



# GAN ISRAEL SAN JOSE

## PARENT HANDBOOK

SUMMER 2022

# DEAR PARENTS:

**Camp Gan Israel, Summer 2022 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 gives 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 becomes hands on and relevant.

Our staff are devoted to each and every camper, giving personal attention and dedication. 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.

CGI is 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,

Shaya & Brochy Bernstein

# CONTACTING US

- **Camp Director:** (669) 232-2454
- **Office Hours** 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
- **Camp Manager:** (408) 910-2034
- **Email:** [office@ganisraelsj.com](mailto:office@ganisraelsj.com)
- **Website:** [www.ganisraelsj.com](http://www.ganisraelsj.com)

## **Shaya & Brochy Bernstein, Directors**

[director@ganisraelsj.com](mailto:director@ganisraelsj.com)

[brochy@ganisraelsj.com](mailto:brochy@ganisraelsj.com)

## **Mendel Weinfeld, Office Manager**

[mendel@ganisraelsj.com](mailto:mendel@ganisraelsj.com)

## **Contact a counselor or division head**

(Please include counselor & camper name in subject line)

[staff@ganisraelsj.com](mailto:staff@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 during out of 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 which 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

Stay up-to-date with the Camp Gan Israel WhatsApp Group. **Pictures** features daily pictures taken around camp, **News** will include important news & updates.

**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](http://www.ganisraelsj.com/whatsapp) from a mobile phone.

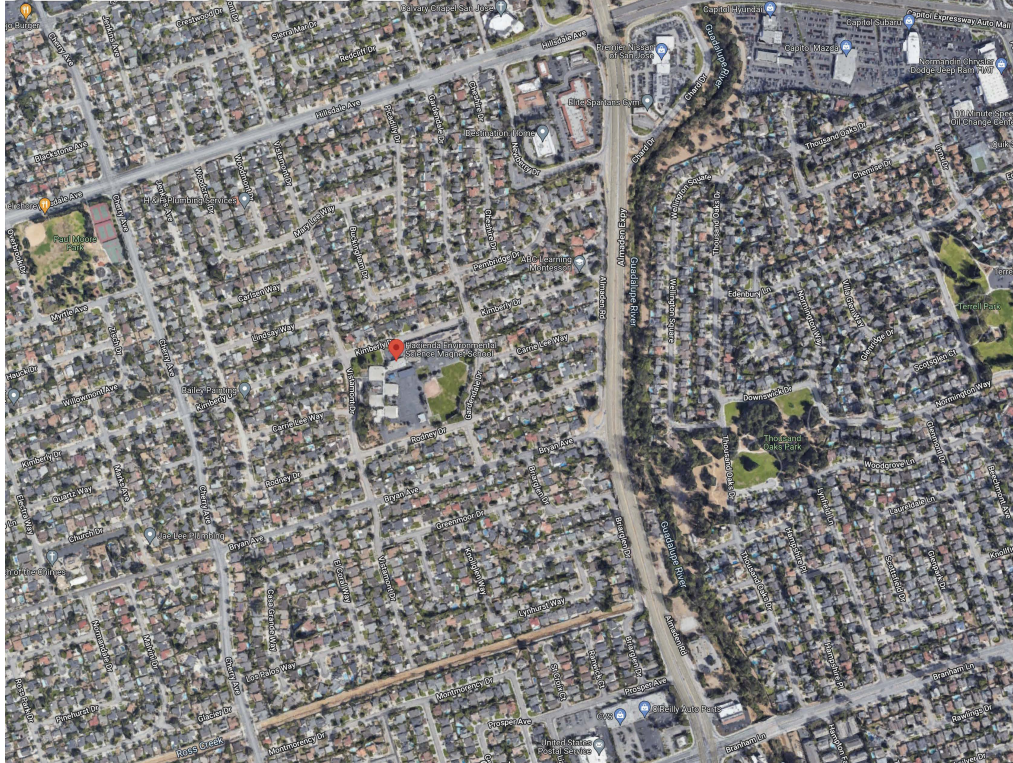
## NEWSLETTERS

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 in the spacious **Hacienda Environmental Science Magnet School** campus in San Jose.

**1290 Kimberly Dr, San Jose, CA 95118**



## CAMP DATES & TIMES

### DATES

The Summer Camp Season for 2022 begins on Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, and runs through Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. Registration is available by weekly sessions with multi-week discounts.

### HOURS

Main Division - Ages 5-12

**9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

Junior Division - Ages 2-4

**9:00 AM - 2:45 PM**

# GETTING TO CAMP

## CARPOOL LANE

For the safety of our campers, please follow all posted signs and staff directing traffic 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. Stopped or waiting cars in the left lane cause a traffic backup and safety hazard for the children.**

### *REGULAR DROP OFF AND PICK UP TIMES*

At drop off, please wait in your vehicle until a staff member greets your child and escorts him/her into the camp or use the left lane to park.

