



ESTABLISHED 2011

2026

Parent Handbook

Celebrating 15 years

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Letter from the Directors

Dear Parents,

It is our great pleasure to welcome you and your children to the CKids Gan Israel Poconos family! Our camp was established with a vision to offer every Jewish child, regardless of background or affiliation, a place to experience the traditional values and soul of Judaism in a joyful, fun, and inspired community.

Over the past 14 years, we have seen more than 1000 children benefit immensely from the immersive overnight camp experience and we are thrilled to have the opportunity to create an equally enriching and unforgettable experience for your children as well.

Our summer camp program is designed to provide a safe, supportive, and exciting environment for your children to learn, grow, and have fun. Our dedicated staff members are committed to ensuring that each child has a positive and engaging experience and that they leave with memories that will last a lifetime.

In this parent handbook, you will find important information about our program, including our policies and procedures, daily schedule, and contact information for our staff. We encourage you to review this handbook carefully and reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for choosing CKids Gan Israel Poconos for your children. We are excited to embark on this adventure with you and your family, and we look forward to creating lifelong memories with your children this summer.

Sincerely,

Gershon & Devorah Sandler
Founders and Executive Directors

Helpful Contacts and Numbers

Gershon & Devorah Sandler
Founders & Executive Directors
Gsandler@cgipoconos.org

Mrs. Moussia Kremer
Registrar
office@cgipoconos.org

Rabbi Moshe Browd
Director of Growth & Operations
Moshe@cgipoconos.org

Camp Office Phone Number:
845.425.0903

Required Forms

To ensure that your daughter can attend camp, the following forms must be completed online by **May 1, 2026**. Forms can be accessed via the Companion app or your CampMinder CampInTouch account.

1) Health History (online)

See more info regarding health care in camp on page 16.

2) Physician's Exam (pdf to print, complete, and then upload online)

3) Immunization (pdf to print, complete, and then upload online)

4) Medical Insurance Card (pdf to print, complete, and then upload online)

5) Camper Profile (online)

6) Cell Phone Policy and Agreement (Online)

See more info regarding our cell phone policy on page 13.

7) Transportation (online)

See more info regarding transportation on page 20.

8) Bunk Request (online)

See more info regarding bunk requests on page 26.

9) Lice Check (online) - to be submitted within two weeks before the start of camp.

See more info regarding our lice policy on page 19.

Companion App

For the past few seasons, we have been using an amazing app called Companion to help bring parents closer to their child's experience.

The best things about it? It helps with all of your pre-camp preparations, and you get fun updates and photos of your camper right on your phone. Companion makes you feel closer to your camper's experience than ever before.

Companion can be downloaded via Google Play Store and Apple App Store.

The Companion app can be used to:

- Fill out and submit forms
- View photos, and receive a push notification when your camper is spotted, via face recognition.
- Easily send emails to your camper
- Receive updates and messages from CGI Poconos during camp, and year round.

We look forward to once again sharing the experience of camp in a new, modern way this summer!

About CKids Gan Israel Poconos

CKids Gan Israel Poconos, known as CGI Poconos, is a premier overnight camp dedicated to providing Jewish children with an exceptional summer experience. As an ACA accredited camp, we uphold the highest standards of safety, program quality and staff training. For the past 14 years, we have welcomed campers from over 26 states and 8 countries, creating a vibrant and diverse community united by the excitement of camp and the warmth of Jewish life. Our immersive overnight setting allows campers an unforgettable summer filled with fun, friendship, and personal growth in a supportive and welcoming environment.

Our mission is to share the joy and relevance of Judaism with every Jewish child, regardless of background or affiliation. We believe that overnight camp is the most powerful way to achieve this—offering an immersive environment where

campers engage with their heritage in a natural, hands-on, and exciting way. Through inspiring role models, engaging activities, and meaningful experiences, campers develop a strong connection to their Jewish identity that stays with them long after the summer ends.

About The Facility

Nestled in the heart of the picturesque Pocono Mountains, CGI Poconos offers a one-of-a-kind camping experience on an expansive 85-acre property just minutes away from the Delaware Water Gap Recreation Area. Surrounded by lush woodlands, our facility offers an idyllic setting that allows young people to fully immerse themselves in the beauty of nature and explore the great outdoors.

At CGI Poconos, we take pride in offering our campers a wide range of top-notch facilities and amenities to ensure that their stay is both comfortable and enjoyable. Our camp boasts a stunning lake perfect for boating. Our sparkling pool offers a refreshing dip and is perfect for swimming lessons or just cooling off on a hot summer day.

We also have ample sports facilities, including soccer fields, basketball and tennis courts, and volleyball courts to keep campers active and engaged. Our sports programs are designed to encourage campers to develop their skills and foster a love for physical activity. Additionally, our arts and crafts program provides a creative outlet for campers to explore and express their artistic side.

Additionally, our camp features a beautiful 4000 square-foot gym, a thrilling ropes course, a challenging climbing wall, and lovely paths and camping areas nestled deep in the woods, providing an unparalleled outdoor experience for our campers.

