enter deeper water.

How do you handle transfers from wheelchairs to the pool?

Our pool has a zero-entry design, which allows staff to safely transfer campers from their wheelchairs into our pool wheelchair and guide them into the water securely.

My camper does not know how to swim. Are swimming lessons provided?

We do not offer swimming lessons at Camp Jotoni. Pool time is for fun and play. Lifeguards and staff are informed of each camper's swimming ability, and campers who cannot swim are provided with life jackets, kept in the shallow end, and supervised closely according to family instructions to ensure their safety.

How many campers are at camp at a time?

During the summer, each session typically includes **30–40 campers**, depending on the week. In the Fall, when international staff are still onsite, we can host up to **25 campers** per weekend. For typical Spring and late-Fall respite weekends, we host **8–15 campers**. Winter Special Event capacity varies based on staffing, and has ranged from **8–20 campers** in recent years.

Camp Jotoni Frequently Asked Questions

How many campers and staff are in each cabin and group?

Summer Day Camp:

- Minimum staffing ratio: **1:3**, unless a camper requires 1:1 support.
- Groups usually include **4–8 campers** with **2–5 staff**.

Summer Residential Sessions:

- Standard staffing ratio: **1:4**, unless a camper requires 1:1 support.
- Each cabin room can hold **up to 8 campers** with **4–5 staff**.
- Groups typically include **5–8 campers** with **2–5 staff**.

Spring, Fall, and Winter Events:

- Staffing ratio remains **1:4**, unless a camper needs 1:1 support.

Who works at Camp Jotoni, and what type of training do they get?

Camp Jotoni hires a diverse team, including professionals who work with individuals with disabilities—such as teachers, occupational therapists, and paraprofessionals.

During the summer, we also welcome many international staff through cultural exchange programs. Past team members have come from countries such as the UK, Australia, New Zealand, France, the Netherlands, Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, China, and more.

All staff participate in a comprehensive **orientation week** and receive training in:

- CPR and First Aid
- Personal care
- Wheelchair lifts and transfers
- Seizure response
- Abuse and Neglect Prevention
- Verbal Intervention (de-escalation techniques)
- OSHA
- Danielle’s Law
- Komnino’s Law

Additionally, all staff must complete **background checks, fingerprinting, and drug testing** before working at camp.

Camp Jotoni Frequently Asked Questions

Is Camp Jotoni accredited by an outside organization?

Camp Jotoni is accredited by the American Camping Association.

Camper Needs, Health & Accessibility

Can you serve campers with unique dietary needs?

Yes! We accommodate a wide range of dietary needs, including dairy-free, gluten-free, vegetarian, and vegan diets. If your camper has a specific restriction and you're unsure whether we can accommodate it, please contact us—we're happy to help.

Do you allow nuts at camp?

No. Camp Jotoni is a **nut-free campus** due to the number of campers with severe allergies. Any snacks or lunches brought onto camp property that contain nuts will be disposed of.

My camper uses an AAC/communication device. Can they still come to camp/can they bring it with them?

Absolutely—please send your camper's AAC or communication device with them. Supporting all your camper's communication is essential, and our staff are trained to support all communication methods. We will ensure your camper has their device with them at all times and is encouraged to use it throughout their stay.

Can my camper bring their iPad/phone/computer/technology that is not required for communication?

Yes—this is your choice. We encourage full participation in camp activities, but we also understand that devices can help with regulation or relaxation. Some families prefer to leave devices at home, and our staff offers plenty of engaging options during downtime for those campers.

If your camper brings a device, please let their counselors know at drop-off and share any guidelines you'd like us to follow. We generally encourage campers to keep non-AAC devices in the cabin to reduce the risk of loss or damage, but our staff will follow family instructions. Please note: staff will not confiscate or hide a camper's device without the camper's permission.

Camp Jotoni Frequently Asked Questions

Do you have laundry facilities at camp?

Yes, we have laundry facilities and can wash a camper's clothing or bedding if they have an accident. However, we ask families to pack enough clothing for the entire session.

Do you have a packing list?

Yes! Please click [here](#) for Camp Jotoni's most recent packing list. Make sure all clothing and personal items are clearly labeled. With many campers and staff sharing space, items can easily get mixed up. If your camper has items of special importance (such as a favorite toy or stuffed animal), please let their staff know so we can help ensure they come home safely.

My camper has friends who have been accepted at camp. Can they be in the same group?

Yes. We do our best to honor grouping requests when possible. Please reach out to Camp Administration to submit your request.

Can someone come and visit my camper during their camp session?

Yes, but all visitors must receive approval from Camp Administration. We limit the number of visits each session to avoid disrupting the schedule. If your camper would like a visitor, please contact us in advance.

Can I take my camper out and bring them back during their session? Leave early? Arrive late?

We ask that campers attend their full session whenever possible, as late arrivals, early departures, and mid-session pick-ups can be disruptive for both the camper and their group. However, we understand that exceptions may be necessary. Please contact us to discuss your situation.

