



# 2026 Parent Handbook

## **WELCOME TO CAMP EMETH!**

We are excited that you have chosen to send your child to Camp Emeth. We recognize that choosing a summer camp is an important decision. It is our goal to meet your expectations and provide all campers with a safe and fun place to spend their summer.

Please take time to read the entire Parent Handbook. Even if you are a returning camp family, some information has changed. It is important for families to familiarize themselves with our policies each summer.

If you have any questions after reading the Parent Handbook, please feel free to reach out to Camp Director Laura Horton at 314-692-5362 or LHorton@sestl.org.

## **OUR MISSION AND GOALS**

Camp Emeth strives to uphold the mission of Congregation Shaare Emeth of *being a compassionate, respectful, and inclusive community that makes Judaism relevant, meaningful, and joyful*. Camp Emeth supports this mission by providing a fun, safe, and enriching environment in the summer for campers to learn and grow in their Jewish identity, and to discover and celebrate their authentic selves.

Specifically, we strive for each camper to:

1. Feel more connected to the Jewish community through developing friendships and shared experiences
2. Learn to thrive in a group setting by contributing to a shared goal and addressing conflict in a meaningful and collaborative way
3. Develop and practice social and emotional skills in order to support their mental health and resilience
4. See themselves as part of the larger world around them and approach it with empathy, care, and curiosity

**WHILE THIS HANDBOOK REFLECTS OUR CURRENT  
POLICIES & PROCEDURES, SPECIFIC HEALTH & SAFETY  
PROTOCOLS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

## Important Contact Info

<b>Camp Cell Phone (during camp season)*</b>	<b>314-440-2420</b>
<b>Camp Email (during camp season)*</b>	<b>CampEmeth1@gmail.com</b>
<b>Laura Horton, Director of Camp Emeth</b>	<b>LHorton@sestl.org; 314-692-5362</b>
<b>Camp Website</b>	<b>www.campemeth.org</b>
<b>CampInTouch Parent Portal</b>	<b>campemeth.campintouch.com</b>

*\*please note that the camp cell phone and camp email are only checked regularly while camp is in session Mon-Fri 8am-5pm. If calling or emailing after hours, please allow us until the next camp day to respond to your message. If you need to reach out in the off-season, please contact Camp Director Laura Horton.*

## CARPOOL PROCEDURES

All campers will be dropped off and picked up in the Camp Emeth Carpool Bay, located in the northeast corner of the parking lot. Please enter the parking lot using the Ballas Rd. entrance and follow the Camp Emeth carpool signs and orange cones. Please do not cut around the cones... we use them to maintain a smooth traffic flow, keep our staff and campers safe and allow carpool to move quickly without causing changes in the carpool list.

When you approach the drop off/pick up area with the numbered dots, please pull all the way up to the next painted carpool dot where the staff member is standing. This will allow us to easily unload/load 6 cars at a time. We will load/unload from the passenger side of your vehicle. If we need to load/unload from the driver's side, please let our staff do this and **please remain in your car at all times.**

### Morning Drop-off

Morning carpool unloading will begin at 8:45 am. Please help us ensure the safety of our campers by keeping their seat belts on until our staff can unload them from the car. Please do not allow your child to get out of the car on their own for their safety. If you need to speak with Senior Staff during carpool please let us know and pull over to the left side of the parking bay after dropping off. A member of senior staff will come over to you. **We ask that you remain in your car while you are in carpool line.** At 9:00 am, we will stop carpool to allow all campers/staff to cross the bay for morning flagpole. Once everyone is out of the carpool bay, a Senior Staff member will remain to help with late arrivals.

### Afternoon Pick-up

Afternoon carpool will begin loading at 3:30 pm. Three carpool signs per family will be available at Camp Open House or sent home with your oldest camper on their first day if you are not able to attend Open House. These signs should be displayed in your car windshield at pick-up time. This provides an added layer of security for our campers by helping us quickly identify who is permitted to pick up each of our campers. If your carpool is made up of more than one family, you may give the other family a copy of your carpool sign. If you need additional copies provided, please email [campemeth1@gmail.com](mailto:campemeth1@gmail.com). Please do not make photocopies of the signs provided. You may request replacement signs at any time if your signs are lost or damaged.

