



# CAMP GAN ISRAEL OF MARIN PARENT HANDBOOK

SUMMER 2019

# DEAR PARENTS:

It is with great excitement that we're entering our 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Camp Gan Israel of Marin. We look forward to providing you and your family with an enriching summer experience full of fun times, new friends and great memories. Our staff is eager to get to know your child and give them a summer experience of a lifetime!

What makes our program unique is our focus on campers as individuals and our commitment to providing each one of them a nurturing experience. We design the program to provide for your child's social, emotional and cultural wellbeing. 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 comes alive in a fun way.

At camp Gan Israel the staff is dedicated to giving each child an unforgettable experience. Your child will grow and form special relationships with friends and role models to cherish for a lifetime. Every decision that is made in the planning and operation of camp is always made with the focus on safety.

CGI is committed to providing a superb day camp experience for Jewish children across Marin. 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,

Rabbi Menachem & Adina Landa  
Camp Directors

# OUR LOCATION

We are located at the spacious and beautiful San Ramon Elementary School, just off of San Marin. (45 San Ramon Way, Novato, CA 94945) There will be trips, and swimming three times a week, that will take us off camp grounds.

# CAMP DATES & TIMES

## DATES

We offer two weeks of Camp Gan Israel. You can choose one or both weeks. (Inquire for individual drop off days)  
Week 1 runs from June 27-21. Week 2 runs from June 24-28.

## HOURS

Our regular camp hours are **9:00 am - 3:30 pm**

Children can be dropped off from **8:50-9:10 am** and must be picked up by **3:30 pm**.

## EXTENDED CARE

Camp hours just aren't enough?

To accommodate your needs and schedules, Camp Gan Israel may offer extended care both before and after camp. Please inquire if this is an arrangement you need.

## TRANSPORTATION

If you require assistance in getting your child to or from camp, please let us know. There will be an additional fee for this service. We are also happy to introduce you to other families coming from your area and assist in arranging a carpool.

# CONTACTING US

- **Camp Office:** (415) 878-6770  
**Office hours** 7:30 am – 5:00 pm.
- **Cell phone:** (415) 312-8385
- **Email:** Rabbi@JewishNovato.com
- **Website:** [www.JewishNovato.com/camp](http://www.JewishNovato.com/camp)

**Rabbi Menachem & Adina Landa, Directors**

Rabbi@JewishNovato.com

Adina@JewishNovato.com

We strongly encourage communication with your child's counselor. If you would like to get in touch with them, please leave a message with the camp office and they will gladly return your call after the camp day.

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 BROADCAST

Camp Gan Israel will be sending out important updates via a WhatsApp broadcast group. Please look out for details on joining the broadcast.

## SAFETY & SECURITY

**At Camp Gan Israel our primary concern is your child's safety.**

Our counselors and staff are trained in CPR and First Aid.

We strive to maintain excellent counselor/camper ratios.

Certified lifeguards and swim instructors (in addition to the counselors) supervise swimming, and when on field trips, contact is maintained with the camp office by means of mobile communication.

In case of a medical emergency, G-d forbid, parents (or guardians) and your family doctor will be contacted immediately.

#### 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 send a cap or hat with your child for additional sun protection. CGI caps can be purchased for \$15 each.

#### MEDICAL CARE

If your child has any special circumstances or requirements including medical conditions, allergies, eating restrictions or medications; please let us know so that we can ensure correct care.

#### 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.

## 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.

#### *LUNCH*

**Please remember to send lunch with your child, Camp Gan Israel does not provide lunch.** Please send dairy or meat-less food only - no meat or nuts please! Camp policy does not allow children to share their lunches, snacks, or drinks. Because we do not have the facilities to reheat food, please pack lunches that your child can enjoy unheated.

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.

#### *SUNSCREEN*

In addition to the campers arriving at camp with their sunscreen applied, please send along additional sunscreen to be applied throughout the day.

#### *HAT*

To provide protection from the hot midday sun, please send your child with the proper sun protection.

#### *WATER*

Although Camp Gan Israel provides ice cold water throughout our campus and on all trips, we recommend that every camper carry their own water bottle as this encourages frequent drinking all through the day.

#### *SWIMWEAR & TOWEL (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 t-shirt on the first day of camp, additional t-shirts can be purchased for \$10.

What NOT TO SEND

### *NUT FREE POLICY*

Our camp is located on a Nut Free site. Please be sensitive to those who are allergic to nuts by not sending any nuts in your child's lunch or snacks.

### *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 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 camp grounds. These include alcohol, drugs, weapons of any nature (including 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 three times each week.

Our swimming activities are planned with all the necessary safety considerations and precautions.

The Camp Gan Israel swimming program takes place at private pools located in Novato. For the safety and comfort of our campers, we enjoy exclusive access to the 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.

Please be sure to send along a labeled bathing suit, towel, swim shoes (the pool deck gets pretty hot from the sun) and goggles (optional). The counselors will assist your child in re-applying sunscreen before they swim.

## SPECIALTIES

Specialties at Camp Gan Izzy is the campers' opportunity to spend creative time exploring new interests or enjoying an old favorite. This year, specialties include Art, Baking, Nature, Sports, Martial Arts & Mad Science.

## 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 Camp Gan Israel t-shirt 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 to dismiss the campers at 3:30 p.m., occasionally circumstances are such that we are delayed. Should there be a delay of more than 20 minutes, all parents will be notified.

Sending your child on a trip with more than a few dollars is strongly discouraged.

## SHABBAT EXPERIENCE

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 finish our Fridays with a special Shabbat party. 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 living room. Each camper enjoy some special one-on-one time with their counselor at no extra cost. Counselors will visit campers in their homes in the evening, and read them a Jewish bedtime story in their pajamas!

Email [Rabbi@JewishNovato.com](mailto:Rabbi@JewishNovato.com) or contact your child's counselor to arrange a convenient time.