

GAN ISRAEL DAY CAMPS



2023 PARENT HANDBOOK

...Where every camper counts!

Dear Parents,

We welcome you and your child/children to Gan Israel Day Camp at the Jewish ELC, beginning Wednesday, June 28th. Many exciting and enjoyable activities are planned to make this their best summer ever!

The following is important camp information. Please read it through carefully, and feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

ADDRESS

We are located at the Jewish Early Learning Center at 2174 Hewlett Ave, Merrick, NY 11566. The main entrance is accessed through the parking lot on Benson Lane. To enter our parking lot, key in #1567 for the parking gate to open. There is a second entry gate when walking in from the lot-the combination code to enter is **15**.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- For all camp related matters, the main number is 516-833-3057. Please see below for specific extensions
- Pre-Camp/General Questions: Deana Gorelik deana@campgi.com (ext 104)
- Enrollment/Payments Questions: Shelly Ann Wallen Office@chabadjewishlife.org (ext 107)
- Camp Director: Chanie Kramer chanie@campgi.com (ext 101)
- Head Counselor/On-site Director: Jessica Lerner admin@campgi.com (ext 102)
- In case of an emergency:
Chanie Kramer can be reached at (631) 327-7029.
Executive Director Rabbi Kramer can be reached at (631) 327-7484.

Our aim is to establish a close rapport between parents and camp staff, so please do not hesitate to contact us. Our main method of communication with parents is via email and/or Brightwheel. Please check your emails on a regular basis for important updates & information.

Communication via Brightwheel App We are partnered with an app called Brightwheel, to help you stay connected throughout the day! Get real-time updates on your phone/tablet so you never miss a moment! Some of the many features the app includes is contactless check-in and health screening, personalized 'news feeds' of your child with photos, videos and daily activities, and centralized private direct messaging so all communications are in one place. You will receive an invitation via email to join our Brightwheel account before camp begins! Click on this link for

instructions on how to sign up (Do not sign up until you receive the email invitation):

<https://youtu.be/Zb8suSif0Tk>

DATES & HOURS

Start/End Dates

The summer program begins Wednesday, June 28th, and ends Friday, August 18th.

Camp Hours:

- The Camp hours are: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Extended care is currently available from 8-9 am and from 3-5 pm.
- There is no camp on Tuesday, July 4th in observance of Independence day. There is early dismissal at 12:30 PM on Thursday, July 31st in observance of Tisha B'av ([9th of Av](#)).

DIVISIONS

To assist you in understanding the division of groups, and the group names, the following is a list of the divisions, bunk names & the corresponding age groups. (When you see our camp theme, you will understand the bunk names!):

Mini Gan Division

Mini Gan 1 Entering Toddlers (18 M- 2 1/2 years old)

Mini Gan 2 Entering Nursery (2 /12 - 3 Years old)

Junior Gan Division

Junior Gan 1 Entering PreK (3 ½ - 4 Years old)

Junior Gan 2 Entering PreK (3 ½ - 4 Years old)

Senior Gan Division

Senior Gan 1 Entering K (4 1/2 – 5 1/2 Years old)

Senior Gan 2 Entering 1st -3rd grade (6-8 Years old)

ORIENTATION

As per our welcome e-packet, we will have camper orientation on Tuesday, June 27th for all groups. Families with last names beginning with A-K should come from 4:30-5 pm and families with last names beginning with L-Z should come from 5-5:30 pm.

Please bring the following items with your child on orientation day to leave at camp. **'Label'** all

items with your child's name on it. If you are not able to come to orientation, please be in touch with our office or bring these items on your child's first day:

1. Sunscreen (labeled with camper's name)
2. Change of clothes (2 sets for everyone - one remains in camp and one in the child's bag)
3. Extra underwear (Package of diapers & wipes for Mini Gan campers still in diapers)
4. Pair of water shoes (**no flip flops or loose fitting crocs**)
5. Mini Gan campers: Sippy cup labeled with your child's name
6. Junior/Senior/Pioneer campers: Water bottle with your child's name
7. (Optional) A roll/bag of pennies/coins for your child to use for daily 'Tzedakah' (charity)
8. In addition, please send in a labeled bathing suit and towel every day.

PICKUP & DROP OFF

- **Arrivals:**

When you come to the arrival area, please 'check in' your child using the Brightwheel app on your phone, during which you will complete a daily health check. There will be signs mounted with the Brightwheel barcode for scanning and we will show you how to check your child in every day. We understand that transitions can be difficult but we are asking parents/siblings/caregivers not to enter the building or play area. We will do our best to support you and your child's transition to camp, and will be in touch with you should there be any concerns.

