

Parent Information Book

Camp Gan Izzy Berkeley



Summer 2022

"A Summer of Friendship & Fun Jewish Experience"

Parent Information Book

Camp Gan Israel Berkeley Summer 2022

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Welcome

Dear Parents,

It is with great excitement that we welcome you and your child to the Gan Izzy Family. We look forward to providing you and your family with an enriching Jewish summer experience full of fun times, new friends and great memories. Our staff are eager to get to know your child and give them a summer experience of a lifetime!

What makes our program unique is our focus on campers as individuals and our commitment to providing each one of them with a nurturing experience. We design our program to provide for your child's social, emotional and cultural wellbeing. The daily schedule is infused with activities, arts n' crafts, songs and stories relating to their Jewish identity. It's a place where Judaism comes alive in a fun way.

Our staff here at Camp Gan Israel is dedicated to giving each child an unforgettable experience. Your child will grow and form special relationships with friends and role models to cherish for a lifetime. Every decision that is made in the planning and operation of camp is always made with a focus on safety.

Please review this handbook to familiarize yourself with camp procedures and policies. If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Mendy & Menucha Blank

Directors

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Communication

Camp will be sending the latest camp updates and messages through our whatsapp group and texts. We will also send occasional updates through email.

Please let us know all the numbers/emails that should be receiving correspondence.

During camp hours it is best to text the camp directors if it is not urgent. If it's an emergency please call Mendy 510-859-8808 or Mrs. Ferris for Gan Izzy Tots 510-684-5292 or Menucha 510-684-5825. Counselors will not take calls during camp hours.

Dates & Times

Camp this year begins on June 21st and continues till August 5th.

Our first session ends July 15 .

Camp hours are from 9:00am - 3:00pm. To accommodate your needs and schedules, Camp Gan Israel offers extended care both before and after camp. Early care is available from 8:00 AM and after care until 5:00 PM, with possible extended aftercare if necessary.

Early Care: 8:00 am - 9:00 am

Camp Hours 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

After Care: 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Drop Off /Pick Up

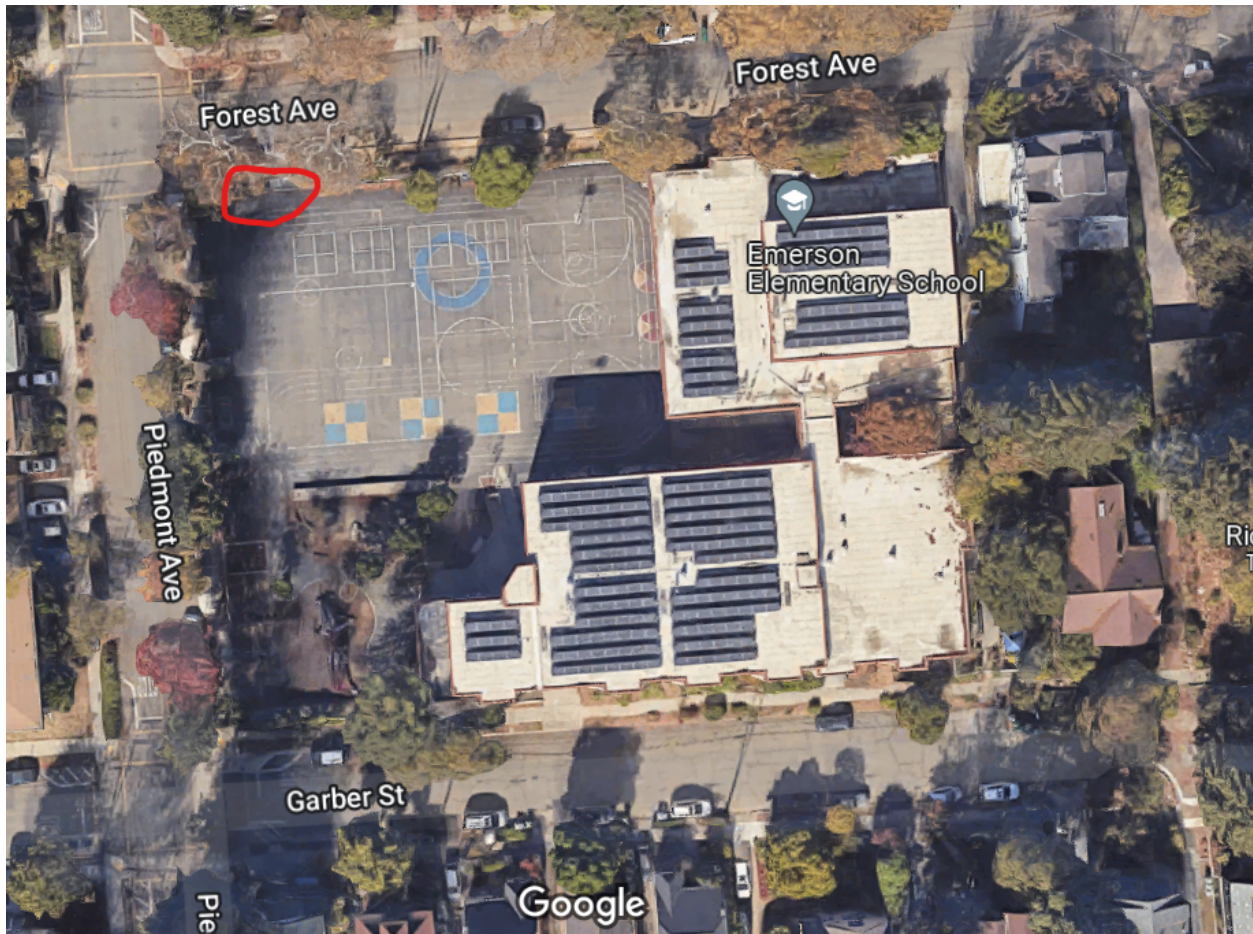
Morning drop off is **9:00 am**. Your child's attendance will be marked as soon as they arrive. We ask you not to drop your child off earlier than 8:50am.