**All campers, parents and staff are required to wear a facemask at drop off time. No parents or visitors will be admitted into the campgrounds at this time.**

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. If you bringing your child for late arrival after 9:00 am or coming early for pick up before 3:00 pm, please ensure they are signed in/out with a head staff member before leaving.

**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.**

# SAFETY & SECURITY

At Camp Gan Israel our primary concern is your child's safety and well-being.

## COVID-19 HEALTH POLICIES

Thank G-d, the ongoing covid-19 pandemic and health crisis is greatly improving and we are beginning to slowly return to normal. We understand that there is difficult balance between the urge to relax all restrictions and the careful caution on moving too fast. At Camp Gan Israel, we are following all CDC, state and local guidelines and we are in constant communication with our medical advisors and health team.

Please understand that as things continue to evolve, these guidelines and health policies may change as well.

### SEPARATED COHORTS & OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Our camp has been divided into smaller cohorts of campers who will each have their own designated covered, outdoor area.

Campers will spend the majority of their time outdoors, all indoor areas will be well ventilated at all times. Cohorts will also remain separated at all large camp activities and programs.

### FACE MASKS

Campers are no longer required to wear a face mask while outdoors, distanced from separate cohorts. All campers will be required to carry a mask around with them at all times (preferably worn hanging from the neck for easy access), masks will be required during morning sign in, during all bus rides and whenever spending time indoors.

Vaccinated and unvaccinated staff will be required to wear a mask when indoors and when working closely with campers while outdoors.

Although face masks are no longer being mandated, any camper who chooses to continue to wear a face mask will be strongly supported by the other campers and staff without any peer pressure.

### HANDWASHING

We will be practicing strict handwashing policies with campers washing their hands with soap & water or sanitizer multiple times a day including before and after eating and using the restroom.

Please make sure that your child understands the importance and the proper method of handwashing.

### TRIPS

To minimize the risks, we have reduced the number of offsite trips to once a week for the Division A & B campers (Grades 1+) and once every other week for the Jr Campers (Entering K). all trips will outdoors or in well ventilated, uncrowded venues.

### SWIMMING

In order to avoid mixing with separate cohorts, Division A & B campers (Grades 1+) will be swimming in small, outdoor, private pools. One cohort at a time.

All regular pool safety standards will continue to apply including licensed lifeguard on duty at all times and lifejackets for non and beginner swimmers.

Jr Campers (Entering K) will be having separate water play on site.

### **BUSSING**

When traveling to swimming and offsite trips, we will be using comfortable, air-conditioned, coach busses. Each cohort will enter, exit and sit separate on the bus with an empty row between each cohort. The driver and all passengers will be required to wear a face mask at all times while on board the bus.

### **PERSONAL SUPPLIES & SANITIZING**

Each camper will have their own storage space for all personal belongings with their own set of basic camp supplies. General camp supplies will be sanitized between groups to minimize the spread of germs.

Our campsite and bathrooms will be sanitized throughout the day.

### **IN CASE OF INFECTION**

If a camper at camp will start showing symptoms or a high fever, that camper will be immediately isolated and sent home as soon as possible.

If there is a suspected case of covid-19 at camp, all areas that may have been contaminated including the bunk area and any public areas that were in use will be closed off and sanitized. Camp may need to close for as long as two days for a thorough cleaning and disinfecting. The other members of the affected bunk may also need to self-isolate at home.

All parents will immediately be informed of any suspected or confirmed infections, personal camper information will **never** be shared.

We are unable to offer any refunds for illness of a camper that prevents him/her from attending our program. But if Camp Gan Israel is forced to cancel or temporarily close a program due to an infection, Camp Gan Israel will offer a full refund for unused days (prorated) to all campers affected. Only those campers (and siblings) who are directly affected by the closure will be offered a refund.

### **SECURITY**

Our campsite is protected by a self-locking 8-foot perimeter security fence. The front entrances to the camp will be locked during the camp day and will only be open during pick-up and drop-off times. During all other times please ring the bell to gain entry to the premises.

The campus is also secured with security cameras covering the entire campus and a full-time professional security guard.

### **SUN PROTECTION**

Please ensure that your child has properly applied sunscreen before drop off at camp with additional sunscreen to be reapplied throughout the day. Please have it labeled with his/her name and kept in their bag at all times.

**Please teach your children to apply their own sunscreen to minimize the need for their counselors' assistance. Campers who are unable to apply their own sunscreen will be assisted by their counselors.**

We will be spending more time outdoors this year than usual, please send your child with the proper sun protection. CGI caps are available for purchase for \$15 each.

## 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 with their staff and their 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 can 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, Cucumber Rings & Applesauce

**Tuesday:** Fish Sticks or Chicken Nuggets, Rice & Peaches



**Wednesday:** Sandwiches, Carrots & Hummus

**Thursday:** Hot Dogs with Buns or Spaghetti Bolognaise, Cole Slaw & Pickles

**Friday:** Pizza Bagels, 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.

All snacks will be whole, uncut fruits or individually wrapped snacks. Water bottles 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. 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.

### ***SUNSCREEN***

Please apply to sunscreen to your children before their arrival at camp and send along additional sunscreen to be applied throughout the day.