Early Care: Please drop off your child at the main JELC entrance. Ring the bell and a staff member will take your child in.

Regular arrival time will be spaced between 9:00 - 9:10 am. Please bring your child to his/her designated drop-off point:

Mini Gan 1: Drop off by the first ramp to your right as you walk down the walkway to the JELC entrance.

Mini Gan 2: Drop off at the main JELC entrance.

Junior Gan 1: Drop off at the main JELC entrance.

Junior Gan 2: Drop off at the entrance to the far left of the JELC entrance.

Senior Gan 1 & 2: Drop off at the playground.

- **Dismissal:** Dismissal will take place at 3 pm at the same locations as the drop-off areas. Please use the Brightwheel app to check out your child and the counselors will bring your child out to you.

If you need to pick up your child earlier than 3 pm, or if you are picking up your child from after care, ring the bell at the main JELC entrance and a staff member will bring your child to you.

- **Releasing Of A Child:** Children are released to their parents or to people stated in writing on the 'Permission to Release' form. It is imperative that you notify the camp if someone other than the usual person will be picking up your child. For the release of a child to someone we did not personally meet, our staff has been instructed to ask for photo identification. If someone unexpectedly comes to pick up your child, even though they are on the list of approved people to pick up, please notify us in advance. You will also be able to invite any of your approved 'pick-up' or 'drop-off' people to use the Brightwheel app so that they will be able to check-in or check-out your child as well.

LOST & FOUND

To prevent loss of your child's belongings, we urge you to label all belongings with your child's name. All items misplaced around the Camp will be brought to the Camp office at the end of each day. Children who have lost items are encouraged to come by the office to pick them up. Items not clearly marked will be placed in our lost and found bin and will be brought out onto a table outside several times throughout the summer. It is the responsibility of the parents to claim these items before the last day of Camp.

CHARITY

We will be teaching the children about the great mitzvah of Tzedaka (Charity). If possible, please send a roll/bag of coins that can be used for the whole summer.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Friday's schedule: Our Friday schedule includes a Shabbat party and challah braiding activity. The challah will be sent home to bake!

Dress-Up Days: On Thursdays, we will have fun dress up days and shows, bringing excitement to the camp atmosphere! To view details, check the camp calendar. We will also remind you in the weekly camp newsletter!

Family BBQ & Open House: Join us on Wednesday, August 2nd at 5:30 pm for a Family BBQ, Camper Presentations, Open House and Live performance by our campers! Dismissal will be at regular time. We look forward to seeing the whole family! Campers should please wear the camp T-Shirt. (Even if you aren't enrolled in camp for that week, you can still join.)

Camp Shabbat Dinner: Join your children for a Camp Gan Israel Shabbat dinner on Friday, August 11th. Enjoy songs, community, and the Shabbat dinner experience. (Even if you aren't enrolled in camp for that week, you can still join!). Details and time to follow.

ATTIRE POLICIES

Foot Attire: In order to ensure maximum safety for your child/children, campers are required to have proper footwear in order to participate in activities. **'Flip-flops' or sling backs** will impede

your child/children from participating in activities. Please assist us in the above by having your child wear **running shoes/sneakers** or supportive sandals during camp. You may leave a pair in your child's cubby.

Water Shoes: Your children will enjoy a special water park set up in the outdoor area, with different sprinklers and inflatables! Every camper is required to wear water shoes during water play. Flip flops or loose-fitting crocs may not be used as water shoes. Children without water shoes will not be allowed to play in the water park.

Camp T-shirt: Your child will receive a complimentary camp T-shirt. Please make sure your child's name is written inside it, and it should be worn on trip days, picture day and at the family bbq.

Swimming/water play Attire: Campers will need a swimsuit and towel sent to camp every day. Your child/children will bring home their swim clothes at the end of each day or as needed. Please label the swimsuits and towels so as to assist the staff in organizing all the children's belongings!

SWIMMING (FOR JUNIOR GAN & SENIOR GAN)

The Senior Gan Division will be swimming at 2 locations: They will swim at the Newbridge Park pool on Mondays and Tuesdays, and at the Freeport Rec. Center on Thursdays.

The Junior Gan Division will be swimming at Newbridge Park pool on Tuesdays.

Campers should come to camp on those days wearing their swimsuits under their clothing. Please complete the swim permission form included in our e-packet so that we have written permission for your child to swim at the Newbridge Park / Freeport Rec. Center pools.

Please note: In observance of the days of mourning for the destruction of the holy temple, there will be no swimming on July 20, 24, 25 and 27. There are other exciting activities/trips/water fun planned for those days. Please see the camp calendar for details.

