

Monday, July 25, 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2016 season of Camp Gan Israel @ The Shul. We are delighted that you are joining us and hope that your children will have a wonderful experience. Our staff are eager to greet your children and there are many new and exciting programs planned for this year.

CGI is committed to providing a superb day camp experience for Jewish children in the Metro-Detroit area. We offer swimming, sports, creative arts, trips, Jewish identity, and much more. Family-oriented events are also a very important aspect of our camp and we encourage you to attend.

We hope this booklet provides you with all the necessary information regarding camp. If you have any concerns, questions or suggestions, please feel free to call and discuss them with us at 248-788-4000.

Sincerely Yours,
Rabbi Yishai
Camp Director



DATES AND TIMES

Camp begins on Monday, August 1 through Friday, August 25

Camp hours are from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

We offer before care from 8:00-10:00 am and after care from 4:00-6:00 pm. The cost is \$5/hour per child (3rd child is free). Registration is required by Monday, July 25.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

- Camp Office Phone #: 248-788-4000
- In case of urgency, you may call or text Rabbi Yishai: (248) 390-5711
- E-mail: CampGanIsrael@TheShul.net

TUITION AND FEES

Tuition fees cover all activities, trips, lunch, snacks and 1 t-shirt.

All tuition fees must be paid in full prior to your child's first day of camp. There are no refunds for cancellations, sick days, etc. If you need to arrange a scholarship or payment plan, you are welcome to do so by calling the camp office.

SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION

We strive to maintain appropriate counselor to camper ratios for maximum safety and enjoyment. Certified lifeguards in addition to counselors supervise swimming. On field trips contact is consistently maintained with the camp office.

We have secured bus services for all our field trips (and large van for Pioneers Division).

In case of a medical emergency, G-d forbid, parents (or guardian) and family doctor (listed on the registration papers) will be contacted immediately.

As an extra safety measure, we ask parents to dress their children in Camp Gan Israel T-shirts on trip days.

As an additional safety precaution we ask that campers come to camp with either well supported sandals or gym shoes. Please, **NO flip-flops** - there are lots of activities that require shoes or sandals and we don't want any campers to get hurt.

ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL

Arrival & Dismissal will take place in the front of The Shul. Please observe the speed limit of 15 MPH and drive carefully to ensure the safety of our children. If someone other than yourself will be picking up your children you **MUST** notify the office beforehand.

Arrival:

In order to avoid congestion of the road since the Friendship Circle camp starts the same time, there will be **NO DROP OFF DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF THE SHUL**. You may park in the parking lot and walk your child in or drop off your children with a counselor in the parking lot who will safely escort your children inside.

Dismissal:

Please park in the parking lot or pull up in front of The Shul and one of our staff will be outside to greet you and safely escort your children out to your car.

If someone other than the parent registered with us will be picking up your children you MUST notify the office beforehand.

Parents wishing to have their child released during camp to anyone other than themselves or their designate must make prior arrangements with the camp director.

KIDDY CAMP

Kiddy Campers should bring every day a change of clothes. Campers in preschool should bring in beginning of camp a pillow & blanket which we'll store at camp for nap time.

SWIM DAYS

The following days are swim days and campers should come with a **bathing suit, towel, sunscreen and bag for wet clothes:**

Kiddy Camp, Explorer Division and Pioneer Girls – Swim/Water Days on all Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Waterpark Days:

Kiddy Camp, Explorer Division, Pioneer Girls - August 18.

Explorer Division and pioneer Girls – August 16.

Pioneer Boys - Swim Days on all Tuesdays and Thursdays and the overnight on August 16-17.

We have certified lifeguards accompanying us at the pool.

TRIP DAYS

CGI aims to expose the children to a variety of activities, trips, and educational programs. The daily schedule includes a mixture of sports, swimming, field trips, educational activities and crafts.

