

CAMP MENORAH

Summer 2009

INFORMATION PACKET

The logo is a large, light yellow oval with a blue wavy border at the bottom. Inside the oval, there is a faint, stylized menorah with seven lit candles. The word 'Menorah' is written in a large, light grey font across the middle of the oval. A banner with the word 'CAMP' is also visible in the background.

Daniel Sher - Camp Director
Ben Farris - Club Noar Coordinator
Leah Ackermann - Pre Camp Supervisor

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CAMP MENORAH

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June 1, 2009

Dear Camp Parents and Campers:

Welcome to Camp Menorah, the Coolest Jewish Summer Day Camp EVER! We are really looking forward to spending the summer with you and anticipate a great time for everyone.

If this is your camper's first time with us, you may have questions about the everyday activities and procedures at Camp Menorah. We hope this information packet will help answer those questions. It is our goal to ensure you and your children a safe and fun Jewish summer camp experience.

On Tuesday June 16th from 7:00 to 9:00pm, at Back to Camp Night, we will be answering questions and introducing you to the camp counselors. Special activities will be planned for the children during this meeting, and refreshments will be served. **Please plan to attend!**

We have included several important **forms** that need to be completed and returned to the camp office no later than **June 16th**. *Without exception, campers will not be allowed to stay at Camp unless all paperwork and payments have been received and filed by the camp office.*

Should you have further questions after reading the enclosed and attending the above, please feel free to contact us at (310) 316-8444 ext.113.

Ready to Blast off into Summer!



Daniel Sher
Camp Director

CAMP INFORMATION

Getting ready for camp each summer can be a real challenge. The following information will help in making the experience for you and your camper as stress free as possible.

Each morning, all campers will participate in opening circle. Our entire staff shares the responsibility of song leading. We know the children will love singing and we will begin promptly at 9:00 am on the upper level courtyard. Please arrive on time.

1. BACKPACK (*Optional*) (ages 2-4)

A simple school cloth bag (with name labeled) will work just fine. We provide individual cubbies for the campers.

The following lists items the Children will need in their cubbies:

- Keep towel and a bathing suit
- A **hat** & jacket
- Two changes of clothing (including socks & underwear)
- Close toed shoes, from tennis shoes to water shoes (it's important that each child wear shoes with a non-slip bottom Sandals are okay if the sole is not slippery) **ALWAYS PACK AN EXTRA PAIR OF SHOES AND SOCKS!**
We prefer water shoes – they work best for the Tuvia playground
- diapers & wipes, if necessary
- Sunscreen should be applied to campers before they come to school as well as packed in their backpacks. **Teach your child how to use it – sticks of sunscreen work best**
- lunch & drinks (we provide snacks)

2. BACKPACK (Kindergarten-Club Noar)

The most important item is a backpack. A simple school backpack will work just fine. We do not have individual cubbies or a specified storage area for the campers so they are responsible for carrying all of their personal items.

The following are lists of **essential** items, and suggested items, to be included in the backpack every **camp day**:

<u>Essential Items</u>	<u>Suggested Items</u>
Lunch	Sunglasses
Sunscreen	Extra Socks
Hat	Change of clothes
Water bottle	Sandals (for after pool and beach only)**
Swim gear and Towel **	

Cell phones, video games, Walkman, electronic gadgets and toys are **prohibited** at all times unless otherwise specified. Any such item found at camp will be taken away and held for safe keeping to be returned at the end of the day. Any additional items sent to camp are at the parent's discretion. Counselors cannot be responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged items.

** **PLEASE NOTE** THAT SWIMMING WILL BE HELD AT THE BEGG POOL, MANAGED BY THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH, LOCATED NEXT TO POLLIWOG PARK. SWIMMING LESSONS WILL ALSO BE HELD AT BEGG POOL, MANAGED BY THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH AS WELL FOR AN ADITIONAL FEE.

