



GIRLS DAY CAMP

A Ton of Fun!

PARENT HANDBOOK



Phone: 818 760-3556
www.keshetGDC.com

May 2023

Welcome to another amazing Keshet summer. This B”H is our 2nd season of our girls’ division and we are planning another amazing summer! Welcome back to all returning campers and staff, and a special welcome to all our campers and parents joining the Keshet family, as well as all our new dedicated and excited staff members. **We are so excited to be located on Emek’s Magnolia campus with the convenience of boys and girls camps located adjacent to each other. 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 daughter(s) with an experience of a lifetime.**

The Keshet staff has 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 moros and counselors are ready to ensure your daughter’s personal development in a safe environment of friends.

We are excited that Morah Ariella Rosenblatt is our Assistant Director. Scheduling and the moment-to-moment routine at camp will be under her 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 daughter has ever had. Please read the packet thoroughly as it contains information specific to each activity and day.

Invoices: The camp office has sent you an invoice 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. If you have children in both the boys’ and girls’ camps, all charges and credits are on the same invoice. First payment is due in full by June 10th, and second payment is due in full by July 10th.

There also is a link in the email containing your invoice to a contract, agreeing to complete all payments due. Please complete that as well online before June 10th. No camper will be allowed to begin camp without submitting a signed invoice/contract and first payment in full.

Keshet 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 contract link. Check payments can be mailed to Keshet 12702 Emelita St. Valley Village CA. 91607. Please make checks payable to Keshet LLC.

Zelle payments can be sent to moshtropper@gmail.com

Any questions can be directed to the camp offices.

Girls: 818760-3556; office@keshetgdc.com

Boys: 818760-3556; office@keshetbdc.com

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 9:15am

However, we request girls are dropped off at 8:45am. Camp provides supervision of your daughter beginning at this time in our outdoor tent and annex play area. Games and activities are provided. Our armed guard is present throughout the entire day and during any night activities.

Campers arriving after 9:25am 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 camp office 818-760-3556. A staff member will meet you at your car to accept or dismiss your child(ren).

PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL RECEPTIONIST FOR CAMP INFORMATION OR TO SIGN IN/OUT OF CAMPERS. ALL CAMP RELATED QUESTIONS AND PROCEDURES MUST BE DIRECTED TO THE KESHET OFFICE ONLY.

Camp dismisses at 4:00pm. Please see carpool section for drop off/pickup details. Please do not pickup before 4:00pm on any regular day (excluding Friday).

Most Tuesdays (and two Thursdays) have extended hours due to trips, please see the calendar for specific times. On Friday camp ends at 2:00pm. **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 filtered faucets to refill water bottles in the rooms as well as water fountains.

Each Tuesday (or trip day if not Tuesday), please have your daughter wear her camp shirt. She will be *given* this shirt the first day of camp, or the first day she attends. It has already been labeled for her. **Please label everything you send to camp, including; towels, undergarments, clothing, and lunchboxes. This will avoid unnecessary lost and found items.**

Mandatory clothing: Every girl **must** wear a skirt that covers her knees each day of camp. Girls entering 1st-4th grades may wear short sleeve shirts. Girls entering 5th grade or up must wear shirts past the elbow (3/4). We suggest close toe shoes to avoid injuries, see the swimming section for more information.

Swim days: Monday and Thursday are swim days each week. Each swim day please send a swim suit, a towel, water shoes, a robe, as well as the usual sunscreen. **Please label all these items with a first and last name.**

While walking in any public area such as building halls or to and from the bus, all girls must either have clothes over their bathing suit or a robe that covers their body past their knees. At the pool, girls can swim in bathing suits. Any on campus water activities that are fully secluded, girls will be allowed to wear bathing suits while participating. If girls are visible to others while participating in water activities (water fights, waterslides etc.) They will be required to wear a shirt and a skirt.

Any girl that **does not** know how to swim, **will not** be permitted past the point where she 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 Red Cross certified lifeguards.

In order to swim in an area your daughter can not stand in, (deep water), she **must** pass a deep-water test given by one of our certified lifeguards. Once a girl has passed the deep water test it is recorded and she will not need to take it again. Girls 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: Keshet offers an **optional** hot lunch program at a cost \$10.00 a meal. More information to be shared by email in early June.

Those not ordering hot lunch should send a sack lunch. This may be either dairy or meat.

