



June 2024

Welcome to an amazing Camp Emek Boys summer! This is B”H our 23rd year of camp programming, and we are excited about joining the Emek family for summer camp. We have an amazing summer planned.

As safety, and an organized and smoothly run program are our priorities, we ask you to please read through the entire handbook. We look forward to partnering with you, and providing your son(s) with an experience of a lifetime.

The Camp Emek Boys staff have been hard at work planning a fun, action packed summer. You are about to experience a summer of non-stop excitement and unbelievable fun. Our outstanding staff of energized & experienced rebbeim and counselors are ready to ensure your son’s personal development in a safe environment of friends.

We are excited that this summer Rabbi Morris will again assume the role of Assistant Director. Scheduling and the moment-to-moment routine at camp will continue to be under his experienced and watchful eye. Rabbi Tropper of course will also be active in what happens each day at camp as well. Both are readily available to address any questions or concerns that you may have throughout the summer.

The following information is crucial to ensure this summer be the best your son has ever had. As we have multiple divisions, including our C.I.T. division, please read the booklet thoroughly as it contains information specific to each division.

Invoices: Your invoice has been sent to you in early June reflecting your balance of camp fees. All payments you have already made towards this year's total have been deducted, and your remaining total has due dates. No camper will be allowed to begin camp without submitting a signed agreement to pay fees which is part of the registration process online, and first payment in full.

Emek reserves the right to prevent a camper from attending if fees have not been paid by the due date. Credit card payments can be paid directly through the link in your invoice. Check payments can be brought to the receptionist desk. Please make checks payable to Emek, and place in an envelope with your son's father's first and last name written on the outside, as well as "Camp Emek" written on it.

Camp hours & Security: We are located at the Emek Magnolia campus, 15365 Magnolia Blvd, Sherman Oaks. Camp begins daily at 9:00am with lineup at 9:10am

However we request boys are dropped off at 8:45am. Camp provides supervision of your son beginning at this time in our game and play rooms as well as outdoors. In addition, we have 2 armed guards throughout the entire day and during any night activities.

Campers arriving after 9:20am or leaving before the regular carpool time must be signed in or out with a staff member. If arriving late, or picking up early, please call the school office 818-783-3663. A staff member will meet you at your car to accept or dismiss your child(ren).

Camp dismisses at 4:30pm. Please see carpool section for drop off\pickup details. Please do not pick up before 4:30pm on any regular day (excluding Friday).

Many Wednesdays have extended hours due to trips, please see the division calendar corresponding to your son's age for specific times. On **Friday** camp ends at **2:30pm**. **There is no extended care on any day.**

Daily backpack: Please send the following items **each** day in a **backpack**. At least 1 liter of water, baseball hat or head covering, lunch (if hot lunch is not ordered), 3 or more snacks, and sunscreen. We constantly take water breaks while outside, however camp **does not provide water bottles so please send one each day**. There are water fountains to drink from and that allow refilling of water bottles.

Each Wednesday, please have your son wear his camp shirt. He will be *given* this shirt the first day of camp, or the first day he attends. It has already been labeled for him. **Please label everything you send to camp, including; towels, undergarments, clothing, and lunchboxes. This will avoid unnecessary lost and found items.**

Mandatory clothing: Every boy **must** wear a yarmulke (kippah) and tzizis every day of camp. Comfortable t-shirt style tzizis are available in local Judaica stores. **Your son may wear a baseball cap as a head covering instead of a yarmulke. Each boy will receive a Camp Emek Boys yarmulke when they begin camp. This is a gift and is at no cost. Additional yarmulkes are available from the camp office for \$10 each.**

Swim & Water days: Mondays are water activity days, and Thursdays are swim days each week. Each of these days please send swimming trunks, a towel, water shoes, as well as the usual sunscreen. **Please label all these items with a first and last name.**

Due to limited time, it is preferable your son wear his trunks as his shorts on these days, and bring a change of dry clothes. Any boy that **does not** know how to swim, **will not** be permitted past the point where he can safely stand in the pool. Please advise the camp staff if your child does not swim confidently. All pool and water activities are under the watchful eye of our certified lifeguards.

