
Parent Information Book

Camp Gan Israel of Raleigh



"Safe. Fun. Jewish."

Summer 2026

An affiliate of **Jewish Life Center - Chabad of Raleigh**



Camp Gan Israel of Raleigh

7400 Falls of Neuse Rd, Raleigh, NC, 27615 | 919-747-9143 | www.raleighcamp.org

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Welcome

Dear parents,

It is with great excitement that we approach another summer at Camp Gan Israel of Raleigh. We look forward to providing you and your family with an enriching Jewish 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 with a nurturing experience. We design our program to provide for your child's social, emotional, and cultural well-being. 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.

Our staff here at Camp Gan Israel 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 the camp is always made with a focus on safety, this is clearly outlined in our motto, Safe. Fun. Jewish.

Please review this handbook to familiarize yourself with camp procedures and policies. If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Mendy Wilschanski

Morah Brocha Wilschanski

rabbimendy@jewishraleigh.org

Brocha@jewishraleigh.org

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Dates & Times

Camp Gan Israel is a four-week camp from June 30 - July 25.

Regular camp hours are from 9:00 am - 3:30 pm. To accommodate your needs and schedules, Camp Gan Israel offers extended care both before and after camp. Early care is available from 8:00 AM and aftercare until 5:00 PM. Registration for extended care is available by the week or by the day. Please contact Rabbi Mendy or Morah Brocha to make arrangements.

Early Care: 8:00 am - 9:00 am

Regular Camp Hours: 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

After Care: 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Drop Off

Morning drop off is from **8:50 am - 9:00 am**. Your child's attendance will be marked as soon as they arrive. We ask you not to drop your child off earlier than 8:50 am (unless you have registered them for *Early Care* (see above)).

Please drive slowly in the parking lot as there may be children present. Please pull up to the entrance and a counselor will escort your child to line up.

Pick Up

End of the day pick up is from **3:15 pm - 3:30 pm**. Please pull up to the entrance and a counselor will escort your child to your car. You may choose to park and pick up your child as well. Please inform us in advance if you plan to send someone else, such as a friend or relative (whom we may not recognize) to pick up your child.

We ask that you make an effort to be on time for both drop-off and pick-up to help us ensure that our planned schedule runs smoothly. Please contact us if you anticipate being late.

Please note that pick-up and drop-off will only be available during regular camp hours (9:00 am - 3:30 pm). For early care/aftercare, we ask that you escort your child inside/outside.

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Safety & Security

At Camp Gan Israel, your child's safety is our number one priority. Attendance will be taken in the morning and every camper will be accounted for. Please contact us in advance if you anticipate your child being late. Campers will be under their counselors' supervision at all times. All of our counselors are CPR and first aid certified.

Food and Snack

HOT LUNCH PROGRAM: We provide lunches; see the menu attached.

NO MEAT: Please do not send meat products.

Please send your child with at least two snacks for the morning; we will provide light afternoon snacks for all campers. Please let us know if your child has any food allergies.

We have water fountains and tap water available throughout our campus. Campers will be encouraged to hydrate often, especially during outdoor sports and activities. Please send your child with a reusable water bottle marked with their name.

What to Bring to Camp

- **Swim Gear**

Campers will be doing water activities daily; it is therefore encouraged that you send along with your child a bathing suit & towel (& all other water accessories).

- **Camp T-shirts**

Camp T-shirts *must* be worn on Thursday (trip days) and on photo day (to be announced). Every camper will receive one camp T-shirt upon the completion of registration. Should a camper forget their camp T-shirt or would like additional ones, they are available at the camp office for \$15.00 (Limited availability).

- **Water Bottles**

Please bring a reusable water bottle daily, marked clearly with the camper's name. We'll have cold water for them to fill up with. Campers will be encouraged to hydrate often.

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- **Sunscreen**

Please apply sunscreen each morning before camp. If you would like your child to re-apply lotion during the day, please send them with spray sunscreen labeled with their name. We will also ensure there are shady, sun-protected areas during outside activities. Our facility will be air-conditioned.

- **Cap / Hat**

To protect campers from the sun.

- **Shoes**

We highly recommend that campers come with closed-toe shoes. Sandals and flip-flops are recommended for water activities but are not recommended for the full day as it makes sports and activities difficult.

What Not to Bring to Camp

Cell phones and electronic devices are *not* permitted to be used during camp hours. We ask you to please not send your child to camp with a cell phone. Cell phones tend to detract from group activities and the camp spirit. If your child *needs* access to a phone or other device during camp hours, please call us *before* camp to discuss.

Camp Gan Israel cannot take responsibility for toys, jewelry, sports equipment, or other valuables that are lost or broken during camp hours.

Anti-bullying Policy

At Camp Gan Israel bullying is inexcusable, and we have a firm policy against any type of bullying. Our Camp philosophy is based on our mission statement which ensures that every camper has the opportunity to experience camp in a safe and fun environment. 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 our staff is trained to promote communication with their supervisors and their campers so both staff and campers will be comfortable alerting us of any problems during their camp experience. Every camper has the right to expect to have the best possible experience at camp, and by working together as a team

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to identify and manage any bullying, we can help ensure that all campers and staff have a great summer at Camp Gan Israel.

A camper who persistently bullies may be suspended or expelled without a refund.

Lost & Found

We encourage you to mark items your child brings to camp with his/her name. Shirts, backpacks, etc. can seem identical and individual items are difficult to identify without a label. Lost & Found items will be available at the camp office. Please contact us regarding specific items and we'll do our best to help you locate them.

Trip Transportation

We will be transporting all campers for all of our trips and outings. Safety is our number 1 priority. While we have a hired bus company that we use every year there may be occasions where Rabbi Mendy, Morah Brocha & 2 other experienced adult drivers will be our drivers, we do not supply car seats/child restraint systems without request. If you would like your child to have a car seat/child restraint system, we encourage you to let us know so in the case we need we can request that you send it with them in the morning at the start of camp. Alternatively, you may store it at camp or put in a request for use of one of our own.

Special Events

Camp Gan Israel is a family affair, and we'd like you to feel a part of it! There will be several family events throughout the summer, please look out for our communication with the details. .

Sunday June 28th: Open House

Wednesday July 1st: Family BBQ & Durham Bulls Game*

9th AV Late Start July 23rd: We will start at 11:30 AM on the 9th of AV

Shabbat July 25th: Staff goodbye Kiddush

*RSVP required

Good Night Gan Izzy: Have your counselor come to your home, say Shema and play some games with you. Details coming soon

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CGI Dress up day Calendar

Wednesday July 1st: Silly Sock Day

Wednesday July 8th: Pajama Day

Wednesday July 15th: Mismatched Day

Wednesday July 22nd: Color Day

An updated trip/activity calendar will be sent out via email and will be available on our website.

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For any questions or comments please call Rabbi Mendy at 919-747-9143 or email rabbimendy@jewishraleigh.org