3. BUSES (Kindergarten-Club Noar)

Camp utilizes yellow school buses which are 44/66 in size and provided by Let's Go Transportation. Trained, licensed drivers are provided by the bus company. Buses are equipped with three seat belts to a seat and we insist that every child wear a seat belt at all times. These buses are maintained and inspected regularly. Additionally, Club Noar will be using our Temple Menorah Van for some of the Teen field trips.

4. DRESS

Camp is a place to have fun. Many of our activities include sitting on the ground, running, using water, painting, eating all types of food and drinking colored fruit drinks. Children tend to get dirty fast at camp and it is important to dress accordingly. We recommend that children wear clothing you wouldn't mind being ruined. We have found that a pair of shorts, T-shirt and sneakers are the clothing that the children feel most comfortable wearing. We require that all our campers wear **closed-toe shoes, and socks** at all times. Sandals are appropriate at the pool area, Soak City, and beaches only and may be carried in the camper's backpack. In addition, a light sweater or sweatshirt might be a good idea on cooler days or field trips. *Please note:* All additional clothing the child brings to camp must be carried in the backpack at all times. **Camp T-shirts are required for specified field trip days.** To ensure that the child takes his/her T-shirt home, as well as other belongings, **please label all items brought to camp** (laundry pens work well).

5. CAMP HOURS AND DROP OFF/PICK UP

Camp will begin and end on the second floor courtyard at Temple Menorah for Day Camp and Club Noar. **Camp will begin downstairs for PreKamp campers.**

If you are not signed up for extended care, campers should be dropped off no earlier than 8:45 a.m. and picked up no later than 3:00 p.m. If the camper is dropped off prior to 8:45 a.m., parents will be charged \$15.00 for morning care that day. If the camper is picked up later than 3:10 p.m. (this is including a 10 minute flexibility), the parents will be charged \$20.00 for afternoon care. (Please see attached Extended Care Form). **There is a \$25.00 fee for every 5 minutes campers are picked up after 6:00 p.m.**

6. EMERGENCY FORMS (K-Club Noar)

In this packet, you will find emergency and liability forms that **must** be filled out prior to your child coming to the first day of camp. **If a child arrives at camp and there are no completed forms on file, the law requires that you complete them in order for us to let your child stay.** Medical forms are carried by the camper's counselors and teachers each day. In addition, copies will be kept in the Temple with the Camp Director, Tuvia Office and the Temple Administrator.

7. EMERGENCY FORMS (ages 2-4)

In this packet you will find multiple forms that **must** be completed **prior** to your **child's first day of camp**. **If a child arrives at camp and there are no completed forms on file, the child will not be allowed to remain at camp (until you complete their forms).**

8. EXTENDED DAY CARE

Extended day care is available Monday – Friday for an additional fee. Morning care is from 7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Afternoon care is from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **There is a \$25.00 fee for every 5 minutes campers are picked up after 6:00 p.m.**

Enrichment activities for campers ages 2-4 will begin at 1:00 pm for an additional fee. Enrichment activities for campers K-5th will begin at 3:00 pm for the price of after care. A full schedule of these classes will be available at Back to Camp Night.

Pre-registration is recommended because space is limited. Fees are based on each individual child. For exact fees see the attached schedule.

9. FIELD TRIPS (Kindergarten-Club Noar)

Throughout the summer, field trips have been planned. The campers' safety is always our primary concern. As mentioned earlier, transportation is provided by trained and licensed drivers in school buses equipped with seat belts. Field trips can be as close as down the street or as far as Anaheim/Disneyland.

Each week a schedule of field trips and activities will be provided, specifying the time and location of each field trip. The schedule will be provided one week in advance.

Fieldtrips will require an additional fee, please send money with your children to purchase snacks or souvenirs (a limit will be set by the director). We will not be responsible for lost money and, due to our busy schedule; we may not have time for shopping. **A peanut-free and kosher style (no pork no shellfish, no peanuts) sack lunch is required for every field trip unless otherwise specified.** To participate in the field trip, you must be enrolled in camp for that week.