In order to swim in an area your son can not stand in, (deep water), he **must** pass a deep-water test given by one of our certified lifeguards. Once a boy has passed the deep water test it is recorded and he will not need to take it again. This applies as well to Keshet campers that passed the test in a previous year. Boys are allowed to bring water toys from home, however, they, **and not the camp,** are responsible for them.

Please DO NOT send water guns or other water squirting toys on pool days due to the chlorine that can hurt the eyes. We do have water fight days when these toys are permitted.

Lunches: Camp Emek offers an **optional** hot lunch program at a cost \$10.00 a meal. Those not ordering hot lunch should send a sack lunch. This may be either dairy or meat.

There is no hot lunch offered on Wednesdays due to off campus trips. All campers must bring a sack lunch in a ziplock bag with their name clearly marked. The bonus day of camp, August 14th , camp will provide a pizza lunch free of charge. The pizza will be from LA Pizza

Camp Emek is A PEANUT FREE ZONE. Please do not send peanuts or peanut products in your son's lunch as some of our campers are highly allergic.

Calendar: Our calendars can be found on the calendar page on our website cemekboys.org. Each division has their own calendar for each session. Though some of the scheduling is the same for the entire camp, please be aware there are differences in each division's schedule. Parents with campers in multiple divisions should look at each of the calendars relevant to their children. We also suggest printing the calendars off our site.

Please note that some of our trips are due back after regular pickup time, usually between 5:00pm-6:30pm. Specific times are noted on the calendar but be sure to follow our WhatsApp group to get text updates. Wednesday July 10th is an on campus waterpark day and mega bbq. **CAMP WILL PROVIDE A DELICIOUS BBQ LUNCH THAT DAY AND IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO SEND LUNCH.**

Thursday August 8th is a trip day in place of Wednesday so be sure to send a lunch as NO HOT LUNCH is offered that day.

WhatsApp Group: Due to circumstances beyond our control, we may not arrive at the scheduled time as written on the calendar after a trip or overnight. Our WhatsApp group keeps parents updated of our return times on trip days and overnights. Additionally, all camp email communications are also shared on this group. You can use this link to join the group:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/FDRSdMxb3V1IeLqQEcmmdU>

A few days before camp we will also send out an email with link to allow you to join the group. If you need additional people informed of your child's arrival time, you can share the link so they can join the group.

OUR WHATSAPP GROUP IS BROADCAST ONLY AND CAN NOT BE RESPONDED TO, THEY ARE STRICTLY USED FOR UPDATES AND CAN ONLY BE SENT BY THE CAMP OFFICE STAFF.

Some of the estimated return times have still to be confirmed and trip times may change so please check our daily emails or the group chat to be aware of any changes.

Take note that **July 31st camp starts early for all divisions at 8:00.** This is a day we go on a trip that has been limited to a set number of hours and we want to maximize the time we have.

Trips: Camp Emek Boys provides wonderful trips, and all activities have been calculated as part of the camp fees. Other than a few dollars for drinks, it is unnecessary to provide additional money for your child on trip days, and each parent should use their own discretion.

Camp provides one t-shirt for each camper which will be distributed the first day of camp or the first day your son is at camp. This shirt **must** be worn each Wednesday (or trip day if another day). Additional t-shirts are available from the camp office at \$25 each. Please be aware that the shirts are tie dye and therefore each shirt slightly varies based on the

process used. We also highly recommend the first few times you wash the shirt that you do so separately to avoid the colors running on to other clothing.

July 31st Knott's Berry Farm : Please take note that on the 6th week of camp the trip is to Knott's Berry Farm. To allow ample time for the boys to enjoy the park, camp will begin 1 hour earlier than regular, at 8am. Please be on time as we plan on the buses leaving after davening and learning at 9:30am and we will not be able to wait for anyone.

CEmek Waterpark & Inflatables Day: On Wednesday July 10th
all boys will receive a bbq lunch complimentary from the camp as part of our awesome ON CAMPUS waterpark & Inflatables day. There also will be an Parve Ice Cream Sunday party. No need to send lunch, please do send additional snacks.

Scooter's Jungle & Kids World: On Wednesday July 24th our trip is to Scooter's Jungle indoor play center. In order for your son to play, the required waiver needs to be completed. They will not allow your son to participate without a properly completed waiver and we do not want anyone excluded.