### ***HAT***

We will be spending more time outdoors this year than usual, 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 (see below).

### ***CAMP T-SHIRT (TRIP DAYS)***

Every camper and staff member is required to wear their Camp Gan Israel t-shirt on all trip days. Campers will receive one free t-shirt before their first trip, additional t-shirts can be purchased for \$10.

## 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 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. 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, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Boys swimming days are Tuesdays and Thursdays, water play is on Mondays.

Girls swimming days are Mondays and Wednesdays, water play is on Tuesdays.

### JR CAMPERS WATER PLAY (ENTERING KINDERGARTEN)

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

On water play days, please send your child with a bathing suit, towel & swim shoes. 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)

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In order to keep our cohorts separated at all times, the Camp Gan Israel swim program will take place at small, private pools this summer. We will have exclusive access to all facilities during our use. Our experienced staff of Red Cross certified lifeguards are on duty the entire time that the children are in the pool vicinity.

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) and goggles (optional). The counselors will assist your child in re-applying sunscreen before they swim.

### WATER PLAY & FOAM PARTIES

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Weekly Water Play & Foam Parties will include our giant water slide, foam machine and special water play activities. Water Play & Foam Parties take place at our regular campsite location.

Please send along extra clothing or a bathing suit with a towel & swim shoes on water play days. *Please keep in mind when preparing for water play, that our activities will take place in an open public area.*

## 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.

## STUDIOS

In order to enable social distancing between separate cohorts, we have adjusted our Studios program for this year.

For summer 2021, we will feature all of our Studio favorites including Culinary Creations, Outdoor Game Cart and more in our regular schedule and program.

## 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.

As always, 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 bright green Camp Gan Israel t-shirt and safety wristbands 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.

### DIVISIONS A & B (ENTERING GRADES 1+)

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Trip days will be once a week, Wednesdays for the boys' division and Thursdays for the girls' division. (Occasional adjustments and variations may be made due to changing availabilities at our trip locations.)

**Half Moon Bay Beach Play:** [www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=531](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=531)

**Skateboarding:** <http://activities.societyskateshop.com/lessons>

**Boomers:** [www.boomersparks.com/livermore](http://www.boomersparks.com/livermore)

**Top Golf:** [www.topgolf.com/us/san-jose](http://www.topgolf.com/us/san-jose)

**Boating:** [www.shorelinelake.com/boathouse.html](http://www.shorelinelake.com/boathouse.html)

**Great America:** [www.cagreatamerica.com](http://www.cagreatamerica.com)

### JR CAMPERS (ENTERING KINDERGARTEN)

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The Jr Camp trip schedule is especially tailored for our youngest Gan Izzy campers. The locations chosen are in secure environments with a pace and content suited for this age group. Trip days will take place once every two weeks on Wednesdays. (Occasional adjustments and variations may be made due to changing availabilities at our trip locations.)

**CuriOdyssey:** [www.curiodyssey.org](http://www.curiodyssey.org)

**Golfland (Milpitas):** [www.golfland.com/milpitas](http://www.golfland.com/milpitas)

**Pump it Up:** *Socks required* [www.pumpitupparty.com](http://www.pumpitupparty.com)

## OVERNIGHT

An annual highlight at Camp Gan Israel, our overnight experiences bring the campers closer together and create strong memories through camping, bonfires, friendship and nature. We are very excited to bring back our overnight experience for Summer 2021!

Our campsites are official, secure camping areas with running clean water, bathrooms, cooking and eating areas. We are always close by to medical help in case of emergency and we remain in contact with the parents throughout the trip. We also bring in additional staff to assist on our overnight camping trips.

Camp Gan Israel will provide a complete barbecue supper with breakfast, lunch and snacks throughout the trip. We can usually accommodate special diets by request.

Campers will be sleeping socially distanced in tents provided by Camp Gan Israel. Tents will be limited to just a few campers per tent.

### **Overnight Location:**

It's hard to imagine how the beautiful Ed Levin Park is located right here in the South Bay, just a few miles west of the I-880 and less than 30 minutes from Camp Gan Israel. With a big fire pit, amphitheater seating and a cozy little brook, Ed Levin Park makes a perfect setting to have that special country experience so close to home.

**BOYS: TUESDAY, JULY 6<sup>TH</sup>**

**GIRLS: WEDNESDAY, JULY 7<sup>TH</sup>**

## FUN FRIDAYS

Every day is fun at CGI but Fridays are special.

Here are some of the special activities enjoyed at camp each Friday.

### **DRESS UP DAYS**

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

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

### **SHABBAT EXPERIENCE**

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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 Shabbat party with Rabbi Ber! With songs, stories and a recap of the week, this Camp Gan Izzy finale is sure to be an unforgettable experience.

## GOOD NIGHT GAN IZZY

When the camp day just isn't enough!

Our dedicated staff are ready to bring Camp Gan Izzy right into your backyard. Campers enjoy some special one-on-one time with their counselor at no extra cost.

Contact your child's counselor to arrange a convenient time.