WATER PARK

The Mini Gan Campers will play almost daily in our sprinklers, water table, foam machine and/or inflatable equipment, while Junior/Senior Gan campers will enjoy water play on days that they aren't at the pool. The Morahs and counselors will ensure that all the children enjoy their time getting wet in a safe and fun environment. Wet bathing suits and towels will be sent home daily (or as needed for Mini/Junior gan). Please check your child's bag every day so that you will know if you need to wash/dry your child's swim gear.

FOOD INFORMATION

Delicious and nutritious kosher meals are served daily at approximately 9:30 am (morning snacks), 12:00 pm (hot lunches) and 2:30 pm (afternoon snack). At dismissal, children will

receive ice pops – a cool way to end off a hot day!

Please see the enclosed menu for meal details. Hot lunches will be provided by Hunki's of Woodmere. If your child has special dietary needs/restrictions, please consult with us and we will be happy to work with you to make sure your child is served appropriate foods.

A Peanut/Nut Aware Environment: In order to maintain the safest possible environment for all our children, we strive to maintain a strict no peanut/nut policy. No outside food is allowed.

Notwithstanding our best efforts, the school and families of allergic children acknowledge that it is impossible to guarantee an absolutely safe environment for those with life threatening allergies. **We depend on you for your efforts and cooperation in ensuring the safety of all our children.**

HEALTH POLICIES

These policies are mandated by the State of New York and are written to insure a healthy environment for all children. Failure to comply with them jeopardizes other children's health. Therefore, parents/children not complying with these policies will not be allowed to attend. Please note that camp reserves the right to change these policies at any time and will provide notice to camp families.

Health Staff: Dr. Jeffrey Silverstein is the camp health director, who is on call for emergency phone consultations. Dr. Silverstein has reviewed and approved of our camp health plan. Jessica Lerner is the on-site health designee who will deal with any health concerns or minor injuries. Any inquiries regarding health issues will be dealt with by Jessica.

All our main counselors are trained in CPR for the Professional Rescuer and Advanced First Aid, and can respond to any incidents or emergencies on and off site.

Minor Injuries: We do everything in our power to keep your child/children safe when they are in our care. Please understand that it is perfectly common for children to occasionally have accidents in the course of a day's work and play. In the case of an injury, including a minor accident such as a scraped knee (which may require minor first aid attention), an 'ouch' report will be completed. It is important that parents be made aware of any incident that occurs while your child is in our care. This report will outline exactly what happened, how your child responded, and what actions were taken. Only the name of the injured child will be noted on the accident report. It is our policy not to name other children involved in an incident. Parents/guardians should read carefully and sign these incident reports when picking up children. Any injury or accident will be logged in the Camp Health Record Log. We will also try our utmost to inform you via phone call or a brightwheel message.

Emergency: In the event of an emergency situation, 911 will be called immediately and the child will be transported via ambulance to a local hospital. The parent/guardian (or alternate contact person) will be notified as soon as possible and a staff person (i.e. director, counselor or assistant) will remain with the child until the parent/guardian arrives. If no contact with the parents can be made, the camp will continue to try and contact the

parent of the child as well as the emergency contacts listed on the camper's registration form.

Health Screening: Every morning, at check-in, you will be required to confirm (via the Brightwheel app) that your child does not have a temperature of 100 degrees and is not showing symptoms of illness.

Illness: If your child is not feeling well in the morning, please keep your child at home, so as to protect all children coming to camp from illness and also prevent you from making an unnecessary trip to camp during the day. If a camper becomes ill during the day, parents will be contacted to arrange for the child to be picked up within the hour. In the event that no one listed on the emergency form can be contacted, the camp will use its best judgment in determining care for your child. If your child has communicable/infectious disease, please notify us immediately and bring a note from his/her pediatrician clearing your child to return to the camp program.

Keep your child home if he/she has...

- Fever of **100°** or more, or has had one during the previous 24-hour period.
- Signs of possible illness or inability to function in a group setting.
- Persistent, frequent cough.
- 3 or more bouts of diarrhea within the past 12 hours.
- Continuous vomiting.
- Rash with fever.
- Chicken Pox
- Strep throat/scarlet fever-until 24 hours after treatment has been initiated.
- Impetigo-until 24 hours after treatment has been initiated.
- Ringworm.
- Scabies/Head lice/Pinworms.
- Purulent conjunctivitis ("pink eye").
- Pertussis (Whooping Cough) - until 5 days of appropriate antibiotics have been completed.
- Failure to comply with New York State Immunization (see below).