If someone other than the regular pick-up adult will be picking up your child, please be sure they have a copy of your pick-up sign. If they will not have a copy of your pick-up

sign, please send an email to [campemeth1@gmail.com](mailto:campemeth1@gmail.com), including the first and last name of the camper(s) and the adult picking them. If someone attempts to pick up a camper without the correct pick-up sign and we did not receive prior notification from that camper's parent/guardian, we will ask them to pull out of line and we will check the adult's ID to see if they are listed on the camper's authorized pick-up list. If they are not, we will call the camper's parent/guardian/emergency contact to ensure their child is allowed to be picked up by this individual. Please help us keep your children safe (and keep the line moving) by making sure you have your pick-up signs throughout the summer. The staff member checking pick-up signs will be rotating, so please do not rely on a member of senior staff recognizing you and bypassing our camper pick-up security measures.

We will load into the passenger side of your vehicle. If you request to load into the driver's side, our staff member will walk your child around and load them into the car. **We ask that you remain in your car while you are in carpool line.** Camp Emeth staff are not permitted to buckle campers into seat belts or car seats at any time. If you have young campers requiring help with seat belts and/or car seats, we will load your campers and you may pull off to the left hand side of the parking bay to assist them. Please wait for all cars loading campers to move before pulling forward. For the safety of our staff and our campers, no car should ever pull around another car during pick-up or drop-off.

**PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW YOUR CAMPER(S) TO HANG OUT OF CAR WINDOWS OR SUN ROOFS WHILE YOUR CAR IS IN MOTION. THIS CAN BE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS AND WE WOULD RATHER SET A PRECEDENT NOW BEFORE ANY INJURIES OCCUR.**

### **Late Drop-offs and Early Pick-ups**

For your child's protection, all children need to be signed in/out at the camp pavilion if arriving late or leaving early. Please do not go to your child's camp group to pick him/her up. Our counselors have been directed not to release any camper directly to parents. We do not use the Main Office or the Religious School office for camper pickup/drop off. Campers may not be dropped off or picked up at the pool or field trip locations.

Please pull into the Camper Curbside Pickup/Drop off Spot located at the south end of Bay 6. Call the camp phone number on the sign and a senior staff member will see that your camper is brought to/picked up from your car and get your signature. Always give us plenty of advanced notice when picking up early or dropping off late!

## **Inclement Weather Arrival/Dismissal**

In case of inclement weather and it is unsafe for campers to be outside during carpool, we will proceed with “indoor carpool”. You will receive a notification in the Campanian App and cars will load/unload at the north entrance of Shaare Emeth. No external signage will be displayed to indicate indoor carpool procedures, so please check the Campanian App if you are unsure. Please follow staff direction in the parking lot. Staff will be stationed along the sidewalk and will unload/load as many cars as possible depending on the severity of the weather. Please pull all the way up to the first staff member at the North Lobby entrance and stay in line to help us move carpool along in an efficient and timely manner. Having your pick-up signs displayed during inclement weather carpool is also extremely helpful to camp staff and may keep the inside of your car dry in the case of rain. Your cooperation and patience is greatly appreciated!

**In the case of severe inclement weather (such as a tornado warning or lightning/thunderstorm in the area), and it would be unsafe to send our staff outside to facilitate carpool, we will not unload campers (in the case of morning carpool) or release campers (in the case of afternoon carpool) until it is safe to do so.** Parents are encouraged to park their vehicle and take shelter inside the building if you are already here for pick-up when a severe weather event occurs. We appreciate your patience in advance if this situation occurs at camp this summer.

## **VISITORS**

In keeping with American Camping Association (ACA) regulations and the safety of the campers, we cannot allow drop-in visitors. PLEASE help us by following this policy. It is also our policy not to allow friends of our campers to visit camp any day. We cannot be responsible for any child who is not enrolled in camp. Therefore, please do not send guests to camp with your child.

