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CAMP GAN ISRAEL OF SILVER SPRING

FAMILY HANDBOOK

A summer of Jewish fun for kids ages 3-11!

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ABOUT OUR CAMP

Camp Gan Israel of Silver Spring recognizes that summer is a special time for children. These joyous weeks allow children to grow in their independence, social skills, and love of Judaism and we strive to create a safe and warm environment for children to grow and thrive.

Gan Israel is much more than a physical break from the school routine and winter activities. It's a comprehensive program designed to strengthen the body and soul. It provides your child with a rich a wholesome summer of fun and excitement along with friendship and meaningful educational experiences.

Our amazing staff are the key to implementing our mission every day! From our dedicated directors to our counselors and CITs, Gan Izzy's staff come with a commitment to helping and guiding children and a love for Jewish education.

Bunk sizes are kept small and well-staffed. Our camper to counselor ratio is about 1 to 4 campers, and this does not include our wonderful CITs. Each special program or funshop is run by a professional instructor. This ensures the best possible care, instruction, and supervision for our campers.

We can't wait to welcome your family to camp this summer!



OUR STAFF



Rabbi Berel and Chaya Wolvovsky
Camp Directors



Daniella Barishansky
Administrator



Miriam Kotek, R.N.
Camp Nurse



Victoria Rothenberg
Mini Gan Director



Ruchel Green
6s Division Director and
Counselor Support



Miriam Riven and Livia Dunkin
7s Division Directors



Rabbi Zalman and Brochi Friedman
Grand Gan Boys Director and 5s
Division Director



Rabbi Mendel and Chaya Wenger
Grand Gan Boys Leader and
Grand Gan Girls Director



Caroline Friedman
Accounts and Tuition



TEACHERS AND COUNSELORS

- Mini Gan is staffed by preschool teachers with three staff members per bunk
- Gan and Grand Gan is staffed by 3 high school counselors per bunk
- Every division in Gan and Grand Gan has a post-high school head counselor who plans activities and programs and interacts with campers
- Every division has a talented and amazing education professional serving as its director
- Grand Gan Boys is staffed by experienced rabbis in each bunk
- Counselors supervise campers at all times on grounds and at the pools and on trips.
- Head counselors and division directors also travel to the pool and on trips with their divisions.
- Workshop instructors are all experienced professionals and most have come to Gan Izzy for many years in a row.
- All staff members ages 18 and older have multiple background checks per the requirements of the Maryland Department of Health Youth Camp Licensing regulations.
- We conduct staff trainings on supervision, helping campers make good choices and be good friends, and establishing healthy relationships before the first day of camp. Our directors work consistently with staff throughout the summer to help campers feel comfortable and happy in their bunks and activities.



CAMP DIVISIONS AND ACTIVITIES



Mini Gan

- For campers ages 3 & 4
- A special activity each day of the week including gymnastics, soccer, martial arts, music, and dance
- Shows and Shabbat celebration every Friday
- Water play on camp grounds throughout the week
- Circle time, free play, arts and crafts, sensory activities, and more every day!
- Nap or quiet rest time is offered every afternoon
- Led by experienced preschool teachers and childcare providers

Gan



- For campers ages 5-7 (entering K-2)
- Funshops and trips to a local pool on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
- Field trips on Tuesdays
- Shows, funshops, and special activities on Thursdays
- Shabbat celebration and challah baking every Friday
- Led by committed counselors and CITs

Grand Gan



- For campers ages 8-11 (entering 3rd-6th)
- Funshops and trips to a local pool on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
- Field trips on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Shows and special activities throughout the week
- Shabbat celebration and challah baking every Friday
- Led by committed counselors and CITs



