



**Parent Handbook
Summer 2012**

May 2012

Dear Parents,

Welcome to summer 2012 at Camp Gan Israel of Acton-Concord. We look forward to a wholesome, fun-filled season with your child. We are glad to have you on board for the coming year.

Please read the handbook, in order to be informed of the camp goals and policies.

Our Goal

Our goal this summer is, as stated in our motto, to make “Jewish kids happier and happy kids Jewisher.” We are sure that your child will have an exhilarating three weeks at Camp Gan Izzy. And throughout the fun and excitement, your child will also gain valuable knowledge and pride in his/her rich heritage.

Camp Spirit & Friendship

Summer camp is always an opportune time for children to build new friendships as well as enhance existing ones. We look forward to facilitating these friendships for your child. Camp spirit is also a beneficial aspect of camp. It makes the children feel like a unique part of a whole. Camp spirit is created through singing and cheering, participation in group activities, camaraderie and laughter. All this is a special part of Camp Gan Izzy!

Discipline Policy

The physical and emotional safety of every child is our top priority. To ensure this, we have a basic set of rules and guidelines. We inform you, the parents, of our guidelines, because it is certain that when parents and staff work in unison, the children are ensured a secure, happy summer.

1. Hitting and fighting is never allowed. Consequences will vary depending on the seriousness of the matter. The children are encouraged to talk things out, rather than using physical force.
2. Name-calling and bullying is never allowed. Once again, consequences will vary.
3. Children are encouraged to speak to a staff member if they have an issue with an activity or policy. Voicing complaints in a loud, condescending manner greatly dampens camp spirit. Rather, children are encouraged to discuss the issue constructively with the director or counselor.

Health & Safety

We look forward to a safe, relaxed summer. In case of an emergency, G-d forbid, parents will be notified immediately and the necessary steps will be taken to care for the child. Minor injuries, such as cuts or scrapes, will be treated appropriately in

camp. An “Ouch Report” will be sent home, to keep parents informed and updated.

Lineup

Every camp day begins with lineup. Campers and counselors sing camp songs, do some calisthenics, and gear up for a busy day. Lineup is also the time when children are notified of any pertinent info for the coming day.

“Becoming Jewisher”

Every day, one period is spent singing basic tefillot (prayers), and discussing concepts in Judaism. There will be stories, hands-on activities and games that are connected to the topic. Please send along a few coins daily, for tzedakah (charity). The children will decide where to donate their collective tzedakah.

Hydration & Sunscreen

Keeping hydrated is ultra-important in the summer. Campers are reminded to drink at frequent intervals throughout the day. Please be sure to send a water bottle with your child every day. A friendly suggestion: Fill a water bottle halfway and store in the freezer overnight. In the morning, fill the rest of the bottle with water and you will have ice-cold water for the rest of the day. Please ensure that your child puts on sunscreen before coming to camp, and send along extra sunscreen which will be applied before swimming. Please be sure that your child has a hat or cap with them on all camp days.

Swimming & Water Fun

Weather permitting, the campers will go swimming every day, excluding trip days. Please send along a bathing suit, towel, and water shoes. As we will also be having various water activities throughout the summer, a change of clothing is suggested.

Arts ‘n Crafts

Every child loves to create. Arts ‘n crafts is their chance. We will be exploring many varieties of crafts throughout the summer. As well, the campers will make a Jewish craft once a week, relevant to the topic discussed in the bunk. Please supply a smock (or an old shirt) for use during these projects. Please label the smock clearly with your child’s name, as the campers will leave their smocks at camp until the end of the summer.

Sports

We will be playing sports throughout the summer. Aside from the traditional sports, we will be trying new and modern sports. Teamwork and good sportsmanship will be strongly encouraged, and everyone will have a part in which they can excel. To

ensure maximum safety and fun, all campers must wear sneakers during sports. A camper who does not have sneakers will regretfully have to sit out. Please understand that this is for the safety of all campers, so be sure your child always has a pair of sneakers with them.

Baking

Who doesn't love a freshly-baked goodie, let alone one they made themselves? Therefore, campers will be trying lots of recipes, ranging from the traditional to the exotic, and hopefully they'll leave some over for Mom and Dad to taste as well... But we can't promise! 😊😊😊

Funshops

Funshops take place twice a week. Enclosed please find the CGI Funshop application form, which will list the options we offer this summer. Have your child number them in order of preference and send in (or email) the form as soon as possible. All children will switch Funshops halfway through the camp session, so that they may try something new. Children who attend for all three weeks of camp have the opportunity to partake in all funshops during their camp stay.

Games

Old-fashioned and new-fangled, games are always fun. Campers will play many games during their stay at CGI, and once again, we will work on teamwork and good sportsmanship. Amongst these games, there will also be hunts. Having seen the enthusiasm of the campers towards this particular activity, Camp Gan Izzy plans more hunts during the session, where children race to find the designated objects or treats.

Lunches

Please send your child with a non-meat lunch every day, as well as healthy snacks. All campers eat lunch together. Campers are not permitted to share food.

IMPORTANT: Lunches and snacks must be nut-free.

Extended Care

Before care begins at 7:30am and continues until camp begins. After care begins when camp ends, and is available until 5:30pm. There will be all sorts of games and toys available for the children enrolled in extended care. If your child is enrolled in extended care, please send them with extra snacks.

Dress-Up Days

Every three days, the campers will get a chance at the drama they all so love. They

will dress up according to a new theme each time, and receive prizes. More details will follow as the dress-up days approach.

Shabbat Preparation

On Friday, the spirit of Shabbat permeates Camp Gan Izzy, as we begin the day with challah-baking, and end with a camp-wide Shabbat party. At the Shabbat party, we will welcome the Shabbat with a mock candle-lighting, Kiddush, Shabbat song and story, and a treat. On our last day of camp, we invite all parents to join us for The Grand Shabbat Party. Details to follow.

Camp Newsletter

A weekly camp newsletter is published during camp. It will include an overview of the previous week, pertinent information for the coming week, camp songs learned during the week, a photo gallery, words from our campers themselves, a fun page, and much, much more!

Trips

Campers are required to wear the CGI t-shirt on trip days. Parents who are interested in joining us as additional chaperones and drivers are asked to contact us as soon as possible.

Grand Shabbat Party

On the last Friday of camp, July 13, parents are invited to join their children at the Grand Shabbat Party, where they will participate with their children in the weekly rituals. Children will receive their CGI awards for special achievements, perform for us, and can take this opportunity to exchange farewells with counselors and fellow campers. Can't wait to see you there!

Staff and Contact Information

Administrators:

Rabbi Yosef Polter
Mrs. Shternie Polter

Directors:

Yanky Goldstein
Rivkie Goldstein

Head Counselor:

Esther Polter

Counselors:

Bracha Polter
Miriam Polter, CIT

Feel free to contact us anytime with your comments and questions.

By mail:
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By email:
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By phone:
978-929-2513

Camp Checklist

For your convenience, we have provided a checklist of all the items listed in this handbook that your child will need for camp.

✓	Item	When
	Tzedakah	Daily
	Hat/Cap	Daily
	Water Bottle	Daily
	Sunscreen	Daily
	Bathing suit & towel	Daily
	Water shoes	Daily
	Change of clothing	Daily
	Smock, labeled (if desired)	To be left at camp
	Sneakers	Daily
	Lunch & snacks, non-meat & nut-free	Daily
	Dress-up items	All dress-up days
	CGI t-shirt	All trip days

In Conclusion

We can't wait for the grand experience that this summer is definitely going to be, as we make Jewish kids happier and happy kids Jewisher!

Sincerely,

Rivkie Goldstein