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**Camp Gan Israel Brentwood  
Parent's Handbook  
Summer 2010-5770**

*A project of Chabad of Brentwood*

[www.JewishBrentwood.com](http://www.JewishBrentwood.com)

## **Welcome!**

Welcome to Camp Gan Israel of Brentwood, part of the largest and fastest growing network of Jewish day camps in the world. Our camp enjoys a well-earned reputation as a trendsetter with innovative ideas, creative programs and new activities being introduced continuously. Many a child has been known to wait all year to come back to Gan Israel! From “Gan Chaya summer Fun” to our “Pioneer Program”, campers will enjoy a wide range of age appropriate, exciting activities and field trips, in a warm and vivacious atmosphere.

## **Dates and Times:**

Camp begins Bez”H on Monday, June 28, and runs through Friday, August 6th.

### **Gan Chaya- ages 2 – 4 years**

Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 12:30 pm, extended care is available until 2:30

### **Camp Gan Israel-ages 5-12**

Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm.

Please avoid dropping off your child earlier than 8:50 a.m. or picking up after 3:10.

Late pick-ups are difficult for children and unfair to staff. Please make sure to be prompt.

## **Contacts:**

### **Executive Director-Chabad of Brentwood:**

Rabbi Hecht - (310)826-4453 or [rabbihecht@chabadbw.com](mailto:rabbihecht@chabadbw.com)

### **Camp Gan Israel Director**

Rabbi Teleshevsky- (310)628-4787 or [rabbiaron@chabadbw.com](mailto:rabbiaron@chabadbw.com)

### **Head Staff-Camp Gan Israel:**

Geula Hecht- (310)628-4568 or [camp@jewishbrentwood.com](mailto:camp@jewishbrentwood.com)

## **Communication:**

Please share your feedback, comments and suggestions 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.

To see your child in action and updated schedules and special events, check out our website at [www.cgibrentwood.com](http://www.cgibrentwood.com). Pictures and news will be updated every day.

## **Safety**

Safety and security are our number one concerns. Counselors to camper ratios are structured to maintain the highest levels of supervision. Staff members go through extensive training including CPR and first aid.

## **Special Conditions and Medication**

If a child has any special needs or conditions, please bring them to our attention. It will allow us to address the 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.

### **Children's Belongings**

Children are given a set place to keep their belongings during the day. 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.

Cell phones, Ipods & electronic games may not be brought to camp. They are easily lost or damaged and they distract children from participating in camp activities and following counselor direction.

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 we will do our best to locate them.

### **Drop Off and Pick Up:**

Drop off will be at 9:00 am at 644 S. Bundy Dr. counselors will be waiting to greet your campers and help them out of the car, we will try to keep the cars moving as swiftly as possible.

Pick Up will be at 3:00 pm on the west side of the Brentwood Science Magnet campus (Gretna Green in the middle of the block). The counselors will bring the campers to the cars, please ensure children are signed out.

### **Staff and Child Greeting Times:**

Parents want to see their child greeted warmly at the start of the day and rightfully so. Our greeting time extends until 9:10. 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 (please 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.

### **Programming: An Overview**

Camp 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 one full day trip, (such as museums, amusement park, etc.), one half day trip (such as bowling, roller skating etc.) two swim days, and Friday specialties. A detailed list of this year's exciting fun shops can be found on page 4.

## Camp Gan Israel Sample Schedule:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Line up	Line up	Line up	Line up	Line up
Prayer/ Bunk Time	Prayer/ Bunk Time	Prayer/ Bunk Time	Prayer/ Bunk Time	Prayer/ Bunk Time
Fun Yoga/ Art	<b>Trip</b>	Funshop 1	<b>Trip Day</b>	Basketball
Snack		Snack		Snack
Field Sports		Field Sports		Music Shabbat Party
Lunch		Lunch		Funshop 2
<b>Swimming</b>		Funshop 2		<b>Swimming</b>
Wrap Up	Camp Activity	Wrap Up	Wrap Up	Camp Activity
	Wrap Up			Wrap Up

### Fun Shops @ Gan Israel!

Our Fun Shops give the children the opportunity to explore different avenues of projects and activities.