There is no hot lunch offered on Tuesdays due to off campus trips. All campers must bring a sack lunch in a ziplock bag with their name clearly marked. The final day of camp, August 4th, camp will provide a pizza lunch free of charge. The pizza will be from LA Pizza

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

Calendar: Attached to the email you received containing your invoice, you will find links to a two-page calendar covering both sessions. C.I.T. division 9girls entering 7th & 8th have their own calendar. Parents with campers in the girls' and boys' camps have received a link to the calendar of each camp they have a child in. Please retain each individual calendar. These calendars can also be printed off our websites under the Summer 2023 tab.

Please note that most of our trips are due back after regular pickup time, usually between 4:30pm-6:30pm. Specific times are noted on the calendar but be sure to check the hotline, follow our WhatsApp group to get text updates, or follow the emails that are sent updating return times.

WhatsApp Group & Trip Return Hotline: Due to circumstances beyond our control, we may not arrive on time after a trip. For this reason, we have created a WhatsApp group to keep parents updated of our return times on trip days.

A few days before camp we will 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 TEXTS ARE BROADCAST ONLY AND CAN NOT BE RESPONDED TO, THEY ARE STRICTLY USED FOR UPDATES AND CAN ONLY BE SENT BY THE CAMP OFFICE STAFF.

Alternatively, you can check updated arrival information on our recorded hotline. On trip days, call the camp office number, (818)760-3556, from 3:30p.m. and on, to hear a message on our updated location. This message will be updated every 15-25 minutes until we arrive back at camp. If the message does not pick up, please wait a few minutes and call again, this may happen when there is a high volume of calls.

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

Take note that August 1st camp **starts early 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: Keshet 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 shirt for each camper which will be distributed the first day of camp or the first day your daughter is at camp. This shirt **must** be worn each trip day (usually Tuesday).

Additional shirts are available from the camp office at \$15 each.

August 1st Knott's Berry Farm: Please take note that on the seventh week of camp the trip is to Knott's Berry Farm. To allow ample time for the girls 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 at 9:00am and we will not be able to wait for anyone.

Keshet Waterpark Day: On Thursday July 11th all girls will receive a bbq lunch complimentary from the camp as part of our awesome on campus waterpark day. No need to send lunch, please do send additional snacks.

Scooter's Jungle: On July 18th our trip is to Scooter's Jungle indoor play center. In order for your daughter to play, the required waiver needs to be completed. They will not allow your daughter to participate without a properly completed waiver and we do not want anyone excluded.

Attached to the email this handbook was sent with, is this waiver. If your daughter will attend the 2nd session, please complete and return to the camp office no later than July 10th. 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 calendar page of the website. Only physical waivers with an actual signature will be accepted.

Emergency: If, for whatever reason, there's a need to contact us during camp hours please do not hesitate. We have a secretary on staff and we are 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, Morah Ariella Rosenblatt. We can be reached at (818) 760-3556. 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 as well on this same number.

Carpool: Due to our sharing space with other camps including Keshet Boys' Day Camp, the following rules and procedures will be enforced at **ALL** times.

1. Any car entering the campus **MUST** display their Keshet Carpool sign. It is attached to the email this handbook arrived in. Please print it and display in the front window (dash) of your car at all times. 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 Keshet staff.
4. There are 3 lanes in the parking lot. The lane all the way to the left is for Keshet drop off & pickup. The center lane is for drive through/exit the parking lot. The right lane is for Gan Israel.
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 camp office 818-760-3556. A staff member will meet you at your car to accept or dismiss your child(ren).**

Keshet Carpool Procedure: Since we are sharing the grounds, please follow these procedures when dropping off and picking up. As you reach the top of the parking lot, the lane will split into two **CLEARLY MARKED** lanes. The left lane is for dropping and picking up Keshet campers. The middle lane is to proceed around the lot to Gan Israel's lane, or to exit. The right lane is for Gan Israel carpool. After you have dropped or picked up your child, please proceed safely into the middle exit lane. Please be patient for the good and welfare of campers and staff.

Children will not be released to, or accepted from, a car that is not in the carpool lane. Please be considerate of other parents and exit the carpool lane promptly. If it is necessary to drop-off or pickup your child at non carpool times, please call us on the camp number ahead of time and we can bring your daughter out to you. Please be mindful that there are many times during the day that your daughter may be off campus. Notifying us of early pickup in advance will allow us to have your daughter ready for an early pickup.

