



Junior Gan Israel Day Camp

Office: 4059 Dempster St., Skokie, IL 60076 847/677-1770 x 1

Information About Camp for Parents 2026

Location

Camp is now located at Middleton Elementary School, 8300 St. Louis Ave., Skokie, 60076.

Dates and Hours

Camp is in session Monday through Friday, June 22 – July 31. First session begins June 22; second session begins July 13. There is no camp on Friday, July 3 and Thursday July 23 (Fast of 9th of Av). Camp ends at 1:00 on Thursday, July 2 (Fast of 17th of Tammuz).

Bright Beginnings hours are 9:30 – noon or 1:00, or 3:30 if your child attends the Afternoon Enrichment Program. Expanding Horizons hours are 9:30 - 1:00, or 9:30 - 3:30 if your child attends the Afternoon Enrichment Program.

Orientation

To help your child adjust to camp, there will be an Orientation Session, which you are welcome to attend with your child. It will be held at camp on Sunday, June 21, from 11:00 - noon. This will provide your child with the opportunity to get acquainted with our facilities and staff. We strongly encourage you to bring your child, even if he has attended camp before.

Please bring your child without siblings so that he will gain the most from the Orientation.

If your child has particular needs or if any issues call for in-depth discussion, please email or phone your child's Division Head. We want to speak with you, but during Orientation, there won't be time for lengthy conversations.

If this is your child's first experience in camp and the Sunday Orientation does not allow sufficient time to acclimate your child, please contact your child's Division Head to schedule an additional visit. At the start of camp on the first day, we ask all parents to please leave.

If your child will be attending the second session only, you are welcome to contact your child's Division Head to schedule a visit before your child's first day.

Please provide your child with the following:

- 1) Shoes that can be put on and taken off easily, preferably slip-on or Velcro. No Crocs or flip flops are to be worn in camp, please.
- 2) Gym shoes (not sandals) when your Expanding Horizons camper is scheduled for Sports or Gymnastics.
- 3) A change of clothing in a zip-lock bag, labeled clearly with your child's name, to be left in camp.
- 4) A picture of your child to help him identify his cubby.
- 5) If your child is not toilet trained, a package of diapers and a package of swim diapers, with your child's name on both packages.
- 6) Boys over the age of 3 are encouraged to wear kippot and tzitzit.
- 7) A coin for Tzedakah each day. Your child can have this in his pocket or taped to his shirt.

Please bring to the Orientation all items that are to be left in camp so that everything will be ready for the first day.

and are likely to get lost. If you want your child well covered while swimming, provide your child with a swim shirt or a full-body swimsuit (or swim dress), but not a cotton T-shirt. Please provide swimwear and a backpack that are clearly labeled and easily recognizable by your child.

Bright Beginnings campers need swim gear daily for water play at camp.

Expanding Horizons campers go to Oakton Water Playground for private swim time. In addition, Expanding Horizons campers enjoy our Water Wonderland at camp. The Expanding Horizons calendar tells you which days your camper needs swim gear at camp.

Snacks and Drinks

All campers are provided with morning snacks. Afternoon Enrichment campers receive afternoon snacks. It is not recommended to provide your child with a water bottle, as it is likely to get lost, and we serve water to the children throughout the day.

Lunches

You can purchase catered lunches for your child, by prior arrangement only, for 2, 3, or 5 days per week. Alternatively, please send lunches from home for your child. Please note: Food from home must be in a clearly labeled bag or lunchbox. Send food that will remain fresh at room temperature. Food must be kosher. Please include bread in your child's lunch. For most children, a sandwich and two other food items are sufficient. All children are served water at lunchtime.

Accommodating Children with Food Allergies

Our camp is a nut-free zone. Please do not send your child to camp with foods that contain any kind of nuts, including peanut butter.

Birthday Celebrations

If you wish to celebrate your child's birthday in camp, please contact your child's Division Head.

Health

If your child is not feeling well, please do not bring your child to camp. If your child has a fever or has vomited, please allow 24 hours to pass before bringing your child back to camp. Before bringing your child back to camp after any sickness, please ascertain that his condition is not contagious and that he is well enough to enjoy camp.

Lice

Campers are screened for lice on their first day of camp. You can avoid surprises and missing the first days of camp, by having your child checked in advance. Please contact Mrs. Zeesy Posner for the name of a qualified lice checker with whom you can schedule an appointment.

If you find that your child has nits or lice before or during the summer, it is imperative that you notify Mrs. Zeesy Posner immediately. More details on the camp's lice policy are found on the website.

Social Media and Privacy

Arrival & Dismissal Procedures

- Please don't use the school's main entrance.
- We use the entrance on St. Louis St., which is called Door #2, exclusively.
- At Arrival and Dismissal times, please don't enter St. Louis Ave. directly from Main St.

Option 1 – You escort your child

Approach on Madison St. from Trumbull Ave or from Central Park Ave. and park curbside on either side of Madison St., (For drop-off and pick up it is permitted to park in the bus parking area on Madison St.) or park in the Staff Parking Lot off of Madison St., or turn from Madison St. on to St. Louis Ave and park curbside on the northbound side of St. Louis Ave.

Use Door #2 to enter and exit the building.

Option 2 – Camp staff escort your child

Approach from Trumbull Ave, turn west into the alley (Drake Ave. alley), and then head south on St. Louis.

Cars line up curbside on the southbound side of St. Louis Ave. Pull forward as close as you safely can to the car in front of you. If there is back-up the line will extend down the alley and on to Trumbull.

At arrival, when you are close to the front of the line, you will be told when take your child out of your car. A counselor will come to you and ask for your child's name and division. She will then escort your child to their room using Door # 2.

At dismissal a counselor will come to your car and ask you for your child's name and division. She will then come back to your car with your child.

Please drive away as soon as safety allows to enable the line to move quickly.

Arrival Time

Arrival is no earlier than 9:25, and no later than 9:40 each morning. Parents, please leave by 9:45.

Dismissal Times

Dismissal begins at 12:55 for 1:00 dismissal, and 3:25 for 3:30 dismissal. There is a charge for unscheduled late pick-ups.

Drop-Off or Pick-Up at Other Times

Please phone us at (847)452-7770, and a staff person will greet you at Door #2. You may park on St. Louis Ave., as long as it is not during the scheduled pick-up and drop-off times listed above.

