



**Morristown, New Jersey
Summer Day Camp**

Parent's Handbook

Camp Gan Israel Morristown, NJ

A Letter from Your Directors

Dear Camp Gan Israel Parents,

We are so excited to offer you the best summer experience for your child. Camp Gan Israel, part of the largest network of Jewish camps in the world, is proud to provide the best in fun and safety in a warm and caring Jewish environment.

In Gan Israel, we view our staff and the parents as two integral partners of a team. Together we work together to bring out the best in your child's development and growth; physically, socially and spiritually. Using our website, www.ganisrael.org, regular email communication and weekly newsletters, we hope to stay in touch with you about your child's progress and activities.

Please review this handbook so you will be familiar with the procedures and policies of our camp. Our complete Camp Policy will be available very soon on our website in the Parent's Section. If you have any questions or concerns you can call our camp office at 862-244-3420, or email office@ganisrael.org

We're looking forward to another amazing Gan Izzy summer!

Yours Truly,

Rabbi Mendel Dubov

Rabbi Mendel & Chana Stiefel.

Directors

CGI - Made from the best STAFF on earth!

Camp Gan Israel Morristown, NJ

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Your Child's Safety

Attendance/Child Absence:

1. Girls and Kiddie camp should be dropped off by the top parking lot.
2. Boys should be dropped off at the bottom parking lot.
3. Attendance is taken by our staff every morning. Do not drop off your child without a staff member noting that your child has arrived at camp and taking attendance.
4. If you know your child will be absent from camp, please notify the camp office at 862-244-3420 (Please leave voicemail) or email office@ganisrael.org



Arrival and Departure (TR.4)

1. The speed limit in our parking lot is 5 MPH.
2. A staff member will be standing at the camp entrance from 10 minutes before camp begins until 15 minutes after camp begins. Likewise, there will be a staff member standing 5 minutes before camp ends until 15 minutes after camp is over.
3. If you arrive late to camp and there is no one at the pick up / drop off spot, please bring the children directly to their respective bunkrooms.
4. Drop-off: Parents can drop off their children by the roundabout.
5. Please keep the traffic moving. Please park your car in the parking lot if you need to discuss anything with counselors, directors etc.
6. Pick-up: At the end of the day, parents must pick up their children from their drop-off areas. Staff members will supervise the children until parents pick them up.
7. Carpool pickup: When the children have left the car, proceed immediately to ensure the continuous flow of traffic. When picking up children at the end of the camp day, begin lining up your car by the drop-off areas. Children will be assembled and will be called as their car pools approach the building.
8. If you cannot wait for your child in the carpool line, you must park in the upper parking lot and wait **outside the building** for a staff member to get your child.
9. If the parent or guardian will not be picking up the child, the alternate driver must be added as

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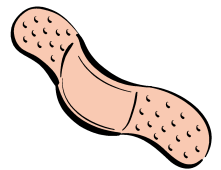
an authorized pickup person by emailing rabbidubov@rca.edu. No child will be released to an unauthorized driver without permission from the Director.

10. Campers find it hard to adjust when they come late, and they worry when their parents don't pick them up on time. Please be prompt. Camp begins at 9:00am and ends at 3:30pm. After 3:50pm, after-care charges will be applied. (Parents will be charged \$5 for the first time. Subsequent incidents will incur a \$10 per child fee.)
11. If you have camp business, you must park in the parking lot after you have left your children off at the building. **Cars may not be left unattended in front of the building at any time for any length of time, nor may they be double parked at any time.**
12. For children using the bus: See BUS TRANSPORTATION AND CONDUCT.

Medical & Emergencies

All campers must have a completed and signed health history form on file.

1. If your child has a special medical condition that may affect his/her participation in camp's activities, you must meet with the camp director to see if/how special accommodations will be made for your child. (HW.14.1-B)
2. In case of any medical emergency requiring more than basic first aid, the parents/guardians will be immediately notified. If we cannot reach the parents, the emergency contact on file will be notified. (HW.10.1, HW.14.1-A)
3. Our key CGI staff are CPR/First Aid certified if G-d forbid, this is necessary.
4. After any incident or injury, parents will receive an incident report.
5. Parents may be asked to pick up their child from camp if the Camp Director deems it necessary. Reasons may include fever, rash, suspected contagious disease, lice, or any injury that requires more than first aid. (HW.10.1)
6. For ways to contact camp in case of an emergency, please see the "Contact Camp" section in this handbook.
7. For our complete Risk Management Plan, Health & Safety Plan and Emergency Plan, please see our "Camp Policy" available on www.ganisrael.org in the Parents place section.