## **ATTENDANCE**

If your child is sick or will not be at camp for any reason, please call the camp cell phone or email [campemeth1@gmail.com](mailto:campemeth1@gmail.com). Email is preferred when setting up early pick-ups or late drop-offs.

## **CAMP EMETH STAFF**

**Camp Director** - The Camp Director is responsible for the overall year round operations of the camp, and oversees registration, camp staff, overall programmatic decisions, and is responsible for the daily operations of Camp Emeth. The Camp Director may be offsite at times to oversee operations at the pool, accompany campers on off-site trips, or various other reasons throughout the summer.

**Director of Youth Engagement** - In addition to their year round temple responsibilities in the area of youth engagement, The Director of Youth Engagement supports Camp Emeth in the summer months by supporting camp staff and CITs' wellbeing and leadership development, as well as leading various programs to enrich the camp experience.

**Assistant Director** - The Assistant Director supports the daily operations of camp and overseeing pavilion operations, including parent communication related to daily operations (late drop-offs, early pick-ups, etc.).

**Program Director** - The Program Director is responsible for facilitating special programs while camp is in session, such as chugs, open time activities, Friday programs, and late night activities, as well as ensuring Activity Specialists have the resources they need.

**Activity Specialists** – Each of our activity specialists (Art, Sports, Music, Shiur, Israel) have a unique skill set in their specific activity area in order to enrich the camp experience for our campers as they rotate through these activities each week.

**Camper Care Specialists** - Our Camper Care Specialists support the inclusion of campers with and without documented social-emotional needs, provide support to camp staff in addressing behavioral challenges, and use their skillset to create a harmonious camp experience for all.

**Health Specialist** - Our health specialist oversees all allergies, medications, and other health concerns of campers, and administers and logs all first aid treatment. This person is not a licensed health care professional, but is First Aid and CPR-AED certified through the American Red Cross.

**Digital Content Creator** - Externally, our Digital Content Creator oversees taking and uploading pictures to the Campanion app, sending notifications and reminders via Campanion, and also manages our social media presence. Internally, they also create rainy-day content for campers, our end-of-the-summer slideshow, and a few other related projects.

**Camp Counselors** – Camp counselors are rising 10th graders and above who display

the ability to be a leader, keep their campers engaged throughout the day, and to maintain safety above all else.

**Counselors-in-Training (CITs)** – CITs are rising 9th graders who volunteer for at least part of their summer at camp in order to gain first-hand experience and to develop their leadership skills and confidence to hopefully become a paid staff member in the future.

Each camp group will have two or more counselors, based on the number of campers in the group. Grades K-4 groups may also have one or more CITs.

### **Camp Staff Babysitting Policy**

Camp leadership will not solicit camp staff for babysitting jobs on behalf of parents. Please feel free to coordinate babysitting jobs with camp staff directly. If you would like the contact information for a specific counselor or staff member, please email Camp Director Laura Horton at LHorton@sestl.org and she can provide their contact information after reaching out to the staff member to make sure they are comfortable with her doing so. Camp Emeth and Congregation Shaare Emeth take no responsibility for our staff when they are working outside of the scope of camp.

## **COMMUNICATION**

We value communication at Camp Emeth and strive to keep camp families informed throughout our week using the appropriate method of communication for different situations. After all, you entrust us with the care of your children, and you are part of the Camp Emeth team as well! Our hope is to bring camp families along on the journey and to ensure your children are safe, healthy, and engaged throughout the camp week.

### **Campanion App**

One of the best parts of the summer is being able to share all of the fun that takes place at Camp Emeth with you, our camp families! This summer, Camp Emeth will be utilizing an awesome app called Campanion! Some of you may be familiar with Campanion, since it is one of the most common parent communication apps in the camp world and is used by lots of camps throughout the country. Plus, it is hosted by CamplnTouch, so you won't even need to keep track of another login and password.

