

*Parent Handbook and  
Information Kit  
SPHDS Location - Summer 2025*

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Dear Parents:

Welcome to Camp Gan Izzy Sunnyvale. We are delighted that you will be joining us and hope that your children will have a wonderful experience. Our staff is eager to greet your child/ren.

Our goal at Camp Gan Izzy is to provide a positive Jewish experience for the campers. Our warm atmosphere and caring staff provide an environment for the children to thrive in.

We hope this handbook provides you with all the necessary information regarding camp. If you have any concerns, questions or suggestions, please feel free to call and discuss them with us.

We are looking forward to an exciting summer!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Miriam Hecht  
Camp Director  
408-720-0553

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## CAMP LOCATION

The camp is located at South Peninsula Hebrew Day School, 1030 Astoria Drive in Sunnyvale. In addition to classrooms, we utilize its multi-purpose room, and the adjacent San Antonio Park.

We will be centered in the Multi-Purpose Room and the Middle School wing of the building. Please check-in at the entrance of the Multi-Purpose Room at the front of the school.

## DATES AND TIMES

The Summer Camp Season for 2025 begins on Monday, June 30th, and runs through Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup>. The Summer is divided into five one-week sessions:

Camp Dates: June 30 – August 1

Week 1: June 30 to July 3 (no camp on July 4<sup>th</sup>)

Week 2: July 7 to July 11

Week 3: July 14 to July 18

Week 4: July 21 to July 25

Week 5: July 28 to August 1

Ages:

Boys & Girls entering K- 4th grade in Fall 2025

Camp Hours:

9am to 3:30pm

Early-Care: 8am to 9am:

After-Care: 3:30 to 5pm:

## IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

**Administrative Office:** (408) 720-0553

Camp@chabadsunnyvale.com

For all camp matters, including registration, feedback and questions.

*For urgent communication during the camp hours with the camp staff or your children, contact Rabbi Sherrf at (929) 434-8567.*

**Website:** [www.iloveganizzy.com](http://www.iloveganizzy.com)

**Camp Director:** Mrs. Miriam Hecht

camp@chabadsunnyvale.com

(408) 661-7278

**On-Site Coordinator:** Rabbi Yehuda Sherrf

(929) 434-8567

## SAFETY & IMPORTANT CAMP POLICIES

### **Safety**

At Camp Gan Israel our primary concern is your child's safety. There will always be a staff member present that is trained in First Aid. We strive to maintain counselor/camper ratios that exceed those mandated by the State. Certified lifeguards (in addition to counselors) supervise swimming, and when on field trips the on-site director will always be present.

In case of a medical emergency, G-d forbid, parents (or guardian) will be contacted immediately.

The South Peninsula Hebrew Day School location is equipped with a perimeter security fence. The entrances to the camp will be locked during the camp day. They will only be open during pick-up and drop-off.

We strongly encourage you to apply sunscreen on your child before attending camp and to send your child with their own bottle of sunscreen every day to camp. The staff will reapply it throughout the day unless you instruct us otherwise. Please send a cap or hat with your child for additional sun protection.

### **Important Policies**

**Nut Products: Absolutely NO NUT OR NUT PRODUCTS will not be allowed in camp. There are campers with severe nut allergies.**

Parents must sign their child/ren in each morning with the on-site director.

## **SPECIAL CONDITIONS AND MEDICATION**

If your child has any special challenges or conditions (i.e. social, behavioral), the knowledge of which would help us in caring for them and maximizing their camp experience, please bring them to our attention. It will allow us to address these needs properly and eliminate unnecessary difficulties.

All medication to be administered during camp hours must be clearly marked with the camper's name and be provided in its original container. A separate note containing dosage instruction and parent's signature must be sent as well. If you would like to discuss your child's health situation, please call Rabbi Sherf at the camp office.

## **FUNSHOPS**

**Art:** Our art teacher will encourage the children to explore their creativity using a variety of media.

**Yo-Yo Fun:** Our world class Yo-Yo performer lead a short Yo-Yo demonstration – A high-energy performance designed to captivate and inspire. This will be followed by an interactive, hands-on lesson tailored for all skill levels.

**Fun-Science:** Our Science instructor Dianne will lead a hands-on, fun and age-appropriate Science workshop.

**Jewish Holiday Workshops:** Campers will craft their own shofar, create a beeswax Havdallah candle, learn how to write Hebrew letters using a feather and ink and bake their own matzah. They will learn the meaning behind these mitzvot with a fun and educational workshop!