End of the day pick up is from **3:00pm-3:15pm**. Please inform us in advance if you plan to send someone else, such as a friend or relative (that we may not recognize) to pick up your child.

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The red circle indicates where the entrance we'll be using for pick-up and drop-off. There will be construction on Forest Ave the first two weeks of camp so please use Piedmont Ave to park your car.



We ask that you make an effort to be on time for drop off and pick up to help us ensure that our planned schedule runs smoothly. Please contact us if you anticipate being late.

Safety & Security

At Camp Gan Israel, your child's safety is our number one priority so we made sure to have a facility enclosed with a fence. Attendance will be taken in the morning and every camper will be accounted for. Please contact us in advance if you anticipate your child being late. Campers will be under their counselors supervision at all times. Many of our staff are CPR and first aid certified.

Swimming

Swimming takes place twice a week at El Cerrito Swim Center. The center has a heated activity pool which we'll be using with a barrier for dividing the 2 ft shallow play area from the rest of the 3.5 ft pool area. The center also has a slide with a 48" height requirement and a splash spark

There are certified lifeguards watching and we will have our own staff for every 2 campers that can't swim within arm's distance of the children at all times in the water, and a minimum of 1 staff for every 8 participants that can swim either in the water or on deck as a "Water Watcher."

For ultimate safety we are requiring all children that don't know how to swim to wear a life jacket. If your child doesn't know how to swim **please send them with a coast guard approved life jacket.** (Check the inside label for this)

We are having 2 camp moms helping campers acclimate to the water with various activities.

1. Blow bubbles
2. Practice pushing off from the instructor and swimming arms distance towards the wall.
3. Practice climbing in and out of the pool by holding on to the side of the wall and climbing out of the pool to safety.
4. Practice "monkey walk" - moving along the wall while holding on to the wall.
5. Play some fun water games

For more advanced swimmers they'll practice turning over in the water, butterfly, freestyle, breast and back strokes.

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Food

Camp will be providing lunch but not breakfast. Campers should eat breakfast before coming to camp. Please let us know if your child has any food allergies.

Please bring 2 large kosher snacks every day, including a drink. Drinking water will be available on camp grounds and campers will be encouraged to hydrate often, especially during outdoor sports and activities.

Here is the general menu for camp. Each week will send out an email with the menu for the week. Sometimes we'll have a special lunch not included below but we'll include it in the email for that week's menu. If you will be packing a lunch for your child please make sure it is Kosher.

