



Camp Shalom 2026 Parent Handbook

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Director

Leah Gold
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Varda Berkson - Office Manager
Zahava Sturm - Office Manager
Sassy Hanauer - Behavioral Specialist
Elizabeth Horowitz - Nurses
Sara Ringer - Rishon Unit Head
Daniella Shapiro - Girls Unit Head
BZ Ledereich - Boys Head Counselor
Mikey Fishkin - Nosim Unit Head
Gabi Secemski - Sports Director

Camp Shalom NJ
243 Frisch Court ~ Paramus, NJ 07652
(201) 624 - 2331
www.campshalomnj.org





Camp Philosophy

Camp Shalom provides *frum* children with the opportunity to create lasting memories in a safe, fun-filled, Torah environment. Supervised by qualified professionals, our trained and dedicated staff will guide campers through new and exciting experiences. The wide variety of activities we offer allows each camper to learn new skills and reinforce old ones. With daily tefillah, chinuch classes, and tremendous ruach, Camp Shalom is committed to promoting strong Torah values in a friendly camp atmosphere. This combination promises to deliver your child an outstanding camping experience. We look forward, *Im Yirtza Hashem*, to a wonderful summer together.

Programs

There are several athletic and experiential activities for all campers. The children will be introduced to our camp routines during the first few days of camp and we will continue to reinforce them as the season progresses. Camp Shalom is designed to offer a variety of activities so that we can reach a wide range of interests. Our objectives are:

- o To have loads of fun!!!!
- o To provide new learning opportunities
- o To teach new skills and reinforce old ones
- o To encourage appropriate socialization

Staff

Staff members are hand-picked and selected based on their experiences, being strong Torah role models, the skills they possess, and their ability to relate to the campers and other staff. All staff participate in an extensive pre-camp training program and receive ongoing supervision and training throughout the summer.

Medical Forms

In accordance with the New Jersey Department of Health regulations, no child will be permitted to attend camp unless a signed statement of examination and immunization record is on file prior to the first day of camp. This is for the protection of your camper and family. Campers without medical forms will not be picked up by bus and will not be allowed to attend camp.



Illness & Medication

There is a registered nurse on duty at all times during the camp day. In cases where we feel the child should not remain in camp, we will ask that parents come to camp to pick up their child. If your child is not feeling well in the morning, please keep your child home in an effort to prevent the spread of illness.

The camp nurse will administer medication with a signed medical form from your child's doctor. Medication must be in its original packaging. It should be clearly labeled with the type of medication, the camper's name, dosage, and the time it needs to be administered. Medications can be refrigerated. To ensure the proper dosage with liquid medications, please send along a plastic medication dispenser. Medication can be handed directly to a camp administrator or to a bus counselor.

Camp Insurance Coverage

All campers are covered by our Accident Insurance Policy. This is a secondary policy. If an accident occurs at camp, please contact the camp office for procedures to be followed. This insurance policy has an automatic \$25.00 deductible fee.

Allergy Information

If your child has a food allergy, it is IMPERATIVE that you advise the Camp Director and Camp Nurse. **Camp Shalom is a nut and seed-free camp.** Please make sure that all food you send in does not contain nuts or seeds, or have traces of nuts or seeds. **This includes snacks sent for the bus!**

Food & Snacks

An optional hot lunch program is being offered this summer. The food is being provided by Madison Caterers. If you would still like to sign up, please call or email the camp office. All orders must be in at least 5 days prior to the start of the requested week.

Campers who are not participating in the hot lunch program must bring in a lunch from home daily. Lunches should be dairy or parve. In the event that a camper forgets his/her lunch, we will provide jelly sandwiches. **Campers will not be allowed to share lunches.**

A daily snack will be provided to Rishon campers only. All other campers should bring snacks from home. Additionally, ice pops will be provided to all



campers prior to dismissal.

Behavioral Expectations in Camp

By signing the camp application, all parents certify that their child must abide by all camp rules and that parents will comply with all camp decisions. All campers must comply with the dress code, respect other people's bodies and property, and act in a way that is in accordance with tznius, proper middos, and in compliance with camp counselors and administrators.

