**CAMP HAVERIM FAMILY MANUAL**

**Thank you** for enrolling your child at Camp Haverim!

**Please** take a few moments to review the information in this Family Manual with your child and keep it handy during camp. If you have any questions that are not answered by the Family Manual, please do not hesitate to contact the camp directors **Samantha Silverman at (805) 403-7276 and Mike Witt at (517) 315-9087.**

**Our Mission** is to provide a high-quality Jewish day camp experience that foster our campers’ social, moral, cultural, physical and emotional education and development. Camp Haverim is a supportive, caring community camp with an upbeat Jewish flavor.

**Our Objective** is to provide our campers a fun and meaningful experience, in a warm, nurturing, safe, secure and positive environment so that they may:

* Have fun,
* Develop and nurture friendships with and respect for other campers,
* Develop a stronger Jewish identity (including knowledge of Judaism, pride in being Jewish and understanding and appreciation of Jewish values and culture),
* Experience adventures,
* Develop socially,
* Form a bond with and develop respect for and appreciation of Israel,
* Develop their self-esteem,
* Participate in a variety of developmentally appropriate activities, and
* Respect the rights and dignity of all individuals.

This Manual is divided into sections covering the following:

 **I. Technical Information – The Nuts and Bolts**

 - Camp Directors

 - Location

 - Transportation Policies (including busing, drop off and pick up)

 - Absences and Early Pick Ups

 - Camp Attire

 - Food and Drinks

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**II. Concepts and Principles: Expectations**

 - Judaism at Camp

 - Communication

 - Goals and Objectives for Camper Development

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 - Camp Committee

 **III. Health and Safety**

 - Health Care Policies and Procedures

 - Emergency Procedures

 - Medical Release and Authorization Form (covers medical information, medications,

 allergies and other special needs, medical insurance, emergency contacts …)

 - No Alcohol or Drugs

**I. Technical Information – The Nuts and Bolts**

**Camp Executive Director:** The Camp is led by its experienced Camp Executive Director, Samantha Silverman, who works with rabbis, educators and parents from the greater Santa Barbara Jewish community to offer your child a rich and rewarding Jewish day camp experience. Samantha Silverman has worked as a Jewish educator for over a decade and is passionate about creating experiences that inspires and connects Jewish people of all ages. She loves developing programming that builds young people’s Jewish identity in fun, engaging, and memorable ways. She has a BA in Jewish Studies from UCLA and an MA in Jewish Studies from Yale University. You may reach Samantha at any time by calling her cell phone: (805) 403-7276.

**Camp Director:** Michael Witt, is a long time Jewish Federation staff member, and is thrilled to be a major part of the camp team. The position comes naturally to him as his daughter Lendel has attended camp for that past two summers and son David plans to attend as well. Mike’s wife Kelsey has been capturing professional photos of camp for several sessions. He is excited and proud to work with all age groups of campers as well as have a leadership role overseeing the counselors in the effort to make Camp Haverim the most wonderful Jewish summer day camp there is. Mike is an experienced song leader and program developer with our local JCC and has known many of our local Jewish families through the many years of building lasting relationships built over a lifetime of communal involvement.

**Location:** Camp Haverim will take place on the gorgeous, centrally located campus of Santa Barbara City College. SBCC provides innumerable new perks and exciting enhancements to our existing programming, including beach days, air-conditioned classrooms, morning song sessions overlooking the mountains and ocean, Maccabiah games in SBCC Stadium, and much more.

Policies and Procedures for Drop Off and Pick Up at Camp

1. Parents drop off and pick up their camper(s) at the roundabout located on SBCC’s West Campus. When dropping off your camper, kindly park in the designated parking lot and accompany your camper to SBCC West campus where assigned Senior Counselors will be awaiting your arrival. For safety reasons, please ensure your camper does not walk unaccompanied in the parking lots or roundabout.
2. **IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT YOU CHECK YOUR CHILD IN WHEN YOU DROP THEM OFF AND CHECK YOUR CHILD OUT WHEN YOU PICK THEM UP.** **Please diligently comply with this requirement.**

For the safety of our campers, each camper will be released only to his/her parent/guardian unless the Camp has been notified in writing in advance of another person who is authorized to pick up that camper. Under no circumstances may a camper be released to an unauthorized adult or to an adult (whether authorized or not) who by court order is not permitted to pick up the camper.