The cabins and buildings at CGI Poconos are thoughtfully designed to blend seamlessly with the natural surroundings, offering campers a comfortable and inviting retreat. Our camper cabins are spacious, well-appointed, and meticulously maintained to ensure that campers enjoy a restful night's sleep after a day of outdoor adventures. Each cabin features a cozy covered front porch, an open area with comfortable wooden bunk beds along the walls, and shelves next

to each bed to store personal belongings. For added comfort, each cabin also includes air conditioning.

In addition, each cabin has its own private bathroom located at the back, which includes two sinks, two toilets, and two showers - each with a private changing area. These well-equipped facilities ensure that campers can maintain good hygiene and privacy throughout their stay at CGI Poconos.

What to Expect at Camp

This handbook will teach you what to know and expect regarding communication, health, wellness, and other important areas of camp life. In this section, we focus on the expected outcomes that your child will experience during their time at CGI Poconos. These outcomes are designed to support the growth and development of each camper, ensuring they leave with valuable life skills, lasting memories, and a deeper connection to their Jewish identity.

Personal Growth and Independence:

Camp offers a unique opportunity for children to gain independence as they navigate daily routines away from home. Each camper will participate in activities that encourage them to set personal goals, such as trying new challenges, learning new skills, and participating in group discussions. Staff will provide guidance and encouragement to help campers embrace these opportunities.

Building Lasting Friendships:

At CGI Poconos, campers will forge meaningful connections with peers from diverse backgrounds. They will engage in team-building exercises and cooperative games, helping them develop communication skills and form lasting friendships. Every camper will participate in icebreaker activities during the first few days, setting the tone for the summer.

Emotional Resilience and Self-Esteem:

We prioritize the emotional well-being of our campers by encouraging resilience and a positive self-image. Each camper will participate in activities designed to boost self-esteem, including group challenges and collaborative projects, allowing them to discover their strengths. Staff members will provide positive reinforcement and constructive feedback throughout the camp experience.

Connection to Nature:

Campers will develop awareness of the natural environment and learn about environmental stewardship. Each camper will engage in hands-on nature sessions emphasizing appreciation and responsibility for their surroundings. The nature activity will promote environmental education. Campers and staff will practice responsible behaviors that minimize environmental impacts, ensuring a deep-rooted stewardship philosophy throughout their camp experience.

Skill Development and Exploration:

Campers will engage in various fun and exciting activities that promote skill development, from sports and arts to leadership and teamwork. Each child will have the chance to learn at least one new skill while at camp, creating a spirit of learning and creativity.

The Divisions At Camp

In addition to these goals, each division has its unique focus to cater to the specific needs of its age group. Below, we outline the distinct areas of emphasis for each division, highlighting how these tailored experiences enhance the overall mission of CGI Poconos.

Junior Division

The Junior division is designed for our youngest campers, ages 8-11. This division offers various activities, trips, and programs that combine fun with Jewish values and traditions. This division focuses on gaining independence and learning new skills, as many Junior Campers will experience being away from home for the first time. They will develop self-confidence while exploring new activities, making new friends, and learning to navigate the camp experience on their own. They can attend either one or two sessions, allowing them to experience camp at their own pace while developing a sense of self and confidence in a supportive environment.

Bat Mitzvah Experience (B-Me)

The Bat Mitzvah Experience (B-Me) division is specially designed for girls who are 11 years old. This program combines the fun of traditional overnight camp with special activities and trips that help deepen their understanding of entering adulthood. This division focuses on building confidence and nurturing a passion for this new stage in life. Our B-Me campers celebrate this significant milestone and gain new perspectives on themselves and their place in the world.

Pioneers Division

Building on the B-Me Experience, the Pioneers division for girls ages 12-13 offers a unique camping experience tailored to tweens. In addition to classic camp activities, this division focuses on pioneering new things and discovering the beauty of nature through exciting activities and special overnight camping experiences.

Teen Experience

For our teen campers, CGI Poconos offers the Teen Experience, designed for girls in 8th grade. This division focuses on developing leadership skills and setting a positive example for younger campers with more advanced programming and higher-level activities. Through leadership training, teens will engage in in-depth instruction across various activity areas while enhancing their life skills.

Teen Travel Program

Designed exclusively for our high school students, the Teen Travel Program culminates the camp experience and prepares campers for the new adventures of teen life. This unique program blends the classic residential overnight camp experience with the excitement of travel.

Throughout the three-week session, campers are based at CGI Poconos, embarking on multiple 2–3 day trips that include exciting destinations, inspiring Shabbatons, and one-of-a-kind experiences across the region. Between trips, they'll enjoy time at camp, leading activities, building friendships, and reflecting on their journeys in an atmosphere of Jewish pride and connection.

CGI Poconos provides a fun, safe, and welcoming environment where girls can learn, grow, and thrive in each division. With our unique blend of adventure and Jewish values, we offer a summer camp experience like no other.

Eligibility

The programs and trips offered within each division are carefully designed to provide age-appropriate and skill-based experiences, ensuring that every camper can fully participate and benefit from the opportunities available. All campers are eligible to attend and take part in their division's unique programs and trips, with the type and length of trips varying based on the division to best suit the campers' abilities and developmental levels.