Can I call my camper while they are at camp?

Yes. If your camper brings their own device, you may call during their free periods—ideally during rest time (4:30–5:50 pm) or right before bedtime (8:15–8:45 pm).

Camp Jotoni Frequently Asked Questions

If your camper will not have their own device, our administrative team may be able to arrange a call using the camp phone. Please let us know before or at drop-off if you'd like to schedule this. We will do our best to make these calls happen, but availability is limited due to the busy nature of camp and our priority of keeping campers safe and engaged.

Medication at Camp

My camper takes medication. Can they come to camp?

Absolutely. Many of our campers take medications. Our nursing and medication team can administer most medications, including controlled substances, liquid medications, and medications that must be crushed and given with applesauce. If your camper has unique medical needs - such as injectable medications or G-tube administration - please contact the Camp Jotoni administrative team to confirm whether we can accommodate them.

Why should I use Genoa Pharmacy to provide my camper's medications at Camp Jotoni?

Beginning in 2026, Camp Jotoni will be partnering with **Genoa Pharmacy** to streamline and enhance our medication administration process. This partnership is designed to increase health and safety, reduce potential medication errors, and allow staff to spend more time engaging with campers and activities.

Why are Why We're Making This Change:

For several years, families have expressed how difficult it can be to obtain bubble packaging for camper medications from traditional pharmacies. Partnering with Genoa Pharmacy provides an easy and reliable solution. Genoa will fill, package, and deliver medications directly to camp before your camper's arrival.

Camp Jotoni Frequently Asked Questions

Benefits for Families:

- Improved safety and accuracy in medication administration.
- Simplified preparation—Genoa coordinates directly with your prescribers and insurance.
- Faster check-in—medications arrive at camp in advance, giving you priority at registration.
- Less last-minute stress—no more urgent pharmacy visits before camp.

While families who do not enroll with Genoa Pharmacy may still participate in camp, **we strongly urge all families to use this service** to ensure a safe and consistent medication process for all campers. Please note that beginning in 2026, **check-in priority will be given to families enrolled with Genoa Pharmacy.**

How do I enroll with Genoa Pharmacy?

At registration, you'll receive paperwork to enroll in Genoa Pharmacy. Completing it early won't affect your camper's acceptance and only needs to be done once — it will carry over for future years. The form does not require a physician's signature. You'll still need a Camp Jotoni Physical Examination Form signed by a physician within a year of camp.

Once accepted, your physician will send prescriptions to Genoa (electronically or physically). Genoa handles the rest! At drop-off, you'll skip the usual medication check-in with the nurse — saving time — though you can still speak with a nurse if needed.

What if my camper isn't taking medication?

Please submit the Genoa form indicating you're not enrolling, so we know no further information is needed. You'll still need the signed Physical Examination Form noting that your camper takes no medications.

Are there extra costs to use Genoa?

No. Genoa bills your insurance directly - you'll only pay your regular copay.

Can I still fill medications with Genoa if I recently filled a 90-day prescription?

Genoa will coordinate with your insurance and providers to supply the necessary camp doses.

Camp Jotoni Frequently Asked Questions

Can Genoa handle special medications (controlled, liquid, refrigerated, PRN, or OTC)?

Yes. Genoa can fill all these medications as long as they receive the proper prescriptions. Controlled and refrigerated meds are securely packaged and logged.

Payment & Financial Information

What forms of payment do you accept?

It depends on the season. We accept **DDD funding** and **private pay** for all of our programs. For our summer sessions, we also accept **PerformCare funding**.

Do you have any financial assistance available?

Camp Jotoni and The Arc of Somerset County are committed to reducing financial barriers to attendance wherever possible. Camperships will be available to assist in payment as funding resources allow in a given period of time. Please reach out to administrative staff for more information about this process.

When is payment due for my session?

Payment deadlines vary by season. Please refer to the specific due date listed in your camper's acceptance letter for their session. Please note: If payment is late, your camper's spot may be offered to someone on the waitlist. It is the family's responsibility to secure funding approval from DDD or PerformCare in a timely manner.

General Information

How do I sign up for your newsletter?

Visit campjotoni.org and scroll down to the bottom of the homepage. Enter your email address in the section labeled "SIGN UP FOR CAMP JOTONI'S NEWSLETTER". Make sure that you click the "Sign Up" button to submit your email.

Camp Jotoni Frequently Asked Questions

Who can I contact if I have a question?

During the summer and the off season, please feel free to contact our Camp Director Joe Miller or our Assistant Director Nikki Panckhurst Miller:

Joe Miller

joem@thearcofsomerset.org

908-963-0092

Nikki Panckhurst Miller

nikip@thearcofsomerset.org

908-963-1136

If you are a support coordinator looking to get a draft SDR approved, please forward it to Vicky Gaffney:

Vicky Gaffney

vickyt@thearcofsomerset.org