



SILVER SPRING

HANDBOOK & PROGRAM GUIDE



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DATES AND TIMES

SESSION 1	SESSION 2	TRAVEL/BONUS WEEK
June 22-July 10	July 13-July 31	August 3-August 7

Mini Gan Izzy:

Ages 20 months to 4 years-9:00 am-1:00 pm

Before Care

Monday-Friday 8:00-9:00 am

After Care

Monday-Friday 1:00 pm - 3:30pm or 5:00 pm

Camp Gan Izzy:

Monday-Friday 9:00 am-3:30 pm

Camp Gan Izzy Ages 5 to 12

Before Care

Monday-Friday 8:00-9:00 am

After Care

Monday-Friday 3:30-5:00 pm

Please avoid dropping off your child earlier than 8:50 am or picking up after 1:10 pm/3:40 pm

Late pick-ups are difficult for children and unfair to staff. Please do your best to be prompt.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Camp's Office Manager will be in the office from 9:00 am-3:00 pm

E-mail: campganisraelofsilverspring@gmail.com

Emergency Contact Information:

301-962-9400 (during camp hours)

301-915-7841 (Rabbi's cell phone)

HEALTH AND SAFETY

With a high staff/camper ratio, we maintain a counselor/camper ratio that far exceeds that mandated by the state. Certified lifeguards (in addition to counselors) supervise swimming and field trips and at least one of the directors accompanies the campers.

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In case of a medical emergency, G-d forbid, parents (or guardian) and family doctor (listed on the registration papers) will be contacted immediately.

As an extra safety measure, the camp will provide matching T-shirts for the children on trip days. Trip days are scheduled for Monday (smaller trips) and Wednesday (bigger trips). Mini Gan does not leave campgrounds. We bring the best of fun to camp.

CAMPER RELEASE

Parents who wish to have their child released during camp to anyone other than themselves (or their designated substitute) must make prior arrangements by calling the camp office and speaking with the Office Manager.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS AND MEDICATION

If your child has any special challenges or conditions (i.e. social, behavioral), please bring them to our attention to allow us to properly address these needs.

All medication to be administered during camp hours (including Epi Pens) must be clearly marked with the camper's name and be provided in its original container. A form containing dosage instructions and parent's and physician's signature must be sent as well. The medication administration form is available on our website. If you would like to discuss your child's health situation, please call the camp office.

COMMUNICATION

Please share your feedback and suggestions regarding any aspect of the camp's program with us. Your input allows us to constantly improve our program, and we value it greatly. The directors meet weekly with the counselors to discuss the status of each child. We will attempt to contact you during the camp session to discuss any areas of concern we may have.

To see your child in action and review updates regarding schedules and special event, check out our website at www.cgisilver.spring.com, which will be updated daily.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP

For organization and safety reasons we ask parents of the older division to follow the drop-off procedure. Every car will get a car pass with your child's name on it. Counselors will be waiting to greet the campers and help them out of the car. Pick-up will be done the same way. The counselors will bring the campers to the cars, and we will try to keep the cars moving as swiftly as possible!

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BEFORE AND AFTER CARE

Extended before and after care is available by making prior arrangements with the camp office.

The fee is \$8 an hour.

YOUR CHILD'S BELONGINGS

Children are assigned a cubby in which to keep their belongings during camp. Please send along a smock for arts-and-crafts, an extra change of clothing for water activities and sunscreen (to remain in camp throughout the camp season). In order for campers to be able to participate in all activities, it is crucial that they either wear or have a pair of gym shoes/sneakers in camp. Please mark all swim gear, accessories, clothing and other belongings with a permanent marker to avoid loss.

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

LUNCH AND SNACKS

Your child should bring a dairy/pareve (non-meat) kosher lunch. Camp will provide snacks twice a day. This year we are offering a nutritious lunch program. (Menu on page 21).

WE ARE PEANUT & TREE NUT FREE

We are a peanut and tree nut free environment. Please do not send your child with any food items that contain peanuts, peanut butter or tree nuts. Our counselors check for nuts in campers' lunches but we cannot ensure that every item is produced in a peanut or tree nut free facility. If your child has a severe allergy, please let us know.

GAN ISRAEL DIVISION (GRADES K-6)

PROGRAMMING: AN OVERVIEW

Camp Gan Israel aims to expose the children to the widest array of activities, trips, and educational programs. The daily schedule includes a mixture of sports, swimming, field trips, educational activities and crafts. A week generally comprises two trip days, , three swim days, and Friday specialties.