Additionally, all accepted campers are eligible to participate in general camp activities, which are structured to accommodate different skill levels and interests. Whether engaging in division-specific programs or enjoying camp-wide activities, every camper at CGI Poconos has the opportunity to grow, explore, and make lasting memories in a supportive and inclusive environment.

Communication

Communicating with us prior to camp

We understand that sending your child away to camp can be a big step, and we want to assure you that we are here to support you every step of the way. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Moussia, our camp's registrar, with any questions or concerns you may have before camp. She can be reached via phone or email and will either assist you directly or direct you to the right person.

845.425.0903 Ext. 2

office@cgipoconos.org

Communicating with us during Camp

We want you to feel confident that your child is safe and happy at camp, and we encourage you to reach out to us at any time. The camp office is open every day from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Our office staff will take your message and pass it along to the appropriate member of our Leadership Team. We do our best to return parent phone calls as quickly as possible on the day they are received.

You may also send an email to Office@cgipoconos.org If the matter is urgent, please call.

Camp Phone Number: 845.425.0903

Camper Phone Call Policy

At CKids Gan Israel Poconos, we understand that communication between parents and campers is important. However, we also recognize that excessive communication during the camp session can impede the adjustment process and detract from the immersive experience that our campers enjoy. Therefore, we have established a weekly phone call policy that allows campers to stay in touch with their families while still fully participating in camp life.

Campers are allowed to call home once a week, starting approximately one week into camp. We will notify you via email of the day and time to expect the call. These calls are kept brief to help campers maintain focus on their camp activities and allow them to fully engage in the camp experience. We encourage parents to use this opportunity to check in with their children and show their support, but we also ask that parents refrain from discussing any issues that may negatively impact their camper's experience at camp.

Birthday Phone Calls

If your daughter has a birthday during the camp season, please contact the camp office a couple of days before the birthday to arrange a time to speak with your daughter on her birthday.

Sending Letters and Emails

Please write letters and send e-mails to your daughter throughout the session. Receiving mail from home is vital in helping your daughter adjust to camp. You can send emails via the Companion app or via your CampInTouch account. Letters should be sent to the following address:

(Contact Camp for this Info)

The campers as well are encouraged to send letters home during camp. Please send stationary and stamps with your daughter so she can write you letters and hand them to the office to have them mailed out.

The Camp Website: www.CGIPoconos.org

Rules And Policies

Introduction

We know that sending your child away to camp can be a big decision, and we want to assure you that their safety and well-being are our top priorities. In this section, you will find important information about our policies and procedures, which are designed to create a safe, inclusive, and enjoyable environment for all campers. We encourage you to read through this section carefully. Our goal is to work in partnership with you to provide your child with a memorable and positive camp experience.

Treating each other with respect

At CGI Poconos, we are one big family of campers & staff from all over the country and beyond. Each summer, we come together from many different geographic locations, backgrounds, and experiences to share an incredible overnight camp adventure. While we may come from different places, what unites us is our shared experience at CGIP and the values we learn at camp, one of the most important being how we treat one another.

At camp, this means speaking to and about others with care, making sure every camper feels welcome, and appreciating what makes each of us unique. Even if we don't always agree, we treat each other with respect because we know that our words and actions create the kind of camp we all want to be part of. How we act at CGI Poconos doesn't just stay at camp—it helps us bring these values of friendship and respect into our homes, schools, and communities long after the summer ends.

Personal Boundaries

At CGI Poconos, we firmly believe in respecting each individual's personal space. To maintain a safe and harmonious camp environment, we have a strict policy prohibiting anyone from crossing into another person's personal space, whether it be for playful or other reasons. It is crucial that all campers adhere to this rule and show respect towards their peers and the camp staff. Any instances of disrespectful or inappropriate behavior towards others will not be tolerated at any time and will result in immediate consequences, which may include disciplinary action and even expulsion from camp. It is essential that all campers recognize and uphold the importance of personal boundaries and treat everyone with kindness and consideration to ensure a positive and enjoyable camp experience for all.

Camp property

Respecting camp property is crucial for all campers. Any form of defacement, such as graffiti or any other means, not only causes damage but also shows a lack of respect for the camp and its facilities. Campers who engage in such behavior will be held accountable and billed for any damages they cause.

Gratuities (tipping)

At CGI Poconos, we have a strict no-gratuities policy for all our staff. We encourage parents to show their appreciation for our staff in other ways, such as by providing positive feedback, writing thank-you notes, or making a donation to CGI Poconos Scholarship Fund in honor of a special staff member. We strive to create a positive and supportive community at camp, and we believe that this policy helps to promote fairness and equal treatment for all our staff members.

Electronics: CGI Poconos has a “No Electronics Policy”

At CGI Poconos, we strongly believe that camp is a unique environment where children can learn and develop important life skills such as independence, resilience, and the ability to build strong relationships. Therefore, we have a strict policy against bringing cell phones or any other electronic devices to camp.

We understand that parents may want to stay in touch with their children, but we encourage parents to use regular mail, email, or the camp's website to communicate with their campers. Our aim is to provide an immersive and

distraction-free environment that enables campers to experience camp fully and build lasting relationships with their peers.