We encourage the administration to keep communication lines open with families. In the event that there are consistent behavioral problems, a parent conference will be required. If injury or damage to a body or property is caused by a camper, the family will be liable for all damages incurred.

If the camp decides that a child requires a shadow, the child cannot return to camp until an appropriate shadow is in place at the expense of the parents.

Bus Transportation

Varda Berkson is in charge of transportation. She can be reached at office@campshalomnj.org for transportation-related questions. **You must wait at your child's bus stop in the morning and meet your child at his/her bus stop in the afternoon.** No changes will be accepted without a written note from home or an email to office@campshalomnj.org. Only campers registered for the bus will be allowed to ride the bus.

If your child is ill in the morning and will not be coming to camp by bus, please inform the bus counselor directly. Please inform us if your child will be missing camp for a number of days so that we can inform the appropriate staff.

Parents will receive pick-up and drop-off information prior to the start of camp. This information will include carpool procedures, early pick-up, and late drop-off procedures, and a carpool number to be printed out and put in your dash. In the event there are any questions, please contact the camp so that there will be minimal delays during the first few days.

Bus counselors and drivers will be advised that they must wait at the stop until the scheduled drop-off time. If, at that time, no adult is there, your child will remain on the bus as it continues its route. If that event occurs, please call the camp office to find out the best stop to meet the bus. If the route is finished before a parent or guardian can meet the bus, the camper will be brought back to



the camp to remain in the care of a camp administrator. A fee, to be determined, will be charged to the parent.

Carpool

ARRIVAL:

Carpool begins at 8:45 a.m. and ends at 9:15. No campers will be allowed out of the car until that time. **PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW ANY CHILD IN YOUR CAR TO EXIT BY THEMSELVES and DO NOT EXIT YOUR CAR.**

DISMISSAL:

Carpool dismissal begins at 3:45 PM. Cars will not be allowed to begin lining up until 3:30. **Carpools that have both staff and campers** are asked to wait until 4:15 to join the carpool line as the staff can not be dismissed until all campers in their bunk are accounted for.

While picking up your child, please display your Camp Shalom carpool card on your dashboard. An administrator will direct you to the proper carpool line and take your carpool number. A staff member will escort your child(ren) to the car. Our staff has been informed that they may **NOT** buckle any child into a car. To quicken the carpool process, please be proactive in assisting all children in your carpool with their seatbelts. For the safety of our campers, there is **NO PASSING** other cars on the carpool line.

PLEASE NOTE---IF YOU DO NOT HAVE YOUR CARPOOL CARD PRESENT AT PICK UP THEN YOU WILL HAVE TO SHOW PROPER IDENTIFICATION BEFORE ANY CAMPER IS RELEASED TO YOU.

Your patience and cooperation with dismissal procedures will allow us to dismiss all of our campers in a timely fashion.

Should you be late in picking up your camper, there is a late fee charge of \$10 for every 15 minutes past dismissal time of 4:15. Children who are not picked up on time will be brought to the Camp Shalom offices and will be billed a late fee.

Please be patient with both bus transportation and carpool procedures during the first few days of camp. Do not panic if our buses are several minutes late - we will get into a regular routine as soon as possible.



Late Arrivals to Camp

All children arriving after 9:15 will be considered late to camp. If you will be bringing your child late to camp please send an email to office@campshalomnj.org or call the camp at (201) 624-2331.

Please park at the cones and bring your child to the door, someone will meet you there to sign your child in and bring your child to their bunk. **DO NOT LEAVE ANY CHILD WITHOUT SIGNING THEM IN!**

Early Pick-up and Dismissal Changes

If you will be picking up your child from camp prior to his/her normal pick-up time or requesting a dismissal change, please send an email to office@campshalomnj.org or call the camp at (201) 624-2331 **NO LATER THAN 2:30 PM Monday- Thursday and Friday by 1:00 PM.**

For early pickup, you must park in one of the two visitor spots adjacent to the building. You will then go to the security guard to sign out your child and we will bring them outside. If it is not a pre-planned pick-up, please call the camp at (201) 624-2331 as soon as you know that you will be coming early so that we can advise the Unit Head.

