



*Parents Handbook
and Information Kit*

Chabad of Hunterdon County 2013

Dear Parents:

Welcome to the 2013 season of Camp Gan Israel in Hunterdon County. We are excited to offer you and your family the only Jewish Summer Camp in Hunterdon County. Please take a moment to look over the enclosed and we look forward to the opportunity of having your children join our acclaimed camp. The counselors and staff at Camp Gan Israel are eager to greet your children and there are many new and exciting programs planned for this year.

CGI is committed to providing a superb day camp experience for Jewish children in the Hunterdon area. We offer outstanding athletic, sports and creative art programs under the guidance of great instructors. Family-oriented programs are also a very important aspect of our camp and we encourage parental participation in these special events.

Enclosed please find forms for camp registration. Please fill out this form and return it to the camp office ASAP as the sooner the form is submitted, the more likely we will be able to make any needed accommodations.

We hope this booklet provides you with all the necessary information regarding camp. If you have any concerns, questions or suggestions, please feel free to call and discuss them with us.

We are looking forward to an exciting summer!

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Kornfeld
Camp Director
(908) 238-9002

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CAMP LOCATION

Camp Gan Israel is located at the Acorn Montessori School on Route 31 in Clinton Township. The conveniently located picturesque five acre campus will allow for less traveling for our campers, more outdoor activities and loads more fun. Each bunk will have their own bunkroom and have access to playgrounds and athletic fields, as well as a large multi-purpose room for camp gatherings and indoor programs.

AGES, DATES AND TIMES

Camp begins on Monday, June 24th , and runs through Friday, July 12th.

Our camp is for ages 4-13. In order for your child to fully enjoy all the activities and projects done during camp, we encourage his/her full participation. However, if this is impossible, customized dates can be worked out.

Camp begins daily at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. Extended before and after care is available from 7:30 am till 6:00 pm \$10 per session

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

- Camp Administration Office: (908) 238-9002
- CGI cellular phones: (908) 391-8683 and (908) 623-7000
- E-mail: rachel@jewishhunterdon.com
- Website: www.jewishcamper.net

TUITION AND FEES

Tuition fees cover all activities, and trips. There is a fee for “optionals” such as our Grand Amusement Park Trip, late nights and snack money, which are due upon individual participation.

Entire session	\$675
Two weeks	\$475
Single week	\$265

(includes camp t-shirt)

Discounts:

10% For every new camper or every new camper that you bring in

5% For siblings

5% If you register before June 2

Camp Gan Israel is a non-profit organization, so we can only accept a maximum of 10% discount per camper.

All tuition fees must be paid in full prior to June 20th , along with all necessary forms and the registration fee. If you need to arrange a scholarship or payment plan, you are welcome to do so by calling the camp office and arranging a meeting with Rabbi Kornfeld.

SAFETY

The camp is dedicated to providing a fun, but SAFE environment and therefore, head staff are trained in CPR and First Aid. We strive to maintain counselor/camper ratios that far exceed those mandated by the State. Certified lifeguards (in addition to counselors) supervise swimming and, when on field trips, contact is maintained with the base camp by means of mobile communication.

In case of a medical emergency, G-d forbid, parents (or guardian) and family doctor (listed on the registration papers) will be contacted immediately.

For security reasons, the camp's front doors will be open during pick-up and drop-off, but will be closed during other times.

MEDICATION

The camp has a staff member dedicated to overseeing and administering medication, and dealing with health-related concerns. All medication to be administered during camp hours must be clearly marked with camper's name **and be provided in its original container**. A separate note containing dosage instruction and parent's signature must be sent as well. If you would like to discuss your child's health situation, please call the camp office and arrange a meeting with the Director.

COMMUNICATION

Please share your feedback, suggestions and critique regarding any aspect of the camp's program with us. Your input allows us to constantly improve and upgrade our program, and we value it greatly. The counselors fill out daily progress reports for each camper, and the director meets weekly with each counselor to discuss the status of every child. We will attempt to contact you during the camp season to discuss any areas of concern that you may have.

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 or the Head Counselor.

PRE AND AFTER CARE

Extended pre and after care is available by making prior arrangements with the camp office. Children participating in pre care may be dropped off from 7:30 am. where counselors will supervise the children until camp begins. Children participating in after camp care may be picked up no later than 6:00 pm.

When dropping off your child, be sure to fill out the drop-off notification with the time of drop-off and your signature. The charge for extended care is \$10.00 per session and goes directly to the counselor on duty. It must be paid when the camper is dropped off. You must register for pre-care or after care with the director in advance, because it will only be open if campers are signed up for it.