If a camper brings a cell phone or any other electronic device to camp, it will be held in the camp office until the end of the camp session. Please note that we will not be held responsible for any damage or loss of any electronic device at camp. Additionally, any electronic devices found in a camper's possession during camp will be confiscated and NOT returned for at least 30 days after the summer session is over.

We also prohibit the use of other electronic devices such as laptops, iPads, Nintendo, Gameboys, DVD players, and any other similar items. Please note that CGI POCONOS cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage to these items.

Prohibited Items

To ensure the safety and well-being of all campers, CGI Poconos strictly prohibits the possession and use of certain items at camp, including:

Alcohol and Drugs: The possession, use, or distribution of alcohol, illegal drugs, or controlled substances is strictly forbidden. This includes: Alcohol of any kind, prescription and over-the-counter medication (unless registered with camp medical staff), marijuana and cannabis-derived products, even if legal in the camper's home state, tobacco, nicotine, cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, electronic cigarettes, vaping devices, and vape-related products.

Weapons and Hazardous Items: Campers may not bring any items that pose a safety risk, including: Firearms, knives (including Swiss Army/Girl Scout knives), slingshots, bows, arrows, martial arts weapons (e.g., nunchucks, throwing stars), laser pointers, tasers, and stun guns, dart guns, water guns, lighters or matches

Sports Equipment: Campers should not bring personal sports equipment unless pre-approved by camp staff. Dangerous sports equipment, such as archery bows, bats, hockey sticks, and climbing gear, is not permitted.

Vehicles: Motorized or remote-controlled vehicles are not allowed, including: Cars, motorcycles, mopeds, electric scooters, hoverboards, Segways, remote-controlled (RC) cars, drones, or boats

Animals: No pets or animals are allowed at camp. CGI Poconos cannot accommodate the care, feeding, or special needs of animals in a camp setting.

Campers found in possession of any prohibited items may face disciplinary action, including potential dismissal from camp.

Campers should also not bring any expensive cameras, watches, or jewelry, as CGI Poconos is not responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged personal property.

Food Policy

It is not permissible to send food or drinks to camp. This policy is in place for several important reasons.

Firstly, bringing food or drink into camp can attract rodents and other pests into the bunks, which can pose a health risk to our campers. We work hard to maintain a clean and hygienic environment for our campers, and allowing outside food or drink into the bunks can undermine these efforts.

Secondly, allowing outside food or drink can create feelings of jealousy or exclusion among campers. We strive to create a supportive and inclusive environment at camp, and we want all of our campers to feel equal and valued. By providing all of our campers with the same nutritious and balanced meals and snacks, we help to ensure that everyone is on a level playing field.

Lastly, allowing outside food or drink can interfere with our careful monitoring of allergies and dietary restrictions. We take the safety and well-being of our campers with allergies or dietary restrictions very seriously, and we work closely with parents and campers to ensure that their needs are met. Allowing outside food or drink into camp can make it difficult to track and manage these needs, which can pose a risk to our campers' health.

Any food or drink that is brought to camp, will be held in the office and returned at the end of the session.

We try to have a diversified menu at each meal, and in the case of a camper not liking anything served at a meal, there is always an option of bread and spreads to accommodate them.

We understand that campers may have various food allergies, intolerances, and special dietary needs, and we strive to accommodate them to the best of our ability. If your child requires special food arrangements, we encourage you to contact us and discuss your individual situation with our staff. We want to ensure that every camper can enjoy our meals safely and without worry, so please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Packages

CGI Poconos has a No-Package Policy. Please stick to emails and letters. If your child requires a necessary item, please call our office to make arrangements. Please advise friends and relatives of this policy.

Health Care

At CGI Poconos, the health and safety of our campers is our top priority. We take great care in providing a supportive, safe, and healthy environment where each child can thrive. Our health center is staffed by experienced medical professionals, including a licensed nurse and assistant, who are available 24/7 to address any health concerns that may arise during your child's stay.

We understand that the transition to camp can be a big adjustment for many campers. Changes in routine, food, and the excitement of being away from home can sometimes affect a camper's physical and emotional well-being. This is completely normal, and our team is trained to support campers as they adjust to camp life. Whether it's adapting to new foods, accommodations, or a busy camp schedule, we recognize that it can take time for campers to settle in.

Communication in the Event of Illness

If a camper becomes ill or experiences discomfort, our medical team is prepared to assess and manage their care. We perform regular sick calls twice a day to monitor the health of campers, and our staff is trained to recognize early signs of illness. Should your child require further medical attention, we will promptly notify you and ensure you are kept up to date on their condition.

In the event that a camper needs to be taken out of camp for additional treatment, requires prescribed medication, or has a condition that necessitates staying overnight at the health center, you will be immediately contacted. You will have the opportunity to discuss your child's condition with our medical team, who will provide guidance and answer any questions you may have.

We believe in clear, open communication with parents and guardians to ensure your child receives the best care possible during their time at camp.

Medical Form

The Health Department of the State of Pennsylvania requires that we receive a completed and signed Medical Form for every camper who participates in camp activities. By law, we cannot permit campers to participate in camp activities until we receive the required form.

Please schedule your daughter's checkup in the spring. The medical form, along with the other forms, is due on May 1st. If your daughter's health changes after you submit the form, you must notify our office or submit a new form prior to camp.

