



**PARENTS HANDBOOK AND
INFORMATION KIT
PORTLAND, OREGON**



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CAMP LOCATION

The camp is located on the grounds of Maimonides Jewish Day School, 6612 SW Capitol Hwy in Portland, Oregon across the street from the Mittleman Jewish Community Center.

DATES AND TIMES

Camp runs from the end of June to the beginning of August. Please see our website for specific dates for the current year www.CGIportland.com/rates.

Though any week configuration may be chosen, parents are encouraged to sign up their children for at least two weeks in a row to give them time to make new friends, connect with their counselors and to fully appreciate the program.

CAMP BEGINS DAILY AT 9:00 A.M. AND ENDS AT 3:30 P.M.

Please avoid dropping off your child earlier than 8:50 a.m. or picking up after 3:40. Otherwise you may be charged the extended care fee. For more information, see heading “PRE AND AFTER CARE”.

Late pick-ups are difficult for children and unfair to staff. Children who are not picked up on time it is upsetting to them and can ruin a perfectly fine day! So please make sure to be prompt.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Though email is our preferred method of communication, please feel free to call us at the numbers below.

- ❖ Administration Office: 6684 SW Capitol Hwy, Portland 97219 503.246.KIDS (5437)
Office@CGIportland.com
- ❖ Camp Director Simi Mishulovin: 503.309.4185
- ❖ Mini Gan (ages 2.5-5) Director Chaya 631.933.9638
- ❖ Older Gan (ages 6-11) Director Menachem: 929.327.6100

SAFETY

With a staff/camper ratio of 1:6, we maintain a counselor/camper ratio that far exceeds those mandated by the State. Certified lifeguards (in addition to counselors) supervise swimming and on



field trips, at least one of the directors accompanies the camp.

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 security reasons, only the middle front gate will be open during pick-up and drop-off. At all other times all entrances will be locked.

As an extra safety measure, the camp will provide T-shirts for the children each trip day. The camp will store the shirts and give them to the campers before going on a trip and taken back before going home. Shirts are washed regularly and given to the camper as a gift at the end of the camp season.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS AND MEDICATION

If your child has any special challenges or conditions (i.e. medical, social, behavioral), the knowledge of which would help us in caring for them and maximizing their camp experience, please bring them to our attention. It will allow us to address these needs properly and eliminate unnecessary difficulties.

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. If you would like to discuss your child's health situation, please call the camp office.

COMMUNICATION

Please share your feedback, suggestions and critique regarding any aspect of the camp's program with us. Your input allows us to constantly improve and upgrade our program, and we value it greatly.

The directors meet weekly with each counselor to discuss the status of every child. We will attempt to contact you during the camp season to discuss any areas of concern that we may have.

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

To see your child in action and to be updated about schedules and special events, check out our website at www.CGIportland.com.

Please like our Facebook page www.Facebook.com/GanIsraelPDX which is constantly updated with special announcements.



PRE AND AFTER CARE

Extended pre and after care is available by making prior arrangements by calling/emailing the camp office. Extra care may be canceled if there aren't enough children signed up so please notify the office at least the week before the care is needed.

Children participating in pre care may be dropped off from 7:00 a.m. where counselors will supervise the children prior to the start time of camp. Children participating in after-care can be picked up until 6:00 p.m.

Rates can be seen at CGIportland.com

YOUR CHILD'S BELONGINGS

Children are assigned a cubby in which to keep their belongings during camp. Please send along a smock for arts-and-crafts and sunscreen (to remain in camp throughout the camp season). In order for campers to be able to participate in all activities, it is crucial that they either wear or have a pair of gym shoes/sneakers in camp.

Please mark all swim gear, accessories, etc. with a permanent marker to avoid loss.

There is a special Lost & Found box for lost articles, which will be displayed every Friday. Please alert us if your child has lost an item. The camp is not responsible for items lost during camp, but will do our best to locate them. We strongly urge you not to send expensive items to camp.

LUNCH AND SNACKES

Your child should bring kosher lunch and snacks. If you need any help with this, please contact the office. For more about kosher go to www.CGIportland.com/kosher

PROGRAMMING: AN OVERVIEW

Gan Israel aims to expose the children to the widest array of activities, trips, and educational programs. The daily schedule includes a mixture of sports, swimming, field trips, educational activities and crafts. A week generally includes two trip days, (such as Family Fun Center, fishing, ice skating, etc.) and two swim days. Mornings are dedicated to sports, team & leadership games and other group activities and instructions.



VALUES & JUDAIC PROGRAMMING

Our Judaic programming is designed to instill 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 and crafts.

Camp is filled with programming that teaches children positive values and character traits, taught in a fun, exciting way.

