

Parent Handbook



INFORMATION GUIDE



SUMMER 2018



Welcome!







Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2018 season of Camp Gan Israel! Whether this is your first summer or you have been with us before, we are delighted that you are joining us. The counselors and staff at Camp Gan Israel are eager to greet your child and share our new and exciting programs.

At Camp Gan Israel, your child will have the opportunity to bond with other children of the same age in a friendly and relaxed camp setting. During each day, the campers participate in activities, games, songs, laughter, and plenty of camp spirit. A busy and well-rounded schedule awaits your child. Our counselors are wonderful role models who create meaningful and loving friendships with the campers.

In this booklet you will find useful information on schedules, policies, and regulations. Our full folder of policies is available upon request. Camp Gan Israel is fully licensed by the State of CT and is also accredited by the American Camp Association. Accreditation by the ACA is dependent on meeting very high standards in safety, programming, staff training, and risk management. You can be confident that at CGI, the staff will always put an emphasis on the safety and well-being of your child.

We are certain that all of our programming, as well as the warmth, spirit, and Jewish pride we impart, will add up to a wonderful camp experience for your child!

We look forward to greeting you soon,

Rabbi Schneur & Chanie Wilhelm Camp Directors

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Essential Information	4
Arrival/Pick-up	5
Necessary Items	6
Lunch	7
Communication	7
Our Staff	8
Special Programs	10
Trips	11
Swimming	12
Transportation	12
Health Care	13
Safety	14
F.A.Q.s	15





MISSION STATEMENT

Camp Gan Israel is a summer camp dedicated to enriching the lives of children from diverse Jewish backgrounds and affiliations through a stimulating camp experience. Our focus on child safety and program quality is unparalleled. CGI of Greater New Haven is part of the largest and fastest growing network of day camps, enjoying a reputation as a pioneer in Jewish camping, with innovative ideas and creative activities. Our program provides enjoyment and inspires children to try new things in a comfortable and caring atmosphere. Our goal is to help build self-esteem and character in our campers by helping them develop different skills and encouraging the Jewish values of kindness, caring, and giving. Campers meet new friends and learn about their heritage in a fun, exciting manner.



ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

DATES AND TIMES

Camp is in session for 6 weeks. Camp begins on Monday, June 25, and runs through Friday, August 3, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Half-day option for Mini Gan Izzy is 9:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. There is no camp on Wednesday, July 4.

Before-Care/After-Care: Before-care is from 8:30-9:00 a.m. After-care is from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Arrangements must be made in advance by completing the extended care form online. More info regarding rates and reservations can be found at www.GanlsraelNH.com/extendedcare.

OUR LOCATION

Camp will be held at Barnard Environmental Studies Magnet School, 170 Derby Avenue, New Haven, CT. The grounds include a spacious playing field, indoor gymnasium, playgrounds, and air-conditioned facilities. Swimming takes place at the JCC, 360 Amity Rd., Woodbridge.

OUR DIVISIONS



Explorers: Age 3 - 31/2

Scouts: Ages 3½ - 4½ (Entering Pre-K)

Adventurers: Entering K

Junior Division – Entering Grades 1–3 Senior Division – Entering Grades 4–7

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS & INFO



Director Cell Phone: 203.887.7603 Camp Website: www.GanlsraelNH.com Camp Email: info@GanlsraelNH.com





ARRIVAL & PICK-UP

Camp begins promptly at 9:00 a.m. every day. Camp ends at 3:30 p.m. Please be prompt for arrival and dismissal so we can ensure a smooth transition into and out of camp. Late pick-ups are difficult for both the children and the staff. Parents of children who are picked up later than 10 minutes after dismissal will need to pay a fee of \$8/child.

ARRIVAL/DROP-OFF

FIRST DAY DROP-OFF FOR ALL DIVISIONS at BARNARD: All parents should please park in the lot beside the building. Look out for our staff with CGI T-shirts. They will guide you to your correct location.

