



CAMP GAN ISRAEL

Parent Handbook & Information Kit

Fresno, California

Summer 2012

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Dear Parents,

Welcome to another fantastic season of Camp Gan Israel Fresno. Whether this is your first summer with us or you have a returning camper, I am delighted that you are joining us and I am certain that your child(ren) will have a wonderful camp experience. The counselors and staff at Camp Gan Israel are eager to greet your child(ren) with new and exciting programs.

At Camp Gan Israel your child(ren) will have the opportunity to bond with other kids of the same age group in a 'bunk' setting. During bunk time campers' days are filled with activities, games, song, laughter and lots of camp spirit. A busy and well rounded schedule of Academy instruction, fun and exciting trips await your child(ren). Our counselors are wonderful role models and create meaningful and loving friendships that last a lifetime.

This booklet will provide you with all the necessary information regarding camp. If you need any more information or have questions, please feel free to call: 559-432-2770.

I am looking forward to another amazing summer!

Warmest regards,

Chanie Zirkind – Camp Director

DATES AND TIMES

Camp 2012 begins on Monday, June 25 and runs through Friday, July 20. Camp will be located at Chabad of Fresno, 1227 East Shepherd Avenue, Fresno, CA.

Camp runs Monday through Friday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. Please be sure to drop off your child(ren) on time, as there may be days that we leave camp grounds right away. Be prompt in picking up your child(ren).

We will also be offering before and after-care for campers. The fee is \$5/hr per child and \$3/hr for each additional child per family. A full week special including both morning and afternoon extra care of \$25 per child is being offered as well. All campers are to be dropped off and picked up from our campgrounds / Chabad of Fresno at 1227 East Shepherd Avenue.

FEES

JUNIOR GAN IZZY: Ages 2 - 5

HALF DAY OPTION: \$25 per day
\$75 per 1 week session
\$150 per 2 week session

FULL DAY OPTION: \$40 per day
\$120 per 1 week session
\$400 per 2 week session

BIG GAN IZZY: Ages 6 (entering 1st grade) - 12

1 Week Session: \$180

2 Week Session: \$345

There is a non-refundable \$50 registration fee.

5% discount per each additional sibling.

Tuition fees cover all activities and trips. There is an extra fee for “optionals” including fresh lunches daily. One camp T-shirt will be given to every camper on the first day of camp. Additional T- shirts can be purchased for \$10 each. Sponsorships for family Shabbats are appreciated.

DRESS CODE

For safety, children must wear appropriate shoes. No slides or flip-flops allowed. Croc-style shoes are not appropriate for athletic activities.

The wearing of the camp T-shirt is mandatory on Trip Days. Clothes should be comfortable, washable and appropriate for camp activities.

Boys are encouraged to wear Kippahs and Tzitzit.

OUR STAFF

OUR DIRECTOR: Chanie Zirkind

Chanie has been in education for the past thirty years. She has taught both elementary and pre-school. She also directed summer camps in Vancouver BC, Seattle, WA and New York. She is currently co-director of Chabad of Fresno and directs the Chabad of Fresno Hebrew School.

OUR HEAD COUNSELOR: Chaya Zirkind

Chaya has had many hands-on experiences in summer day camps. She has dedicated her summers to Camp Gan Israel Fresno Day Camp. She has also been a teacher in our Hebrew school.

OUR STAFF: The secret to our success

Gan Israel prides itself on its exceptional staff members, chosen for their personal warmth, sensitivity, and care for each child. Counselors have camping experience and are trained in first aid, CPR and Lifeguarding. The camp maintains a low staff camper ratio.

TIPPING OF COUNSELORS

As with all camps, we can't deliver quality programming without quality staff and this coming year's complement of counselors are really phenomenal. They are enthusiastic, motivated and committed to making your child(ren)'s summer experience a memorable one. In addition to our full time staff, we also have a number of specialty program heads. These young women will do an exceptional job and your child(ren) will reap the benefits of their hard work. To this end, it would be a welcomed gesture to show them your appreciation. Although not required, a suggested gratuity at the end of camp would be \$25 per junior counselor and \$35+ per senior counselor.

COMMUNICATION AND PARENT'S PARTICIPATION

We believe very strongly that open communication between camp and home is in the best interest of the children, staff and parents. Our staff is always accessible; however arrival and pick-up times are not the most convenient times to talk. If you should need to speak with your child's counselor, we ask that you leave a message or a note and that counselor will get back to you quickly.

If you have any concerns or questions you may always contact the Camp Director, Chanie Zirkind at 559-432-2770 (home) or 559-288-3048 (cell).

FAMILY PROGRAMMING

Please hold the following dates for family programs:

❖ **Muffins for Mom:**

Wednesday, July 4, 3:00 pm, Chabad of Fresno

Danishes for Dad:

Wednesday, July 11, 3:00 pm, Chabad of Fresno

❖ **Shabbat Family Dinner:**

◆ *Friday, July 6, 8:00 pm, Chabad of Fresno*

◆ *Friday, July 20, 8:00 pm, Chabad of Fresno*

❖ **Camp BBQ:**

Thursday, July 19, 5:30 pm, Chabad of Fresno

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

MOCK JEWISH WEDDING

At CGI the mock wedding is a huge hit. From photographers to chefs to musicians and of course the bride and groom, we will simulate a real Jewish wedding.

This program is a highlight of the summer. Please encourage your child(ren) to come dressed up in the costume assigned to him/her (them).

