

Gan Israel

5783/ 2023

Parent Handbook and Information Kit



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2023 season of Gan Israel in Grand Rapids. As we prepare for the upcoming summer at Gan Israel, our first and foremost priority is the safety and wellbeing of our campers and staff.

We are delighted that you will be joining us and we hope that your child(ren) will have a wonderful and safe experience. The counselors and staff at Gan Israel are eager to greet your child(ren) this year.

CGI is committed to providing a superb Jewish experience for Jewish children in the West Michigan area.

We hope this booklet provides you with some of the necessary information regarding camp. As always, feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns that you may have. With heartfelt prayers for a well-deserved safe, healthy, and enjoyable summer for all our children!

Sincerely yours,
Rivka Weingarten
Camp Director

Camp Location

The camp site is located at The Chabad House, 2615 Michigan St.

Dates and Times

Camp Gan Isreal

Camp Begins on Monday, June 19th and runs through Friday, June 30th.

Gan Israel Kiddy Camp: Boys & Girls: 3-5

Gan Israel: Boys & Girls: 6 – 12

Camp begins daily at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m.

Important Contacts

Camp on-site telephone number: Rabbi Yosef Weingarten (616) 957-0770

Camp Director: Rivka's Cell (616) 206-9654

Kiddy Camp: Morah Chayale (616) 706.8019

Sarah Weingarten (616) 206.9654

Email: Campganisraelgr@gmail.com

Tuition and Fees

Two-week session \$450

T-shirt \$10

Tuition fees cover all activities, snacks, and trips.

Medical & Emergencies

- All campers must have a completed and signed medical form on file.
- 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 ways to contact camp in case of an emergency, please see above in the "Important Contacts" section in this handbook.
- Coronavirus is an extremely contagious virus that spreads easily through person-to-person contact. While we do what we can to mitigate the risks, Camp Gan Israel in no way warrants that COVID-19 infection will not occur through participation in our programs this summer.
- In cases where we feel that the child should not stay in camp, we will ask that parents come to pick up their child. If your child is not feeling well in the morning, please keep your child at home. We wish to protect all children coming to camp from illness and also to prevent you from making an unnecessary trip out to the camp during the day. Any medication or Epipen/Auvi-Q, will be held in the Director's office and will require a doctor's note/emergency plan with it.

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. A separate note containing dosage instructions and parent's signature must be sent as well. If you have any health concerns please call Sarah at the Chabad House.

Safety

We strive to maintain safe counselor/camper ratios.

If you know your child will be absent from camp, please notify the camp by texting Rivka or emailing us at Campganisraelgr@gmail.com.

Parents wishing to have their child released during camp to anyone other than themselves or their designate must make prior arrangements with Camp director.

For your convenience and the children's safety, we have arranged a drop off and pick up system. Please enter through the house entrance and drive around towards the back of the Chabad House. Pick up and drop off will be in the back of Chabad.

THERE WILL BE A SIGN IN FOR PARENTS TO FILL OUT AT PICK UP AND DROP OFF.
PLEASE BE SURE TO FILL THIS OUT EACH DAY.

Programming: An Overview

Camp aims to expose the children to a wide array of activities and educational programs. The daily schedule includes a mixture of sports, water activities, music, educational activities and crafts.

Values Programming

Camp is full of programs teaching the children positive values and character traits, taught in fun and exciting ways.

Judaic Programming

Our Judaic programming is designed to instill our 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 & Crafts.

Your Child's Belongings

Please label **all** your child's belongings. There is a special Lost & Found box for lost articles, which are distributed every Friday. Please alert us if your child has lost an article. We will do our best to locate them.

We strongly urge you not to send any expensive items to camp and to label all items.

ELECTRONICS OR CELL PHONES ARE NOT PERMITTED IN CAMP. WE CANNOT TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THESE COSTLY ITEMS.

First day of camp

There are a few things your child will need to bring to camp the first day,

- Application/medical form
- Camp fee
- T-shirt fee

Daily

- Sun hat
- Bathing suit & Towel
- Sun Screen (Please apply sunscreen on your child each day before coming to camp. Our staff will help your children reapply their sunscreen during the day.)
- Pennies for Tzedakah**
- A Pareve or Dairy Lunch.
- Light Jacket
- (Kiddy Camp) A Change of clothing to keep at camp

**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 asked to send a few coins for Tzedakah every day with your campers.

Camp tips

- Please put your name on all your belongings.
- Children must wear their camp shirts on trip days.
- Please confirm with Rivka if you should leave a car seat for your child at camp on trip days

Follow us on Social Media

Follow us on Instagram @campganisraelgr or Facebook @chabadwm for pictures and videos.

Looking forward to a fun filled Gan Israel experience!