It is important that your physician sign the form and provide his address and office phone number in legible form.

Please note: The medical form must be dated within a year from the start date of camp. We will not be able to accept medical forms older than June 24, 2025.

The Department of Health also requires that the dates of all immunizations be entered on the medical form. The statements: "All immunizations are up-to-date" or "This child is in good health" are not acceptable to the Department of Health.

Required immunizations

1. Diphtheria and Tetanus: Campers must be fully immunized against Diphtheria and Tetanus with the basic series of three injections and boosters. Campers should have a booster dose of Tetanus Toxoid every ten years.
2. Poliomyelitis: All campers must have received the complete series of oral polio vaccines (Sabin).
3. Measles: An inoculation of live attenuated measles virus vaccine is required for all children who have not had measles. It is important that this inoculation be given a minimum of two weeks prior to camp so that the protection it provides will be fully active.
4. Typhoid-Parathyroid: This vaccination is optional. Some recommend that children 11 years of age and up receive Typhoid immunization. If already immunized, a yearly booster dose is needed for continued immunity. Check with your physician to find out his/her recommendation.
5. Mumps Vaccine: Mandatory for campers who have not had the mumps.
6. Infectious Hepatitis: If camper is/was exposed to Infectious Hepatitis, gamma globulin should be given promptly after exposure. **CAMP MUST THEN BE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY!**

Medication

It is imperative that you fill out the medical form completely; listing any and all prescription drugs your daughter needs to take during camp. Remember to send an adequate quantity for the entire session(s) she is attending. All prescription medication must be clearly marked with her name and instructions that must include quantity, time of day to be taken, and special instructions such as with or prior to meals.

If your camper requires over-the-counter or non-prescription vitamins or medication, please also note this on the medical form and also enter the quantity, time of day, and special instructions for them. All over-the-counter medication should be clearly marked with your daughter's name and instructions.

Our policy is to keep all medication, with the exception of inhalers, in the health center. Please instruct your daughter to give her medication(s) to the nurse upon arrival. Please inform the Director if your daughter needs to have her inhaler available at all times.

Dental Checkup

We recommend that all campers visit their dentist for a routine check-up and cleaning to ensure their dental health is in top shape for their active days at camp. While there is no mandatory form required, it is important that each camper receives a clean bill of health from their dentist.

For campers undergoing orthodontic treatment, we ask that parents please communicate any special instructions to our staff to ensure proper care is taken during their time at camp. Our trained staff will work with each camper to make sure they are comfortable and cared for during their stay at camp.

Communicable Diseases

In order to maintain a healthy environment at camp, it is important for all campers to be checked for communicable diseases before their arrival. We kindly ask parents to check their daughters for the presence of head lice during the two weeks prior to departure and again immediately before camp begins. Upon arrival in camp, our experienced nurse will conduct a thorough check of each camper for lice to ensure that our bunk areas remain lice-free. In the event that lice are found, parents have the option to take their child home for treatment or the nurse can provide treatment for a charge of \$200.

Before camp, parents will be required to submit a "Lice Check Form", confirming that their daughter was checked and is free of lice, and acknowledging to pay the fee in case lice is found and needs to be treated at the start of camp.

Additionally, we ask parents to check for and treat any ingrown toenails and/or plantar warts prior to camp to prevent the spread of infection. Please notify the camp immediately if your daughter has been exposed to any communicable disease within the three-week period prior to their camp departure day. By working together, we can ensure the health and safety of all campers at CGI Poconos.

Ticks, Mosquitos, and Poison Ivy Control

At CGI Poconos, we take the health and safety of our campers seriously. That's why, since 2022, we have partnered with Ivy Oaks Analytics, a leading public health company based in Pennsylvania, to control ticks, mosquitoes, and poison ivy at our summer camp. Ivy Oaks has a proven track record, having worked with over 125 top summer camps.

While we've never experienced issues with ticks, mosquitoes, or poison ivy at CGI Poconos, we feel a strong obligation to our camp community to do everything in our power to reduce the risks associated with these potential hazards. That's why we're proud to implement Ivy Oaks' process, which includes ongoing tick population measurements, landscape modification, natural control methods, and more.

We're confident in the effectiveness of this program, which is why we're one of the few camps nationally to have earned an advanced public health standards certification. Ivy Oaks will be treating our campgrounds before this summer to ensure the safety and well-being of our campers.

If you'd like to learn more about this program, we encourage you to visit www.ivyoaksanalytics.com.

Important information

Transportation

Ensuring the safety and well-being of our campers during transportation is a top priority at CGI Poconos. Whether arriving by car, bus, or plane, all travel procedures are designed to create a smooth, safe, and organized transition to and from camp. Clear communication between parents and the camp office is essential to ensure that all travel arrangements are properly coordinated and any last-minute changes are accommodated efficiently.

The transportation form must be completed by a parent or legal guardian. Campers will only be released at the end of camp, or at any time during camp in the event of a camper pickup, to the legal parent or guardian unless prior arrangements have been made and approved by the camp.

In the event of a late pickup or travel delay, the camp will work closely with the parent/guardian to develop a secondary plan to ensure the camper is safely supervised until they are picked up.

