



MAKING CAMP AFFORDABLE

Dear Friends,

We are delighted that you want to join us for a 2009 Tawonga program. At Camp Tawonga we are committed to making camp affordable for everyone. We offer a number of discounts and financial assistance programs to suit individual family needs and are eager to help you make this process as easy as possible. Any personal or financial information you provide through this process is kept strictly confidential: Tawonga awards are decided anonymously by a small committee of our Board of Directors; BJE awards are decided by a lay committee through a completely anonymous process.

In addition to the options listed below, we encourage you to check with your synagogue (if you belong), Jewish Family & Children Services, or other local agencies with which you are affiliated.

Here is a description of our discounts, incentive grants, and aid programs. Links to each program application and additional details on each program are available. If you feel you would qualify for one of these programs and have questions, please give us a call. Financial aid applications are due in March (March 1 for BJE applications, March 9 for Tawonga Family Discount). Need-based grants are usually awarded in early May. Discounts and need-blind grants are awarded on a rolling basis.

Financial Aid Overview

- Before beginning any financial assistance applications you must first register for a camp program online at <https://register.tawonga.org>. You must do this in order to receive any discounts or grants, both need-blind and need-based. Please contact the Tawonga office if you require a paper registration form. On the registration form please provide payment information for a \$100 deposit per program and indicate whether you would like to make future payments by check or credit card. Please also make sure to indicate that you would like to receive financial aid and list the amount of financial assistance you require.
- Once we receive your registration information we will follow up with you in the following two ways:
 - By creating an interest-free payment plan for your family based on the amount of financial assistance you require and sending you an electronic bill displaying the payment arrangement. All families applying for financial assistance are automatically signed up for monthly payments which span the months between your registration and May, when we expect to receive grant information. Please note that if you do not receive enough financial assistance and cancel within two weeks of receiving your grant, you will receive a 100% refund. Please contact me immediately if you have any questions about your payment plan or would like to make changes to the arrangement.
 - By sending you a link to the appropriate financial assistance application. Please follow up with me if you have any questions about the financial assistance application or the process in general.
- The complete list of discounts, incentive grants, and aid programs available through Camp Tawonga appears below. Please take a moment to look through this information to see which opportunities apply to your family. And, as always, if you have any questions or would like more information, please don't hesitate to call!

Discounts

- A. Sibling Discount – You will receive 10% off for the second and third siblings in any of our summer programs. This discount is *automatic*; No application needed!

- B. JCC Staff Discount – If you are a staff member of a JCC we offer up to 20% off any of our programs. Have your department head send us a letter, on JCC letterhead, stating the number of hours you work per week and we will apply the pro-rated discount.
- C. JCC Member Discount – If you are an active member of a JCC and a new family to Camp Tawonga we offer a \$150 discount off any of our summer programs. Check with your membership department to see if your JCC participates in this program. Please mail or fax us a copy of your current membership card.

Need-Blind Incentive Grants

- C. JWest Incentive Program (offered through the Foundation for Jewish Camp) gives \$1800 towards three-week session fees for new campers. If your child meets the eligibility requirements listed below, please complete the brief grant application at www.onehappycamper.org. Eligible children who receive the \$1800 grant will qualify for a \$1000 grant in their second summer attending a three week program.
 - a. The camper must be entering 6th, 7th, or 8th grade in the fall of 2009.
 - b. The camper must attend a three-week program in the summer of 2009.
 - c. The camper cannot have previously attended Jewish residential summer camp.
 - d. The camper cannot attend Jewish Day School.
- D. Los Angeles Federation Incentive Grant – gives \$1500 towards three-week session fees for new campers. If your child meets the eligibility requirements listed below, please complete the brief grant application at www.onehappycamper.org:
 - a. The camper must be new to Camp Tawonga.
 - b. The camper must attend a three-week program in the summer of 2009.
 - c. Neither the camper nor other siblings can have previously attended a two-week or longer Jewish residential summer camp.
 - d. The camper must reside within greater Los Angeles. Please contact me to determine if you are within the eligible geographic area.

Need-Based Financial Aid Programs

Summer Programs

I. Bureau of Jewish Education (BJE) Summer Campership Application for JCEF Funds.

Who is eligible?