We'll be sharing photos, updates, and reminders all summer long, and you will receive these during the weeks your camper is enrolled. Campanion's facial recognition technology automatically searches for campers and tags them for you to view in the app. This saves you time sifting through hundreds of photos to find your camper(s).

We will also be using this app to notify you when there will be indoor carpool due to inclement weather, so we highly encourage you to download the app and enable notifications!

To get started, follow these simple steps:

1. Download the Companion app on your preferred Apple or Android device
2. Use your CampInTouch Account email address and password to log in
3. Upload a training photo of your child, which enables the app to send you photos of your camper over the summer
4. Ensure you have push notification enabled within your phone settings

We will continue to cross-post selected pictures on our social media channels (Facebook and Instagram), so be sure to follow us!

### **Emails**

We will send out emails on a regular basis throughout the summer, so please be sure you received the pre-summer emails (the first one was sent on 3/24/2026) and you have added [campemeth1@gmail.com](mailto:campemeth1@gmail.com) to your address book. All camp families will be notified of relevant information via email regarding any reportable illness or communicable disease.

### **Phone Calls**

You will receive a phone call from a member of camp leadership if:

- Your child is involved in a physical altercation (names of other campers involved will be kept private)
- Your child reports having symptoms that may require medical attention
- Your child is involved in an act of bullying, retaliation, malice, or other behaviors that compromise the emotional well-being of campers (names of other campers involved will be kept private)
- Your child engages in unsafe, harmful, or inappropriate behaviors
- Other situations camp leadership deems necessary to share with camper's family

Please know that we will also call to celebrate small and large victories of your camper, such as "Menche Moments" we observe (e.g., choosing kindness, stepping out of their comfort zone, etc.). Those are our favorite phone calls to make!

### **Other Communication**

Please do not communicate directly with your child's counselor via their cell phone regarding any camp-related matter. Cell phones are only to be used by camp staff during the camp day to communicate internally with other camp staff, in case of

emergencies, or to take pictures throughout the day.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

All campers must have an up-to-date Health History form and an updated record of immunizations on file, as well as a Camp Emeth Behavior Policy Agreement signed by a parent or guardian. These forms must be filled out each summer.

### **Allergies, Asthma or Other Chronic Health Conditions**

If you have a child with food allergies, please complete the Emergency Medical Action Plan Form and an Approved Snacks Form.

If you have a child with asthma or other severe or chronic health conditions, you will also be required to complete the Emergency Medical Action Plan Action with information on allergies, medications, and other pertinent details that will help us be prepared and keep your child safe at camp.

If you indicate on the health form that your child has life-threatening allergies or requires an asthma action plan, we may send you additional forms as needed. All medical forms must be complete before any child can attend camp on the first day.

### **Medication**

If your child needs to take medication during the camp day, please provide a week's worth of the medication in the ORIGINAL bottle stating patient (camper) name, dosage, and dosage instructions. This can be dropped off to a member of senior staff at Camp Open House or on your camper's first day. Please ask to speak to a member of senior staff if you have not discussed your camper's medication at camp prior to their first day.

All medications will be kept in the pavilion office and given to your child at the appropriate time by a member of senior staff and logged.

*Medications will not be accepted in envelopes or baggies. Even if your child will only need medication dispensed during a late night or overnight trip, we will still need the medication sent in its original container with written instructions included.*

We have several over-the-counter medications that we will only administer to your child if you have given permission on the Health History form. These medications include pain relievers, cough drops, allergy relief, antacids, etc.

Campers should never have any medications with them at any time.

## **Illness During Camp**

Camp Emeth policy requires you to keep your child home from camp if there is any sign of illness. Children are not allowed to return to camp until they are free of fever (without the aid of Tylenol, Advil, etc.), vomiting, or diarrhea for 24 hours.

Please inform us if your camper is ill by emailing [campemeth1@gmail.com](mailto:campemeth1@gmail.com) or calling the camp cell phone. We appreciate you remembering to do this!