1. **Please comply with all posted speed limit and traffic control signs at SBCC.** Although the Camp’s campers will not be on the road, students, staff and others will be present at SBCC and may be on the road. **Please drive slowly** and **watch carefully** for pedestrians and other vehicles.

Authorized Vehicles: In compliance with the standards of the American Camping Association, we expressly prohibit the transportation of individuals in the back of pickup trucks or wagons where seats are not attached to the vehicles.

**Absences**: If your child is going to be absent from camp, **please contact Samantha (805) 403-7276 by 8:00 a.m**. We realize campers may miss camp for a variety of reasons, but we are unable to give a refund, credit or extension for missed days.

**Early Pick Up**: If you need to pick up your child prior to the end of the camp day, please give a signed and dated note to your child's counselor stating the date and time of the early pick up (and the name of the person who will be picking them up if it is someone other than a person authorized on the Camp Registration Form). You (or the person picking up your child) should find your child’s group (please call Samantha (805) 403-7276 or Mike (517) 315-9087 if you have any problem finding your child’s group) and sign out your child with their counselor. Please do not ask your child’s counselor to bring your child up to the parking lot for early dismissal. **Please do not leave without signing out your child with their counselor.** (If you do not check out your child, we will think they are missing and institute our missing camper procedures.)

**Camp Attire**:Campers should wear comfortable, casual clothes: T-shirts, shorts and closed-toed sneakers (not flip flops or open toed shoes). REMEMBER, CAMPERS GET DIRTY! Do not send expensive clothes, shoes or jewelry to Camp.

Campers should bring a camp bag to Camp, clearly labeled in permanent ink with their first and last name on the outside of the bag. Inside the bag they should have: sunscreen, a bathing suit, a towel, surf/water shoes (for water-play activities) and a change of clothes (in case of an emergency). Please label all clothing, towels and other items brought to Camp. The camp will not be held responsible for lost, damaged, or misplaced items.

Campers should apply sunscreen prior to coming to Camp and should wear hats. Counselors will remind campers to regularly reapply sunscreen throughout the day (including after they engage in other water activities) and will help younger campers reapply sunscreen if they need help. Campers should bring their own sunscreen, with their name on the bottle, in their camp bag.

Campers will receive one Camp T-shirt (and may purchase additional T-shirts for $10 each – please contact Mike Witt at (517) 315-9087 if you would like to purchase additional Camp T-shirts). Campers **must** wear a Camp T-shirt on all field trips.

**Food & Drinks**: The Camp will provide parve/dairy snacks and drinks each morning and afternoon. Kosher laws are observed for all food provided by the Camp.

Campers must bring their own non-perishable dairy or parve lunch and a drink. We strongly recommend the use of reusable lunch boxes or bags clearly labeled with a first and last name. A frozen water bottle or juice box will help keep the lunch cool during the morning. Because of food allergies and kosher concerns, please ask your child not to share his/her lunch.

Drinking water is available at all times. To cut down on the use of paper cups, campers should bring their own, labeled, water bottle to camp. Water bottles should be able to be sealed and a sports top is recommended. Please do not send a bottle that may spill.

**Activities:** Each camperwill participate with their group (which will be made up of other campers their age) in a variety of fun, engaging and age-appropriate activities throughout the day. To keep Camp interesting and fun for campers year after year, more challenging age-appropriate activities will be offered to campers as they grow older. Among the activities the camp offers are Ga Ga, tennis, soccer, basketball, nature hikes, arts and crafts, songs and cheers and capture the flag. Once each session we offer: (1) a special day on which campers separate into multi-age groups and engage in competitive activities such as relay races, (2) the opportunity to climb a climbing wall, and (3) a field trip, such as ice skating or a visit to the MOXI Museum. Our Habonim (7th and 8th-grade) campers are offered more field trips and more challenging and age-appropriate field trips (like stand-up paddle boarding and surfing lessons). Please remind your child that we expect the same good behavior from them when on a field trip as when they are at Camp and that it is especially important for them to stay with their groups and listen to their counselors while on a field trip.