VALUES & JUDAIC PROGRAMMING

Our Judaic programming is designed to instill in campers a love of Judaism and pride in their Jewish identity. The camp Judaic experience is composed of engaging activities, hands-on projects, stories, songs and crafts.

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Camp is filled with programming that teaches children positive values and character traits, taught in a fun, exciting way. Our high quality staff provides excellent role models for the campers.

Some programs include:

Making a Difference: *Children have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities; designed to help other people and strengthen the Jewish community, encouraging children to reach out to others. Some activities may include packing clothing for children in Jewish orphanages, creating cards for patients at Children's Hospital and sending Rosh Hashana packages to Jewish soldiers.*

Mock Jewish Wedding: *One of camp's most anticipated events is the mock wedding. Campers plan, cook and rejoice at the "CGI Wedding."*

Chai Life Line Swim-a-Thon: *Campers get sponsors for the swim-a-thon where they swim laps to raise money so sick children can have a wonderful camp experience in Camp Simcha.*

Camp Theme: *Every year our head counselors follow a fabulous theme which keeps the children excited and focused on doing good deeds! The theme is incorporated daily with all our camp activities. Children learn about mitzvot, holidays, and the importance of giving.*

Daily Theme time: *Every morning campers enjoy a slot of theme time—this time is the ultimate combination of learning and fun. The children learn the theme of the day in a creative and hands-on way. Whether through a counselor skit, hunt, activity or craft—each day there's a surprise in store.*

Shabbat Outreach

Grand Gan Izzy campers will visit seniors every Friday, cheering them up with challah, shabbat songs and their warm smiles!

(Only for Grand Gan Israel-Back by popular demand!)

Gan Izzy's Got Talent

Campers have opportunity to share their talent and boost their self esteem.

Stay tuned for details of this new exciting event.

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SAMPLE SCHEDULE GAN IZZY
GRADES K-2

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Line up	Line up	Line up	Line up	Line up
Davening & Theme Time	Davening & Theme Time	Davening & Theme Time	Davening & Theme Time	Davening & Theme Time
Sports	Camp Activity	Sports	Trip Day	Funshop electives
Funshop Elective	Snack	Funshop Elective		Snack
Snack	Trip Day	Snack		Camp Activity
Sports		Sports		Sports
Lunch		Lunch		Lunch
Swimming		Swimming		Swimming
Camp Activity		Camp Activity		Specialty Program
Wrap up	Wrap up	Wrap up		Wrap up

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**SAMPLE SCHEDULE GRAND GAN
GRADES 3-6**

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	
<i>Sports warm-up</i>	<i>Sports warm-up</i>	<i>Sports warm-up</i>	<i>Sports warm-up</i>	<i>Sports warm-up</i>	
<i>Davening & Theme Time</i>	<i>Davening & Theme Time</i>	<i>Davening & Theme Time</i>	<i>Davening & Theme Time</i>	<i>Davening & Theme Time</i>	
<i>Swimming</i>	<i>Camp Activity</i>	<i>Swimming</i>	Trip Day	<i>Swimming</i>	
<i>snack</i>	<i>Snack</i>	<i>snack</i>		<i>snack</i>	
<i>Camp Activity</i>	Trip Day	<i>Camp Activity</i>		<i>Shabbat Out reach</i>	
<i>Lunch</i>		<i>Lunch</i>		<i>Lunch</i>	
<i>Funshop Elective</i>		<i>Funshop Elective</i>		<i>Funshop Elective</i>	
<i>Sports</i>		<i>Sports</i>		<i>Sports</i>	
<i>Snack</i>		<i>Snack</i>		<i>Snack</i>	
<i>Wrap up</i>		<i>Wrap up</i>		<i>Wrap up</i>	<i>Wrap up</i>

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Gan Izzy Friday Specialties

There's nothing like culminating a fantastic week with the entire Gan Izzy family! Below are the Friday specialties that we are delighted to have at Gan Izzy.

Wacky
Water Day

Campers will learn about the story of Noah's Ark while have a fun day filled with water games and activities!

Mitzvah
Tech Chain

Using technology we will spread awareness of and encourage participation in a special mitzvah.

Eric
Energy

Eric Energy brings his exciting and informative science-based show to Camp Gan Israel. This is a camper favorite every year!

Mr. D's Magic

Mr. Dave Thomen will delight and amaze campers with magic and illusions!

Jewish
Jeopardy

Test your knowledge of Jewish trivia and history with this exciting and fun game show.

MINI GAN INFORMATION

WHAT YOUR CHILD NEEDS IN CAMP

Clothing: Clothes should be comfortable, washable and appropriate for camp activities (sandbox, sitting on the rug, art activities, etc.) Clothes should allow for self-dressing in the bathroom (the independence is great for self-esteem).

