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NORTHBROOK

PARENTS' HANDBOOK

SUMMER 2019 - 5779

Dear Parents,

Welcome to summer 2019 at Camp Gan Israel! We are delighted that you are joining the CGI family and we are sure that your children will have an incredible summer experience. Together with our staff, we are eager to greet your children and introduce them to the new and exciting programs that are planned for this year.

This booklet provides important information regarding this year's camp season. We hope that you enjoy learning about our staff, the core values of CGI, and the exciting trips we have planned for this summer. Please take note of our procedures and policies and feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

On behalf of the entire camp staff, we thank you for enrolling your child (or children!) in Camp Gan Israel. You will discover that your child's summer at Camp Gan Israel will be a summer of fun, friendship, and adventure — a summer which will be remembered for years to come.

Best wishes,

Schneur & Ester Scheiman

Camp Directors



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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

CAMP ON-SITE TELEPHONE NUMBER:

Main Division: (224) 518-4286

Boys Senior Division: (847) 444-9101

Camp Administration Office: (847) 345-6406

CGI CELL PHONES:

Rabbi S. Scheiman: (847) 345-6406

Ester Scheiman: (847) 345-6405

EMAIL:

info@ganisraelchicago.com

WEBSITE:

www.GanIsraelChicago.com

WHEN & WHERE



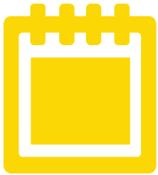
CAMP LOCATION

The **MAIN DIVISION** is located at Northbrook Community Synagogue (2548 Jasper Court) in Northbrook.

The **BOYS SENIOR DIVISION** holds some activities at Lubavitch Chabad of Northbrook, 2095 Landwehr Rd. (just south of Techny) in Northbrook.

PICK UP AND DROP OFF

for **both divisions** will take place at the Main Division location: **2548 JASPER CT.** At 9:15, the Senior Division Boys will be transported to their building when applicable. They will be transported back to the main location for 3:30 pick up.



CAMP BEGINS

on **MONDAY, JUNE 17**, and runs through **FRIDAY, AUGUST 9**.

The summer is divided into two 3-week sessions and two bonus weeks:

Specialty Camps Week: June 17 - June 21

Session 1: June 24 - July 12 (no camp on Thursday, July 4th)

Session 2: July 15 - August 2

Adventure Week: August 5 - August 9



THE CAMP DAY

begins at **9:15 AM** and ends at **3:30 PM**.

Please note the timing which is in effect for all campers.

Supervision for children who need to be dropped off earlier in either camp begins at 9:00. In order to ensure your child's safety, if you need to drop your child off earlier than 9:00, please see the extended care section below, or call our office.

EXTENDED CARE

Our extended care program is available from 8:00 am until 6:00 pm on Mondays through Thursdays and until 4:30 pm on Fridays.

Please call our office to register in advance so that we can plan accordingly.

Campers find it hard to adjust when they come late, and worry when their parents don't pick them up on time. **Please be prompt.**

TRANSPORTATION

CARPOOL

Carpool pick-ups and drop-off take place in the parking lot of 2548 Jasper Ct. There is a carpool lane in place for the safety and convenience of our campers and their parents. We respectfully request that parents and drivers in the carpool lane follow the instructions of the CGI staff member and remain in their vehicles.

If you would like to personally escort your child to the line-up area or greet your child at the end of the day, please find a safe and legal parking spot in the parking lot and supervise your child as you walk through the parking lot. Campers will not be allowed to walk to or from parked cars without being escorted by a parent or driver.

CHICAGO & SKOKIE BUS

Parents whose children will be utilizing camp-provided transportation are asked to remain with them until the children have boarded the bus. Counselors on board the bus will supervise the bus ride to camp.

The bus schedule is listed below.

FREE Stop (Devon and Richmond)	Pickup: 8:20 a.m.	Drop off: 4:35 p.m.
Adas Yeshurun Stop (Touhy and Albany)	Pickup: 8:30 a.m.	Drop off: 4:20 p.m.
Chabad of Skokie stop (Dempster and Karlov)	Pickup: 8:45 a.m.	Drop off: 4:05 p.m.

Please review the following safety rules with your child:

- No arms or hands outside the windows.
- No standing on bus.
- No shouting.

- Always listen to the bus driver and bus monitor.
- Exit the bus only according to the instructions of the driver or monitor.

NOTE: Violation of any of the above bus discipline rules may result in a suspension of a camper's bus riding privileges. Riding on the bus is a privilege, not a right.