All Jewish children under the age of 18, who live in the greater Bay Area. The areas covered by the Bureau include the following counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Northern Santa Clara (Sunnyvale and north), and Sonoma.

What programs will this cover?

The campership program will cover any of our summer programs, both the at-camp sessions and all of our Quest programs.

What is required to apply?

First, you must be registered or waitlisted for a Tawonga 2009 program (fill out the registration form at <https://register.tawonga.org>), and you must have provided the \$100 deposit in order to be considered for financial aid.

Then, please complete the online campership application at www.bjesf.org/financialaid.htm. Your most current tax return (also signed) and W-2s are a necessary part of this application. The online application must be completed by March 1, 2009 and the complete tax information must be received by April 15. If problems arise with completing the form in a timely manner, please contact us at (415) 543-2267.

What kind of grant is offered?

Though grants vary based on each family's individual needs, BJE camperships can provide up to 80% of your child's total camp fees.

What if I live outside of the area covered?

If your area is not covered by the BJE, you may be eligible for a grant from our family discount program. In addition, local agencies can often provide funds from their own financial aid programs. Contact your local Jewish Federation, JCC and synagogue and inquire into their financial assistance options.

II. Tawonga Family Discount Application

Who is eligible?

Children under the age of 18, regardless of where they live.

What programs will this cover?

The family discount program will cover any of our summer programs, both the at-camp sessions and all of our Quest programs.

What is required to apply?

First, you must be registered or waitlisted for a Tawonga 2009 program (fill out the registration form at <https://register.tawonga.org>), and you must have provided the \$100 deposit in order to be considered for financial aid.

Then, the two page family discount form must be completed and signed. Along with your most current 1040, the application should be returned to the Tawonga office no later than March 9th, 2009 in order to receive aid. Please click [here](#) to complete your application.

What kind of grant is offered?

Though grants vary based on each family's individual needs, the family discount program can provide up to 50% of your child's total fees. On occasion, larger grants are awarded to families with extreme circumstances.

Weekend Programs

III. BJE Specialty Weekend Campership Application for Children for JCEF Funds

Who is eligible?

Children under the age of 18, who live in the Bay Area. The areas covered by the Bureau include the following counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Northern Santa Clara (Sunnyvale and north), and Sonoma.

In addition Camp Tawonga offers aid to parents attending family camp using this form. You do not need to fill out any additional paper work – just let us know how much total aid you need for the program, and we will do the rest.

What programs will this cover?

The campership program will cover any of our fall and spring weekend programs.

What is required to apply?

First, you must be registered or waitlisted for a Tawonga 2007 program, and you must have provided the \$100 deposit in order to be considered for financial aid.

Then, please complete the online campership application at www.bjesf.org/financialaid.htm. Your most current tax return (also signed) and W-2s are a necessary part of this application. The online application must be completed by March 1, 2009 and the complete tax information must be received by April 15. If problems arise with completing the form in a timely manner, please contact us at (415) 543-2267.

What kind of grant is offered?

Grants vary based on the families need and circumstances, but average around 50% of the camp fees.

What if I live outside of the area covered?

If your area is not covered by the BJE, you may be eligible for a grant from our family discount program. In addition, local agencies can often provide funds from their own financial aid programs. Contact your local Jewish Federation, JCC and synagogue and inquire into their financial assistance options.

IV. Tawonga Adult and Family Discounts

Who is eligible?

All participants, regardless of where they live.

What programs will this cover?

The family discount program will cover any of our summer programs, both the at-camp sessions and all of our Quest programs.

What is required to apply?

First, you must be registered or waitlisted for a Tawonga 2009 program (fill out the registration form at <https://register.tawonga.org>), and you must have provided the \$100 deposit in order to be considered for financial aid.

Then, the two page family discount form must be completed and signed. Along with your most current 1040, the application should be returned to the Tawonga office no later than March 9th, 2009 in order to receive aid. Please click [here](#) to complete your application.

What kind of grant is offered?

Though grants vary based on each family's individual needs, the family discount program can provide up to 50% of your family's total fees. On occasion, larger grants are awarded to families with extreme circumstances.

If you have any questions about the information listed above, please feel free to call me at (415) 543-2267 ext. 108, or email me at helen@tawonga.org.

Helen Stevens
Financial Aid Coordinator