



**PARENTS HANDBOOK AND
INFORMATION KIT
PORTLAND, OREGON
2017**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

CAMP LOCATION	3
DATES AND TIMES	3
Camp begins daily at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m.	3
CONTACT INFORMATION	3
SAFETY	4
SPECIAL CONDITIONS AND MEDICATION	4
COMMUNICATION	4
PRE AND AFTER CARE	5
YOUR CHILD’S BELONGINGS	5
LUNCH AND SNACKS	5
PROGRAMMING: AN OVERVIEW	5
VALUES & JUDAIC PROGRAMMING	6
FOR DROP-OFF AND PICK UP:	6
A NOTE ON GREETINGS:	6
CHANGE OF DISMISSAL PLANS:	6
BRINGING YOUR CHILD TO CAMP – THE FIRST DAY AND BEYOND:	6
WHAT YOUR CHILD NEEDS IN CAMP	7
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS	8
How does my camper find lost items?	8
How do I arrange to pick up my camper during the camp day?	8
When can I visit my camper?	8
What if my child does not want to participate in a particular activity?	8
What does my camper need each day?	8
Can my camper bring precious items to camp?	8
How can I speak with my child’s counselor?	8



CAMP LOCATION

Our camp is located on the grounds of Maimonides Jewish Day School, across the street from the Mittleman Jewish Community Center:

6612 SW Capitol Hwy
Portland, Oregon 97239

DATES AND TIMES

Camp begins July 3rd and runs for six weeks. Please see our website for a detailed schedule:

www.CGIportland.com/schedule

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 p.m. Otherwise you may be charged the extended care fee of \$2 per half hour. 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 often find it upsetting and this 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.

- ❖ Camp Administration Office:
6684 SW Capitol Hwy, Portland, OR 97219
503.246.KIDS (5437)
Fax: 503.246.5438
info@CGIportland.com
- ❖ Camp Director Simi: 503.309.4185
- ❖ Rabbi Cell (urgent matters) 503.757.2028
- ❖ School Office Administrator Brooke: 503.977.7850

June 1, 2017



SAFETY

With an average 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, and at least one of the directors is always present.

In case of a medical emergency, G-d forbid, parents (or guardian) and family doctor (listed on the registration form) will be contacted immediately.

For security reasons, the middle front gate and side gate will only 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 take them 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 review the status of every child. We will attempt to contact you 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.



Gan Israel Day Camp – Portland, Oregon Parents Handbook and Information Kit

B”H

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 8:00 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 5:30 p.m.

The charge for extended care is \$2.00 per half hour for each child.

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 SNACKS

Your child should bring healthy lunch and snacks. Food should be dairy or fish. Please refrain from sending meat. If you need any help with this, please contact the office. For more about kosher go to www.Chabad.org/kosher.

PROGRAMMING: AN OVERVIEW

Gan Israel aims to expose children to the widest array of activities, trips, and educational

June 1, 2017



Gan Israel Day Camp – Portland, Oregon Parents Handbook and Information Kit

B”H

programs. The daily schedule includes a mixture of sports, swimming, field trips, educational activities and crafts. A week generally includes a trip day (older Gan only), such as Family Fun Center, boating, and horseback riding, 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 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.

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

June 1, 2017



Gan Israel Day Camp – Portland, Oregon Parents Handbook and Information Kit

B”H

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, and 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

ALL CAMPERS

- ❖ **Clothing:**
 - Clothes should be comfortable, washable and appropriate for camp activities.
 - Clothing, especially outdoor wear, should be marked with your child’s name.
 - Closed-toe shoes are recommended.
- ❖ **Swimsuit and Towel**
 - Mini Gan - to be kept here at camp and sent home on Fridays for cleaning.
 - Older Gan - every Monday and Thursday.
- ❖ **Sunscreen** to be kept here at camp.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **Lunch and Snacks** (See above section for more info).

MINI GAN ONLY

- ❖ **A complete change of clothing is to be kept in camp.**
- ❖ **Smocks:** 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.
- ❖ **Blanket**
- ❖ **Diapers and Wipes** (if necessary).
- ❖ **Mitzvah Notes:** A Mitzvah Note is a narrative recognizing the child’s positive behavior and actions.

June 1, 2017



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?

See “What Your Child Needs In Camp” section above.

CAN MY CAMPER BRING PRECIOUS ITEMS TO CAMP?

Campers should not bring jewelry, music devices, expensive toys, or any other valuable items 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.