The following days are trip days and campers should come with their camp T-shirt to help ensure their safety:

Kiddy Camp, Explorer Division, and Pioneer Girls - all Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Pioneer Boys - all Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Pioneer Girls Overnight – August 17-18

Pioneer Boys Overnight – August 16-17

One T-shirt is included in your registration

SPECIAL CONDITIONS AND MEDICATION

If your child has any special challenges or conditions (i.e. social, behavioral) please let us know so that we can best care for them and maximize their camp experience.

COMMUNICATION

We welcome your constructive feedback, suggestions and critique regarding any aspect of the camp's program. Your input allows us to constantly improve and upgrade our program and we value it greatly. The director meets with each counselor to discuss the status of every child. We will attempt to contact you during the camp season to discuss any areas of concern that you may have.

FAMILY BBQ

Camp Gan Israel aims to involve the entire family in the camp experience. We have a great Family BBQ planned for **Thursday, August 25 at 5:00 PM**. Campers will be supervised after camp until the BBQ. Please make reservations via our website. The discounted rate for camp families is \$25/family.

SPORTS/FUN SHOPS/SPECIALTY PROGRAMS

Our sports program with Sports Director Rabbi Yarden Blumstein will allow for healthy athletic exercise and will create an atmosphere of sportsmanship.

Every Monday campers will be able to choose for several specialty programs being offered simultaneously including dance, sports, jewelry making, scrapbook making, cooking and more.

Throughout the four weeks of camp we will also have instructors who will do specialty programs like dance, kickboxing, robotics, scrapbooking, cake decorating, etc.

VALUES & JUDAIC PROGRAMMING

Our Judaic programming is designed to instill campers with a love for Judaism and pride in their Jewish identity. The camp Judaic experience is comprised of engaging activities, hands-on projects, stories, songs and crafts. This year's theme is entitled "Treasure Island" and it revolves around finding the mitzvot treasures in our day-to-day activities.

Camp is filled with programming that teaches children positive values and character traits in a fun, exciting way.

YOUR CHILD'S BELONGINGS

Please mark all swim gear, accessories, etc. with a permanent marker to avoid loss.

There is a special Lost & Found box for lost articles, which are reviewed every Friday. Please alert us if your child has lost an item. The camp is not responsible for items lost during camp, but will do our best to locate them. We strongly urge you not to send expensive items to camp.

LUNCH & SNACKS

We will serve nutritious and delicious lunches daily. We will also give out snacks several times during the day. Food cannot be brought from home due to allergy concerns and kosher dietary laws. Please make sure we know of any allergies or other concerns.

The full lunch menu is provided as a separate paper.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How does my camper find lost items?

Please mark all belongings with your camper's name and group. This is very important since shirts are identical and individual items are difficult to identify without a label. Lost & Found items are available each day in the office. Please contact us in writing or by phone regarding specific items.

How do I arrange to pick up my camper during the camp day?

If you have to pick up your camper during the day, please notify our office. Once we are aware of your arrival time, we can arrange to have your camper ready for you. We cannot release campers without parental permission.

When can I visit my camper?

Camp Gan Israel is open for parental visits every camp day. We suggest that you schedule your visit carefully as your camper may be involved in a field trip or other off-campus activity. All visitors will be directed to the camp office for visitor registration and assistance.

What if my child does not want to participate in a particular activity?

No camper is forced to participate in any activity. However, we do urge campers to try all activities and take advantage of the complete program offered at camp Gan Israel. We appreciate parental input and feedback on this matter.

What does my camper need each day?

Campers should have shoes or well-fitted sandals at the camp at all times. A bathing suit, towel and bag for wet clothing should be sent on swim days.

Can my camper bring precious items to camp?

Campers should not bring cell phones, jewelry, radios, expensive toys, etc. to camp. Camp Gan Israel supplies everything campers may need.

How can I speak with my child's counselor?

A call to the camp office will answer most questions. Since counselors are constantly supervising groups and activities, messages will be taken at the camp office. Please leave your name and evening phone number and the counselor will return your call as soon as possible.