Please be sure to update your transportation form, informing us how your daughter will travel to and from camp.

Transportation to Camp

Campers Arriving By Car

Parents driving their daughter(s) to camp should plan to arrive at 5:00 pm to allow all campers to begin their camp experience together. Upon arrival, please follow all posted signs and staff instructions for a smooth drop-off process. All vehicles must enter through the designated entrance gate and park only in the camp's designated parking lot. Parents must check in at the camp office, where we will confirm their arrival and assume responsibility for their daughter's care.

To help campers transition smoothly, parents may take a brief tour of the camp, but we kindly ask that visits do not exceed 30 minutes. Those interested in a more extensive visit are welcome to do so when picking up their daughter at the end of the session.

Camp Address: (Contact Camp For this Info)

Shuttle bus from EWR

For campers from the Tri-State area, a shuttle service from Newark Airport (EWR) to camp is available. Parents who have opted for this service will receive detailed drop-off locations and times via email. The shuttle is supervised by camp staff who enforce safety rules and ensure a comfortable journey. A \$75 fee applies for this service.

Campers Flying To EWR (Newark Liberty International Airport)

All campers flying into camp must arrive at **Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR)**, where they will be met by camp personnel. It is essential to submit flight details to the camp office by **May 1st**. Camp staff will ensure a safe pickup process and will communicate with parents upon their daughter's arrival.

- Campers should carry a photo ID and only minimal carry-on luggage.
- Parents should confirm current airline baggage and travel requirements in advance.

- Parents will receive the name and contact information of the staff member meeting their daughter at EWR to facilitate a smooth transition.
- Flight Arrivals: Schedule flights to land at EWR between 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. If a flight within this timeframe is unavailable, please contact the camp office for assistance in finding an alternative option.

FLL group flight to EWR

For campers flying from South Florida, CGI Poconos organizes a group flight with a chaperone. Parents selecting this option on the transportation form will receive further details.

Outbound From Camp

Campers Leaving By Car

Parents picking up their daughters should arrive at camp between 11:00 am and 12:00 pm on departure day. Vehicles must enter through the designated entrance and park in the camp's designated lot. Parents must sign out at the camp office before assuming responsibility for their daughter and ensure all luggage is collected from the designated area. Any alternate pickup times must be arranged with the camp office in advance.

Shuttle bus to EWR

A shuttle service is available for campers traveling back to the Tri-State area, departing from camp to Newark Airport (EWR). Parents who have opted for this service will receive pickup location details via email. A \$75 fee applies for this service.

Campers Flying Out Of EWR (Newark Liberty International Airport)

Flights departing from EWR must be scheduled between 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. If a flight is unavailable within this timeframe, parents must contact the camp office to coordinate an alternative travel plan.

FLL Group Flight from Camp

If you have selected the group flight on your transportation form, we will contact you with more information.

Communication on Travel Days

The camp office maintains constant communication with parents on travel days to ensure smooth coordination. If any travel plans change within 24 hours of arrival or departure, parents must notify the camp immediately by:

Email: Office@CGIPoconos.org

Phone: 845-425-0903

Laundry

Our laundry service is provided by a trusted and reliable third-party company, who will do laundry once a week for a total of two times during the summer. This ensures that our campers have clean clothes to wear throughout their stay at camp.

Each camper will be provided with a laundry bag with a unique identifying number. This helps to ensure that each camper's laundry is properly sorted and returned to them. We ask that parents label all of their children's clothing with their names to help ensure that all clothing is returned to the correct camper.

Our laundry service includes washing and drying all clothing items, including socks, underwear, T-shirts, and shorts.

Please note that our laundry service is intended to provide convenience for our campers and their families. However, we are not responsible for any lost or damaged items. We recommend that parents do not send any items of high value or sentimental value with their child to camp.

Canteen & Spending Money

Parents generally deposit between \$50 and \$100 in advance into their daughter's account for canteen and spending money. Money is deposited via your CampInTouch account under "View Canteen".

Every day, the campers have an opportunity to buy from the canteen. The canteen sells snacks, drinks, ice cream, ices and more. Before big trips, campers may withdraw money from their account to spend during the trip.

If at any point during camp your daughter's account runs out of funds, we will inform you in case you would like to make another deposit. You can also always check your daughter's balance under "View Canteen" in your CampInTouch account.

CGI Poconos is not responsible for any money kept by a camper in their cabin.

Birthday Celebrations

At CGI Poconos, we cherish the opportunity to celebrate our campers' birthdays amidst the joys of camp life. If your daughter's birthday falls during her session with us, rest assured that we'll make a beautiful celebration in her honor.

Additionally, if you wish to send a birthday package (excluding food and drinks), kindly label it as "BIRTHDAY GIFT" and email the camp office with the birthday date. This way, we can arrange for its delivery on her actual birthday, adding an extra touch of delight to her special day.

Photos And Videos

We believe that parents should be able to share in the joy and excitement of their child's camp experience. That's why we make a special effort to keep parents up to date on everything that's happening in camp. Each day, we post a variety of photos and videos on the Companion app and our social media platforms to give parents a glimpse into the fun and exciting activities their child is participating in.