HEALTH POLICIES

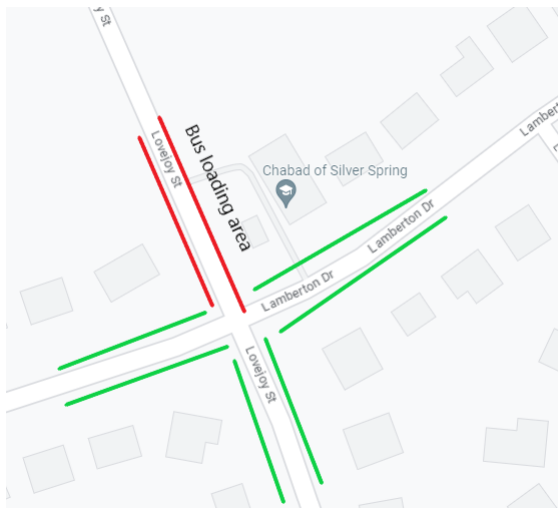
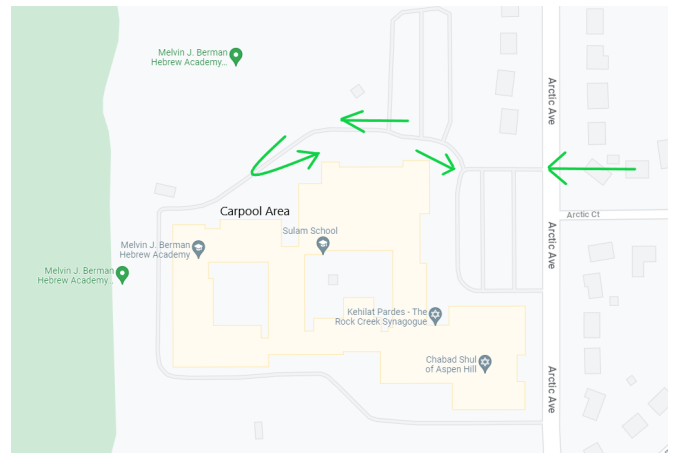
- Camp Gan Israel is a licensed youth camp in Maryland.
- The Camper Health History Form is required for all campers and should be emailed to us by June 23.
- Our camp nurse, Miriam Kotek, is on grounds every day.
- Administrative staff, division directors, and counselors are notified of any campers in their divisions who have allergies or other specific medical concerns.
- Epi-pens and other allergy or emergency medication are brought to the pools and on all field trips.
- Please apply sunscreen to your child every day before camp and send a labeled bottle of sunscreen with them to camp for reapplying.
- We have designated hydration stations throughout camp and bring a lot of water on trips. We encourage children to drink water often throughout the day.
- If your child becomes sick during camp, he or she will go to the nurse's office and the nurse will contact you to arrange pick up.
- Children must be 24 hours without fever (without the use of fever reducing medication), vomiting, or diarrhea before returning to camp.
- If you have any questions or concerns about your child's health or the camp's health policies.



CARPOOL, BUS, AND EXTENDED CARE

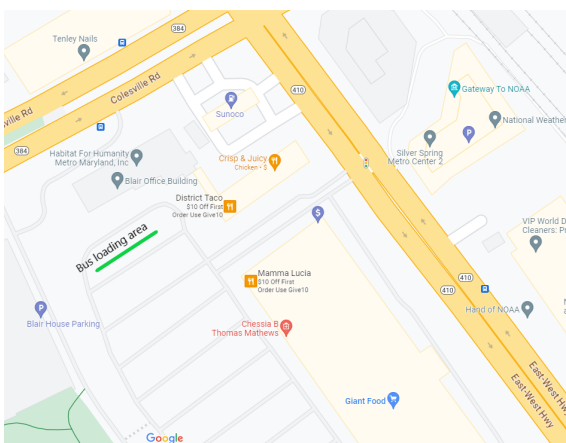
Carpool

- Drop off is at 9:00 am daily
- Pick up is at 3:20 pm daily
- Families will be given a carpool pass which should be displayed on your dashboard
- Please follow the carpool line using the diagram below
- Please do not park in the carpool line and get out as it slows down the line



Bus

- There are three buses from Kemp Mill and one from Downtown Silver Spring
- Kemp Mill buses depart at 8:35 am and return at 3:55 pm at the corner of Lambertson and Lovejoy in front of Chabad of Silver Spring.
- Please do not park on Lovejoy street near Chabad as that is where the buses pull up
- Your child will be assigned to a bus and must sit on that bus every day
- The Downtown Silver Spring bus departs from the Giant parking lot on East-West Highway at 8:30 am and returns at 4:00 pm.
- Children may not check themselves in or out at the bus. If you want your child to walk to or from the bus, please arrange for another parent to be responsible for signing your child in and out.



