

Not Your Average Internship

JOIN intern at JARC helps plan Aug. 4 adaptive sports picnic.

MARISA MEYERSON | SPECIAL TO THE JEWISH NEWS



Clay Barbour, Jason Hojnacki and Jonathan Arens

The Jeanette and Oscar Cook Jewish Occupational

Intern (JOIN) Program is an eight-week student internship in a Jewish communal service agency organized by JVS. Each week, students spend four days working at their placement agency, then gather together on Fridays and travel to each agency for a seminar, where they learn about the structure of each organization and its role in the Jewish community.

The goal of this series of stories is to raise awareness about the work JOIN students are doing and the professional leadership skills the students gain in the process.

As the JOIN intern at JARC, I work in the recreation department, helping to develop and plan programs for the people JARC serves.

Part of JARC's mission states, "... To enrich the lives of people with disabilities through gentle and loving support, valued relationships and engagement in the community ..." and those are exactly the values my internship is built around. With each event, we aim to create an inclusive and supportive environment where our folks can participate in any activity regardless of their disability. Right now, these values are being applied to the planning of the JARC Jocks Picnic.

Held on Aug. 4 at Beverly Park, the annual JARC Jocks Picnic is an adaptive sports picnic with different versions of several picnic games, including basketball, football toss, cornhole and relay races.



Keith Steinke

Participants of any age can play a new game or an old favorite, as well as enjoy a BBQ picnic dinner and summer evening with friends. The picnic runs from 5-7:30 p.m. and is a highly anticipated event by both the people we serve and our staff.

The JARC Jocks Picnic is a perfect opportunity to get involved as a JARC volunteer. JARC is looking for fun, energetic, game-loving volunteers to help set up and lead a few outdoor game stations. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Hallie Eisenberg at hallieeisenberg@jarc.org. □



Clay Barbour and Program Coordinator Shirlyn Davis