## **Head Lice**

Head lice are a common occurrence in schools and camps. We strongly recommend that parents check their children frequently for the presence of lice throughout the summer. If you observe head lice in your child, please do not send them to camp and inform us by email immediately. We will inform your child's group of the head lice case via email in order to reduce the spread (camper name and any identifying traits will not be shared). Based upon recommendations by the Missouri Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control, campers with evidence of head lice will be sent home and require treatment in order to return to camp. Treatment may include at-home use of over-the-counter or prescription lice products, or a visit to a lice-specific treatment center such as Lice Busters. Campers may return to camp after treatment has begun.

## **Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis)**

According to the Centers for Disease Control, the most common causes of pink eye include viruses, bacteria, and allergens. Viral and bacterial pink eye are very contagious. They can spread easily from person to person. If your camper is showing signs of pink eye (pink or red color in the white of the eye, swelling of eyelids, watery/teary eyes, itchiness/irritation/burning sensation of the eye, discharge of pus or mucus from eye) without a history of seasonal allergies, they will be sent home and required to see a medical professional in order to determine the type of pink eye and course of treatment, or alternative diagnosis and course of treatment.

If your child doesn't have a fever or other symptoms, your child may return to camp with your doctor's approval. Please send a copy of the doctor's note to [campemeth1@gmail.com](mailto:campemeth1@gmail.com) before sending them back to camp.

## **Accidents/Injuries**

Each of us makes every attempt to avoid accidents and injuries, but at times they do occur at camp. Most camp staff ages 16 and up have been trained in CPR/AED for Children as required for certification by the American Camp Association. All camp staff

receive First Aid training during pre-camp training in order to treat minor injuries.

In case of an accident or injury, a Senior Staff member will assess the seriousness of the injury. Minor scrapes and bruises are handled in the camp office. Cuts will be washed with water and/or antiseptic wash, Neosporin will be applied and covered with a band-aid.

If the injury is more serious, such as large bumps, severe cuts or broken limbs, a member of the senior staff will contact the child's parents to determine a course of action. If we are unable to reach a parent, and the camp staff believes that the child needs immediate attention, the camp will contact 911 to have the child transported to the nearest hospital.

If a life-threatening emergency occurs at camp, camp staff are instructed to call 911 first and a member of senior staff will contact the camper's parent(s) by phone.

All accidents and injuries will be logged by a member of senior staff with the information provided of any staff member(s) who were present when the accident/injury occurred. Parents may be notified via email or phone call depending on the severity.

Please keep your camper's health and emergency information current! We will not be able to handle emergencies accurately if we do not have up-to-date information.

## **Life-Threatening Food Allergies**

We would like you to be aware that we, like many schools and camps, have children at Camp Emeth who have life-threatening allergies to peanuts and tree nuts, and other allergens. These children may not be able to eat, touch or inhale the aroma of peanuts or nuts without life-threatening consequences such as anaphylactic shock. Our policy, explained below, is intended to prevent any unnecessary risks to these children.

Any products that you bring into camp for a birthday celebration must be pre-packaged, individually wrapped, and labeled with all ingredients. These treats must be nut free/school safe...not manufactured in a facility that also manufactured nuts or nut products, may contain nuts, may contain traces of nuts. Bomb Pops, Outshine Bars, and other similar types of popsicles are a popular choice! If you are not sure about the ingredients, please call us.

All snacks given to the campers at Camp Emeth will be peanut and tree nut free; however, campers are allowed to bring lunches that are not peanut/nut free. If there is a life-threatening allergy in your child's grade, you will be informed of this via email so you are aware and we can take appropriate precautions, such as having an allergy-friendly table. Please remind your child that everyone needs to be washing their hands before and after lunch, especially if there is a life-threatening allergy in their grade.