REGULAR DROP-OFF

MINI GAN IZZY: Campers must be accompanied by parents into the building. Please park in the parking lot and walk into the building to your child's classroom.

OLDER DIVISIONS: Campers should be dropped off at the side of the building, near the field. After drop-off, please follow the traffic pattern to exit. If you wish to walk your child to his/her group, please park in the lot.

NOTE: The entrance to Barnard is on Derby Avenue. The driveway is divided—please use the left side if you wish to continue to the parking lot, and the right side if you are just dropping off or picking up. Please DO NOT park along the side of the building.

PICK-UP

ALL DIVISIONS: Parents should drive along the side of the building, entering on the right side of the driveway. Campers will be escorted to their cars by their counselors after line-up.

EARLY PICK-UP: In the event that you wish to pick up your child early from camp, please call our office or send us an email so that the directors are aware of your plans. You will be required to come into the building and sign out your child.

CAMPER RELEASE: Parents have informed the directors of who is allowed to pick up their children. If someone other than listed will be sent to pick up your child, please contact the office by phone or email indicating permission for pick-up. If someone other than listed arrives at camp to pick up your child and we have not been notified, the camper will not be released until a parent has been contacted.













WHAT YOUR CHILD NEEDS IN CAMP

Clothing: Clothes should be comfortable, washable, and appropriate for camp activities. For safety, children must wear appropriate shoes. Croc style shoes and flip-flops, although comfortable and trendy, are not appropriate for athletic activities.

Additional Items:

- Campers will need to bring a bathing suit and towel on swim days.

 Mini Gan Izzy: please send a bathing suit and towel each Monday,
 and we will send them home to be washed at the end of the week,
 or earlier if need be. Please replace towels/bathing suits if we send
 them home.
- Please send along sunscreen with your child on the first day of camp, which will be stored in his/her cubby. First layer of sunscreen should be applied at home.
- Please send a water bottle with your child every day.
- Mini Gan Izzy children should bring a complete change of clothing to be kept at camp, as well as a sheet, blanket, and pillow for rest time. Additionally, for children who are not yet toilet-trained, please send in a sufficient supply of diapers and wipes.

Mark Clothing & Accessories: Swimwear & swim gear, camp T-shirts, lunch bags, water bottles, and any outerwear should be clearly marked with your child's name.

T-shirts: Campers must wear a CGI T-shirt for every trip day, as well as for our photo day, July 26. T-shirts will be available for purchase on the first day of camp: \$7/short sleeve tees, \$8/long sleeve tees.

SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULE (Upper Camp)

9:00 Arrival, Line-up

9:20 Judaic Time: Jewish songs, prayer, lessons, stories

10:00 1st Activity: Sports

10:45 Snack

11:00 2nd Activity: Art

11:30 3rd Activity: Drama

12:15 Lunch

12:50 Leave for Swimming

2:15 4th Activity: Baking

2:45 5th Activity: Scavenger Hunt

3:15 Line-up followed by dismissal at 3:30

LUNCH

Lunches are brought from home. We will refrigerate all lunches in the morning. On trip days, try to avoid highly perishable items such as yogurt, unless you send along an ice pack in the lunch bag. Lunches should be dairy or pareve. Snacks will be provided by camp twice daily.

Allergies: If there is a camper in your child's group who is allergic to certain foods, you will receive an email notification. We request that you do not send in any foods containing those items to camp.

Pizza Lunches @ CGI: Kosher World of Waterbury will be delivering pizza lunches to camp on Wednesdays. Lunches include pizza, fries, and fruit/salad. Lunches are \$5/camper. Orders can be placed online at www.GanlsraelNH.com/lunch and must be in by 3:30 pm on Tuesday of each week.