Extended Care

- Extended Care is held in the Kindergym on camp grounds.
- There is no bus service to Kemp Mill or Silver Spring for extended care.
- Please park and walk in to drop off or pick up your child.
- Please do not leave your child until you see him or her with a staff member.

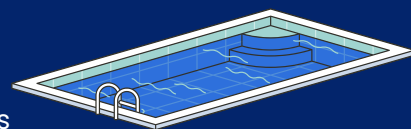


SAFETY DURING CAMP ACTIVITIES

Trips to the pool and exciting field trips are a hallmark on the Gan Izzy experience for campers ages 5 and older. We do everything that we can to make sure that all aspects of the camper experience are safe and fun.

Swimming

- Mini Gan remains on grounds at all time and only does waterplay with no standing water
- All campers in the Gan and Grand Gan division swim in pools that are located within a 10-minute bus ride from camp.
- Pools are all licensed and inspected in Maryland and are mandated to provide sufficient life guard supervision for the number of campers that we bring.
- In addition to the lifeguards, our staff are trained to stand along the edges of the pool at specific intervals and be scanning the water at all times.
- Campers are assessed on their first day at the pool by the lifeguarding staff and only campers who demonstrate the ability to meet the pool's requirements for using the deep end are allowed to swim there. All other campers remain in the shallow end of the pool.
- The 5s division (entering Kindergarten) goes to a pool with a large wading pool and only plays in that space.
- Counselors and directors count and account for every child on the way to and from the pool.



Trips

- Gan division goes on a trip every Tuesday and Grand Gan goes on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- We use climate-controlled school buses for trip transportation.
- For trips to larger or more open locations, each counselor and CIT is assigned specific children to supervise to ensure that each child is constantly under the watchful eye of a Gan Izzy staff member.
- Campers wear camp t-shirts on trips and are also given wristbands with the camp phone number.
- All water parks provide life guarding staff in accordance with state regulations.
- Children are provided with extra water for outdoor trips and trips with rigorous exercise such as trampoline parks.
- Emergency medications are brought on all trips.





FOOD AT CAMP

- Gan Izzy provides lunches for all of our campers daily!
- Lunches are balanced and always include protein, starch, fruits, and veggies.
- We are mindful of allergies and do not use nuts or sesame in any food served at camp.
- Campers with allergies or special preferences are allowed to bring food from home to supplement or replace what is served at camp.



COMMUNICATION



Communication is very important to us!

Brightwheel

- Camp Gan Israel uses brightwheel, a communication and attendance tracking app, to message parents and share photos.
- You can communicate with your child's director and the camp administrative team using brightwheel.
- Parents, guardians, carpools, and babysitters will use brightwheel to check children in and out of camp every day by scanning a QR code with the app from their mobile phone.
- Our staff will post photos regularly to your child's brightwheel account.

Phone and Email

- To reach the camp office regarding enrollment and tuition, please email campganisraelofsilverspring@gmail.com.
- The camp nurse, Miriam Kotek, can be reached at nurse@cgsilverspring.com or 301-962-9400 ext 711 during camp hours.
- For specific questions regarding payments, scholarships, or subsidies, please email Caroline Friedman at c.friedman@chabadsilverspring.com.
- Our camp director, Chaya Wolvovsky, can be reached at 301-915-7394.

WE ARE
LOOKING
FORWARD TO A
GREAT SUMMER!

campganisraelofsilverspring@gmail.com

CGSilverSpring.com

301-593-1117