10. THEME OF THE WEEK

As a way of getting more involved in the Jewish aspects of camp, we are designating every Tuesday a "Blast through the Jewish Decade". The schedule of weeks will be provided at Back to Camp Night.

11. FOOD

As stated in our camp brochure, Camp Menorah requires all campers to bring a **peanut-free and kosher style** sack lunch each day. We ask that the lunch be brought in a paper bag with your child's name written on it. We discourage personal coolers or lunch boxes. If a camper brings either, they are responsible for carrying it throughout the day.

In keeping with both the Temple and camp policy, do not send any pork or shellfish in your child's lunch. Never send food that spoils easily. Due to Allergies, we are a **peanut-free** facility; please do not send any products containing peanuts.

Juice for lunch and an afternoon snack will be provided each day. Fluids will be encouraged throughout the day. (Don't forget those water bottles!)

If your child forgets his/her lunch, we will provide one and bill you for it.

Special cookouts and meals have been planned throughout the summer. Meals provided by the camp will be handled with sensitivity to Kashrut and vegetarian issues. On all sleepovers, dinner and breakfast will be provided. **Two lunches are required for sleepovers if your child is attending camp the following day. One lunch will be refrigerated for the following day of camp.**

12. LUNCH PROGRAM

Our campers have the opportunity to buy a lunch five days a week. Sign ups must be made in advance to insure that there is ample food for all campers.

13. SLEEPOVER

Two sleepovers are planned for Camp Menorah this summer. The sleepovers are very exciting programs! There is a \$50.00 fee per child for the sleepover at the Temple, which includes meals, staffing and other related costs.

For the sleepover, the camp will provide dinner and breakfast the next morning as well as lots and lots of fun!

The following lists are items that campers need to bring, if they plan to spend the night:

- ◆ Sleeping bag and pillow
- ◆ Warm jacket and flashlight
- ◆ Pair of pajamas
- ◆ Change of clothes for the next day (shorts, shirt, underwear & socks)
- ◆ Bathing suit and towel for next day
- ◆ Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, brush, comb, etc.) & towel
- ◆ 2 lunches (one labeled for the first day and the other for the second day)

14. KIDS NIGHT OUT

If you do not wish your child to attend the sleepover, they may attend our Kids' Night Out program from 3:00pm to 9:00pm. The price will be a pro-rated from the sleepover making kid's night out \$40.

During Kids' Night Out, the camp will provide dinner as well

The following are items that campers need to bring if they plan on participating in Kid's Night Out:

- ◆ Sleeping bag/blanket and pillow
- ◆ Warm jacket and flashlight
- ◆ Pair of pajamas

15. CAMP ILLNESS POLICY

Our camp commitment is to make this summer as safe as possible, so we ask that you do not send your child to camp if:

- They have a fever and demonstrate signs of being unwell (tired, unhappy, complaining of pain)
- They have any discharge from their eyes (as can be caused by pink-eye)
- They are vomiting or have diarrhea
- They have any known contagious disease as described by your physician that may not be obvious from the symptoms listed above

Once your child is free of all the above symptoms (or has been diagnosed by your physician as free of contagion) for at least 24 hours please feel free to bring them to back to camp. If the counselor or administrators note a return of the problem they will call you and ask that your child is taken home to rest and recover.

Please note that many viral infections will leave their mark on a child for many weeks after the original infection and feelings of ill-health have gone. We do not require that children who retain the coughing and congestion following the outbreak of a cold stay away from school but we do reserve the right to call a parent and ask for pick up if the cold symptoms seem to worsen once again while the child is in our care.

We ask that parents of children who suffer from allergies alert the school of the specifics of the allergies in writing upon diagnosis and/or registration. Any special instructions that apply to the allergy care should be explained in detail to both the office and the counselors in charge of your child.

Staff at camp will care for minor injuries with the basic first aid supplies provided. If your child has an adverse reaction to any anti-bacterial creams please notify both the counselors and the office. A basic "Boo-Boo" report will be sent home telling you of any first-aid care given on premises. In the case of emergencies, those points of contact listed on the registration card will be contacted.