FOR DROP-OFF AND PICK UP:

At drop-off in the morning, Mini Gan parents must bring their children into camp and sign them in. Campers must be signed out at pick up.

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

The adult picking up your child will need to identify themselves by showing the staff a photo I.D.

A NOTE ON GREETINGS:

Parents want to see their child greeted warmly at the start of the day and rightfully so. Our greeting time extends until 9:05. After that, we start activities and the focus of the staff must move forward. For your child to have that warm beginning, it is important that you arrive on time. If you are late, we will do our best to smooth the way, but please understand the limits of the situation.

CHANGE OF DISMISSAL PLANS:

If your child's end of day arrangement is different from the usual, you must give a written note to the Director (Do not leave oral messages). This includes changes in car-pool arrangements, play dates, etc. Please avoid calling camp during the day with changes, unless it is a true emergency.

BRINGING YOUR CHILD TO CAMP – THE FIRST DAY AND BEYOND:

Only one adult should accompany the child to their room on the first day, (to minimize commotion). Plan on a relaxed leave-taking. This does not mean to stay long, but rather that your child should not feel hurried while you are here. (We call it the KISS method – Keep It Short and Sweet). The point to emphasize (we even sing about it) is that “mommies (or daddies or nannies) always come back.” Keep in mind that although your presence is reassuring to your child, they often cannot get on with the business of coping and adjusting until you leave. Your child's teacher will work with you to determine the best adjusting style for your child. The “fussing” is almost always over by the time you reach your car, but if you are concerned you can always call camp later just to check. (Sometimes we see “fourth-day-it's,” which is the type of behavior you associate with the first day, but for whatever reason doesn't show up until a few days or later. Let us know if you see this).

What we recommend, if needed, is the first day to remain with your child up to ½ hour, the second day, fifteen minutes the third, five minutes the fourth day a kiss and goodbye. The teachers and



counselors are there to hug your child and take over, show your child that you trust them and they will feel secure.

WHAT YOUR CHILD NEEDS IN CAMP

Clothing: Clothes should be comfortable, washable and appropriate for camp activities (sandbox sitting on the rug, art activities, etc.) Clothes should allow for self-dressing in the bathroom (the independence is great for self-esteem).

Smocks (especially for Mini Gan campers): Please send a smock (marked with your child's name) that will protect their clothing to your satisfaction. A waterproof smock with sleeves is best. We use washable art materials whenever possible, but with or without smocks, expect your child's clothes to get dirty!

A complete change of clothing is to be kept in camp (especially for Mini Gan campers): Each item (including socks) should be marked with your child's name. Please send a plastic shoebox size container, marked with your child's name, for storing clothes in camp.

Mark clothing: Clothing especially outdoor wear, should be marked with your child's name.

Tzedaka: We encourage the children to bring tzedaka (money for charity) every day. A penny or two is fine – the point is to develop a daily habit of sharing. It also helps children associate money with giving and doing good.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW DOES MY CAMPER FIND LOST ITEMS?

Please mark all belongings with your camper's name. Lost & Found items are available each day in the office, and displayed publicly on Friday. Please contact us in writing or by phone regarding specific items.

HOW DO I ARRANGE TO PICK UP MY CAMPER DURING THE CAMP DAY?

If you have to pick up your child 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.

WHEN CAN I VISIT MY CAMPER?

Gan Israel Day Camp is open for parental visits when necessary. We suggest that you schedule your visit carefully as your camper may be involved in a field trip or other off-campus activity (call the camp office for more info). All visitors will be directed to the camp office for visitor registration and assistance.



WHAT IF MY CHILD DOES NOT WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN A PARTICULAR ACTIVITY?

No camper is forced to participate in any activity. However, we do urge campers to try all activities and take advantage of the complete program offered at Gan Israel. We appreciate parental input and feedback on this matter.

WHAT DOES MY CAMPER NEED EACH DAY?

Campers should have a change of clothing, art smock (especially for the younger children), water bottle, sunscreen and gym shoes at the camp at all times. A bathing suit and towel should be sent on Mondays and Wednesdays for the 6-11 year olds and every day for the 2-5 year olds. Counselors will apply sunscreen upon request.

CAN MY CAMPER BRING PRECIOUS ITEMS TO CAMP?

Campers should not bring jewelry, radios, expensive toys, etc. to camp. Gan Israel Day Camp supplies everything campers may need.

HOW CAN I SPEAK WITH MY CHILD'S COUNSELOR?

A call to the camp office will answer most questions. Since counselors are constantly supervising groups and activities, messages will be taken at the camp office. Please leave your name and evening phone number and the counselor will return your call as soon as possible.