



GAN ISRAEL SAN JOSE

PARENT HANDBOOK

SUMMER 2023

DEAR PARENTS:

Camp Gan Israel, Summer 2023 is here! We are so excited to greet our new campers with a summer experience of fun times, new friends and great memories. Our staff are busy preparing to get to know your child and give them a summer of a lifetime.

Our unique program offers a variety of activities which give attention to each camper as an individual as well as creating a strong camp community. The program is designed to promote social, emotional and cultural well-being and growth. With themes relating to their Jewish identity and by infusing the daily schedule with activities, arts and crafts, songs and stories, their experience becomes interactive and meaningful. It's a place where Judaism is hands on and relevant.

Our staff are devoted to giving personal attention and connecting with each camper. Your child will grow and form special relationships with friends and role models that will last them a lifetime.

At Camp Gan Israel, our #1 focus and priority is the safety and well-being of your child. We are committed to providing a superb day camp experience for your child. 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.

We are looking forward to an exciting summer!

Yours sincerely,

Mendel and Mussi Weinfeld

CONTACTING US

- **Camp Director:** (408) 910-2034
- **Office Hours** 9:00 am – 3:45 pm
- **Camp Manager:** (650) 283-1498
- **Email:** office@ganisraelsj.com
- **Website:** www.ganisraelsj.com

Contact a counselor or division head

(Please include counselor & camper name in subject line)

office@ganisraelsj.com

We strongly encourage communication with your child's counselor. To get in touch, please leave a message with the camp office and they will gladly return your call after camp hours. **Please understand that during drop off and pick up times the staff are unavailable for more than a quick, important question or comment.**

We are confident that you will be happy with the program that we are providing for your child. If you have a concern or suggestion, please share it with us immediately. We value parent feedback that helps us to constantly improve our program.

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 contacts on file will be notified.

WHATSAPP GROUP

Join the Camp Gan Israel WhatsApp Group to stay up-to-date. All communications will be through Whatsapp.

Our groups are limited to one-way communication from Camp Gan Israel and will not include any parent conversations or questions.

To sign up for our WhatsApp groups please visit www.ganisraelsj.com/whatsapp from a mobile phone.

NEWSLETTERS

Look out for our weekly newsletter email detailing the activities, trips and special programs happening at camp along with important information for the upcoming week.

OUR LOCATION

We are located at **Fammatre Elementary School** at 2800 New Jersey Ave, San Jose, CA 95124.

CAMP DATES & TIMES

DATES

The Summer Camp Season for 2023 begins on Monday, June 19th, and runs through Friday, July 28th. Weekly registration is available.

HOURS

9:00 AM - 3:45PM

Parents of children in the Junior Division (ages 2-4) have a half day option until 12:30 pm. Please email us for more information.

GETTING TO CAMP

CARPOOL LANE

For the safety of our campers, please follow all posted signs and staff member instructions at all times.

Please help us keep drop off and pick up a fast and smooth process by keeping our loading zone clear. If you arrive before drop off or dismissal begins; please park your car in a designated parking space. During arrival and dismissal times, the left lane is designated for passing vehicles who wish to park with the right lane used for pick up and drop off. Parked or waiting cars in the left lane cause a traffic backup and safety hazard for the children.

REGULAR DROP OFF AND PICK UP TIMES

9:00-9:10 At drop off, please wait in your vehicle until a staff member greets your child and escorts him/her into the camp.

No parents or visitors will be admitted into the campgrounds at this time.

3:40-3:50 During dismissal, your child will be brought out to your car. If you are picking up additional children, please notify the staff member at the pickup line as soon as you pull in.

SIGN IN AND OUT

For the safety of the children, we keep attendance records by having each child checked in and out at morning drop off and afternoon dismissal. When bringing a child to camp after **9:10**, please park and bring the child in to the camp office. When picking up a child early for any reason, please contact a head staff member who will sign out the child and bring them out to your car.

If you would like to make a change in your child's transportation arrangement, please call us prior to noon. If someone other than a parent or guardian will pick up a child, the office must be notified in advance.

MEDICAL CARE

If your child has any special circumstances or requirements including medical, behavioral or emotional conditions, allergies, eating restrictions or medications; please let us know so that we can ensure his/her correct care.