While all activities involve a risk of injury, the Camp complies with standards, established by the American Camp Association, designed to ensure your camper’s safety.

**Electives**: In addition to activities that our campers do with their group, each camper (other than our youngest campers, whose Camp day will be enriched with special programs) gets to choose an elective that they will have the chance to do each day. Among the electives the Camp offers are tennis, dance, drama, journalism and arts & crafts.

**Shabbat**: Each Shabbat is a very special day at Camp. Creative Shabbat services, which campers help plan and lead, highlight the warmth and beauty that makes Shabbat so special and joyous. At lunch we say the blessings over grape juice and Challah and share joyful songs.

At noon on the second Shabbat (which is the last day) of each session (July 19 and August 2), we invite the families of our campers to share in our Shabbat celebration. Campers who chose drama as their elective perform a short play, those who chose journalism hand out a newspaper, and everyone sings songs together.

**DON'T FORGET**: Please send the following to Camp with your child with every day:

* Clothes that can get dirty.
* A hat.
* Closed toed shoes.
* A backpack with (i) water bottle with your child’s name on it, (ii) a parve or dairy lunch and a drink (we recommend a frozen water bottle or juice in the lunch bag to keep the food cool), (iii) swimsuit, (iv) a towel, (v) a bottle of sunscreen with your child’s name on it, and (vi) water shoes (for water play).
* A note if she/he will not be picked up at the regular time or is going to be picked by someone other than the people authorized on your Registration Form.
* A positive attitude!

**Please label in permanent marker anything that you would like to see again!**

We try our best to return lost items to campers as soon as possible. We have a Lost and Found box and urge you to check it on a regular basis.

**DO FORGET**...

* Expensive clothes or jewelry.
* Electronic devices and toys, including cell phones.
* Personal equipment such as sports equipment, including skateboards, and electronics.
* Anything that could be used as a weapon.
* Aggressive toys such as real or pretend guns, knives or swords.

Pets or other animals.

* A negative attitude.

The Camp will not be responsible for the loss of or damage to any items. All prohibited items will be confiscated and returned to the camper’s parent/ guardian at the end of the day.

**II. Concepts and Principles: What should my child expect and what will be expected from my child?**

**Judaism at Camp**: Jewish culture and values form a thread that is woven into every aspect of camp life, but unlike more formal learning settings, the emphasis at Camp is on fun. Our campers enjoy being Jewish and expressing their Judaism, which leads to good feelings and a stronger Jewish identity. Our program features games and songs that celebrate Judaism, special events like Israel Day that help build Jewish pride, and special joyous Shabbat celebrations (see above).

**Communication**: Effective, open communication between staff, parents and campers is extremely important. The Camp’s staff will keep you posted regarding events and incidents that take place at Camp. Please contact Samantha at (805) 403-7276 or Mike at (517) 315-9087 if you have any questions or concerns you would like to share. Please remember that the Camp session goes by *very quickly.* It is best to address any concerns as soon as they arise.

**Goals and Objectives for Camper Development**: To help you better understand the extremely positive impact Camp Haverim strives to have on your child’s life, we have developed the following goals and objectives for the development of our campers.

