

RANK
BRANCH OF SERVICE

It has always been important for us that our children grow up with a Jewish identity; but as a military family who move every 3 years, often to locations with small Jewish populations, that has not always been easy. This was most notable the last year we were stationed in Sicily, when our family comprised 4 of the 7 Jews on the entire island. We loved our community and being part of some unique and wonderful experiences, such as attending the first Bar Mitzvah in Sicily in over 500 years, but at the same time, worried that our tiny Jewish community (of 7) and its implications (such as needing to take vacation and travel for High Holidays) might limit our children's exposure to a Jewish life.

Thinking about this at the same time that our children became interested in summer camp, we started exploring options. We wanted to find a Jewish camp with a small town feel. A place where other campers would understand the perspective of being part of a small Jewish community and where our children could express the challenges they faced to understanding friends. We also wanted a camp where there was a dedicated interest in campers as individuals and felt that a smaller camp would be better suited to offer this.

After spending some time considering options, Jacobs Camp stood out. We had the opportunity to attend Family Camp in the winter and all four of us enjoyed the experience thoroughly. This sense of connectedness and family at Jacobs Camp reminded us of the tight bonds we share with other military families, and made us feel at home.

Last summer, our son (then 10) spent his first summer at Jacobs Camp and had a great time. As soon as he arrived home, he wanted to know when we could sign him up for 2014. Our daughter (now 8) is equally enthused and will go to Jacobs for the first time this summer. For both of them, Jacobs Camp offers a meaningful connection to their lives as Jews, and for that, we are grateful. There are a myriad of options available for Jewish summer camps, but Jacobs Camp sets itself apart with its sense of community and family. It has been a great fit for our Jewish military family.