

*Parent Handbook and
Information Kit
SPHDS Location - Summer 2026*

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 are 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 and playground, we utilize its multi-purpose room, and the adjacent San Antonio Park.

We will be centered in the elementary school area of the building, through the double gate near the blacktop.

DATES AND TIMES

The Summer Camp Season for 2026 begins on Monday, June 29th, and runs through Friday, July 24th. The Summer is divided into four one-week sessions:

Camp Dates: June 29 – July 24

Week 1: June 29 to July 3

Week 2: July 6 to July 10

Week 3: July 13 to July 17

Week 4: July 20 to July 24

Ages:

Boys & Girls entering K- 4th grade in Fall 2026

Camp Hours:

9am to 3:30pm

Daily Drop-Off & Pick-Up Schedule

- **Drop-off:** Begins at 8:45 AM
- **Pick-up window:** 3:30 PM – 3:45 PM (*15-minute grace period*)
- **Late pick-up:** Campers picked up after 3:45 PM are automatically enrolled in after-care for a \$20 daily fee.

Optional: Registration Required

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 Shmuli at (669) 215-9427.

Website: Chabadsunnyvale.com/camp

Camp Director: Mrs. Miriam Hecht

camp@chabadsunnyvale.com

(408) 661-7278

On-Site Coordinator: Rabbi Shmuli Hecht

(669) 215-9427

To keep you in the loop, we will use a WhatsApp broadcast channel for camp photos and important reminders and updates. We will send out the setup details shortly before the first day.

SAFETY & IMPORTANT CAMP POLICIES

Safety

At Camp Gan Israel our primary concern is your child's safety; our staff are 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.

Activities are geared to be age-appropriate to ensure safety; Kindergarten age campers will have water-play activities at our campsite instead of a trip to the pool.

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. Entrances to the camp will be locked during the camp day. They will only be open during pick-up and drop-off. Please coordinate with the On-site Director if you have any need to visit the campus during the camp day.

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 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.

Drop-off and Pick-up: Please be sure to safely park in a legal parking space when arriving for pick-up and drop-off. Parents must check their child/ren in each morning and out each afternoon with the on-site director, who will stand at the entrance of the main gate adjacent to the school office.

Electronic and Smart Device Policy

To ensure a fully immersive, safe, and engaging camp experience, we maintain an "Unplugged" policy.

Prohibited Items: Campers are not allowed to bring cell phones, smartphones, smart watches or tablets to camp.

Allowed Tracking: AirTags or similar passive tracking devices attached to bags or clothing are permitted.

Consequences: If a prohibited electronic device is found, it will be immediately confiscated by staff and safely secured in the Camp Office. Parents/guardians will be notified, and the device may be picked up from the office upon the camper's departure.

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 Shmuli at the camp office.

ART AND SPORTS

Art: Get ready for creativity! Our dedicated art teacher Nathalie has planned a fabulous summer of arts and crafts. Campers will enjoy engaging, hands-on projects designed to spark their imagination and showcase their artistic talents

Sports: Our Sports Director, Nadav, brings boundless energy to the field! He leads engaging, inclusive workshops designed to build athletic skills, foster teamwork, and promote great sportsmanship. His enthusiastic coaching is a major camp highlight.

FUNZONE

Slime Adventure: Get ready for a gooey, stretchy, and scientific adventure! Campers will customize their creations with vibrant colors, glitter, beads, and fun scents.

Bunny Party: Hop into fun! Campers will get hands-on experience learning about these gentle, fluffy friends. They'll discover fun rabbit facts, learn how to safely hold and care for the bunnies, and enjoy supervised cuddle and playtime.

Nerf Party: Get ready for the ultimate action! We are thrilled to welcome Nerf coordinators to camp for an organized Nerf game. Campers will strategize, work in teams, and participate in fun, mission-based games. All professional-grade blasters, foam darts, and required safety gear are provided. Our pros ensure a safe, inclusive, and high-energy environment for all skill levels!

Jewish Holiday Workshops: Bring tradition to life! Campers dive into engaging workshops where they craft their own shofar and dip beeswax Havdalah candles. Through exciting, interactive activities, campers discover the rich meaning behind these beautiful mitzvot.

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 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 to 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, June 30th: Bowling at Homestead Lanes

Thursday, July 2nd: Chuck E Cheese (arcades)

Week 2

Tuesday, July 7th: Lost Worlds Funtropulous, San Jose

Thursday, July 9th: Happy Hollow Park and Zoo

Week 3

Tuesday, July 14th: CuriOdyssey, Coyote Point

Thursday, July 16th: Legoland, Milpitas Mall

Week 4

Tuesday, July 21st: SkyZone, San Jose

Thursday, July 23rd: Chuck E Cheese (arcades)

FUN FRIDAYS

Every Friday afternoon at Camp Gan Izzy, we bring in the Bay Area's top performers for our exciting 'Fun Fridays.' These dynamic shows captivate the campers, sparking their imagination and fostering creativity to make each week unforgettable.

The "Fun Fridays" feature:

Week 1: Magic Show

Week 2: Amazing Science Show

Week 3: Magic Show

Week 4: Happy Birds Parrot Show

SWIMMING

The campers will swim on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Sunnyvale 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 them along.**

Floaties must be the FOAM type, not the inflatables: The City of Sunnyvale does not allow inflatables in the pool, so your child should bring their own foam floatie if you think they will not want to wear a borrowed one from the pool staff.

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 into the children's activities and crafts, 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 NUT OR NUT PRODUCTS.**

On full-day trip days, please send your child's lunch and snacks in disposable containers (e.g., paper bags or ziploc bags) so they can be thrown away after eating. We will always send a reminder the day before.

We provide healthy snacks twice a day.

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

TRANSPORTATION

Camp Gan Izzy has contracted with a local School District 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 Izzy. 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.