## **Inclement Weather**

Camp is held rain or shine. When inclement weather occurs, camp activities will be modified or moved indoors according to the severity of the inclement weather and guidance from local and national weather outlets. Inclement weather includes rain, thunderstorms/lightning, tornadoes, excessive heat, and dangerous air quality. Please send your child to camp dressed to swim Mon-Thurs even if it looks like it's going to rain or is raining. For specifics about pick-up/drop-off during inclement weather, please see Inclement Weather Arrival/Dismissal above.

## **Aggressive Behavior**

Everyone deserves to be safe at camp. This includes our campers, camp counselors, and all other staff and volunteers. Safety is our top priority. If a camper displays aggressive behavior at camp toward another individual or themselves, parents will be contacted immediately, and further actions may include an individualized camper behavior plan up to and including dismissal from Camp Emeth. Please have a discussion with your camper(s) leading up to camp about the importance of making safe choices and the consequences that could result from putting others or themselves in danger while at camp. Behavior expectations are discussed and reviewed on a weekly basis within camp groups. If your camper has behavioral or social/emotional needs that may impact their ability to make safe choices at camp, please share that information on your camper's application, or contact Camp Director Laura Horton well in advance to discuss. Our goal is to support campers in their development while maintaining a safe environment for all, so partnering from the beginning and providing all pertinent information about your camper will help us do that.

## **Incoming Kindergartners**

We realize that rising Kindergartners are not yet acclimated to a busy day of camp and may require extra assistance with certain tasks, activities, and transitions. Their schedule is designed a bit differently from other age groups for this reason (for example, time for restful activities after lunch rather than chugs). Please be aware that no member of camp staff will assist campers in bathroom tasks, changing, or feeding (besides opening food items). Campers should be completely bathroom independent, including changing out of swimsuits and into their clothes without assistance. A member of camp staff will be present in the shared bathroom space (not in individual stalls with campers) or just outside the bathroom, but it is not an expectation that they assist with any changing or undressing of campers (nor is it appropriate to do so). If assistance is needed, a member of camp leadership will step in and follow up with parents.

This new routine of a full camp day for rising Kindergarteners also means that they may need more food and snacks than they're used to needing. Please be sure to send your rising Kindergartner with a few extra snacks to get them through their big day at camp! Finally, please be aware that Kindergarten campers will be held to the same safety expectations as other campers regarding aggressive behavior. We understand that they are adjusting to a completely different environment, and we will support them in their development as they prepare to enter elementary school, but hitting, kicking, biting, or any other aggressive behaviors are not welcome at camp, so please have a very intentional series of conversations with your camper before the summer about making safe choices at camp.

## **PROGRAMMING**

Please check our website at [www.campemeth.org](http://www.campemeth.org) for the most current calendar which includes our special Friday programming days, field trips, late nights, and more.

### **Shabbat**

At Camp Emeth, we strive to make Fridays special to prepare for Shabbat. Every Friday, the entire camp participates in special all-camp programming. This includes a camp t'filah service led by our music specialist and a story from a clergy member, as well as Israeli Dancing, special programming, an all-camp song session, and Shabbat blessings over challah.

Please be sure to send your camper in their Camp Emeth tie-dye shirt every Friday.

### **Swimming**

Campers swim Monday through Thursday each week at Forest Lake Tennis Club's outdoor pool (Vatikim campers swim on Mondays and Wednesdays only). On Mondays, campers will be swim tested if they would like to utilize the deep end of the pool and wrist-banded accordingly, followed by free swim. Tuesdays and Thursdays campers (excluding Vatikim) will receive swim lessons, and Wednesdays will be free-swim days. Bus transportation to and from the pool is provided and takes place in three "shifts" each morning. We do not swim on Fridays.

Please send your campers in their swimsuits under their clothes Monday through Thursday, with sunscreen applied each morning. We will reapply sunscreen after our return to camp. If our Friday programs require campers to come in their swimsuits, we will send out multiple reminders that week.