VACCINATIONS

All campers and staff attending Camp Gan Israel are required to have the following vaccinations (unless an exemption has been made by a qualified medical professional):

- Polio (IPV)
- Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTaP)
- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)
- Hepatitis B
- Chickenpox (Varicella) *(or documented history of chicken pox or adequate titers)*

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Bullying is when one or more people exclude, tease, taunt, hit, or put down another person with the intent to hurt another. Bullying happens when a person or group of people want to have power over another and use their power to get their way, at the expense of someone else.

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

Our leadership addresses all incidents of bullying seriously and trains staff to promote communication between staff and campers so both staff and campers will be comfortable alerting us to any problems during their camp experience. Every person 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 help ensure that all campers and staff have a great summer at Camp Gan Israel.

FOOD

LUNCH

Camp Gan Israel provides a full lunch program for all our campers and staff! **There are no additional fees or reservations, lunch is already included with your camp tuition.**

Fresh daily meals will be prepared by our dedicated kitchen staff. Our menu includes a starch, protein and vegetable each day. Lunch will be served in individual closed containers for each camper.

MENU: *(Subject to change)*

Monday: Macaroni and Cheese, Fresh salad & Peaches

Tuesday: Fish Sticks or Eggs, Rice or French Fries, Cucumbers and Baby Carrots

Wednesday: Themed Lunch

Thursday: Sandwiches - Jelly, Cream cheese, Tuna, Egg Salad, Hummus

Friday: Pizza Bagels, Green Beans or Corn, & Applesauce

For children with allergies or food sensitivities, please be in touch with us in advance so we can ensure your child will always have a lunch that meets their needs. Camp will be providing special allergy bands as an extra precaution. We will also have alternative options including bread with spreads & cereal with dairy free milk available daily.

Parents who choose to send along food, please ensure that you include dairy or pareve non-perishable food only - **no meat or nuts** please! Camp policy does **not** allow children to **share** their lunches, snacks, or drinks. Please note: we are unable to refrigerate, reheat or cook any food brought from home.

SNACKS

Camp Gan Israel serves two nutritious snacks daily. Our snack menu includes fruits or vegetables in the morning and a crunchy snack in the afternoon.

Water will be available for drinking throughout the day.

WHAT TO SEND AND WHAT TO LEAVE AT HOME

WHAT TO SEND TO CAMP

PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL ITEMS AND CLOTHING BROUGHT OR WORN TO CAMP ARE CLEARLY LABELED.

Unmarked lost items will be placed in the Lost & Found until camp's conclusion. If your child has lost something, please let us know. We strongly urge you not to send expensive items to camp. Camp Gan Israel cannot take responsibility for any items lost at camp. Any items left in camp on the last day will be donated to charity.

SUNSCREEN

Please apply sunscreen to your children before their arrival at camp and send along additional sunscreen to be applied throughout the day. We will be spending a significant amount of time outdoors this year, please send your child with the proper sun protection.

SWIMWEAR, TOWEL & WATER SHOES (SWIM & WATER ACTIVITY DAYS)

Please ensure that your child has all their swim supplies on swim and water play days (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday).

CAMP T-SHIRT (TRIP DAYS)

Every camper and staff member is required to wear their Camp Gan Israel t-shirt on all trip days (Tuesdays and Thursdays). Campers will receive two free t-shirts upon registration. If a child comes to camp without a camp shirt on a trip, they will be provided with one of the Camp t-shirts for the day for an automatic \$3. Depending on availability, additional t-shirts can be purchased for \$12.

WHAT NOT TO SEND

NUT FREE POLICY

Camp Gan Israel provides a full lunch program. It is not necessary to send along any food with your child; fresh lunch, morning and afternoon snack will be served daily.

Our camp is located on a Nut Free site. If you will be sending any food to camp, please be sensitive to those with allergies by not including any nuts or products produced with nuts in your child's lunch or snacks.

OTHER FOODS

Please do not send any meat to camp. Food brought from home cannot be shared, refrigerated or reheated at camp.

CELL PHONES & ELECTRONICS

Cellphones and electronic devices, including **smart watches, are not permitted** to be used during camp hours.

If your child needs access to a cellphone or other device, please contact our office to discuss **BEFORE** sending it to camp.

JEWELRY, BOOKS, TOYS OR OTHER PERSONAL ITEMS

Camp Gan Israel cannot take responsibility for any personal property brought to camp. Camp provides all necessary supplies and equipment; toys, sports equipment and other personal items are a distraction and should not be brought to camp.

DANGEROUS ITEMS

There are specific items that can never be brought onto the camp grounds. These include alcohol, drugs, weapons of any nature (including small pocket knives, slingshots etc.) dangerous items, pets or animals of any kind.

