



**S. Barbara, California
Summer Day Camp**

Parent's Handbook

CGI - Made from the best STAFF on earth!

A Letter from Your Directors

Dear Camp Gan Israel Parents,

We are so excited to offer you the best summer experience for your child. Camp Gan Israel, part of the largest network of Jewish camps in the world, is proud to provide the best in fun and safety in a warm and caring Jewish environment. As a member of the American Camping Association (ACA) we uphold 300 standards of fun and safety in every aspect of our camp.

In Gan Izzy, we view our staff and the parents as two integral partners of a team. Together we work together to bring out the best in your child's development and growth; physically, socially and spiritually. Using our website, www.ganizzysb.com; regular email communication and weekly newsletters, we hope to stay in touch with you about your child's progress and activities.

Please review this handbook so you will be familiar with the procedures and policies of our camp. Our complete Camp Policy is available on our website in the Parent's Section. If you have any questions or concerns you can call Rabbi Zalmy on his cell phone 805-636-5085, or email rabbizalmy@ganizzysb.com.

We're looking forward to another amazing Gan Izzy summer!

Yours Truly,

Rabbi Zalmy & Shterna Kudan
Directors

Camp Gan Israel S. Barbara

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Note on ACA:

Codes in parenthesis correspond to American Camping Association accreditation standard number.

For more information on the importance of ACA accreditation visit www.campparents.org.



Your Child's Safety

Attendance/Child Absence: (OM.13.1)

1. Children are to be brought by the parents to their bunk room.
2. Attendance is taken by our staff every morning.
3. If you know your child will be absent from camp, please notify the camp office at 805-275-4083 or email rabbizalmy@ganizzysb.com. If a camper is absent and we were not notified, someone from the camp office will call the parent.

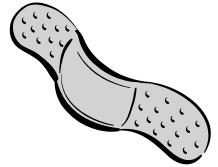


Arrival and Departure (TR.4)

1. The gate will be opened 10 minutes before camp begins until 25 minutes after camp begins. The gate will likewise be open 10 minutes before camp ends until 25 minutes after camp is over.
2. Parents should park in the parking lot and walk their children into camp.
3. At the end of the day, parents must pick up their children from the field in front of the building. Staff members will supervise the children until parents pick them up.
4. THERE IS NO PARKING AROUND THE ROUNDABOUT! All cars MUST be parked in the designated parking spaces.
5. Please obey 5 MPH Speed Limit sign posted in the parking lot.
6. If the parent or guardian will not be picking up the child, the alternate driver must be added as an authorized pickup person on our website. A release form is also available in the camp office. No child will be released to an unauthorized driver without permission from the Director. (OM-17)
7. Campers find it hard to adjust when they come late, and they worry when their parents don't pick them up on time. Please be prompt. Camp begins at 9:00am and ends at 3:00pm. After 3:20pm, after-care charges will be applied.
8. After-care is available Monday-Thursday from 3:00-5:00pm. Fees apply.

Emergencies

1. 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 contact on file will be notified. (HW.10.1)
2. Our staff are all certified to provide CPR/First Aid if G-d forbid, this is necessary.
3. After any incident or injury, parents will receive an ouch or incident report.
4. Parents may be asked to pick up their child from camp if the Health Supervisor deems it necessary. Reasons may include fever, rash, suspected contagious disease, lice, or any injury that requires more than first aid. (HW.10.1)
5. For ways to contact camp in case of an emergency, please see the “Contact Camp” section in this handbook.
6. For our complete Risk Management Plan, Health & Safety Plan and Emergency Plan, please see our “Camp Policy” available on www.ganizzysb.com in the forms and handbooks section.



Contact Camp

1. [Www.ganizzysb.com](http://www.ganizzysb.com) has our schedule, newsletters, pictures (password protected) and a blog of current news and announcements.
2. Counselors and other staff may be reached by emailing staff@ganizzysb.com. Place the name of the staff member in the subject of the email.
3. Camp’s phone number is 805-275-4083. Staff will not be available to talk during camp hours as they are supervising the children. The Directors should be called in case of an emergency. Rabbi Zalmy’s cell phone is 805-636-5085. Shterna’s cell phone is 805-636-5605. Text Messaging either Rabbi Zalmy or Shterna is an effective mode of communication.
4. Camp Gan Israel’s full “Camp Policy” is available on www.ganizzysb.com in the Parent’s Section. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with our policies and guidelines.