FAMILY PROGRAMMING & AFTER-CAMP ACTIVITIES

Camp Gan Israel aims to involve the entire family in the camping experience. We have organized several family-programming events and look forward to your participation. Please hold the following dates for family programs, details to follow:

Family Barbecue

Wednesday, June 26th , 6:30 pm - Chabad Jewish Center

Donuts for Dads

Wednesday, July 3rd , 9:00 a.m. – Acorn Montessori

Mom's Muffins

Friday, July 5th , 9:00 a.m. – Acorn Montessori

Campers' Performance and Family Shabbat Dinner

Friday, July 12th , 7:15 p.m. – Chabad Jewish Center

Open house

If you would like to host an open house so that your friends who are prospective camp parents can learn more about what CGI offers, please call the Camp Director at the camp office.

PROGRAMMING: AN OVERVIEW

CGI aims to expose the children to the widest array of activities, trips, and educational programs. The daily schedule includes a mixture of sports, swimming, field trips, educational activities and crafts. A week generally includes two trip days, (such as an amusement park, boating, etc.) and three swim days. Mornings are dedicated to the Create-A-Camp program, sports, team & leadership games and other group activities and instructions.

A detailed schedule is sent home with the children prior to each week.

TRIPS & EXCURSIONS

Please send your child dressed in the camp t-shirt on trip days. It is an effective safety measure while on trips, as it distinguishes our campers and staff from other children. T-shirts are included in the registration fee and can be picked up on the first day of camp. You can buy an extra camp t-shirt for \$5.

CREATE-A-CAMP

For each week, we allot a time period called "Create-a-Camp", in which multiple activities are offered simultaneously, for children to choose the activity of their choice. The various choices are outlined on the enclosed form. Please review the choices, fill out the enclosed Create-a-Camp form with your child and return it by June 25th. (Certain courses may be available for a limited number of campers, and will be assigned based upon date of registration and timely submission of forms.)

ART PROGRAM

Our art program allows campers to nurture their creative spirit, while creating works of art, which they take home and share with their families. Projects include:

Decoupage: Learn how to decorate anything using creative pictures and pasting techniques.

Drawing & Painting: The children will learn techniques to improve their drawing skills, as well as having the opportunity to explore different drawing and painting media.

Jewelry Making: Campers create their own jewelry designs: for them, for you, or just for fun!

Print Making: Use household and interesting objects to create prints to hang on your wall, fridge or use for unique wrapping paper.

Sculpting: Campers bring shapes and creatures of their dreams to life! They form, construct and paint their own creations using paper mache, foil and new textured paints.

Origami: Learn the art of paper folding. Create life-like creations and creatures out of paper!

Photography: Take pictures like a pro! Learn all about the different types of lighting, poses and picture styling.

Tie Dye: Experiment with color. Design your own funky patterned t-shirts, hats and tote-bags.

SPORTS PROGRAM

Sports vary throughout the summer, given two or three times during the week. This program is in addition to the Create-a-Camp Program. As well as swimming activities, children participate in outdoor sports several times a week, depending on their age. These may include tennis, t-ball and other activities.

Tennis: Learn to play tennis like a professional athlete at Courtside Racquet Club.

Kickball or Football: Children learn rules, formations, passing and catching skills (Younger campers play Kickball).

Soccer and Basketball: Instructors conduct games and scrimmages, which teach offense, defense, passing, dribbling and shooting with special emphasis on team play.

Jiu Jitsu: Learn self defense and martial arts while building character and self discipline at Gracie Jiu Jitsu.

NATURE AND OUTDOORS PROGRAMMING

Camp Gan Israel provides superb nature and discovery programs for children of all ages. This adventure-based education program helps children learn to work together to achieve common goals, while allowing individuals to challenge themselves through risk-taking and goal setting.

Field Days & Hikes: Campers enjoy a host of outdoor activities including scavenger hunts, relay races and hiking at some of Hunterdon's scenic trails, capped off with delicious BBQs (or homemade sandwiches).

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMMING

Dance: Whether your dancer is little or "all grown up", she'll love learning the basics of jazz, ballet and modern dance. Our Instructor has taken dance classes all her life and taught various dance camp workshops.

Gymnastics: Kids love to tumble, balance and jump. The instructors ensure that children of all levels feel safe and participate.