Sunscreen: Please apply sunscreen before arriving at camp! Label the bottle in your child's bag and we will reapply as needed. A sunscreen permission form will be sent to you.

Smocks: Please send a smock (marked with your child's name) that will protect your child's clothing to your satisfaction. A waterproof smock with sleeves is best. We use washable art materials whenever possible, but with or without smocks, expect your child's clothes to get dirty!

A complete change of clothing is to be kept in camp: Each item (including socks) should be marked with your child's name. Please send a plastic shoebox size container, marked with your child's name, for storing clothes in camp.

Marked clothing: Clothing especially outdoor wear, should be marked with your child's name.

For toddlers: Toddlers not yet toilet trained should have a supply of diapers and wipes sufficient for several days in camp to be replenished as needed. We do not initiate toilet training, but we will support your efforts as much as possible. State regulations do not allow us to keep potties in camp; we will use stepstools where needed.

For hygienic reasons, children who are not toilet trained must have a supply of swim diapers.

Tzedaka: We encourage the children to bring tzedaka (money for charity) every day. A penny or two is fine - the point is to develop a daily habit of sharing. It also helps children associate money with giving and good deeds.

Mitzvah notes: A mitzvah note is a narrative recognizing a child's positive behavior and actions. To enhance the partnership between home and camp, we encourage families to write mitzvah notes. Teachers will often send blank notes in a variety of shapes with a particular classroom theme.

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At morning drop-off, parents must bring their children into camp and sign them in. Campers must be signed out at pick up. If anyone other than the parent will be picking up the child, we must have signed permission from the parent. The adult picking up your child will need to identify themselves by showing the staff a photo I.D.

A NOTE ON GREETINGS

We aim to warmly greet each camper upon their arrival at camp. Because the staff needs to begin programming at 9:05 a.m., campers arriving after this time may not have a counselor ready to greet them immediately. Of course we will ease the camper's transition smoothly, but please try to be on time to avoid a difficult beginning to the day.

CHANGE OF DISMISSAL PLANS

If your child's end of day arrangement is different from the usual, you must give a written note to the Division Head (Do not leave oral messages). This includes changes in carpool arrangements, play dates, etc. Please avoid calling camp during the day with changes, unless it is a true emergency.

BRINGING YOUR CHILD TO CAMP-THE FIRST DAY & BEYOND

Only one adult should accompany the child to their room on the first day to minimize commotion the KISS method - Keep It Short and Sweet. The point to emphasize (we even sing about it) is that "mommies (or daddies or nannies) always come back." Keep in mind that although your presence is reassuring to your child, they often cannot get on with the business of coping and adjusting until you leave. Your child's teacher will work with you to determine the best adjusting style for your child. The "fussing" is almost always over by the time you reach your car, but if you are concerned you can always call camp later just to check. Sometimes we see "fourth-day-itis," which is the type of behavior you associate with the first day, but sometimes it shows up a few days later. Let us know if you see this.

What we recommend, if needed, is the first day to remain with your child up to ½ hour, the second day, fifteen minutes the third, five minutes and the fourth day a kiss and goodbye. The teachers and counselors are there to hug your child and take over; show your child that you trust them and they will feel secure.

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SAMPLE SCHEDULE - MINI GAN IZZY
YOUNGER DIVISION - AGES 2-4

BELOW IS A SAMPLE SCHEDULE. THIS GIVES AN IDEA OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE DAY. TEACHERS WILL ADJUST THE SCHEDULE TO THEIR CAMPERS' NEEDS. ACTIVITIES AFTER LUNCH ARE FOR CHILDREN WHO DO NOT NAP.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Center time	Center time	Center time	Center time	Center time
Circle Reading Time	Circle Reading Time	Circle Reading Time	Circle Reading Time	Circle Reading Time
Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack
Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground
Daily Specialty	Daily Specialty	Daily Specialty	Daily Specialty	Weekly Specialties/ Shabbat Celebration
Outdoor water activities	Outdoor water activities	Outdoor water activities	Outdoor water activities	Outdoor water activities
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
Drumming	Club Scientific	Nature Exploration	Art	Weekly Specialties
Wrap up	Wrap up	Wrap up	Wrap up	Wrap up

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Mini Gan Izzy Special Programs

Camp Gan Israel was created to provide children with a fun and meaningful summer program, while fostering growth individually and socially in a Jewish atmosphere. The daily schedule includes an exciting mix of sports, special programs and activities, all designed to be educational, fun and conducive to building character and nurturing friendships.