About Our Program

General Information

1. Camp Gan Israel provides a wide variety of developmentally appropriate activities and games that provide entertainment and education.
2. Activities include sports, arts & crafts, drama, dance, creative games and hunts and water sports. Each activity is designed with creative excitement which engages all participants.
3. Campers are encouraged to participate in all activities to promote unity in the group. Exceptions are made if an activity is medically not advisable.
4. Our specialized activities have trained instructors who orient staff and campers to the specific safety and operating procedures for each specialized activity.



Divisions

1. Kiddie Camp: Ages 2-5; Monday thru Friday; 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
2. Gan Izzy Xtreme: Ages 6-13; Monday thru Friday; 9:00 am – 3:00 pm



Swimming (not available this year)

1. The Gan Izzy Xtreme go swimming twice during the summer at the Anacapa Dive Center, an indoor, state-of-the-art pool. Kiddie Campers have water sports on camp grounds, but do not swim in a pool.
2. The campers are supervised by an experienced American Red Cross certified lifeguard. In addition, all of our staff are First Aid/CPR certified.
3. During swimming, staff are required to keep all of their campers in their sight and assist with behavior management and rule compliance.



Transportation & Trips

1. Campers go on trips as indicated in our Camp Calendar available on www.ganizzysb.com. Children are transported in Santa Barbara Airbus charter buses only. Staff members do NOT transport children in private vehicles.
2. Campers must wear a camp T-shirt on trip days and Fridays. Each camper receives one T-shirt upon registration. Additional t-shirts and hats may be purchased at camp. Campers also wear a wristband with emergency contact information. 
3. We use the Santa Barbara Airbus to transport our campers and the following rules must be obeyed while travelling on the busses. (TR.8.1, TR.9.1)
 - a. Remain properly seated while on the bus.
 - b. Keep arms and other objects inside the bus
 - c. Always follow the directions of the driver
 - d. Keep games, balls, toys, etc. in a bag or box
 - e. Help keep your bus clean! Put all garbage in the appropriate containers
 - f. Learn emergency drill procedure (taught by driver)
4. Campers cannot:
 - a. Chew gum while riding on the bus
 - b. Stand or change seats while on the bus
 - c. Fight, shout, or throw objects while on the bus
 - d. Leave anything in the center aisle
5. Additional information about transportation/trip procedures and policies are available in our “Camp Policy”, available on www.ganizzysb.com.



Goals and Outcomes (PD.1.4)

1. To provide opportunities that stimulate the development of each camper's self-esteem.
 - a. Each camper will select her own activity during "me" time.
 - b. Each camper will participate in at least one activity to promote self-esteem, which could include arts & crafts, values clarifications, music, sports or special hunts and activities.
 - c. Campers will participate in getting-to-know-you games during the first 24 hours of camp.
 - d. Staff will provide the campers with positive comments and encouragement throughout their stay.
2. To help each camper appreciate the natural surroundings and take an active role in the stewardship of our environment.
 - a. Each camper will have the opportunity to participate in some nature activity, which could include one of the following: hiking, environmental activities, or other appropriate activity.
 - b. At the beginning of each session, the campers will discuss as a group the importance of taking care of their camp and the type of things that they need to do such as picking up litter, not picking flowers, respecting property (no graffiti), and conserving water.
 - c. Campers and staff will participate in recycling of materials such as aluminum cans, cardboard, and paper in clearly marked recycling bins.
 - d. Each unit will be encouraged to perform a service project at camp to help the environment such as picking up litter and recycling.
 - e. Each unit will have a part of the James Ax Organic Garden to cultivate, weed, water and harvest.
3. To provide situations for each camper to set goals and challenge themselves while discovering his or her own skills and abilities.