Please note: We will not be dismissing children between 3:00 and 3:30 (1:30-2:30) Fridays.

Communication & Visitation

Parents are encouraged to contact our administrative staff in the event that questions or concerns arise. We, as a staff, will not hesitate to contact parents to discuss specific issues relating to your child. If there is an emergency then the unit heads will return your call at their earliest convenience. Otherwise, they will be returning the call/email at the end of the camp day.

Children are not permitted to bring guests to camp under any circumstances.



Weekly newsletters will be emailed every Friday. Please read it to learn about the week that passed, as well as any changes or announcements for the upcoming week. In addition, information will be sent home via email whenever necessary.

What Should Go in My Camp Bag?

Please send the following items daily.

- 1 bathing suit
- 1 towel
- sunscreen/lotion
- water shoes
- lunch for those campers on home lunch
- nut-free and seed-free snack (Rishon campers will be provided)
- a water bottle that can be refilled throughout the day
- An extra change of clothes labeled in a ziplock bag to be collected by the unit heads and kept in camp for emergency situations.
- bathing suit cover-up for girls in the Sheini division and older

Camp Pictures

All children will receive one group picture, which is included in camp tuition.

Toys

Please do not send toys, cards, or games with your child to camp. Often, toys and games get lost at camp. Electronic handheld games and personal stereo headphones will NOT be permitted in camp. Camp Shalom will not be responsible for lost, misplaced, or "borrowed" items.

Inclement Weather

On rainy days, we adjust the daily schedules to the indoor spaces available. Please have your child wear a raincoat/poncho. On cool mornings, please send your child in a sweatshirt or jacket.



Camp Dress Code

Camp Shalom has a dress code that is aligned with our camp hashkafah. Our dress code is:

- **Female campers entering first grade and older must wear skirts and shirts with sleeves.**
- **Bathing suit cover-ups are required for female campers first grade and older.**
- **Male campers are required to wear Kippas or a hat, and tzitzis.**

All campers must wear sneakers or closed-toed shoes to camp daily for their safety. A pair of pool shoes should be brought for water activities. Crocs are to be considered water shoes.

All parents who enter the campgrounds are required to adhere to the same dress guidelines.

Twilio Text Privacy Policy

No mobile information will be shared with third parties/affiliates for marketing/promotional purposes. Information sharing to subcontractors in support services, such as customer service is permitted. All other use case categories exclude text messaging originator opt-in data and consent; this information will not be shared with any third parties.



Do's For Parents

- **DO** see that your child gets to bed on time. If you are out late on Sunday night, we have a tired, listless camper on Monday morning!
- **DO** have your camper arise early enough so that he/she can dress and eat a good breakfast unhurriedly.
- **DO** check with your child's camp supervisor if you have any questions about a situation. Call (201) 624-2331 and leave a message.
- **DO** let us know if your child has any special conditions (emotional, medical, allergies, etc.).
- **DO** contact the Camp Administration with any concerns.
- **DO** send your camper to camp already lotioned.
- **DO** send your camper in with a refillable water bottle to ensure proper hydration.
- **DO** keep your child at home if they are not feeling well. Please notify the Camp Nurse of their symptoms.
- **DO** have an enjoyable summer - your child will!

Counselor Appreciation

We recognize that parents wish to show their appreciation to their child's counselors for providing their child with a fun and exciting summer. The appreciation may take many forms: it can be a note, a gift, or a tip. Listed below are the guidelines for an **eight-week** summer experience. Please remember, these are guidelines, not requirements:

Senior Counselor	\$40 - \$50
Junior Counselor	\$20 - \$30
CIT	\$10 - \$15

Here are additional staff members who have also worked with your children during the day:

Lifeguard	\$8 - \$15
Chinuch	\$15 - \$20
Bus Counselor	\$20 - \$40 per family

Thank you for sharing your child(ren) with us this summer!