Music and Movement

Children will achieve basic music competence while having fun singing, dancing and playing instruments and will learn to sing using rhythmic patterns and musical improvisation. Curriculum includes modern Jewish music and well-known children's songs.

Art

Arts and crafts activities will stimulate campers' minds and hands and provide beautiful projects to decorate your refrigerator!

Cooking and Baking

Campers will get in the kitchen to prepare their very own treats to take home!

Animals

Pony to Go will bring their animals to visit with the campers. Every week a new animal comes to camp. Our own petting zoo on wheels!

Jump Bunch

A great way for campers to learn a new sport while getting exercise and having fun! From the music to the activities and equipment, every aspect of Jump Bunch has been carefully researched and developed to be both fun and beneficial to the development of young minds and bodies.

Nature

Campers will explore and learn about the natural world around them!

Club Scientific

Our science sessions offer a unique combination of fun and hands-on activities. Group interactions and demonstrations show campers how science is a part of our everyday lives. Activities may include: exploring the properties of heat, gravity, depth and perception and the effects of color and light on our environment.

Soccer

Soccer and teamwork lessons taught by Quick Feet Soccer. (3's and 4's Only)

Karate

This is an exciting and fun introduction to martial arts. The children will get to explore Karate with various safe, no-contact games and character lessons. Instruction by renowned instructor from 'TK Martial Arts'. (3's and 4's Only)

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Mini Gan Izzy Friday Specialties

Magic

Exciting magic tricks and illusions will have our Mini Gan campers enthralled and excited!

Trackless Train

Choo choo! Our Mini Gan campers will take a fun ride on a train that comes right to camp!

Eric Energy

Eric Energy brings his exciting and informative science-based show to Camp Gan Israel. This is a camper favorite every year!

Pony Rides

Ponies come to camp to bring fun and excitement for our Mini Gan campers!

Oh Susannah!

Susan McNelis/Oh Susannah! is a beloved children's entertainer. Kids love her music and will enjoy a tasty blend of familiar favorites and lively originals. It's perfect for singing and dancing along!

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Frequently Asked Questions...

How does my camper find a lost item?

Please mark all belongings with your camper's name and group. This is very important since individual items can be difficult to identify without a label. Lost & Found items are available each day in the cafeteria. 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 our office. Once we are aware of your arrival time, we can arrange to have your camper ready for you. Please note that no camper will be released to ANYONE without written permission.

When can I visit my camper?

Camp Gan Israel is open for parental visits every camp day. We suggest that you schedule your visit carefully as your camper may be involved in a field trip or other off-campus activity. All visitors will be directed to the camp office for visitor registration and assistance. We invite all parents to join Friday mornings for our show day or any other special day.

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

No camper will be 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. If any child does not want to participate, the parents and counselors must discuss a plan of action.

Can my camper bring a precious item to camp?

We do not permit your camper to bring jewelry, electronics or, expensive toys to camp. Camp Gan Israel supplies everything campers need.

What does my camper need to bring each day?

Campers only need a bathing suit and towel each day, regardless of the weather. We supply all sports and safety equipment such as tennis racquets and baseball mitts. Please apply sunscreen at home. If you would like more applied during the day, send in the sunscreen marked with your child's name and a note.

How often does my child drink water at camp each day?

At orientation every child will receive a water bottle. Water bottles are kept on camp grounds. Water coolers are set up around the camp. They will be instructed to drink every hour. Bottles will be refilled as needed throughout the day.

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.

How can I speak with a Camp Director?

The director is available to answer your questions and discuss your concerns during the day through the camp office at (301) 593-1117. If the director is unavailable at the time of your call, please leave a message with both your daytime and evening phone numbers and your call will be returned promptly.

Are we obligated to give a tip or gift to our child's counselor?

Although not required, tips or gifts are appreciated. If you wish to do so, here is a general guideline: \$20-\$25 for a junior counselor and \$30-\$40 for a counselor.

How can I become more involved with Camp Gan Israel?

The camp encourages the involvement of "bunk" parents (just like a class parent). If you are interested, please inform the director.

When must campers wear a camp shirt?

We require that all campers wear a Camp Gan Israel shirt on Tuesdays and Thursdays. While on field trips camp shirts distinguish our campers and staff from other visitors and we are instantly recognizable to each other.

How much time do the campers spend outdoors?

Weather permitting, campers will spend lots of time outdoors. A playground is available as well as all fields and courts. Please apply suntan lotion at home prior to camp. In case of rain or extreme heat, campers will have the opportunity to be indoors.

LUNCH MENU

Lunch Menu Coming Soon!



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