1. To provide programs and opportunities that enhance our campers’ knowledge of Judaism and pride in being Jewish, including (a) singing Jewish songs every morning and afternoon, (b) saying the Jewish belssings before lunch each day and participating in special Shabbat activities, such as sharing Shabbat stories and songs with a local Rabbi, doing Shabbat arts and crafts projects and saying the Jewish blessings over the bread and wine.
2. To instill in our campers respect for and appreciation of Israel by (a) devoting a full day each session to learning about and celebrating Israel. (including learning Israeli dances, eating Israeli food, learning Israeli songs, working on Israeli-themed arts and crafts projects and playing Israel-centered games (such as “Jewpardy”)), (b) decorating the gym with posters of Israel and Israeli flags, and (c) encouraging the counselors to use Hebrew words and explain their meenings throughout each day.
3. To help our campers better understanding and appreciate Jewish culture and values by (a) singing songs about Jewish values (such as a song that teaches that doing a mitzvah (a good deed) leads to doing more mitzvot (good deeds)), (b) saying the Jewish belssings before lunch each day, to teach about being thankful for what we have, (c) teaching Jewish values such as honesty, fairness, consideration, kindness, helping others, giving to those in need and appreciating the differences among people during activities throughout each day, (d) teaching respect for and appreciation of our natural surroundings, including a full day each session devoted to nature and other nature-related activities, such as nature hikes, are built into the daily program (on the first day of each session, our campers also learn about and discuss as a group the importance of taking care of their camp and the type of things that they need to do such as picking up litter, staying on trails, not picking flowers, respecting property, conserving water and recycling), and (e) incorporating Jewish values into our electives, including the arts and crafts, drama and newspaper programs.
4. To help our campers develop respect for and friendships with other campers, including by (a) participating in a “Buddy Day” each session that includes age-appropriate activities (such as a “trust walk,” during which campers take turns being blindfolded and leading their fellow campers) designed to help our campers develop respect for and friendships with other campers, (b) learning about, understanding and appreciating the importance of, and having respect for, the opinions, beliefs and feelings of others, including those who look or sound different or have different religions or points of view, and (c) encouraging teamwork and support versus competition.
5. To provide opportunities that stimulate the development of each camper’s self-esteem, including (a) a full day each session devoted to “Macabia Games,” which include activities designed to build self-esteem by rewarding teamwork and trying rather individual accomplishment and physical prowess - by the end of the day, everyone is a winner, (b) allowing each camper to use an elective each session, including arts and crafts, drama, tennis and newspaper, with each elective being designed to encompass elements designed to build self esteem (which also is enhanced when the campers share the fruits of their labor, such as putting on a play they help write for their fellow campers or distributing a newspaper to their fellow campers), (c) participating in “ice breakers” on the first day of each session that stress that differences make each camper special and highlight differences in positive ways intended to build each camper’s self esteem, and (d) training and encouraging our counselors to praise our campers often, not only for their accomplishments but also for their efforts.

**Behavior Expectations**: A major factor in the success of our Camp program is the behavior, interest and attitude of our campers. These ingredients set the mood for the entire summer. Courtesy and respect are always expected and appreciated, and our counselors are trained to be role models in this area. Our Camp exists to help our campers develop new friendships, knowledge and skills, and to help them to have fun! To accomplish that we provide an environment that is safe, both physically and emotionally, and encourage our campers to think about and be considerate of the rights and well being of their fellow campers.

We spend four days working with and training our counselors before Camp begins. During that time we go over a lot of information to help them better keep your child safe and sound, create a fun and fulfilling environment and help your child get the most out of their Camp experience. We understand that expectations for a 5-year-old must be different from those of a 10-year-old and our counselors are trained to be familiar with age-appropriate behavior (and misbehavior) and how to appropriately handle a wide variety of situations. Among the areas we cover during our intensive training are (i) learning to lead group activities, (ii) how best to handle a variety of unique situations, ranging from the shy camper to the camper who is a bully or instigates fighting, (iii) to reward positive appropriate behavior and how best to address improper or inappropriate behavior, including time-outs, redirecting the camper and/or removing the camper from the group and talking with him/her about the underlying cause for their behavior. While we always try to deal with the problems in a positive manner, there may be cases where a camper’s behavior is so egregious, and the camper is so unwilling to work with us, that we conclude it is in the best interests of the other campers to send that camper home. We reserve the right to send any child home if his/her behavior becomes unmanageable, disruptive, or endangers the safety and welfare of himself/herself, other campers or the staff. For example, extreme physical fighting, extreme name-calling, stealing, or destruction of property, may result in our dismissing a camper. Camp Haverim reserves the right to dismiss, without refund, any camper who repeatedly disregards camp rules, or who endangers the safety of himself/herself and/or others.

We expect all campers to comply with the following considerations. Please read them carefully and discuss them with your child.