Science Secrets: Our science sessions offer a unique combination of fun, hands-on activities with extensive science exploration. Group interaction and demonstrations make science a part of the children's everyday lives.

Magic: The children will go behind the scenes and learn the magician's secrets. Then they will create their own magic tricks.

Music: Campers explore Jewish music, discover, and learn Jewish songs.

Drama: Campers are offered a wide variety of theatrical channels in which to discover where they shine. Campers and counselors work hand in hand and showcase their talents at the camp performance.

Cooking Basics: Children will learn different techniques to use in the kitchen. They will make salads, pastries and challah.

VALUES & JUDAIC PROGRAMMING

Our Judaic programming is designed to instill campers with a love for Judaism and pride in their Jewish identity. The camp Judaic experience is comprised of engaging activities, hands-on projects, stories, songs and crafts.

Camp is filled with programming that teaches children positive values and character traits, taught in a fun, exciting way. Some programs include:

Family Shabbat Dinner: Family Shabbat dinners are a special time for campers and their parents, siblings, counselors and bunkmates. On Friday night, we'll enjoy a delicious, traditional Shabbat meal filled with songs, stories and games.

Team-Building and Leadership Program: An initiative designed to teach campers trust, group problem-solving, creative thinking, conflict resolution, self-awareness and leadership skills. A facilitator leads children through specially designed activities to teach these important attributes.

SWIMMING

Camp Gan Israel is committed to providing a top quality swim program for your child/ren. Campers receive swimming instruction if they wish to; we have free play and pool games. They are supervised by experienced Lifeguards and the pool is well staffed with counselors.

On swim days, please send a swimsuit, sunscreen and towel in a tote or plastic bag with your child/ren. Campers swim three mornings a week (refer to the calendar and weekly letters for exact days) at Healthquest in Flemington. Please have all bathing suits and towels marked with permanent ink or labels.

In order to assist us in placing your child in the correct group, please fill out the enclosed swim form.

YOUR CHILD'S BELONGINGS

Please send along a smock for arts-and-crafts, an extra change of clothing for water activities and sunscreen (to remain in camp throughout the summer). In order for campers to be able to participate in all activities, it is crucial that they either wear or have a pair of gym shoes in camp. Please mark all swim gear, accessories, etc. with a permanent marker to avoid loss.

There is a special Lost & Found box for lost articles, which are distributed every Friday. Please alert us if your child has lost an item. **The camp is not responsible for items lost during camp**, but will do our best to locate them. We strongly urge you **not to send expensive items to camp**.

LUNCH

Please send a nutritionally balanced pareve (non meat/poultry) or dairy lunch and afternoon snack for your child. Some suggestions are: sandwiches – cream cheese, jelly, grilled cheese, chocolate spread, American sliced cheese, hummus, tuna, egg salad, pasta and cheese/ketchup, yogurt, pudding, veggies and dip, crackers and cheese, fish sticks, fruit, granola bars.

Please be informed that we may have campers who are allergic to peanuts. Children with peanut butter sandwiches may have to sit at a separate peanut table. If you plan to send a peanut butter sandwich in your child's lunch, please take a moment to discuss this with your child to reinforce our instructions. Thank you for understanding.

If your child has any special dietary requirements, please be sure to discuss it with the Director prior to camp so that proper accommodations can be made.

TRANSPORTATION

If you are interested in arranging a car pool with other parents, we would be happy to assist you in locating other parents in your area.

Please review the following safety rules with your child for transportation during camp hours:

- No standing in moving vehicles.
- No arms or hands outside the windows.
- No shouting.
- Always listen to the driver and car monitor.
- Exit the vehicle only according to the instructions of the driver or monitor.

If you would like to make a change in your child's transportation arrangement, please call us prior to noon.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How does my camper find lost items?

Please mark all belongings with your camper's name and group. 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 in the office. Please contact us in writing or by phone regarding specific items.

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. We cannot release campers without parental permission.

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. All visitors will be directed to the camp office for visitor registration and assistance.

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

No camper is forced 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. We appreciate parental input and feedback on this matter.

What does my camper need each day?

Campers should have a change of clothing, art smock, water bottle, sunscreen and gym shoes at the camp at all times. A bathing suit and towel should be sent on swim days. We supply all sports and safety equipment such as tennis racquets, baseball mitts, etc. Counselors will apply sunscreen upon request.

Can my camper bring precious items to camp?

Campers should not bring jewelry, radios, expensive toys, etc. to camp. Camp Gan Israel supplies everything campers may need.

How can I speak with my child's counselor?

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.