## **TRIPS**

Trips days are Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Our trip schedule is especially tailored for the ages of our Gan Izzy campers. The locations chosen are in secure environments with a pace and content suited for this age group. Please keep in mind that all the trips are subject to change; however, you will be notified of any changes in advance if at all possible.

Campers **must wear the Gan Izzy Camp T-shirt** on the trip days. They will receive a Camp T-Shirt on their first day of Camp. If you need to purchase additional shirts, they are available for \$10—please contact the on-site director.

**Should your child attend without a camp T-shirt, you will be charged for an additional T-shirt that will be given them.**

All campers will wear wristbands with the camp director's phone number as an additional safety measure.

See 'Transportation' below for information about the transportation

**The trip schedule is listed below.**

Week 1

Tuesday, July 1st: Bowling at Homestead Lanes

Thursday, July 3rd: Mini Golf at Golfland USA, Sunnyvale

Week 2

Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>: Pump it Up, Santa Clara

Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup>: Legoland in Milpitas

Week 3

Tuesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>: Lost Worlds Funtropulous, San Jose

Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup>: CuriOdyssey, Coyote Point

Week 4

Tuesday, July 22nd: Chuck E Cheese (arcades)

Thursday, July 24<sup>th</sup>: Discovery Museum (Tech Museum for older grades)

Week 5

Tuesday, July 29th: Pump it Up

Thursday, July 31st: Happy Hollow Park and Zoo

## FUN FRIDAYS

We select the best entertainers in the Bay Area to visit Camp Gan Israel every Friday morning. We call these days 'Fun Fridays'. The entertainers will captivate the camper's minds, spark their

imagination and foster their creativity, further enhancing the program.

The “Fun Fridays” feature:  
Happy Birds Parrot Show  
Wild about Monkeys Show  
Magic Show  
Juggler

## SWIMMING

The campers will swim on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Columbia Middle School Pool that we have rented exclusively for our use. Certified lifeguards hired through the City of Sunnyvale Aquatics program will be present.

Please be sure to send along a bathing suit, towel, goggles (optional) as well as sunscreen. The counselors will assist your child in re-applying sunscreen after they swim. **If your child needs floaties, please be sure to send along.**

## JEWISH ENRICHMENT

We believe that Judaism is not a history subject, but a vibrant way of life. At Camp Gan Israel, the campers will gain a positive perspective of Judaism, discovering it through song, craft, games and activities. The campers will hear Torah stories, learn about the weekly Torah portion, and discover Jewish values. Each week will have a theme, which will be carried on throughout the week. The staff will integrate the theme in the children’s activities making their learning a memorable and positive experience.

## YOUR CHILD’S BELONGINGS

Please send the appropriate clothing for the day’s camp activities. Please mark your child’s name on all the swim equipment and towels that you send to camp.

There is a special Lost & Found box for lost articles, which are reviewed every Friday. Please alert us if your child has lost an item. The camp is not responsible for items lost during camp, however, will do our best to locate them. We strongly urge you not to send expensive items to camp.

## LUNCH AND SNACKS

**Please note that this year we are not able to provide hot lunch.** When sending lunch for your child, please only send pareve or dairy items (No meat/chicken) We are unable to refrigerate

the lunches, so please pack accordingly. We will enforce a no-food-sharing policy. NO NOT OR NUT PRODUCTS.

We will serve snacks twice a day.

We will always have water available for the campers to drink, but we recommend campers bring their own water bottle.

## TRANSPORTATION

Camp Gan Izzy has contracted with two local school districts to provide all our transportation for trips and for aquatics. The buses and drivers are all properly and appropriately licensed and inspected by the relevant authorities. The On-site Camp Director always accompanies the campers on their trips, and in case of urgent need can be contacted. See 'Important Contact Information above'.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **How does my camper find lost items?**

Please mark all belongings with your camper's name and group. 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 in the office. Please contact us in writing or by phone regarding specific items.

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

If you have to pick up your camper during the day, please notify the site-director. Once we are aware of your arrival time, we can arrange to have your camper ready for you. We cannot release campers without parental permission.

### **What if my child does not want to participate in a particular activity?**

No camper is forced to participate in any activity. However, we do urge campers to try all activities and take advantage of the complete program offered at camp Gan Israel. We appreciate parental input and feedback on this matter.

### **What does my camper need each day?**

Lunch, sunscreen and a water bottle. A bathing suit, towel and any life vests should be sent on swim days.

### **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.