

PARENTS' HANDBOOK

SUMMER 2023 - 5783

Dear Parents,

Welcome to summer 2023 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: (810) 610-2442

Boys Senior Division: (203) 524-5600

Camp Administration: (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 **all campers** will take place at the Main Division location, **2548 Jasper Ct.** in Northbrook.



CAMP BEGINS

on MONDAY, JUNE 19, and runs through FRIDAY, AUGUST 11.

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

Specialty Camps Week: June 19 - June 23

Session 1: June 26 - July 14 (no camp on Tuesday, July 4th)

Session 2: July 17 - August 4

Adventure Week: August 7 - August 11



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.



Campers may be brought to designated pickup points in Chicago or Skokie to travel on the camp bus, or may be driven directly to CGI.

See following page for bus details.

CARPOOL INFORMATION

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.

BUS SCHEDULE

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

Please review the following 5 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.

2 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 15 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.
- CHAIKIE KOTLARSKY Assistant Director

 Chaikie has worked at Camp Gan Israels for many years in the past and is joining as Assistant Director this summer. Year-round, Chaikie serves as codirector of Chabad Jewish Center Arlington Heights. She is looking forward to a fun-filled and meaningful summer experience with your children.
- SARAH POPPER & RIVKY BORODKIN Head Counselors

 Sarah and Rivky have attended Gan Israels around the country for many years as campers and staff. They have both spent the seminary year studying abroad. Sarah and Rivky have worked in various CGI locations throughout the country including Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and New York. They are eagerly awaiting the opportunity to give back to the camp that gave so much to them!

- **SHMULIE BERMAN** Boys Senior Division Head
 - Shmulie is returning to CGI Northbrook as the Boys Senior Division head this year. 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!
- **YINON & SAM GURVICH** Boys Senior Division Counselors

Yinon and Sam, former campers and counselors at CGI, are graduates of Ida Crown Jewish Academy. Yinon is currently a student at Yeshiva University in New York. Yinon and Sam eagerly anticipate the opportunity to give back to the camp that has had such a profound impact on their lives.

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 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 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 19 to June 23. 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 7 to August 11. 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.

♥ ELECTIVES & FUNSHOPS

Each Wednesday 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.)

This year we are adding a second series of choices called funshops. These are less formal activities and will be run by the counselors of Camp Gan Israel.

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 Goldfish Swim School in Northbrook. All swimming will be supervised by Red Cross certified aquatics staff in addition to the CGI staff. The pool is rented for our exclusive use.

SPORTS

We are excited to partner with **Chai Athletics** for another summer of engaging sports activities for our campers. The team at Chai Athletics has prepared an extensive sports curriculum especially for our campers with themes like Teamwork, Sportsmanship, Character, and Honesty. Campers will have the opportunity to refine their core sports skills, like kicking, passing, and shooting — all while having a blast with their friends, counselors, and coaches.

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!



BOWLING: A good ole classic and every camper's favorite! Campers will wear bowling shoes, choose a ball of their choice, and get a chance for some competitive fun with friends.



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.



HAUNTED TRAILS: Campers will have a blast at Haunted Trails in Burbank, an oasis of fun that features outdoor amusement rides, arcade games, mini golf, and more.



JUNGLE OF NILES: From feeding friendly birds, turtles, and fish to exploring an array of fascinating plant species, this field trip offers an immersive experience where children can discover the wonders of nature and take home a small planter as a memento.



PIZZA BAKING: CGI Campers will get the chance to make their very own personal sized kosher pizza pie at Tel Aviv Pizza. Campers are also treated to fries and a fountain drink!



TOPGOLF A fun field trip that blends golf with interactive technology. With a swing of their clubs, campers will enjoy a day filled with friendly competition, skill-building, and loads of fun, creating memories that will last a lifetime.



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 homemade ice cream.



Adventure Week Trips:

BLACKBERRY FARM: Blackberry Farm is a living history museum where pioneer life is re-created through educational demonstrations and hands-on fun. Highlights of the trip to Blackberry farm include rides on the train, hay wagon, pedal tractors, paddle boats, carousel and ponies.



CANTIGNY PARK: At Cantigny Museum and Gardens, campers enjoy the beautiful gardens and experience history in an exciting way. Tour the actual CANTIGNY 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.



GIZMOS FUN FACTORY: From exhilarating rides to engaging exhibits, campers will dive into a world of imagination, discovery, and non-stop excitement, leaving them with unforgettable moments and smiles that stretch from ear to ear.



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.



I LUNCH

CGI will be offering a weekly hot lunch program, catered by Zelda's & Mizrahi Grill. The cost for this program is \$35 per week. All orders must be made in your Ultra Camp account 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.

(E) 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; please note that 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.

TUITION & FEES

Tuition fees cover all activities and trips. There is a separate fee for "optionals" such as 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, headphones, 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.



HAVE A HAPPY & HEALTHY SUMMER!