VAN TRANSPORTATION (SUBURBS)

Van transportation will be provided in the suburbs by 303 Taxi – School Services. If you paid for transportation, Marge will be contacting you shortly before camp to discuss the details.

Once camp begins, please call Marge with any questions or changes, her phone number is (847) 368-8918. If you can't reach Marge and it's urgent, please call Rabbi Scheiman.

MEET OUR STAFF

Child development is the most significant ingredient in a healthy camp experience. This is why our staff is the real secret to our success. Our experienced counselors are known for their personal warmth and ability to care for each child as an individual. The counselors' love and appreciation for their campers is surpassed only by the children's love for them.

We take great pride in our commitment to recruiting, training and keeping the highest quality staff in the camping profession. Camp Gan Israel is dedicated to exceptional staff supervision. This ensures the best possible care, instruction and supervision for our campers. Our counselors are CPR and First Aid Certified, and are dedicated and committed to caring for your child.

☀️ **RABBI SCHNEUR AND ESTER SCHEIMAN** • Directors

Rabbi Schneur and Ester Scheiman have been directing Camp Gan Israel for over 10 years. Both natives of Des Plaines, IL they have a shared passion for Jewish education and imbuing today's Jewish children with a sense of love and excitement for their heritage.

☀️ **RIVKY HERSHKOVICH** • Administrative Assistant

Hailing from London, England, Rivky is joining the CGI family again this summer as our administrative assistant. With experience in running summer camp programs and youth services for communities in England, Australia, and Brooklyn, Rivky brings exciting programming ideas as well as her organizational skills and talents to our camp this summer, where she will be supervising our daily activities and handling administrative responsibilities in the office. Rivky co-directs the ChabadCares Project.

☀️ **ROCHEL CUNIN & SARAH MALKA FOX** • Head Counselors

After last summer's great success, Rochel and Sara Malka are joining us again! They have worked in various CGI locations throughout the country and beyond, including Johannesburg, S.A, Toronto, CA, Bucks County, PA, and Reno, NV. They are eagerly awaiting for the summer to begin and give our campers the summer of a lifetime!

 **CHANA BASSMAN & TZIPORAH ATKINS** • Head Counselors

Chana and Tziporah are Chicago natives who have attended our camp for many years as campers and staff. They have both spent the seminary year studying abroad. Chana and Tziporah have also worked in various CGI locations throughout the country including Milwaukee, WI, Cherry Hill, NJ, Detroit, MI, and the Catskills. They are eagerly awaiting the opportunity to give back to the camp that gave so much to them!

 **CHAIM SCHANOWITZ** • Boys Senior Division Head

Chaim is returning to CGI Northbrook as the Boys Senior Division head this year. During the school year, Chaim directs Chabad of Deerfield and teaches at Cheder Lubavitch Hebrew Day School in Skokie, helping children find the joy and excitement in learning. A native of Chicago, Chaim has worked in summer camps and student outreach positions all over the world. His travels have included Moscow, Romania, Israel, Michigan, Vermont, and Virginia. Chaim is excited to be back at camp and share his excitement for Jewish heritage with his campers.

 **SHMULIE BERMAN** • Boys Senior Division Head

Shmulie is joining us this year for the first time. In the past, Shmulie has directed programming at Camp Gan Israel in Greenwich, CT. He has done work for Chabad.org and is a certified EMT. During the year, Shmulie is a passionate educator at Cheder Lubavitch Hebrew Day School, inspiring and empowering the next generation every day. Shmulie is excited to be joining the team at CGI and can't wait to meet the campers!

 **AVI HANSON** • Boys Senior Division Counselor

Avi Hanson is excited to be returning to CGI Northbrook for his third summer as a counselor. Originally from Libertyville, Avi is a senior in college, studying Judaic Studies at Hebrew Theological College in Skokie. Avi brings his warmth and passion for empowering Jewish youth to camp this year where he will be working with the Pioneers bunk.

 **JEREMY PEARL** • Sports Director

We are excited to welcome Jeremy Pearl back to the CGI Northbrook family this summer. Jeremy has prepared an exciting sports program for our campers this summer and he is excited to share his experience with all of us. Please see below for a brief description of this year's sports program.

 **RIVKA HERSHKOVICH** • Art Instructor

Rivka is returning to CGI for another summer! She has a passion for helping children tap into their creative side, using various art mediums and methods to create unique masterpieces. Rivka's educational experience includes 4 years of teaching pre-school in Skokie as well as 2 years of teaching pre-teens at the Chabad Hebrew School in Northbrook.