COMMUNICATION

Look for our weekly newsletter every Friday highlighting the happenings of camp that week and the week ahead, along with any important information we need to convey. A weekly email will be sent on Sunday with general reminders for the week ahead. To speak with your child's teacher/counselor or a camp director, please call our camp office and leave a message. You can also email info@ganisraeInh.com with any comments, questions, or concerns. Email is an excellent way to communicate with us!

Please do not call the Barnard School office regarding Camp Gan Israel.

This year, daily notifications, reminders, and photos will be sent through WhatsApp broadcast groups.

To subscribe:

- 1. Make sure WhatsApp is installed on your phone,
- 2. Save 475-434-5138 in your contacts as Camp Gan Israel, and
- 3. Text "Subscribe" + your name to that number.

This way, you can be an active participant in your child's camp experience and receive instant reminders and updates about pertinent camp information!

Our website will be updated weekly with photos. Please connect with us on social media! "Like" us on Facebook www.Facebook.com/GanlsraelNH and follow us on Instagram @ganisraelnewhaven.



JUDAIC THEME/ACTIVITIES

MINI GAN IZZY

The camp theme for Mini Gan Izzy is "Let's Celebrate: A Journey through the Jewish Festivals." Each week will focus on a different Jewish holiday and its associated traditions and themes. Campers will explore each topic through crafts, sensory play, activities, and circle time.







UPPER CAMP

Our camp theme this summer is "Get Your Gan Izzy Game On." Campers will feel like they are taking part in a real-life board game as they race to "advance" towards the finish line by completing different mitzvot and challenges. Special events and dress-up days will round out the fun! We will also be implementing a program called "Torah Tools to Build a Better World," which will focus on character development.

Every Friday the entire camp will get together in the afternoon for a Shabbat celebration. As always, the campers will get their hands into the dough for some Challah baking.

OUR STAFF

Camp Directors: Rabbi Schneur & Chanie Wilhelm

Assistant Directors: Shalom & Shifra Tauber

Each CGI staff member undergoes extensive pre-camp training through MyGanlsrael.com which is endorsed by the ACA. All staff members are also trained in first aid. Our counselors are known for the love and warmth they show each child in their care. They work at Camp Gan Israel because they are dedicated to giving the children a great summer experience. We conduct background and reference checks on all of our staff, and we take pride and full responsibility for each member of our team.

MINI GAN IZZY

Our Mini Gan Izzy groups are led by experienced preschool teachers who are adored by their students and known for their caring and devotion to the children. All teachers are joined by experienced aides. Every teacher is certified in CPR and first aid. Staff to camper ratio is 1:5.

UPPER CAMP

Our upper camp staff members come from Connecticut, New York, Illinois, and California. We have selected caring, enthusiastic staff, each with prior camp experience. Staff to camper ratio is approximately 1:6. They are excited to join us this summer, and we know they will give your children an unforgettable camp experience!

For a staff listing, complete with staff pictures and titles, please visit www.GanlsraelNH.com/staff.











SPECIAL ACTIVITY INSTRUCTORS

MINI GAN IZZY

MUSIC & MOVEMENT We are excited to have BOBBY DOOWAH back at CGI this summer for Music & Movement. His contagious enthusiasm, creativity, and originality have been captivating and entertaining children for over 15 years. Bobby gets kids grooving and shaking with his unique style of interactive, hands-on music and just plain fun!

YOGA LANI ROSEN of Full of Joy Yoga will instruct several yoga workshops for Mini Gan Izzy campers. She started off as an elementary school teacher, and when she discovered the strong and positive impact yoga had on her students, she turned it into a career. Teaching yoga to children is now Lani's passion.

UPPER CAMP

SPORTS SHANILYA BUSH & MATT ZUCKERMAN are our sports coaches this summer. Shanilya has 6 years of experience teaching physical education and coaching basketball. Matt has coached little league baseball, hockey, and football in the CT area. Both coaches are excited about working with the children this summer. Campers will participate in instructional sports twice each week. Each sport will be age appropriate.