* Campers are expected to show consideration and respect for their fellow campers, counselors and other staff. Fighting, swearing, and disrespect will not be tolerated. Campers must respect the Camp facilities and equipment as well as the belongings of other campers and staff. A camper’s parent/guardian must pay for any property their child damages or steals.
* Campers are subject to the authority of the Camp staff, in the same way that they are subject to the authority of teachers and parents. Please remind your child to listen to his/her counselors and to follow their instructions. It is especially important for them to stay with their group at all times and not to go off on their own, especially when on a field trip.
* One of our most important rules at Camp is that everyone shows RESPECT. We expect all campers and staff to respect each other, the Camp’s facilities and equipment, and most importantly, themselves.

On the first day of each camp session, we will discuss with all of our campers the Camp's expectations with respect to their behavior and the consequences of inappropriate behavior. We will keep parents informed of, and work with them to resolve, any problems that come up. Under no circumstances do we permit the use of corporal punishment at Camp.

**Camp Committee:** The Camp is guided by a committee of parents and community members who enjoy helping to create the wonderful experience that Camp Haverim offers and are committed to ensuring the Camp’s future success. We encourage all parents to become involved in this very important and rewarding group. Please contact Samantha at (805) 403-7276if you would like to add your support to the committee.

**III. Health and Safety: How can I be sure that my child is safe?**

At Camp Haverim every precaution is taken to ensure the safety of your child. We maintain excellent staff-to-camper ratios. All staff members are required to complete an extensive training program to prepare them for any mishaps that may arise, and, most of all, they have been instructed to keep their eyes open. If you have any specific concerns about the health or safety of your child, please call Samantha (805) 403-7276. The following information is meant to minimize the risk that any health care issues will arise and to minimize the harm from any health care issues that do arise. Please be sure to read over all the details and fill out the appropriate health forms prior to camp.

The number one priority for the Camp Executive Director and the rest of the Camp’s staff is the safety and security of our campers and staff. We have established many policies and procedures to keep our campers and staff safe and secure, including the following:

* Although the Camp does not employ a doctor or a nurse and there will not be a doctor or a nurse on site, all senior counselors are required to maintain a current certification in adult and child CPR from a nationally recognized certifying agency.
* There is a fire department with paramedics within five minutes of the Camp.
* The Camp maintains favorable staff-to-camper ratios at all times.
* As part of the staff training, the Camp focuses on preventing (i) predictable potential injuries that may result from campers engaging in particular activities and (ii) injuries in specific locations. All staff are expected to serve as a positive role models by demonstrating healthy and safe behaviors.
* The Staff Manual has detailed information and the staff received extensive training on what to do in the case of various types of emergencies, including a fire, earthquake, accident, injury or illness.
* The Camp holds a fire and earthquake drill on the first day of each session.
* SBCC has fire alarms, sprinklers and fire extinguishers in all classrooms used by the Camp.
* The Camp has implemented rules concerning the handling of campers’ and minor staff members’ medications (see below).
* The counselors are trained to be alert to symptoms of illness or injury, to follow-up with the Camp Executive Director when symptoms of illness or injury persist and provide for special needs/accommodations when appropriate.
* The Staff Manual has detailed information and the staff receives extensive training on policies and procedures to keep our campers and staff safe at all times.
* Parents/guardians are required to provide up-to-date health information for their campers and provide emergency contact information on the Medical Release and Authorization Form.

Perhaps most importantly, our staff is trained to keep their eyes open, be aware and think at all times.

You can help us keep your camper safe and secure by carefully reading this Family Manual and discussing with your campers what is expected of them in terms of their behavior and following the rules. Of course, we want our campers to have fun, but we want them to be safe while they are having fun.

 **Medical Information and Emergencies**: We must receive your child’s Medical Release and Authorization Form before your child will be permitted to attend Camp. If you have concerns about your child's participation in a camp activity, please note your concern on that Form. Also feel free to call Samantha at any time at (805) 403-7276.

If your camper is injured or feels ill, the Camp Executive Director will use his judgment as to whether or not to call you. We will call you as soon as possible in the event of an emergency. Please be sure to leave us a number where you can be reached if it is different from the numbers listed on your child’s Medical Release and Authorization Form.

If your child is involved in an accident, is injured or becomes ill, his/her counselor is required to complete an Incident Report Form. We will provide you with a copy of that Form on the day the incident occurs.