The Companion app and our social media platforms, including Instagram and Facebook, are the perfect way to stay connected with all the latest news and updates from camp. By following us, you'll be able to see photos and videos of your child having fun, making new friends, and participating in a variety of exciting activities.

In addition to keeping parents informed, our social media platforms are also a great way for campers to stay connected with each other after camp is over. By following us on Instagram or Facebook, campers can see photos and videos of their friends having fun and participating in activities. This can help foster a sense of community and belonging among our campers, even when they're not physically together.

So be sure to download the Companion app, and follow us Instagram and Facebook @cgipoconos to stay in the loop on all the latest news and updates from CGI Poconos.

Security

At Camp, the safety and well-being of our campers is our top priority. We have taken extensive measures to ensure that our facilities, staff, and programs meet the highest safety and security standards.

Here are some of the security measures we have in place:

Staff Screening: All staff members undergo a rigorous screening process, including background checks and reference checks, before they are hired. We also require staff to participate in ongoing training and education to ensure they are equipped to handle any situation that may arise.

Physical Security: We have a secure perimeter fence surrounding the camp property, as well as security cameras strategically placed throughout the facility. We also have a 24-hour security team on duty to monitor the premises and ensure the safety of our campers.

Emergency Preparedness: We have established emergency procedures in the event of a natural disaster, medical emergency, or other crisis. Our staff is trained to respond quickly and appropriately to any emergency situation, and we conduct regular emergency drills to ensure that everyone knows what to do in case of an emergency.

Health and Safety: We maintain high standards of health and safety at our camp, including regular cleaning and sanitizing of facilities, providing nutritious meals, and ensuring that campers are properly hydrated and protected from the sun.

We want parents to feel confident and secure in entrusting their children to us. If you have any questions or concerns about camp security, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Bunk Requests

At CGI Poconos, we strive to create a comfortable and enjoyable experience for our campers. To this end, we allow campers to submit up to two bunk requests, which we will do our best to accommodate. It is important to note, however, that we can only place campers together if they were born within the same year (September-August).

Additionally, we understand that there may be campers who prefer not to share a bunk with a particular individual. We encourage campers to let us know if this is the case, and we will make every effort to honor these requests. However, we cannot guarantee that all requests will be accommodated.

Packing List

Going to summer camp can be an exciting and memorable experience for children, but packing for the trip can often be overwhelming for both parents and campers. It's important to make sure that your child has everything they need to have a safe and enjoyable time at camp. This is why we've put together a comprehensive summer camp packing list that will help you ensure that your child is well-prepared for their time away from home.

Clothing:

- 10 tops
- 10 bottoms
- 2 sweatshirts or sweaters
- 2 sweat pants
- 12 sets of underwear
- 2 pairs of pajamas
- 10 pairs of socks
- 2 swimsuits
- 1 bathrobe

Shabbat:

- 2-3 nice dresses or skirts
- 1 pair of dress shoes

Footwear:

- 2 pair of sturdy shoes/sneakers
- 1 pair of shower/beach shoes
- 1 pair of rainboots

Bedding & Linen:

- 2 sets of twin size linen
- 1 pillow
- 1 warm blanket
- 3 bath towels
- 2 Washcloths
- 1 laundry bag
- *sleeping bag

Toiletries:

- 1 shower caddy
- shampoo
- conditioner
- body wash
- toothbrush with holder/cover
- toothpaste
- hair brush/comb
- nail clipper
- hygiene products

Miscellaneous (*optional items):

- Backpack
- goggles
- sunscreen
- baseball cap/sun hat
- extra name tapes, laundry marking pen,
- flashlight
- paper, envelopes, & stamps
- canteen / reusable water bottle
- * hangers
- *extra eyeglasses
- *siddur
- *books
- *musical instruments (non-electric)

Frequently Asked Questions

Financial assistance

Q. Do you offer financial assistance to families?

A. Yes! It is our mission that no child be turned away due to their family's inability to afford tuition. To that effect, CGIP offers 4-tier pricing, which provides families the opportunity to pay what they can afford. Tier 1 is our full price, tiers 2 & 3 are discounted rates, and tier 4 is a CGIP Scholarship. Our online scholarship application is short and easy to fill out. For the Summer 2025 season, we were able to provide over \$255,000 from our scholarship fund.

In addition, CGIP prides itself on helping families find 3rd Party funding from local federations and foundations. For the 2025 summer season, we were able to secure over \$85,000 from 3rd party grants and scholarships. See details below.

Q. Are you affiliated with the Foundation For Jewish Camp (One Happy Camper/PJ Goes to Camp)?

A. Yes! If your local federation is participating in the OHC program and the child is eligible, they will receive a grant of \$700-\$1,000. If the family's federation is NOT participating but they participate in PJ Library and the child is eligible they will receive a grant.

Q. Are there other 3rd party funding opportunities besides the OHC grant?

A. Yes! Many federations and similar local Jewish organizations provide scholarships for children to attend Jewish overnight camp, even if it is not their first time attending. We work closely with families to identify and apply for these scholarships.

IMPORTANT: Most of these organizations have application deadlines with the earliest starting in January.