ART JULIE FRENCH is the art instructor for the upper divisions. Julie is currently an art teacher in East Haven and has taught art at the elementary and secondary levels. She aims to bring out the innate creativity in each child through art. She will experiment with different media each art session. In addition, campers will work on several different crafts throughout the summer. We are glad to have her back at CGI for her fifth summer!

ARCHERY RABBI WILHELM will instruct archery at camp this summer. He trained in Foxboro, MA and has certification by USA Archery. As a Level 1 instructor, he is excited to teach the Sr. Division campers this skill and will incorporate different techniques and target games into each weekly archery session.

MARTIAL ARTS MASTER GREG DANIA of World Champion Taekwondo is a 4th Degree Black Belt. He has a passion for working with children of all ages and helping them to achieve their goals while learning respect, integrity, self-control, perseverance, and determination. We are glad to welcome him to CGI this summer.

iCLUBS Campers in our Sr. Division will have the chance to choose their favorite clubs for additional weekly instruction: raingutter regatta, balloon sculpting, wilderness survival, string art, and more. Lights, Camera, Action, where campers star in their own movie, will be back this summer due to popular demand! All clubs will be led by experienced professionals. Held twice weekly, campers will spend time mastering new skills and building their self-confidence.





SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Bring the Hoopla

Bring the Hoopla is an innovative mix of play and exercise with hula hoops! Bring the Hoopla's mission is to bring the fun back into fitness. This program focuses on developing each child's self-esteem and self-expression with the guidance of encouraging instructors. Bring the Hoopla sessions will be offered to Mini Gan & Jr. Division several times throughout the summer.

Animal Embassy

Mini Gan Izzy campers will be treated to several interactive animal workshops with the Animal Embassy program. The children will meet diverse animals from around the world. They will discover how important each animal is to its habitat and learn to respect and appreciate all different kinds of animals.

Imagination Playground

Imagination Playground is the newest trend in children's museums, parks, preschools, and play centers all over the country! Imagination Playground is made up of cubes, bricks, blocks, cogs, curves, and cylinders that fit together in ways that allow collaborative, immersive play. Mini Gan Izzy campers will enjoy this child-directed and openended play each week.

JCrafts

JCrafts will be presenting two fun workshops this summer for upper campers, Kosher Chocolate Factory and Havdallah Candle Making. In the Kosher Chocolate Factory, campers will watch and participate as chocolate is made from cocoa beans, with some delicious samples for tasting. They will also learn some fun facts about kosher food. In the Havdallah workshop, they will discover the meaning of the Havdallah ceremony and create their very own Havdallah candles and spice sets.

Game Zone

Our on-site Game Zone has become a part of the hallmark Gan Izzy fun! The Game Zone is fully equipped with arcades, foosball, ping-pong, air hockey, life-sized Connect 4, life-sized Jenga, and more. All upper campers will have scheduled time each week to play in the Game Zone.

Helping Others

"Gan Izzy Gives" and the annual Chai-a-thon benefiting Chai Lifeline will emphasize the Jewish value of Tzedakah: kindness, caring, and giving. These initiatives will help campers recognize their ability to help others and realize the difference they can make.

Special Events @ CGI!

The Gan Israel experience is full of fantastic, engaging shows and special events. We have a Chinese acrobat show, STEM workshop, and Alien Invaders animal show lined up, as well as Wild Water Day, American Ninja Warrior Day, Around the World Day, Foam Machine Fun, and more.

FIELD TRIPS

Campers are required to wear their camp T-shirts on ALL trip days. Counselors have been trained in extra security and safety measures while in public areas off camp grounds. On trip days, please send a bagged lunch, as usual, along with a water bottle. Please do not send any perishable items. Caps to block the sun are helpful for trip days, as much time will be spent outdoors.