Lunch Menu
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Fish sticks, French fries,2. Falafel, pita, hummus, rice3. Macaroni and cheese/bread/salad4. Hot dogs, buns, sweet potato fries5. Pasta and meatballs
<p>Veggies: Cherry Tomato, Cucumbers, Baby Peppers, Veggie Sticks, Shredded Iceberg/Carrots</p> <p>Soups: Matzah ball soup with noodles, Sweet potato soup, Veggie noodle soup</p> <p>Dessert/Snack: Fruits, Banana/ apple/orange/plum ,Cookies, Granola bars</p> <p>*Trip days: Bread or bagels with schmear. Cream cheese, Tuna, Pb&j (or almond butter) American sliced cheese.</p> <p>*Please let us know your child's preference of sandwich for trip days.</p>

What to Bring to Camp

- **Water Bottles**

Please bring a reusable water bottle daily, marked clearly with the camper's name. We will provide water for them to fill up with and campers will be encouraged to hydrate often.

- **Sunscreen**

Please apply sunscreen each morning before camp. Please send sunscreen labeled with a name as your child will be encouraged to re-apply during the day.

- **Cap / Hat**

To protect campers from the hot summer sun.

- **Bathing Suits/Towels/Goggles/life vest**

Swimming takes place twice a week. Please refer to the activity calendar to know which days your child should bring a bathing suit and towel.

It is advisable for girls to dress in a two piece bathing suit, in the event that they need to use the restroom during water activities.

Goggles are a great way to make a child feel more comfortable in the water since they allow swimmers to see underwater clearly, which takes away the fear of the unknown.

Coast guard approved life jacket for children that can't swim.

- **Shoes**

Campers should come with closed toe shoes or sneakers. Sandals and flip-flops are not recommended as it makes sports and activities difficult.

Camp T-shirts

Camp T-shirts *must* be worn on trip days. Parents should purchase a t-shirt for their child from the camp add-ons page in the dashboard.

- **Sweater**

Many mornings it is cool in camp. Please make sure your child has a sweater. We do have a limited amount of Camp sweaters for sale of \$15 each.

Lost & Found

We encourage you to mark items your child brings to camp with his/her name. Shirts, backpacks, etc. can seem identical and individual items are difficult to identify without a label. Lost & Found items will be placed in a bin at camp. If needed please contact us regarding specific items and we'll do our best to help you locate them.

Special Events

Each week campers will have a dress up day/contest . Look out for the weekly announcement. Also please look out for our communication with details for the “CGI Family Evening” July 21st.

Anti-bullying Policy

At Camp Gan Israel bullying is inexcusable, and we have a firm policy against any type of bullying. Our camp philosophy is based on our mission statement which ensures that every camper has the opportunity to experience camp in a safe and fun environment. We work together as a team to ensure that campers gain self-confidence, make new friends, and go home with great memories.

Every camper has the right to expect to have the best possible experience at camp, and by working together as a team to identify and manage bullying, we can help ensure that all campers and staff have a great summer at Camp Gan Israel.

A camper who persistently bullies may be suspended or expelled without a refund.

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What Not to Bring to Camp

Cell phones and electronic devices are *not* permitted to be used during camp hours. We ask you to please not send your child to camp with a cell phone. Cell phones tend to detract from group activities and the camp spirit. If your child *needs* access to a phone or other device during camp hours, please call us *before* camp to discuss.

Camp Gan Israel cannot take responsibility for toys, jewelry, sports equipment, or other valuables that are lost or broken during camp hours. Dangerous items including (but not limited to) weapons, alcohol, and drugs are not permitted on campus and will be confiscated without financial reimbursement.

Welcome Calls

For many kids, especially new campers to our camp, coming to a new environment can be difficult. We are offering to have your child's counselor call your child and introduce themselves before camp starts. If you would be interested in this please use the online form or email us with the date, time, and number to call and we'll confirm with you.

Goodnight Gan Izzy

When the camp day just isn't enough! Our dedicated staff are available on certain evenings for visiting their campers to enjoy a small activity or playtime. Please use the online form or contact your child's counselor to arrange a visit. If a visit won't work you can also request a phone visit.

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Looking forward to another wonderful summer at Camp Gan Israel!

Our Staff:

Senior Directors: Rabbi Yehuda and Miriam Ferris

Directors: Rabbi Mendy and Menucha Blank

Head Counselor: Ms. Rivky Laskar

**Counselors: Sosie Sufrin, Chaya M Hodakov, Chavi Barylka, & Esther
Leah Hodakov**

**Gan Izzy Tots Counselors: Chana Baila Kovtunenکو, Leah Brinstein,
Geraldine Manyowa**

Camp Gan Israel

"A Summer of Friendship & Fun Jewish Experience"

Please contact us with any questions, concerns, and feedback. 😊

Camp contact Email: office@jewishkids.club Phone: 510-225-4005