Health Alerts: Parents will be advised if their children have been exposed to a contagious illness. A Health Alert Notice will be emailed stating illness, symptoms, and period of incubation. Parents are asked to report any communicable disease or illness (such as covid, strep, measles, chicken pox, roseola, pink eye, bronchitis, impetigo and head lice) to the office.

Covid-19: In the event that a camper or counselor is diagnosed with Covid-19, camp follows guidelines provided by the Dept. of Health and we will inform you about those guidelines closer to camp.

Allergies: All children with life threatening allergies are requested to supply the camp with medication deemed necessary by the child's physician. All allergies must be reported to the office and to the child's counselor before camp starts. If a child develops any new allergies, family should notify camp so that the medical records are kept up to date and accurate.

Medical Exam/Immunization requirements: By law, each child is required to have an annual complete physical examination, signed and dated by a physician. No child will be permitted to attend camp until his/her form is on file and all immunizations are up to date. If there is a delay in scheduled immunizations, a letter from the doctor must be on file at the camp, stating the reason and when the child is expected to be immunized.

Administration of Medication: Camp does not administer medications. Only campers who are old enough to know what they are taking may self-administer medication during camp under our supervision. Therefore, parents should make every effort to give medication to their child before bringing them to camp (upon drop-off please advise a staff member what medication you have given your child, the dosage and the time you administered the medication). If your child is old enough to self-administer and needs to take any medications during camp time, please note the following:

- Medications must be prescribed by a doctor and submitted to the director.
- All prescription medications must be in their original containers.
- Medications must be clearly marked with the child's name, date of prescription, expiration date **along with a written order from the physician and parent**, stating when and how much should be given.

Topical Non-Medicated Physical Barriers: Physical barrier lotions, ointments and creams such as sunscreen, bacitracin, insect repellent, and diaper ointments are generally not medications. We allow these to be applied as long as the consent form is completed.

Child Abuse & Neglect: Our staff is trained to recognize the signs of child abuse, neglect and/or maltreatment. In accordance with the New York State Social Services Law, the staff must report to the NYS Child Abuse and Maltreatment Register whenever there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been abused or maltreated.

Sunscreen Policy: Please supply your child/children with a bottle of waterproof sunscreen-labeled with his/her name-which shall remain in his/her camp bag throughout the summer. In addition, please make sure to apply sunscreen on your child before coming to camp. Campers will reapply sunscreen throughout the day as the need arises.

EMERGENCIES

Fire Drills: Fire drills are held throughout the summer. The staff train the children in the proper procedure for executing the fire drill.

Lockdown Procedures: When there is a threat of violence or a serious incident or natural disaster that could jeopardize the safety of students/staff, the staff will lock the doors and place children in the safest place possible or the nearest safe room that can be locked. Shelter in Place drills are practiced twice throughout the summer.

SECURITY

There are surveillance cameras in classrooms as well as in general areas both indoors and outdoors. Doors to the camp entrance and the playground are locked, and we have another security fence from the parking lot to the camp walkway. We also have a parking arm which is locked during the day and only open to tenants and clients of the building. In the event that you need to come to camp and the arm is down, key in #1567 for the arm to go up. The combination code for the 2nd security gate is 15 and turn to the right. Parents are asked to report any and all suspicious/concerning activity to the director. Staff members are trained in security and safety procedures, and how to best respond to any threat observed.

PERSONAL PROPERTY POLICY

Toys, games, valuables: Campers must leave all valuables (such as radios, computer games, toys, etc.) at home. Gan Israel will not be responsible for the loss of such items.

Animals: No animals or pets may be brought to camp.

Weapons/Illegal Substances: Absolutely no illegal substances or weapons of any kind are allowed on camp grounds. Camp reserves the right to conduct searches when warranted.

Personal Sports Equipment: Equipment should be stored away in cubby until needed for the games.

NEWS AND UPDATES

Newsletter: We will keep you informed of the special activities going on at camp in weekly newsletters, printed and/or e-mailed each Friday. Please read through the newsletter so that you are kept abreast of camp happenings and so your child does not miss any of the fun-filled activities provided by the camp.

Camp Website and Facebook: Our camp website - www.CampGI.com and [facebook.com/JewishELC/](https://www.facebook.com/JewishELC/) will be updated with camp pictures and news, so be sure to check us out on the web.

Please do not hesitate to discuss any questions or concerns regarding your child with Jessica. We are looking forward to an exciting and safe summer. Your input does make a difference and we welcome your comments and suggestions. Our goal is to give your child/children a fun-filled, safe, and exciting camp experience with other Jewish children, in these, the most impressionable years of their lives.

Notes _____



516-833-3057 ext. 102

www.CampGI.com