MINI GAN IZZY TRIPS:

- ▼ Tuesday, July 3 Imagine Nation Museum, Bristol
- ✓ Tuesday, July 17 Eisenhower Park, Milford
- Tuesday, July 31 C.A.T.S. Gym, Cheshire Explorers & Scouts Quassy Amusement Park, Middlebury Adventurers

JR. & SR. DIVISION TRIPS:

- ✓ Tuesday, June 26 Mystic Seaport, Mystic
- Tuesday, July 3 Imagine Nation, Bristol (Jr.)
 Tuesday, July 3 Lake Compounce, Bristol (Sr.)
 This trip is a late night. Campers will eat dinner and return to SCHA, 261 Derby Ave, Orange. Pick-up is at 8:00 pm
- ✓ Tuesday, July 10 Bounce Town Indoor Playland, Milford
- ▼ Tuesday, July 17 New England Air Museum, Windsor Locks
- ✓ Tuesday, July 24 Woodlawn Duckpin Bowling, West Haven & Milford Ice Pavilion
- ▼ Tuesday, July 31 Quassy Amusement Park, Middlebury (Jr.)
 Tuesday, July 31-Wednesday, August 1 Club Getaway, Kent
- For campers entering Grades 3+. Trip fee: \$75. To attend, log in to your camp account and add the trip to your child's reservation for Week 6 (under "options"). *Specific information about this trip is available at www.GanlsraelNH.com/clubgetaway.

EXTRA SR. DIVISION TRIP:

- ✓ Thursday, July 12 Middlebank Sport Fishing, Bridgeport Campers will leave from camp at 3:00 pm. They will enjoy fishing on the Long Island Sound from 4:00–8:00 pm. Dinner will be served. Pick-up is at 8:45 p.m. from SCHA, 261 Derby Ave., Orange.
- ✓ Tuesday, July 24 Late Night @ Camp! Campers will enjoy dinner and games at camp. Pick-up is at 6:00 pm













SWIMMING

CGI swims at the JCC of Greater New Haven. Swim days vary by week—please see our calendars for specific days. All swim activities are supervised by Red Cross-certified lifeguards and instructors. Our Head Lifeguard is Syndi Garay, who has worked with our campers for the past several summers. At all times, proper lifeguard to camper ratios are maintained. Counselors accompany the children to the pool and provide additional supervision. Each group is allotted one hour of pool time. Half of the time is free swim; the other half is instructional swim. Mini Gan Izzy: Campers participate in on-site water activities every day, weather permitting. The Adventurers group ONLY joins the upper camp for swimming, once weekly (see calendar for specific days).

When CGI uses public facilities with pools (JCC, Club Getaway), CGI ensures that the staff includes lifeguards and personnel with proper certification and training. A safety orientation is always provided for the campers.

TRANSPORTATION

Campers ride on school buses provided by Durham Bus Company. The bus drivers and bus company are licensed, insured, and informed of our safety and accident procedures and transportation requirements. If available, seat belts must be worn. Campers must remain seated while the bus is in motion. Campers' health information and important numbers are with the staff on all trips. A complete file of our transportation policies and accident procedures is available upon request.

GENERAL POLICIES

PERSONAL PROPERTY Camp assumes no responsibility for loss/damage to personal property, including sports equipment and vehicles. We provide everything the campers may need for all of their activities and special programs. ABSOLUTELY NO alcohol, drugs, or weapons of any kind will be allowed on camp grounds. No animals or pets may be brought to camp. Personal vehicles may not be used for transportation of campers, except with written consent of parents. Camp reserves the right to conduct searches when we feel necessary.

NO SMOKING Please be advised that there is no smoking on camp grounds.

HEALTH CARE & TREATMENT PROCEDURES

Screening of all health records is done by the camp directors prior to the beginning of camp. Records are screened to learn of any medications, allergies, special requirements, and illnesses. A chart with any important findings is distributed to staff during training. All of our medical routines have been reviewed and approved by our camp physician, Dr. Robert Kinstlinger.

All of our staff is trained in first aid, and most of our staff is trained in CPR.