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- a. Each camper will participate in at least two activities during the week that will personally challenge the camper - such as archery, arts and crafts, learning classes and Tzivos Hashem club.
 - b. Campers will have the opportunity to work in small groups during activities and bunk time with each camper taking on different roles.
 - c. Campers will learn at least one new skill while at camp.
4. To provide exposure to Jewish culture and practices in a fun, non-judgemental and hands-on way.
- a. Campers will participate in daily activities and arts & crafts sessions that educate them in specific Jewish cultural concepts.
 - b. Campers may participate in the Tzivos Hashem learning program – prizes are given to children who participate in this program
 - c. Campers will learn and sing camp songs and hear stories that contain themes of Jewish culture and practice.
 - d. Each unit will have a Jewish theme of the week around which songs, arts & crafts and activities will be planned.
 - e. Each camper will bring home Challah bread that he/she shapes and bakes.
5. To increase the camper's network of Jewish friends.
- a. By virtue of the fact that the campers are attending a Jewish camp they meet many new Jewish friends
 - b. Our counselors and campers keep contact throughout the year, either in person or as pen pals.
 - c. Reunions and holiday activities are scheduled periodically throughout the year to maintain friendships.

What to Send to Camp

Lunch

1. Packed lunches should be brought from home in a marked lunchbox/bag with child's first and last name.
2. Lunches should be dairy or parve; no meat is allowed in camp. Please don't send glass jars/bottles.
3. Please send enough snacks with your child. We stock emergency snacks in case a child needs food.
4. Water is always available for campers to drink.



Tzedakah

1. Tzedakah (charity) is a concept that is fundamental to Judaism. Our camp attempts to develop a commitment among our campers to share with others less fortunate than themselves by donating a few pennies every day to charity. Parents are asked to send a few coins for Tzedakah every day with your campers.



Mitzvah Note (Kiddie Camp)

1. Parents should send Kiddie Campers with a note describing a Mitzvah (Good Deed) performed. The notes are placed daily on our Mitzvah Tree. Examples: "Sara cleaned up her toys." "Max shared his juice with his sister."

Clothing/Bathing Suits

1. Kiddie Campers should have a change of clothing stored in their cubbies. Diapers and Wipes should be kept stocked if necessary.
2. All campers should bring a bathing suit and towel daily. We have many safe and fun water activities that the children enjoy including our Giant Waterslide.
3. **Closed-toe shoes or sneakers should be worn.** Flip flops, sandals and Crocs are not appropriate for our playground and sports activities.

Quick Reference

What to Bring to Camp

1. Smile. It's contagious
2. Parve or Dairy Lunch & Snacks
3. Bathing Suit & Towel
4. Sun Block; applied
5. Tzedakah Coin
6. Mitzvah Note (Kiddie Camp)
7. Camp Hat & Shirt (Trip Days)



Personal Property Regulations (OM.4.1)

1. Alcohol and drugs may not be brought on camp property.
2. Camp cannot take responsibility for personal property brought to camp.
3. If campers bring iPods, cell phones, digital cameras, or any other expensive item to camp, and they are brought out while camp is in session they will be confiscated and returned to the parents at the end of the day.
4. If campers or staff bring potentially dangerous articles to camp, such as skateboards, slingshots, etc. they will be confiscated by the Director.
5. The Director will either return to camper or staff at the end of the day or call parents.
6. Animals are not allowed on campus.
7. Weapons are prohibited on campus. Any staff member or camper who brings a weapon (including a gun, large knife) onto premises will be immediately dismissed from our program.



Frequently Asked Questions

How does my camper find lost items?

1. Please mark all belongings with your child's name. This is very important since shirts are identical and individual items are difficult to identify without a label.
Lost & Found items are available each day outside the office.



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

1. If you have to pick up your camper during the day, please notify our office in the morning so we can arrange to have your camper ready for you. We cannot release campers without parental permission.

Can my camper bring precious items to camp?

1. Campers should not bring jewelry, cell phones, ipods, head phones, expensive toys, etc. to camp. Camp Gan Israel supplies everything campers will need for each day's activities. See Personal Property Regulations, page 9, for details.

How can I speak with my child's counselor?

1. 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.
2. Counselors will attempt to be available at the end of each camp day to discuss your child's day. Please understand that pickup time is hectic and the supervision and safety of our campers is our first priority. If you have further questions, please call the camp office and leave a message. Staff can be emailed anytime at staff@ganizzysb.com. Please leave the name of the staff member/bunk in the subject to help us route the email to the correct staff member.



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