PROGRAM & POLICIES

ATTENDANCE

The camp day begins with line-up near the drop-off area. Campers are then escorted to their individual bunk areas by their counselors.

Attendance is taken by counselors in the bunk area every morning. If you know that your child will be absent, please notify the camp office at 847-345-6406 or info@ganisraelchicago.com. If a camper is absent and the office has not been notified, someone from the office will call the parent.

GENERAL PROGRAM

Camp Gan Israel provides a wide variety of developmentally appropriate activities and games that provide entertainment and education.

Activities include sports, arts & crafts, drama, dance, creative games and hunts and water sports. Each activity is designed with creative excitement which engages all participants.

Campers are encouraged to participate in all activities to promote unity in the group. Exceptions are made if an activity is medically not advisable.

Our specialized activities have trained instructors who orient staff and campers to the specific safety and operating procedures for each specialized activity.

DIVISIONS

MAIN DIVISION (Girls entering 1st – 4th Grade, Boys entering 1st – 3rd grade)

Carefully designed to broaden the children's horizons and at the same time satisfy their emotional and physical needs, Our youngest age group allows for the "TLC" under which our youngest campers flourish. This division grows with your child, expanding its programming to fit our older campers' new interests in "big kid" activities as they look forward to moving on into the Pioneer divisions.

GIRLS PIONEERS (Girls entering 5th – 7th Grade)

Our second division is fully integrated into the camp program and benefits from our coaches, swim instructors, artists, and specialists. This division is designed especially for our long time campers with age appropriate activities and skill building workshops. The girls Pioneer division will also feature a Shabbaton weekend and a special trip to Six Flags Great America.

BOYS SENIOR DIVISION (boys entering 4th – 6th Grade)

Campers in this division have the opportunity to participate in our specialty programming and field trips in the main division while having the added benefit of their own space and freedom in terms of age appropriate activities that will be designed specifically for them.

BONUS WEEKS

This year, CGI is offering two great opportunities to extend your child's summer fun! The first bonus week of camp (Specialty Camps Week) will take place before the main session, from June 17 to June 21. Campers attending the specialty camps week will have the opportunity to sign up for a specialty camp of their choice where they will learn new skills and have a chance to develop their talents in a warm and supportive environment.

The second bonus week will take place at the conclusion of the main session, from August 5 to August 9. Each day during this adventure week, campers will be treated to an exciting field trip with friends and their favorite CGI staff!

DRESS CODE

For safety reasons, it is mandatory and extremely important for all campers to wear their camp T-shirts on trip days. Boys are encouraged to wear a kippa or baseball cap. Campers will be given special CGI wrist bands to wear on field trips.

CGI will be providing one complimentary T-shirt per camper. If you would like to order an extra t-shirt for your child or an authentic CGI baseball cap, please fill out the order form online.

SUNSCREEN

It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to apply sunscreen on your child in the mornings before camp. Please send a bottle of your preferred sunscreen along with your child for reapplication throughout the day.

Sunscreen will be reapplied by counselors on outdoor trip days. If your child has extra sensitive skin or any type of skin condition, please be sure to let us know.

JEWISH PRIDE - ACTION CLASSES

Each morning we start our day with a short prayer session followed by our Jewish Pride – Action Classes in which our campers are imbued with a deep sense of pride in their Jewish heritage. During our daily Action Classes, campers explore the beauty and value of our tradition through motivational hands-on activities, stories, games and group discussions.

T.G.I.C.G.I. ELECTIVES CLUBS

Each Monday, Wednesday and Friday, is “T.G.I C.G.I. time” (Thank G-d It’s Camp Gan Israel), in which multiple activities are offered simultaneously, for children to choose the activity of their choice.

T.G.I. forms will be submitted online to ensure that no forms get lost. Before the start of camp, please review the choices and fill out the online form with your child. (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.)

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 requested to send a few coins for Tzedakah every day with your child.

SWIMMING

On swim days, please send a swimsuit and towel in a tote or plastic bag with your child/ren. Please have all bathing suits and towels clearly marked with your child's name in permanent ink or labels. Campers swim three afternoons a week; refer to the calendar and weekly letters for exact days.

This year, swimming will take place indoors at the Playdium in Glenview and at the Lattof YMCA. All swimming will be supervised by Red Cross certified aquatics staff in addition to the CGI staff. The pools are rented for our exclusive use.