The Chesterfield Family YMCA provides certified lifeguards and trained swim instructors

for our swim program. Camp Emeth staff are also present in the pool and on the pool deck to support campers in their swim lessons and ensure safe and appropriate camp behavior on free swim days. Campers are placed in appropriate groups for swim lessons based on age and skills assessment by swim instructors using the National YMCA Aquatic Swim Program guidelines. The program is designed to teach personal water safety, stroke development, water sports and games, rescue and personal growth skills to children. If you request that your child wear a life jacket on free swim days, you may do so by reaching out to Camp Director Laura Horton. No campers will wear life jackets on swim lesson days. You can also reach out to Laura if you're curious about your child's progress in swim lessons and she can provide an update.

## **Israel**

Camp Emeth is proud to feature Israel as an area of camp programming and to deepen our community's ties to Israel through fun and engaging programming. We are thrilled that our Israeli shinshin Naomi Sharon will be able to spend the summer with us here at Camp Emeth! She has called St. Louis her home away from home since the beginning of the 2025-26 school year and has worked to create meaningful programs and activities for Shaare Emeth youth during religious school, preschool, and elsewhere. She will see many familiar faces at Camp Emeth and will welcome many new friends as well!

Our shinshin helps lead flagpole every morning and teaches a Hebrew word of the day. In addition to these formal roles, the most important part of the shinshin's job is providing an opportunity for our campers to personalize their experience by forming a relationship with someone who lives in Israel. We think this will ultimately help campers develop a connection to Israel that is their own and understand the significance of Israel to each of them and the Jewish people.

## **Sports**

Campers participate in our sports & games several times per week with our Sports Specialist. Activities are age-appropriate and engage our campers in non-traditional ways. The goals are to keep them active, develop good sportsmanship, and find unique ways to play traditional games. Sports activities take place outdoors each morning, and move indoors during excessive heat or inclement weather.

## **Art**

Campers can get crafty and tap into their inner artist several times per week at Camp Emeth. Our Art Specialist plans and oversees a summer full of fun activities to engage campers and build their confidence through creativity.

## **Shiur**

Shiur, translated as “Jewish lesson”, is where our weekly camp theme is explored. Through exciting programming, our Shiur Specialist integrates lessons of the Torah and Jewish teachings to engage campers to think about themselves in the context of Judaism and our theme. Past themes have included Adam Yachid (uniqueness of every human being), Kehillah Kedosha (holy community), Making Mensches, and Ometz Lev (strength of heart).

## **Music**

Music is an integral part of the camp day, thanks to our talented and engaging camp songleader, Zoey Waldman-Shein. Our camp day begins and ends with song. Campers enjoy song sessions in smaller groups throughout the week and as an entire community on Fridays to celebrate Shabbat. Song sessions mix old and new favorites, combining both Jewish and secular music.

## **Chuggim**

“Chug” (pronounced “hoog”) is the Hebrew word for “elective” (chuggim is plural). Each week, campers in Grades 1-8 spend part of their afternoon Monday through Thursday in their chosen activity. Each summer we offer a combination of returning favorites and new chug offerings to engage our campers and personalize their camp experience. Chuggim activities change each week and may include activities related to sports, performing arts, crafts, STEM, any many more!

## **Late Nights**

Enjoy a night out while your campers have fun at camp after hours! Campers have the opportunity to stay until dinner or later (depending on grade) to enjoy some fun evening camp activities! All food and activities are provided. Camp Emeth Late Nights for summer 2026 will take place:

Wednesday, July 1 (during Week 4)

Wednesday, Aug 5 (during Week 9)

Grades K-1 stay until 7:00 PM; Grades 2-8 stay until 9:00 PM

## **Camp Shabbat**

Save the date! On Friday, July 10, 2026, we will celebrate Yom Israel with an extended camp day followed by a lively camp-themed Shabbat service in the evening. Once you pick up your camper, we hope you join us for the festivities! Here are the important details for the day:

5:00 PM camper pick-up begins (regular carpool location)

5:15 PM extended kid-friendly nosh held in the Simcha Center

6:00 PM Camp-themed Shabbat services held in the Stiffman Sanctuary

## **GOOD TO KNOW**

### **Clothing and Sunscreen**

Our camp program is active and very "hands-on," so please dress your children accordingly. Campers should wear play clothes to camp so they will be comfortable and not be concerned about getting dirty.