The waiver can be using this link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IQ7pfb1StkYmXMCS8S3Op2nIgYqKbAEW/view?usp=sharing>

If your son will attend the 2nd session, please complete and return to the camp office no later than July 12th. There is space for multiple siblings on one waiver, if more space is needed you're welcome to make additional copies. The waiver is also available to download and print on the camp forms page of the website, under the Summer 2024 drop down, under camp applications. **Only physical waivers with an actual signature can be accepted.**

On July 17 boys entering grades 1-4 will be going to Kids World. We have rented the entire facility but each child needs a waiver for this trip as well. If your son will attend the 1st session, please complete and return to the camp office no later than July 8th. There is space for multiple siblings on one waiver, if more space is needed you're welcome to make additional copies. The waiver is also available to download and print on the camp forms page of the website, under the Summer 2024 drop down, under camp applications. **Only physical waivers with an actual signature can be accepted.**

The waiver can be found using this link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OgStFy5hCZZvnDAghLuZVZywOaqJHBoy/view?usp=sharing>

Emergency: If, for whatever reason, there's a need to contact us during camp hours please do not hesitate. Our office staff are available and easily accessible. Any questions or requests throughout the summer can be brought to the attention of the office staff, or directly to our director Rabbi Moshe Tropper or assistant director, Rabbi Morris. We can be reached at (818) 783-3663. This is also the camp number, and should be used when contacting Rabbi Tropper in the weeks prior to the start of camp. Rabbi Tropper can be reached after regular camp hours by email; mtropper@emek.org. On overnights, night activity nights, and late nights Rabbi Tropper can be contacted at (818) 395 3294

Carpool: Due to the large number of children on campus throughout the summer, the following rules and procedures will be enforced at **ALL** times.

1. Any car entering the campus **MUST** display their Camp Emek Carpool sign. You will be given your sign on your child's first day of camp. Cars without the carpool sign will not be permitted to enter the grounds.
2. No parking, dropping off, or picking up **EVER** in the cul de sac in front of the gates. If security sees you pull up there they will ask you immediately to leave. This is for the safety of your child, and all campers, please do not cause a potentially dangerous situation for anyone.
3. All parents must remain in their vehicle. Campers will be escorted to and from vehicles by Camp Emek staff.
4. Carpool drop off and pickup will function as it does during the school year. There are 5 lanes in the parking lot. The 2 lanes on the left are line 2, the 3 lines on the right become line 1. Please do not release children from the car until a Camp Emek Staff member instructs you to. Children being dropped off in line 2 should proceed to the crosswalk and wait to be crossed by the crossing guard. Children in line 1 should walk within the gated area until they reach the covered overhang in the carpool area.
5. Please be mindful of our neighbors. In the event that the carpool line stretches down Magnolia, please do not block access to the driveways of the neighbor buildings so tenants can enter and exit while you wait to proceed in the line.
6. **ABSOLUTELY NO STANDING EVER IN THE LANE IN FRONT OF THE GREEN OVERHANG.** This area is used throughout the day by both camps, and for Gan Israel's carpool. **WE WILL TOW IF NECESSARY AT YOUR EXPENSE.**
7. **Campers arriving after 9:20am or leaving before the regular carpool time must be signed in or out with a staff member. If arriving late, or picking up early, please call the school office (818) 783-3663. You will be transferred to**

the camp office. A staff member will meet you at your car to accept or dismiss your child(ren).

Carpool Procedure: Children will not be released to, or accepted from, a car that is not in the carpool lane. In order to allow for the maximum number of cars to enter the lot, there is **NO EXIT LANE UNTIL YOU'VE DRIVEN AROUND THE 2nd LEFT TURN AT THE FAR END OF THE LOT.** Please be considerate of other parents and release or load your kids as promptly as possible. Please be patient as other parents release and load their children. If it is necessary to drop-off or pickup your child at non-carpool times, please call us at (818) 783-3663 ahead of time and we can bring your son out to you, please be mindful that there are many times during the day that your son may be off campus. Notifying us of early pickup in advance will allow us to have your son ready for an early pickup.