SPORTS

We are excited to welcome back our sports director, **Jeremy Pearl** to Camp Gan Israel this summer. Jeremy has prepared an extensive sports curriculum especially for our campers. Campers will take part in activities with themes like Teamwork, Sportsmanship, Character, and Honesty. Jeremy will also help our campers refine their core sports skills, like kicking, passing, and shooting.

If your child has any limitations that will prevent him/her from any sports activities, please let us know.

FIELD TRIPS

Field Trips are an exciting part of CGI. **It is important for the safety of all campers to wear Camp T-Shirts on ALL Trip Days.** See below for a list of CGI Field Trips for this summer.

ACTION TERRITORY: Located in Kenosha, Action Territory is one of the Midwest's finest outdoor family entertainment complexes. With eleven acres and a multitude of activities for all ages, all CGI campers are sure to have a blast! Highlights include Go-Carting, mini golf, Jump basketball, arcades, and obstacle courses.



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF GYMNASTICS: Campers will be treated to an hour and a half of exciting gymnastics activities led by professionally certified gymnasts.



AZOOSMENT PARK: The Azoosment Park in East Dundee is an exciting trip for all campers that combines the thrill of an amusement park with the fun of a farm. A full petting zoo with the opportunity to feed the animals and exciting rides make this trip a sure hit for CGI!



BROOKFIELD ZOO: Brookfield Zoo is a Chicago tourist attraction for visitors from all over the world. Campers will get to look at all different types of animals and learn all about the differences in living environments and food choices of all the animals.



EJ'S PIZZERIA: CGI Campers will get the chance to make their very own personal sized kosher pizza pie at Ej's Pizzeria in Skokie. Campers are also treated to fries and a fountain drink!



FUNTOPIA: A unique concept that combines sports and fun, Funtopia, located in Glenview, offers adventurous, entertaining and healthy activities for all ages, all under one roof. With a variety of Fun Walls, a Ropes Course, an Ultra Realistic Caving System, a Giant Slide, and a 20 foot Free Fall, every camper is sure to have a blast.



LAKE COUNTY FAIR: A day at the Fair! CGI Campers get to ride the rides, watch the shows, and enjoy the sights of the Lake County Fair Expo.



LEGOLAND: Any child's dream, Legoland in Schaumburg gives children the treat of playing with any type of Lego that they can imagine! Legoland also features Lego-themed rides and exhibits.



MAIN EVENT: Already a CGI favorite, campers will be enthralled by the high ropes courses, bowling, laser tag, and video game activities featured at Main Event in Naperville.



PINSTRIPES: Pinstripes offers a new spin on an old favorite. Boys Pioneer campers will bowl in style at Pinstripes, located in Northbrook, with leather couches, drinks, and complimentary socks for all players.



PONTOON RIDES AT FOX LAKE: Fox Lake, Illinois is home to some of the most beautiful bodies of water in the state. Boating at Fox Lake is a fun and exhilarating summer activity where Pioneer campers will be treated to pontoon rides driven by licensed drivers.



PUMP IT UP: Campers will have a blast bouncing, sliding, jumping, and climbing in, on, and around the giant Inflatable Party Zone at Pump It Up in Glenview.



ROCKIN' JUMP: Pioneers will have a blast jumping, flipping, and diving into pits of foam fun at Rockin' Jump Trampoline Park in Buffalo Grove. *Socks are required for this trip.*



WALDER SCIENCE CENTER: Campers will be treated to a hands-on science experience led by science professionals at the Walder Science Center, located at Adas Yeshurun synagogue in West Rogers Park. While learning the basic science principles behind the experiments, campers will create their own balloon rockets, experiment with squishy circuits, and have a taste of their own home-made ice cream.



Adventure Week Trips:

CANTIGNY PARK: At Cantigny Museum and Gardens campers enjoy the beautiful gardens and experience history in an exciting way. Tour the actual mansion of Colonel Robert McCormick, touch actual tanks that were active during war, and experience the life of an American soldier during battle.



ENCHANTED CASTLE: An indoor building of fun, Enchanted Castle features arcade games, mini golf, and amusement rides.



FUN ZONE: Located in Downers Grove, Fun Zone features an 1800 square foot indoor play area, arcade games and bumper cars.



MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY: An attraction for all Chicago visitors, Museum of Science and Industry houses some of the most interesting exhibits and historical fact displays. Campers will have a blast while observing and learning about science and technology in a hands-on way



PAINT N' PARTY: Get creative! Paint N' Party is a paint-your-own ceramic studio in Niles. Campers will decorate and bring home their own ceramic figure!



LUNCH

CGI will be offering a weekly hot lunch program, catered by Chicago Tailgators. The cost for this program is \$28 per week. All orders must be made online at ganisraelchicago.com/lunch at least one week in advance.

If you choose not to participate in the hot lunch program, please provide your child with a clearly labeled lunch with food that will remain fresh at room temperature. Lunches must be either dairy or pareve (neutral). Pareve food includes bread, vegetables, fruit, fish and eggs. Please do not send meat products to camp. Camp will provide all children with plenty of water to drink and a daily snack. It is advisable to send extra drinks or canteens for trip days or very hot days.

PERSONAL PROPERTY AND CLOTHING

Camp cannot take responsibility for personal property brought to camp. 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 at the end of the day.

Alcohol, drugs, and other potentially dangerous articles may not be brought on camp property. If campers or staff bring potentially dangerous articles to camp, such as skateboards, slingshots, etc. they will be confiscated by the Director. The Director will either return to camper or staff at the end of the day or call parents.

Any clothing or personal materials that are brought to camp should be clearly marked with your child's name. There will be a Lost and Found box at Camp for any lost items.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS AND MEDICATION

If your child has any special challenges, conditions or allergies (i.e. social, behavioral, food) please bring it to our attention and make sure that it is included on your child's health form. This knowledge will help us care for him/her and maximizing his/her camp experience, as we address each individuals needs properly and eliminate unnecessary difficulties.

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. Please call Rabbi or Mrs. Scheiman at the numbers listed above to discuss your child's health situation.

EMERGENCIES

All campers must have a completed and signed health history form on file. All medications along with written dosage and treatment instructions must be given to the camp staff upon arrival in camp.

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. Our staff are certified to provide CPR/First Aid if G-d forbid, this is necessary.

After any incident or injury, parents will be notified. Parents may be asked to pick up their child from camp if the Health Supervisor deems it necessary.

For ways to contact camp in case of an emergency, please see the "important numbers" section in this handbook.

COMMUNICATION AND EMAIL

If you need to reach someone at camp during the day, please call the on-site phone numbers. If no one answers, or if it is after hours, please call Rabbi S. Scheiman's cell phone for all general matters and matters pertaining to the boys camp, and Ester Scheiman's cell for matters pertaining to the girls camp. You can also e-mail Rabbi Scheiman at info@GanIsraelChicago.com, e-mails will probably not be answered during camp hours.

Camp correspondence with parents will take place through e-mail and notes handed out in camp to your child. Please check your child's bag as well as your e-mail on a regular basis. E-mails will be sent to the e-mail address provided with the registration.

WWW.GANISRAELCHICAGO.COM

Our website is updated daily with new pictures, weekly newsletters, and important relevant information regarding trips and required forms. Please be sure to check the website often to be kept up to date.

TUITION & FEES

Tuition fees cover all activities and trips. There is a separate fee for “optionals” such as hot lunch, late nights, overnights and Shabbatons, which are to be paid for individually.

All tuition fees must be paid in full prior to June 1st, as we are a non-profit organization and depend on this money for operation. Your child will not be allowed in camp without the full balance paid.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How does my child find lost items?

Please mark all belongings with your child’s name. This is very important since camp t-shirts are identical and individual items are difficult to identify without a label. Lost & Found items are available each day in the office.

How do I arrange to pick up my child 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 child ready for you. We cannot release campers without parental permission.

What does my child need each day?

Campers should bring a non-meat lunch, water bottle and sunscreen every day. We request that you try to send a few coins for Tzedakah (charity) as well. A bathing suit and towel should be sent on Swim Days and the **Camp T-Shirt is mandatory on Trip Days.**

Is there anything my child should NOT bring to camp?

Campers should not bring jewelry, cell phones, electronic games, radios, head phones, expensive toys, etc. to camp. Camp Gan Israel supplies everything campers will need for each day’s activities.

How can I speak with my child’s counselor?

A call to Rabbi or Mrs. Scheiman will answer most questions. Since counselors are constantly supervising groups and activities, we can have them call you after camp. You can also email info@ganisraelchicago.com with the counselor’s name in the subject line.



CHICAGO

**HAVE A HAPPY &
HEALTHY SUMMER!**