

Friday, July 28, 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2017 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.

Please note the new camp phone number: 248-313-9155.

Sincerely Yours,  
Rabbi Yishai  
Camp Director



## DATES AND TIMES

Camp begins on Monday, August 7 through Thursday, August 24  
Bonus Trip week is from Monday, August 28 through Thursday, August 31

Please note the new camp hours are from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Please note: On August 24, Explorer and Pioneer Divisions will be coming back late from their trip to Tamarack and arrive around 4:30pm to be in time for the Camp BBQ at 5:00.

We offer before care from 8:00-9:30 am and after care from 3:30-6:00 pm. The cost is \$3/half hour per child (3<sup>rd</sup> child is free). Registration is required by Monday, July 31.

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

- Camp Office Phone #: 248-313-9155
- 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 parking lot of the building adjacent to The Shul. Please follow directions for one way in and one way out of the parking lot. If you wish to park and personally bring in your child, please park in the main parking lot to do so – THE SMALL PARKING LOT IS ONLY FOR DROP-OFF & PICKUP. 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 if you did not give authorization for them on the registration form.

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, and in the beginning of camp bring a pillow & blanket which we'll store at camp for nap time.

## SWIM DAYS

The following days are swim days for all divisions and campers should come with a bathing suit, towel, sunscreen and bag for wet clothes: All Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Waterpark Day is Tuesday, August 15 and campers should bring swim gear then as well in addition to a camp shirt to wear at the waterpark and an **EXTRA SHIRT TO CHANGE INTO AFTERWARDS**. Pioneer Boys should all bring swim gear on their camping overnight on August 17-18. 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 Fridays and the last day of camp Thursday, August 24.

Pioneer Boys - all Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays including the overnight on August 17-18

One T-shirt is included in your registration. Additional tshirts may be purchased for \$5 if we have extra.

On the Bonus Trip Week from August 28-31 **ALL DAYS ARE TRIPS AND THEREFORE EVERY DAY REQUIRES A CAMP T-SHIRT.**

**Please note: If a child forgets to bring a t-shirt on a Trip Day, we may provide provide an extra one for them and charge you \$5.**

**Some trips require Waivers to be filled out and signed by the waivers. Please make sure you do so before the trip day. We will send an email to fill them out and send them in, or they will be available during pickup/dropoff of the preceding days.**

The following trip days require waivers:

Friday, August 11 – Pump it up (also requires socks)

Tuesday, August 22 – Joe Dumar's Fieldhouse

Monday, August 28 – Airtime Trampoline (requires Airtime socks, so if have at home should bring)

Tuesday, August 29 – High Velocity Sports (also requires closed shoe – no sandals)

## 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. For Prescription medication, a signed medication form must be filled (if was not filled out already on the registration form).

## 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 45 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 in Explorer Division will have Fun Shops – they will be able to choose from several specialty programs being offered simultaneously including dance, sports, jewelry making, scrapbook making, cooking and more.

Throughout the three weeks of camp we will also have instructors who will do specialty programs like sports, magic, 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.