If you have girls in the girls' camp, they will be dismissed in the same carpool area together with your boy(s). **However, Tuesdays are typically trip days for the girls and they will need to be picked up separately when the trip has a late return. The same is true for Wednesdays for the boys. Girls will be picked up regular time with the boys typically arriving later.**

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday camp ends at 4:30pm, which is when carpool dismissal will begin. On Friday camp ends at 2:30pm, which is when carpool dismissal will begin. PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE EARLY, CAMPERS WILL NOT BE OUT, WE HAVE ACTIVITIES LITERALLY UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT. ARRIVING EARLY JUST CAUSES TRAFFIC CONGESTION FOR GAN ISRAEL WHO DISMISS BEFORE US, AND CAUSES YOUR SON TO MISS OUT ON SOME OF THE SURPRISE ACTIVITIES AT THE END OF THE DAY LIKE THE LAUGH-OFF.

Canteen: Our popular canteen with its Slurpee and soft ice cream machines, and many other yummy treats and surprises, are back again for another summer! Fridays, canteen will be open for each bunk throughout the day. Throughout the week campers earn coins for good behavior and participation that can be spent in the canteen.

Each camper has their own digital CEmek Coin account. Campers who have an account from a previous summer at Keshet continue to have the same account. Any coins in the accounts at the end of last summer are still there. In addition, any physical Keshet Coins that a camper has can still be deposited in their account this summer. Their account numbers are also the same as last year. New campers have had an account set up for them as well. Each boy will deposit their physical CEmek Coins received into their account twice a week. This will prevent stolen or lost coins as each boy's balance will be kept in a secure digital account. In addition, cash can be deposited as CEmek Coin currency into their account on deposit days. Deposit days are Tuesday & Thursday.

To add more credit to your son's account beyond the physical coins he has earned, you will need to send cash with your son on a deposit day. It will be added to his account as CEmek currency. We will give change if requested, but once cash is deposited to an account it cannot be refunded. It will remain as CEmek currency in your son's account until he spends it. The Camp Emek canteen is cashless; only previously deposited cash or CEmek Coins are accepted. These can be only be deposited in your son's account by giving it to our camp bank teller.

Parents should use their discretion as to how much cash they want to add to their son's account. Each CEmek Coin is worth 10 cents, canteen treats are reasonably priced and \$5-\$7 (50-70 CEmek Coins) will go a long way. The weekly maximum allowed to be spent in the canteen is \$10 (100 CEmek Coins).

The only exception to the \$10 (100 CEmek Coins) rule is when buying a camp souvenir cup for \$8. When purchasing the cup your son will be allowed to still spend up to the usual \$10 limit after buying the cup. The Camp Emek souvenir cup, as well as any KESHET souvenir cup from ANY previous summer can still be refilled for \$1. We DO NOT allow \$1 refills on NON Camp Emek or Keshet cups.

Phones & Digital Devices: We do not allow phones or any type of electronics, including portable game systems, devices that play music, smart watches, ipads, or any other digital device at camp. We have a wonderful summer of exciting activities planned for your son and look forward to his participation. In the event that a device is brought to camp, it will remain in the office and be returned at dismissal directly to the adult picking up your son.

On trip days only, portable game systems are allowed for the time that we are traveling on the bus. Of course, only appropriate games will be permitted. **Even on trip days, devices with wifi or cellular capability are not allowed to be brought and will be confiscated if brought. Camp staff assumes no responsibility for the loss, damage, or theft of any such property.**

Pioneers: It is with great excitement that we again have our wonderful pioneer division. It is understood that the older boys enjoy their seniority, and a special program has been designed to provide an outstanding experience for them.

Part of this experience is an opportunity to role model for the younger campers, and set an example. Therefore, some activities will be attended by the entire camp, while many others will be exclusive for the pioneers.

C.I.T.s: Another unique part of Camp Emek is our Counselor In Training division. This combines all the fun of being a camper, with additional responsibilities and privileges. C.I.T.s will assist in running the canteen, supervising campers during carpool and in other counselor in training capacities. They will have extended game room time each week, some C.I.T. exclusive activities, as well as attend the late, late night, and the overnight. C.I.T.s also have a breakfast break each morning after davening. Camp provides bowls, spoons, and milk, the boys must bring their own cereal or whatever else they choose to eat. Boys are welcome to leave a box of cereal in camp, it should be labeled with their first and last name to avoid confusion.