**MAD SCIENCE:** The children will be introduced to a world of discovery. Mad Science will provide hands-on science experiments for children that are entertaining and educational. This program aims to spark the imagination and curiosity of children and to instill an understanding of what science is about and how it affects their world.



**BAKING:** The children will get to feel a real sense of accomplishment and reward after creating their very own yummy treats! This hands-on activity is carefully supervised by adults, but allows kids to explore the art of baking.



**CERAMICS:** The campers will have the opportunity to paint their very own keepsakes. They will learn special painting techniques and come home with their own glazed masterpieces!



**ARTS AND CRAFTS:** The children will have the opportunity to explore their creative side with various arts which include woodworking, painting, and Judaic crafts.



**SPORTS:** Children will have fun playing sports and simultaneously learn skills and new techniques.



**GYMNASTICS:** Children enjoy a variety of exercises and instructional activities that children's enthusiasm. Children will learn the basics of exercise (warm-up, stretching, endurance, aerobics, cool-down) and the importance of regular exercise while having a great time!



**FUN YOGA:** Children participate in beginner's yoga while having a great time. This Fun Shop gives them the opportunity to stretch, focus, relax, and have lots of fun!



**WOODWORKS:** Children will learn to use wood working tools to craft their own original wood crafts.

## **Frequently Asked Questions...**

### **How does my camper find a lost item?**

Please mark all belongings with your camper's name and . This is very important since shirts, backpacks, etc. are identical and individual items are difficult to identify without a label. Lost & Found items are available each day . 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 camper during the day, please notify our Director a day in advance. Once we are aware of your arrival time, we can arrange to have your camper ready for you. Please note that no camper will be released to ANYONE without written permission.

### **What if my child does not want to participate in a particular activity?**

No camper will be forced to participate in any activity. However, we do urge campers to try all activities and take advantage of the complete program offered at Camp Gan Israel. If any child does not want to participate, the parents and counselors must discuss a plan of action.

### **Can my camper bring a precious item to camp?**

We do not permit your camper to bring jewelry, radios, expensive toys, etc. to camp. Camp Gan Israel supplies everything campers may need.

### **What does my camper need to bring each day?**

Campers only need a bathing suit and towel each swim day (Monday and Wednesday), regardless of the weather. We supply all sports and safety equipment for your child. Please apply sun screen at home. If you would like more applied during the day, send in the sunscreen marked with your child's name and a note.

### **How often does my child drink water at camp each day?**

Water coolers are always available for your children to drink. They will be instructed to drink often. You may want to send your child with the water bottle each day. Bottles will be refilled as needed throughout the day.

### **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.

### **How can I speak with a Camp Director?**

The director is available to answer your questions and discuss your concerns during the day through the camp office at (310) 628-4787. Please understand that the directors may be out and about during the time of your call making sure that everything is perfect for your children. If the director is unavailable at the time of your call, please leave a message with both your daytime and evening phone numbers and your call will be returned promptly.

**Are we obligated to give a tip or gift to our child's counselor?**

Although not required, tips or gifts are appreciated. If you wish to do so, here is a general guideline: \$20-25 for a junior counselor and \$30-40 for a counselor.

**How can I become more involved with Camp Gan Israel?**

The camp encourages the involvement of "bunk" parents (just like a class parent). If you are interested please inform the Director.

**When must campers wear a camp shirt?**

We require that all campers wear a Camp Gan Israel shirt on trip days, as marked on schedule. While on field trips camp shirts distinguish our campers and staff from other visitors and we are instantly recognizable to each other.

**How much time do the campers spend outdoors?**

Weather permitting; campers will spend lots of time outdoors. A playground is available as well as fields and courts. Please apply sun screen at home prior to camp. In case of rain or extreme heat, campers will have the opportunity to be indoors.

***CGI Brentwood- Making a Fun Summer Jewish and a Jewish Summer fun!  
Looking forward to celebrating this exciting and enriching summer together  
with you!***