Health charts, emergency information, and first aid supplies are kept accessible to staff at all times, on and off site, including on buses.

The closest hospital, mental care facility, fire station, and police department were notified of the dates, location, and number of participants in our program.

In case of emergency, we contact 911. Staff has been trained in emergency and accident procedures. Chain of communication in emergencies: 911 → Directors → Parents (if unavailable, Emergency Contact) → Camp Physician.

In non-emergency situations, a camp director will contact parents immediately if campers are ill or injured and will require further medical care. We encourage parents to pick up the campers and bring them to their own doctors. Campers will remain in our first aid area until parent arrival.

For medical injuries not requiring further medical treatment, camp provides first aid. Parents are contacted by a camp director who will inform them of steps taken. All incidents are recorded in our health log, which is reviewed weekly by our camp physician.

Our First Aider is Mindy Sonet, RPh. She will respond to any medical issue that requires treatment for which she has been trained. Rabbi Wilhelm has received medication administration training, and he will be the only one to administer any medication (in the event of an allergic reaction only) with prior parental permission. All medication must be in original box and clearly marked with camper's name. A separate note containing dosage instructions and parent's signature must be sent as well.

A full file of all of our policies is available upon request.







SAFETY & SECURITY POLICIES/PROCEDURES

- 1. Every staff member will be in constant communication with the main office via walkie-talkies.
- 2. Please call or email camp the day before if you know your child will not attend camp. We request a phone call or email by 8:30 a.m. if absence is unexpected.
- 3. If a camper is expected and does not arrive by 10:00 a.m., a camp director will call parents to verify that all is okay.
- 4. Prior to trips, all campers will be briefed on safety regulations and safety precautions applicable to the specific trip. Counselors will keep campers close and always in sight. A counting system and buddy system will always be in place during off-site trips to ensure safety.
- 5. Staff members are trained in security procedures for different emergencies, including fire, thunderstorms, missing child, and intruders.
- 6. Proper staff-to-camper ratios will always be maintained in public places.
- 7. Counselors will remain with campers at all times, including during special activities with supervisors. Counselors will provide extra supervision during swimming.
- 8. Personal flotation devices (PFDs) must be worn by all participants in watercraft activities.
- 9. Proper headgear must be worn during any activity that can result in a head injury.
- 10. All staff members and special activity directors will be periodically evaluated for acceptable levels of job performance by camp directors.

A complete file of camp policies and procedures is available upon request.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How does my child find lost items?

Please mark all belongings with your child's name. Lost & Found items are available each day in the camp office. Please contact us by phone or email regarding specific items.

How do I arrange to pick up my child during the camp day?

If you are picking up your child early, please notify our camp office. When you arrive at camp, please come to our office to sign out your child. A staff member will retrieve your child and bring him/her to the office.

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 encourage campers to try all activities and take advantage of the complete program offered at CGI. If any child does not want to participate, the parents and counselors will discuss a plan of action. Swimming: If a child does not want to swim on a particular day, s/he must still accompany the group to the pool and sit with his/her counselor by the side of the pool.

How religious is Camp Gan Israel?

CGI is a totally non-judgmental environment made up of campers from all Jewish backgrounds. An individual's level of observance is not stressed. All children enjoy a shared Jewish spirit through songs and projects.

Can my child bring precious items to camp?

Campers should not bring expensive jewelry, toys, electronic games/gadgets, etc. to camp. CGI provides everything campers may need.

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

Please send your child with a water bottle each day. Water fountains are located around the camp. Campers will be instructed to drink every hour. Water bottles can 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 directors are available to answer your questions and discuss your concerns during the day at the camp office. 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 a director is unavailable, please leave a message. You can also send an email requesting a phone call, and a director will be sure to contact you.

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

Tips or gifts are appreciated, but are not mandatory in any way.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US WITH ANY OTHER QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE!





Greater New Haven

- - www.facebook.com/ganisraelnh @ ganisraelnewhaven