Health

Q. Is there a nurse in camp?

A. Yes. Camp has a health center staffed with an experienced nurse available to tend to our camper's needs. In addition to making certain your child receives their necessary medicines, our health staff is responsive to day-to-day needs during sick calls, as well as during times of emergencies.

Facility

Q. What are the cabins like at camp?

A. The camper cabins at CGI Poconos are nicely appointed and well-maintained. Each cabin features a covered front porch, an open area with wooden bunk beds around the periphery of the interior, shelves next to each bed, and A/C. Each cabin has a bathroom in the back, containing 2 sinks, 2 toilets, and 2 showers, each with a private changing area.

Q. How many campers and staff are in a cabin?

A. The vast majority of our cabins have 10 to 12 campers and 2 counselors. The counselors live in the cabins with the campers.

Food

Q. How is the food at CGI Poconos?

A. The food at CGI Poconos is excellent. In addition to our entrees, there is always a wide variety of choices, such as salad, fruit, and pasta bars. Our experienced chef makes delicious meals for campers and staff to enjoy, including gourmet Shabbat meals. We also serve snacks during the day, which include fresh fruit, cookies, and juice.

Q. Can you accommodate food allergies and special diets?

A. The most important job we do at Camp is to safeguard your child's health and safety. We strive to accommodate campers with a variety of food allergies, intolerances, and special food needs. If your child has special food needs, please contact us to discuss your individual situation.

Staff

Q. Who makes up the staff at CGI Poconos?

A. CGI Poconos is directed by veterans in overnight camping for over 15 years. We hire highly motivated counselors, specialists and general staff who come to us with spirit and a strong commitment to the children, and love for camp. All staff are interviewed extensively and are required to attend an intensive staff orientation that takes place before camp.

Travel

Q. How do the children get to camp?

A. Campers travel to camp from all parts of the United States and abroad. Many local Tri-state-area families drive their child(ren) to camp at the start and end of each session. Campers flying in all arrive at Newark International Airport (EWR) during a specific window of time, and are greeted by staff members. Once all the campers have arrived they are taken to camp by coach bus. When they arrive at camp, additional staff members (along with an excited group of kids!) are there to greet the bus and to help the campers find their bunks and settle in.

General

Q. What makes CKids Gan Israel in the Poconos unique?

A. CKids Gan Israel in the Poconos offers our campers a top-quality overnight camp experience in a beautiful setting. We present a truly immersive experience infused with Jewish values and minimize social pressures by offering single-gender sessions. Our fun, nurturing environment encourages campers to develop new skills and build meaningful friendships. Participants gain a deeper appreciation of their spiritual heritage – fostering a sense of strong Jewish identity that will impact their lives and inspire others.

Q. What should my child pack when coming to camp?

A. Feel free to use the suggested packing list when packing your child for camp!

Q. How do I communicate with my child while they are at camp?

A. Campers call home weekly during the 3-week session, starting approximately one week into camp. The call schedule will be emailed to you in advance so you

can be available at the correct time. We encourage good, old-fashioned letter writing as the best way to communicate with your camper. Campers love getting regular mail from their family and friends! Campers may also write letters and have them mailed out. In addition, parents may email their children through the Companion app.

Q. What grades does CGI Poconos serve?

A. CGI Poconos has programming for campers entering grades 3rd–10th.

Q. How do I communicate with the camp if I have a question or concern?

A. The camp office is open every day from 9:00 am until 6:00 pm. Our office staff will take your message and pass it along to the appropriate member of our Leadership Team. We do our best to return parent phone calls as quickly as possible on the day they are received. The camp's phone number is:
845.425.0903

Q. Do you allow electronics in camp?

A. CGI Poconos is a “screen-free” environment. Camp is one of the only places throughout the year where children can truly “unplug” and spend their time interacting with others rather than their devices. Please see above for more information.

Q. Can campers request a friend to be in the same bunk?

A. Yes, each camper may request up to two friends who are in the same grade level and attending the same session of camp. We try our best to accommodate the bunk request. Bunk requests can be submitted through the Companion app. All requests must be made by completing that online form.

Q. How do you celebrate my daughter's summer birthday?

A. At CGI Poconos, we cherish the opportunity to celebrate our campers' birthdays amidst the joys of camp life. If your daughter's birthday falls during her session with us, rest assured that we'll make a beautiful celebration in her honor.

Additionally, parents who wish may send a birthday package (excluding food and drinks), and it will be delivered to your daughter on her birthday, adding an extra touch of delight to her special day.

Q. Where is the camp located?

A. CGI Poconos is located in the northeast corner of Pennsylvania, nestled in the beautiful Pocono Mountains. Camp is in Dingmans Ferry, which is approximately 2 hours from New York City.

Q. Does the camp have dress code standards?

A. No. The dress in camp is very casual and camp-appropriate. We send a suggested clothing and equipment list to help you in your packing.

Q. Where do CGI Poconos campers come from?

A. Over the past 14 years, we have been proud to welcome campers from over 26 states and 9 countries since most of our campers hear about CGI Poconos through local Chabad centers and friendships with current camp families.

Q. Can I speak to references about the camp?

A. Yes! Please contact us, and we will connect you with current camp families in your area.