Contact Camp

1. Please see the Camp Essentials 2017

About Our Program

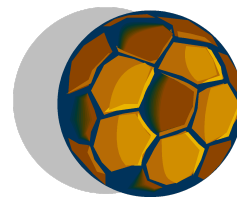
General Information

1. Camp Gan Israel provides a wide variety of developmentally appropriate activities and games that provide entertainment and education.
2. Activities include sports, arts & crafts, drama, dance, fitness, creative games and hunts, swim/swim instruction, and water sports. Each activity is designed with creative excitement which engages all participants.
3. Campers are encouraged to participate in all activities to promote unity in the group. Exceptions are made if an activity is medically not advisable.
4. Our specialized activities have trained instructors who orient staff and campers to the specific safety and operating procedures for each specialized activity.



Divisions

1. Kiddie Camp: Ages 3-5; Monday thru Friday; 9:00 am – 3:30 pm. Friday 9:00 – 2:00 pm.
5. Older Division: Ages 6-12; Monday thru Friday; 9:00 am – 3:30 pm. Friday 9:00 – 2:00 pm.



Swimming

1. At Camp Gan Israel, our philosophy and goal is for children to feel and be safe in the water. Our highly experienced Instructors use positive motivation and a gentle, caring method to foster self-confidence while building upon fundamental swim and water safety skills. Through the use of age-appropriate activities, the lessons introduce students to swimming and water safety skills in an interesting and enjoyable manner.
2. The kiddie camp and boy's division will be swimming on site.

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3. The Girls division will be brought to and from swimming with Student Transportation of America. Please see our BUS TRANSPORTATION AND CONDUCT section.
4. All aquatic activities are under the careful supervision of experienced and certified lifeguards. Lifeguards are trained in: American Red Cross lifeguard training and Community First Aid and Safety, as well as CPR for the Professional Rescuer. All in addition to many of our staff being First Aid/CPR certified. Safety is our primary concern.
5. During swimming, staff are required to keep all of their campers in their sight and assist with behavior management and rule compliance.
6. On all days please send with your child a bag with a clearly labeled towel, swimsuit, (water shoes) and sunscreen for reapplication. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to apply sunscreen on your child in the mornings before camp.
7. For the complete swim schedule, please refer to the camp calendars.
8. Please note: Due to the "Nine Days", there will be no swimming 1/8-1/12. There will be other forms of water fun such as an inflatable water slide that is brought to camp one of those days.

Transportation & Trips

1. Campers go on trips as indicated in our Camp Calendar available on www.ganisrael.org, (will be posted in April). Student Transportation of America will be transporting the children. Staff members do NOT transport children in private vehicles.
2. Campers must wear a camp T-shirt on trip days. Each camper receives one T-shirt upon registration. Additional t-shirts and may be purchased at camp, \$10 a shirt. Campers also wear a wristband with emergency contact information.
3. We use Student Belair Transport to transport our campers and the following



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rules must be obeyed while travelling on the busses.

- a. Remain properly seated while on the bus.
 - b. Keep arms and other objects inside the bus
 - c. Always follow the directions of the driver
 - d. Keep games, balls, toys, etc. in a bag or box
 - e. Help keep your bus clean! Put all garbage in the appropriate containers
 - f. Learn emergency drill procedure (taught by driver)
4. Campers cannot:
- a. Stand or change seats while on the bus
 - b. Fight, shout, or throw objects while on the bus
 - c. Leave anything in the center aisle
5. Additional information about transportation/trip procedures and policies are available in our “Camp Policy”, available on www.ganisrael.org.