We ask that medications, when possible, be administered at home. If, however, your child requires medication while at camp we can provide this service after clear instructions on administration have been provided and after we have confirmed that the medication is prescribed by a physician for the health issue being addressed at that time.

In the event of an outbreak of a highly infectious disease that might have impact on your child a notice will be sent home by the Camp Director. Parents can help us keep communicable diseases at a minimum by notifying the office if their child has been diagnosed with a communicable disease that others in the class may have been exposed to as well.

16. REFUND POLICY

<u>Session 1</u> (6/22/07-7/17/07)	<u>Session 2</u> (7/20/07-8/14/07)
Deposit Due at the time of registration	Deposit Due at the time of registration
Full Payment Due June 15th	Full Payment Due July 1st
<u>Cancellation Policy</u>	<u>Cancellation Policy</u>
Prior to June 1st-Full Refund less the	Prior to July 1st-Full Refund less the
\$100 non-refundable deposit	\$100 non-refundable deposit
After June 15th -No Refunds.	After July 1st-No Refunds

Campers are financially committed to a minimum of the days registered.

17. T-SHIRTS

A camp T-shirt is included with the camp registration fees and must be worn on all field trips. T-shirts will be passed out at Back to Camp Night or the 1st day of Camp. The camp T-shirts help identify our campers from other children that may be attending the same event and are an essential safety precaution. In the event your child does not wear their T-shirt on a designated day, additional T-shirts in child and adult sizes are available for \$10.00 each. Sizes are subject to availability. Campers may not attend a field trip without the current Camp Menorah T-shirt.

18. VISITATION POLICY

Camp is a time in a child's life to start fostering independence. However, we understand that this may be the first time you are sending your child or children to camp. If you would like to observe a day at camp, we encourage you to do so. The purpose of visitation is to observe and feel assured that your child is being taken care of appropriately.

The most difficult part of observation is for the child. Having a parent watch can be inhibiting for the child as well as other campers. Therefore, if a parent observation seems to be disruptive, we reserve the right to ask the parent to stop.

If you would like to visit camp, please call the Camp Director at the Camp Office.

19. VOLUNTEER POLICY

Camp is always looking for parent volunteers to help with hot lunch and camp activities. If you are interested in helping to make Camp Menorah the best it can be, please contact the Camp Director.

While we are appreciative of parent volunteers, Camp Menorah does not allow parents to join us on field trips. We also do not permit parents to visit their children while we are off-site. We appreciate your support and understanding that there are safety issues involved.

Please be aware that campers may not be picked up from an off-site location without consent from the Camp Director. The Camp Director has the right to refuse any requests for early pick-up at off-site locations, if he or she feels it creates an unsafe situation for the campers.

20. WISH LIST

- ◆ Sports Balls
- ◆ **HEALTHY SNACKS!**
- ◆ **FRUIT!!!!**
- ◆ Bubbles
- ◆ Chalk

21. SHABBAT

Every Friday morning from 9:45-10:15am we will be enjoying a Shabbat Celebration. We will be singing songs and prayers as well as enjoying challah, juice and a special snack.

22. Camp Baby Sitting Program

Campers really enjoy spending time with their counselors at camp. Why leave that bond there? Camp Menorah will be offering a baby sitting service which will allow your kids to hang out with their favorite counselors even when camp is over. A percentage of the money raised from baby sitting will go toward Camp fundraising. All baby sitters are certified in CPR, First Aid and FUN!
Cost:

- \$9 per hour for 1 child
- \$11 per hour for 2 children
- \$14 per hour for 3 or more children

Keep your eyes open for a Camp Baby Sitting flyer, coming soon!

23. Drama Program

Singing and dancing are a part of every day at Camp. Drama teaches you're the ability to speak to new people in exciting ways. Here at Camp Menorah making new friends and learning self-confidence is huge. This year we will be offering a Drama Program which will teach kids some of the basics of acting, ways to interact with new people, and will give a sense of self-confidence all while being in the Camp setting. More information will be provided at the back to camp night.