We strongly recommend that children wear shoes with closed toes and closed heels. This helps prevent many accidents and avoidable injuries to our camper's feet.

Every day with the exception of Friday, your child will come to camp wearing a swimsuit under their clothes. Please make sure you put sunscreen on your child before they come to camp in the morning. We will reapply or help them reapply sunscreen after swimming. They will also need to bring a towel, undergarments, and shoes. Flip flops may be worn at the pool and on the way to and from the pool, but all other activities require close-toed, close-heeled shoes.

For campers in grades K-1, please send a spare change of clothes (t-shirt, shorts, socks, underwear) in a large Ziploc bag marked with your child's name to keep at camp.

Every Friday, please send your child to camp in their Camp Emeth T-Shirt.

**Please mark all your child's belongings with their name - clothing, lunchbox, water bottle, towel, tote bags, etc.**

### **Lost and Found**

We are aware that children lose things. As mentioned, please mark ALL belongings with camper's full name, NOT initials. Lost items that are labeled will be returned to campers. Unlabeled items will go into our lost & found basket located at the camp pavilion. You are welcome to contact us to look through the basket. Two weeks after the end of camp, unclaimed articles will be donated or thrown away.

## **PRE- and POST-CARE**

### **Pre-Care Drop-off Procedures**

Pre-Care begins at 7:30 AM each morning. Your camper must be pre-registered for each week. Pre-care takes place in the Kehillah Center. Please pull up to the North Lobby doors and walk your child inside the building until a member of camp staff can

walk them the rest of the way. Pre-care ends at 8:40, at which time campers are walked down to carpool. If you cannot drop off your child before 8:40, please join the regular carpool line to drop them off.

### **Post-Care Drop-off Procedures**

Post-Care takes place until 6:00 PM each afternoon. Your camper must be pre-registered for each week. Post-care takes place in the Kehillah Center. Campers are given a snack towards the beginning of post-care and will be offered a variety of activities to do during their time at post-care to help them wind down from their full day of camp, including kid-friendly movies. To pick up your camper from post-care, please pull up to the North Lobby doors and ring the bell to enter the building - the Kehillah Center will be to your left, through the double wooden doors. Adults picking up campers must have their pick-up sign (or show their ID to match adults listed on camper sheet). Please pick up your camper(s) by 6:00 PM at the latest. If a pattern of picking up past 6:00 PM emerges, we reserve the right to remove your camper from post-care for the following week.

## What to Bring/What Not to Bring to Camp

### Bring to Camp Each Day:

- Swimsuit (come to camp wearing it under clothes Mon-Thurs)
- Towel Mon-Thurs
- Swim sandals Mon-Thurs
- Swim goggles Mon-Thurs (optional)
- Sunscreen to leave at camp (please send camper with sunscreen applied daily)
- Water bottle
- Lunch (if not signed up for catered lunches) - these will be stored indoors but not refrigerated
- Backpack/tote bag with clothes for after pool (including undergarments and shoes)
- Any medications needed in original bottles with dosing instructions
- Fridays Only: Wear your camper tie-dye shirt
- Grades K-1 Only: Extra set of clothes to leave at camp (in labeled Ziploc bag)
- **All items labeled with camper's name please!**

### What NOT to Bring to Camp:

- Electronics, cash, purses, or other valuables
- Weapons of any kind
- Toys or trading cards

### A Note about Cell Phones and Smart Watches

The decision to send your camper with or without a cell phone and/or smartwatch is up to each family. Please be aware of a few guidelines in making your decision:

- Cell phones and electronics brought to camp (including smartwatches) are to be put away in backpacks and not used during camp hours.
- Please do not plan to communicate with your child via cell phone or smartwatch during camp hours. Any changes to pick-up should go through the camp office.
- Camp Emeth is not responsible for any cell phones or electronics campers choose to bring to camp.