SPECIAL ENTERTAINERS

All campers are encouraged to participate in the weekly surprise entertainers. Entertainers may include a Magician, Bubble Man, Balloon Artist, Juggler and more.

FUNSHOPS

Camp Gan Israel was created to provide children with a comprehensive and meaningful summer program, while fostering growth individually and socially, in a Jewish atmosphere. The daily schedule includes an exciting mix of sports, field trips, special courses and activities, designed to be educational, fun and conducive to building character and nurturing friendships.

This year at CGI, each camper, ages 5 and up, will have the opportunity to be a part of the CGI Funshops. You will find a Funshops form included in this packet. Please fill it out and send it back with the registration form as soon as possible. The campers will be assigned on a first come first served basis.

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The younger division (ages 2-4) will be enjoying many age appropriate programs tailored especially for them.

SWIMMING

On swim days, please have your children wear their swimwear under their clothes and bring a towel in a tote or plastic bag. We have rented a bounce house/ water slide and will occasionally be using the Chabad swimming pool. All parents must sign a swimming waiver for their child(ren) to enter the pool area. Children must honor all pool safety rules. Please have all bathing suits and towels marked with permanent ink or labels.

MEDICATION

All medication to be administered during camp hours must be clearly marked with camper's name. A separate note containing dosage instruction and parent's signature must be sent as well. Please discuss details with the counselor and director.

LUNCH AND SNACKS

We are offering hot lunches for \$3.00 per lunch / \$15 per week. Every lunch includes a protein, a carbohydrate, fruit/vegetable and drink. On trip days, lunches will be brought in disposable bags and containers only. Morning snacks will be provided. This includes crackers, fruit, pretzels and juice. Water will be available to campers at all times.

GENERAL CAMP POLICY

SIGN IN/SIGN OUT

Every camper must be signed in and out daily.

CAMPER RELEASE

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.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

1. Camp does not take the responsibility for any personal items brought to camp.
2. Personal sports equipment such as bats, hockey sticks sports balls, etc. will be stored by the counselor and used under staff supervision.
3. ABSOLUTELY NO illegal substance or weapon of any kind will be allowed on campgrounds. Camp reserves the right to conduct searches when we feel necessary.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) Must campers wear a camp shirt every day?

No. We require that all campers wear a Camp Gan Israel T-shirt on Trip Days.

2) How does my camper find lost items?

Please mark all belongings with your camper's name and group. This is very important since shirts, water bottles, caps etc. are identical and individual items are difficult to identify without a label. Lost & Found items are available each day at pickup. Please contact us in writing or by phone regarding specific items.

3) How does the transportation system work?

Camp Gan Israel uses a van. Campers must remain seated in a seat belt at all times.

4) 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. Please note that no camper will be released to ANYONE without parental permission.

5) 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. We invite all parents to join for our end of camp barbeque where you can see your campers in action!

6) What if my child does not want to participate in a particular activity?

No camper is required 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.

7) Can my camper bring precious items to camp?

We do not permit your camper to bring jewelry, radios, expensive toys, etc. to camp. Camp Gan Israel supplies everything campers may need for the day.

8) What does my camper need to bring each day?

Campers will need a bathing suit and towel on swimming days. We supply all sports and safety equipment. Counselors will apply sunscreen upon request if sunscreen waiver is signed.

9) How can I speak with a Camp Director?

The director is available to answer your questions, discuss your concerns, etc. most evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (except Fridays) at (559) 432-2770. Please feel free to call during these times or leave a message at the camp office during the camp

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day. These numbers are included on the weekly camp schedule for easy reference during the season.

Please sign and return this form to our director:

PARENTAL CONSENT

I hereby give consent for my child/ren to participate in all activities of Camp Gan Israel (CGI) both on and off site, trips, transportation to and from trips etc., unless I advise you otherwise in writing.

1. **DISMISSAL OF CAMPER:** Parent fully understands and agrees that the Camp reserves the right to dismiss, in its sole discretion, any Camper whose condition, conduct, influence or behavior is deemed unsatisfactory or may be detrimental to the best interests of the Camp or their fellow campers or who violates camp rules and regulations. In the event of dismissal, tuition will be refunded on a prorated weekly basis less the registration deposit.
2. **MEDICAL CARE:** In case of emergency, I hereby give permission to the physician selected by the camp director, to hospitalize, to secure proper treatment for and to order injection, anesthesia, or other procedure deemed necessary for my child by an M.D. as named on this form or if unavailable another M.D.. Every effort will be made to contact the parent / guardian and emergency contacts first. Should it be necessary for the well being of the camper to utilize outside medical or dental services all expenses involved will be paid for by the parent. To the best of my knowledge, my child is in good health and I will notify the camp if he/she is exposed to any infectious diseases. I understand that my child may be dismissed during a camp day, due to illness, at the discretion of the camp, and I agree to abide by the Director's decision.
3. **IMAGES, ETC.:** Permission is hereby given to use in promoting the Camp and in other ventures directly relating to the Camp (i) digital, photographic and video images or likenesses of camper; audio of camper; and (ii) statements, articles, names, music, art, photographs, audio recordings, films and videos created by camper or originating from Camp or from a Camp-related activity.
4. **INDEMNIFY & HOLD HARMLESS:** I further release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless Camp Gan Israel (CGI) and its officers, servants or assigns from any liability concerning our child's involvement in CGI and further agree that the use of any premises during the CGI camp day is made at the risk of the registrant. I understand the risk of swimming and will not hold CGI responsible if an accident occurs or my child(ren) get hurt in its pool.

Name (Print): _____

Name (Signature): _____

Date: ___/___/___