Goals and Outcomes (PD.1.4)

1. To provide opportunities that stimulate the development of each camper’s self-esteem.
 - a. Each camper will participate in at least one activity to promote self-esteem, which could include arts & crafts, values clarifications, music, sports or special hunts and activities.
 - b. Campers will participate in getting-to-know-you games during the first day of camp.
 - c. Staff will provide the campers with positive comments and encouragement throughout their stay.
2. To provide situations for each camper to set goals and challenge themselves while discovering his or her own skills and abilities.
 - a. Each camper will participate in at least two activities during the week that will personally challenge the camper - such as arts and crafts, learning classes and Tzivos Hashem club.
 - b. Campers will have the opportunity to work in small groups during

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activities and bunk time with each camper taking on different roles.

3. To inspire and encourage every camper with a strong commitment and excitement for Jewish values.
 - a. Campers will participate in daily activities and arts & crafts sessions that inspire them in their personal Avodas Hashem (service of G-d).
 - b. Campers may participate in the Tzivos Hashem learning program – prizes are given to children who participate in this program
 - c. Campers will learn and sing camp songs and hear stories that contain themes of Jewish culture and practice.
 - d. Each camper will bring home Challah that he/she shapes and bakes.

What to Send to Camp

Clothing/Bathing Suit

1. Kiddie Campers should bring a change of clothing that will be stored in their cubbies. Diapers and Wipes should be kept stocked if necessary.
2. All campers should bring a bathing suit and towel daily.
3. Please mark all belongings with your child's name.
4. **Closed-toe shoes or sneakers should be worn.** Flip flops, sandals and Crocs are not appropriate for our playground and sports activities.



Tzedakah

- Tzedakah (charity) is a concept that is fundamental to Judaism. Our camp attempts to develop a commitment among our campers to share with others less fortunate than themselves by donating a few pennies every day to charity. Parents are asked to send a few coins for Tzedakah every day with your campers.



Sunscreen

- **Please apply sunscreen in the morning before sending your children to**

camp. Should the children need another application the counselors will do that.

Mitzvah Note (Kiddie Camp)

- Parents are encouraged to send Kiddie Campers with a note describing a Mitzvah (Good Deed) performed. The notes are placed daily on our Mitzvah Tree. Examples: "Sara cleaned up her toys." "Max shared his juice with his sister."

(Not Necessary) Lunch

1. The camp will provide lunches. Please visit our website for the daily lunch Menu). Please don't send glass jars/bottles.
2. Please send enough snacks with your child. We stock emergency snacks in case a child needs food.
3. Water is always available for campers to drink.

Lice check:

There will be a mandatory lice check for girls the first day of camp.

Personal Property Regulations (OM.4.1)

1. Alcohol and drugs may not be brought on camp property.
2. Weapons are prohibited on campus. Any staff member or camper who brings a weapon (including a gun, large knife) onto premises will be immediately dismissed from our program.
3. Camp cannot take responsibility for personal property brought to camp.
4. We suggest that campers leave all valuables (such as radios, computer games, handheld electronics, etc.) at home. If you feel it necessary to send along an electronic game or the like for use on the bus, please instruct your child to keep it in his/her bag throughout the camp day. **Be sure that these items are indelibly marked with their name.**



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5. If campers bring iPods, cell phones, digital cameras, or any other expensive item to camp, and they are brought out while camp is in session they will be confiscated and returned to the parents at the end of the day.
6. If campers or staff bring potentially dangerous articles to camp, such as skateboards, slingshots, etc. they will be confiscated by the Director.
7. The Director will either return to camper or staff at the end of the day or call parents.
8. Animals are not allowed on campus.

Frequently Asked Questions

How does my camper find lost items?

1. Please mark all belongings with your child's name. 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 outside the head counselors office.

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

1. If you have to pick up your camper during the day, please notify our office in the morning so we can arrange to have your camper ready for you. We cannot release campers without parental permission.

Can my camper bring precious items to camp?

1. Campers should not bring jewelry, cell phones, ipods, head phones, expensive toys, etc. to camp. Camp Gan Israel supplies everything campers will need for each day's activities. See Personal Property Regulations, page 13, for details.

How can I speak with my child's counselor?

1. 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.
2. Counselors will attempt to be available at the end of each camp day to discuss your child's day. Please understand that pickup time is hectic and the supervision and safety of our campers is our first priority. If you have further questions, please call the camp office and leave a message. Staff can be emailed anytime at office@ganisrael.org. Please leave the name of the staff member/bunk in the subject to help us route the email to the correct staff member.