**Medications**:If you request in writing that the Camp administer a prescription medication to your child, the Camp Executive Director, Camp Director, or Assistant Camp Director will administer the prescription medication as long as it is handed to the Camp Executive Director in its original container with the label still intact. The medication will be administered only according to the instructions on the label. The Camp Executive Director, Camp Director, or Assistant Camp Director will administer a non-prescription medication to your child only if you have given your written permission for your child to receive that medication on his/her Medical Release and Authorization Form and only if the use of the medication adheres to the guidelines specified on the medication to be given. For your child's safety, we ask that you not send medication in your child's bag. Please hand any medication directly to the Camp Executive Director. Please make sure to provide appropriate instructions, including instructions concerning proper handling and storage.

**Communicable Diseases**: We will take the following precautions if we suspect that a child has a communicable disease:

1. Camp Haverim will immediately notify the parent or guardian of the child's condition when a child has been observed with signs or symptoms of illness.

2. A child with any of the following signs or symptoms of illness will be immediately isolated and discharged to his/her parent or guardian. The Camp will readmit the child to Camp only after the conditions set forth below have been satisfied. Please be advised that we reserve the right to request a physician's note before allowing a sick child to return to camp.

* Severe coughing: Child may return to camp when coughing ceases or when an explanation can be provided.
* Diarrhea (more than one abnormally loose stool within a 24-hour period): Child may not return to camp until diarrhea has ceased for at least 24 hours.
* Difficult or Rapid Breathing: Child may return to camp when condition ceases or when an explanation is provided and the Camp is comfortable that it is safe for the child to return to Camp.
* Yellowish Skin or Eyes: Child may return to camp when color returns to normal or when an explanation can be provided and the Camp is comfortable that it is safe for the child to return to Camp.
* Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye): Child may not return to camp until 24 hours after the start of treatment with antibiotics.
* Temperature of 100 degrees or above: Child may not return to camp until there has been no fever for 24 hours.
* Untreated infected skin patches/Unusual spots or rashes: It will be left to the discretion of the Camp Executive Director to determine whether or not a doctor should be contacted for examination and further instructions.
* Stiff Neck: Child may return to camp with an explanation and further instructions from a physician.
* Sore throat or difficulty in swallowing: Child may return to camp when symptoms have ceased or when an explanation can be provided.
* Vomiting-Child may return when vomiting has ceased.
* Evidence of lice, scabies, or other parasitic infestation: Child will require a physician's note stating that the problem was treated and is no longer present before the child will be permitted to return to Camp.

The Camp will immediately isolate a child with any of the foregoing symptoms or signs of illness and call their parent/guardian or emergency contact. If you receive a call asking you to pick up your child, the Camp expects you to pick up your child as soon as possible. In the event we are unable to reach a camper’s parent/guardian, the person designated as the back-up emergency contact person on the emergency form will be contacted. Please be sure to have a back-up arrangement in place so that there is a plan of action if the Camp calls.

In order to ensure the health of all the children and staff, it is imperative that all of us follow these guidelines. We are sensitive to the fact that parents have many responsibilities. Nevertheless, if a sick child is sent to Camp, or returns to Camp too soon following an illness, it puts that child, as well as other campers and staff, at risk.

**Tobacco products, alcohol and illegal drugs are strictly prohibited**. Staff members and/or campers who use, or are under the influence of, any tobacco product, illegal drugs or alcohol jeopardize the safety, security and welfare of our campers, staff members and others. Any camper who possesses, or is under the influence of, any tobacco product, illegal drug or alcohol while at Camp, or on any Camp-sanctioned excursion or field trip will be expelled from Camp, without any pro-ration or refund of the camper’s tuition, and the Camp may be required to report the incident to legal authorities.

**Obligation to Report Child Abuse or Neglect**: According to the California Child Abuse Reporting Law, Article 2.5 of the Penal Code, it is a crime for certain professionals and laypersons who have a special working relationship or contact with children not to report suspected abuse or neglect to the proper authorities. The Camp carefully reviews the definition of child abuse and neglect with its staff, and instructs the staff as to their legal obligations, during the pre-Camp training.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CLOSE ATTENTION TO AND ADHERENCE WITH THESE POLICIES.** If you have any questions or concerns please call Samantha at (805) 403-7276 or Mike (517) 315-9087.