If you have boys in the boys' camp, they will be dismissed in the same carpool area together with your boy. Girls and boys will sit separately under distanced tents so please be patient as we make your children aware that their vehicle has arrived. However, Wednesdays are typically trip days for the boys and they will need to be picked up separately due to late arrival. The same is true for Tuesdays for the girls. boys will be picked up regular time with the girls typically arriving later.

Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday camp ends at 4:00pm, which is when carpool dismissal will begin. On Friday camp ends at 2:00pm, 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, is here for the girls as well this summer! Wednesdays, 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 Keshet Koin account. Campers who have an account from last summer continue to have the same account. Any coins in the accounts at the end of last summer are still there. Their account numbers are also the same as last year. New campers have had an account set up for them as well. Each girl will deposit their physical Keshet Koins 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 Keshet Koin currency into their account on deposit days.

Deposit days are Monday & Wednesday (for the girls). Each girl also will be given a card with their account number on it, and it will be placed on a lanyard. This card is used to make their purchases each week in the canteen. Each account is linked to a parent's email address.

To add more coins, you will need to send cash with your daughter on a deposit day and it will be added to her account as coins. We will give change if requested, but once coins are added to an account they cannot be refunded as cash. They will remain as Keshet Koins in your daughter's account until she spends them. Cash is not accepted in the canteen; it will need to be deposited as coins in your daughter'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 daughter's account. Each coin is worth 10 cents, canteen treats are reasonably priced and \$5-\$7 (50-70 Koins) will go a long way. The weekly maximum allowed to be spent in the canteen is \$8 (80 Koins).

The only exception to the \$8 (80 Koin) rule is when buying a camp souvenir cup for \$7. When purchasing the cup your daughter will be allowed to still spend up to the usual \$8 limit after buying the cup. All KESHET souvenir cups from ANY summer can be refilled for \$1. We DO NOT allow \$1 refills on NON Keshet cups.

Electronics: We do not allow phones or any type of electronics, including portable game systems, or ipods etc, at camp. We have a wonderful summer of exciting activities planned for your daughter and look forward to her 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 daughter.

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.**

Night Activities: A unique part of Keshet 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 3-night activities this summer. All night activities are from 7:00pm-9:00pm, with drop off and pick up in our regular carpool line.

Pioneers: It is with great excitement that we have been able to add a pioneer division this summer. It is understood that the older girls (entering 6th grade) 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. Pioneers will also have one overnight together with the C.I.T. division (9 girls entering 7th & 8th grades) see below for more information.

C.I.T.s: Another unique part of Keshet that has been added this summer, 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 Knotts overnight. They will also have a few chesed projects throughout the summer. We have hired an adult to lead this group under Morah Ariella's direction.

C.I.T. Orientation: C.I.Ts at Keshet are empowered with some junior counselor 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. This orientation is run by Rabbi Tropper and Morah Ariella, the C.I.T. morah will also be present.

Overnights:

We have scheduled an amazing overnight trip for the Pioneer and C.I.T. girls to Knott's and will be spent at a local all-suites hotel. Feel free to call Rabbi Tropper with any questions at (818) 760-3556. During these overnights we will be able to be reached by contacting the camp office. After hours all calls to this number will automatically be routed to Rabbi Tropper's cell phone. Information and any necessary waivers for activities on these trips will be sent home and emailed in the weeks prior to the trip.

Below is a general checklist of camping\overnight supplies for Pioneer and C.I.T divisions. Please use it as a guide for packing. The Knott's overnight, ends regular time, 4:00pm Wednesday August 2nd. Dinner, breakfast, and **lunch on the return day**, as well as snacks will be provided. **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 daughter'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 daughter with some spending money, we would recommend not more than \$25. The Knott's Berry farm overnight does not require a sleeping bag or pillow, or any other camping specific supplies.

Camping Checklist

Required Items

- 2 t-shirts (long sleeve or ¾ sleeve)
- 2 pairs of shorts or leggings (to wear underneath skirt)
- 2 skirts
- pajamas for sleeping
- sweatshirt (preferably hooded)
- 2 pairs of socks
- 2 pairs of underwear
- sun hat or baseball cap
- Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, bar of soap)
- brush/comb
- sunglasses
- sunscreen
- personal medication/asthma inhaler

Optional Items

- spending money
- laundry bag
- cards/games

The Keshet Girls Day camp 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'!