Violation of this policy may result in immediate termination from the program without financial reimbursement.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

A child's birthday is a special day. At Camp Gan Israel we want to help your child celebrate their birthday with their friends at camp.

Please notify us at least two days before their birthday so that we can help plan a small celebration. Camp Gan Israel has a special birthday program, there is no need to bring food or toys from home. If you would like to bring something special for your child's birthday, please contact the camp office. **No food or toys can be distributed to the other campers without advance approval from the office.**

If you would like to celebrate their Hebrew birthday but are unsure of the correct date, please let us know, we are happy to help!

OUR PROGRAM

SWIMMING AND WATER PLAY

At Camp Gan Israel, we enjoy refreshing, age appropriate water and swimming activities several times each week.

Safety requirements and precautions are always given first priority when planning our swimming and water activities.

Swim and water day schedules:

Jr. Camp water days are Mondays and Wednesdays.

The main division days are Mondays, Wednesdays, and Friday

JR CAMPERS WATER PLAY (ENTERING KINDERGARTEN)

Our younger campers enjoy age appropriate supervised water play in small groups at our camp location, using inflatable pools, slides, and other water toys and games.

On water play days, please send your child with a bathing suit, towel, swim shoes, and sunscreen. Please make sure to write your child's name on all their swimming gear. The staff will help re-apply the campers' sunscreen before water play.

SWIMMING (GRADES 1 AND UP)

The Camp Gan Israel swim program will take place at a local outdoor pool. Our experienced staff of Red Cross certified lifeguards are on duty the entire time to ensure the campers safety.

Our program caters to and is safe for swimmers of all levels. All non-swimmers and beginners are required to wear the provided life vests and flotation devices whenever in the water.

Please be sure to send along a labeled bathing suit, towel, swim shoes (the pool deck can get pretty hot at times from the sun), sun screen (spray bottle for easy application is recommended) and goggles (optional). The counselors will assist your child in re-applying sunscreen before they swim upon request.

SPORTS

The CGI sports program offers a safe and fun environment for children to develop self-esteem, a positive attitude towards sports and teamwork all while enjoying a good physical workout. The program includes a wide range of fun sports and activities led by our sports instructors.

TRIPS

We plan our trips with the Bay Area's best fun spots and entertainment centers to include a wide variety of activities and styles. Safety is #1 at Camp Gan Israel. We carefully choose and plan our trips, choosing the locations that are appropriate and safe for our campers.

All campers, staff and volunteers are required to wear the Camp Gan Israel t-shirt on all trip days.

Based on the needs for each trip we may bring in additional staff and volunteers to assist on trip days. If you would like to volunteer to join a trip, please let us know.

While our goal is to return to camp with plenty of time for the 3:45 dismissal, occasionally circumstances cause us to be delayed. Should there be a delay of more than 20 minutes, all parents will be notified.

All trip fees are covered in camp tuition. There is no need to send along any money. Sending your child on a trip with more than a few dollars is strongly discouraged.

MAIN DIVISION

On Tuesdays, the main division goes on a half day trip, and on Thursdays a full day trip. The trips can be found on the camp calendar ganisraelsj.com/calendar and may be subject to change. Parents will be sent waivers prior to each week of camp.

JUNIOR CAMPERS (ENTERING KINDERGARTEN)

We bring the fun to our Junior Campers on camp grounds. Trip days may take place once every two weeks. Parents will be notified in advance.

SPECIAL DAYS

DRESS UP DAYS

Every Wednesday is dress up day at Camp Gan Israel. Campers join the fun by dressing in theme each Wednesday and show off their creativity!

Every camper in costume will receive a small prize and lots of fun!

SHABBAT EXPERIENCE

Who doesn't enjoy a fresh baked challah for Shabbat? CGI campers usher in the Shabbat by designing and preparing their very own challah to take home for Shabbat.

In preparation for Shabbat and to wrap up another amazing week, we gather the whole camp together each Fridays for a special themed Shabbat party! With songs, stories and a recap of the week, this Camp Gan Izzy finale is sure to be an unforgettable experience.

CAMPER'S SIGNATURE

We are looking forward to a fun and safe summer with your child. The key to a wonderful camp experience is the parent/camp staff team. Please contact us with any questions or concerns.

After reviewing the camp handbook, please discuss camp expectations and regulations with your child and then complete this form together.