C.I.T. Orientation: C.I.Ts at Camp Emek are entrusted with some Junior Madrich responsibilities including running the canteen and assisting with carpool. In addition these campers have special privileges and activities independent from the rest of the camp. In order to have our C.I.Ts properly informed and prepared for all the extras they will enjoy, we will hold a 25 minute orientation on the first day of camp, following davening and breakfast break. This orientation is run by Rabbi Tropper together with Rabbi Morris and the C.I.T. Rebbe.

Kol Beramah: For many summers we have had a wonderful davening incentive program for boys davening in our beis midrash (entering grades 5 and up). Each boy receives a special booklet on their first day of davening at camp. They can earn up to 8 stamps in their booklet each morning during shachris.

At the end of each week, each boy who has the minimum required stamps (or more), will receive an equal number of tickets as the checks they have earned. Each Monday 3 raffles are held. Raffles are for valuable prizes such as signed sports jerseys, games, sports equipment, and gift cards. The 6th week of the summer, each boy with at least 70% of the stamps earned for days they attended, is invited to our gala dinner. The dinner is capped off with an elegant desert reception for parents of the boys invited to attend, at which the boys are honored with certificates and inducted as Kol Berama lifetime members.

Boys that have reached lifetime member status in a previous summer earn additional tickets for two special grand raffles throughout the summer, as well as an automatic invitation to attend the dinner. If they also reach 70% or more of their stamps for this summer, they will have a choice of a steak or a lamb chop plate at the gala dinner.

Night Activities: A unique part of Camp Emek are our night activities. This sets us apart from many other day camps and adds an overnight feel to our summer. Check the calendar for the 2-night activities this summer, 1 in each session. All night activities are from 7:00pm-9:00pm, with drop off and pick up like any other carpool time.

Overnight & Late, Late Night: We have scheduled an amazing overnight trip and a Late, Late night waterpark trip for the Pioneer and C.I.T. divisions. The calendars provide the dates, and a brief description. The Late, Late night is at a small waterpark we rented exclusively and we will provide a delicious dinner and snacks. The second overnight will be at Knott's and will be spent at a local all-suites hotel. Feel free to call Rabbi Tropper with any questions at (818) 783-3663. During these after hours activities Rabbi Tropper can be reached by calling (818) 395-3294. Rabbi Tropper will be going along on these trips. Detailed information and any necessary waivers for activities on these trips will be sent home with your son(s) and emailed in the weeks prior to the trip.

Below is a general checklist of overnight supplies for Pioneer and C.I.T divisions. Please use it as a guide for packing. The Late, Late night is scheduled for an 11:00pm pickup on Wednesday July 17th. The Knott's overnight ends regular time, 4:30pm Thursday August 1st. Dinner, breakfast, and **lunch on the return day**, as well as snacks will be provided on the overnight. **Please provide lunch on the first day, hot lunch will not be available for pioneer or C.I.T. campers on those days.** Additional snacks and spending money may be sent at each parent's discretion.

Please be sure everything is clearly labeled with your son's name. We also caution against sending along expensive items since we can not be responsible for loss or theft. If you choose to send your son with some spending money, we would recommend not more than \$25.

Overnight Checklist

- 2 t-shirts
- 2 pairs of shorts
- swim trunks
- pair of pants/jeans
- pair of sweatpants or P.J.s for sleeping
- sweatshirt (preferably hooded)
- 2 pairs of socks
- 2 pairs of underwear
- sun hat or baseball cap
- beach towel
- laundry bag
- toothbrush
- toothpaste
- bar of soap & soap dish
- brush/comb
- sunglasses
- sunscreen
- personal medication/asthma inhaler
- written instructions for administering any personal medication

The Camp Emek Boys staff is pleased to be the choice for your child this summer. We excitedly anticipate spending a fun filled summer with your son.

Thank you for choosing us as his place for a safe summer in a Torah environment. Can't wait to see ya'!

