



Campers' & Parents' INFORMATION HANDBOOK

Fourth Season
5771 – 2011

CAMP KOCHAVIM

150 Nashopa Road, Bloomingburg, NY 12721

City Address: P.O. Box 551, Brooklyn, NY 11210
888-KOCHAVIM 718-338-8657 FAX

BS"D

Dear Parents and Campers, AMUSH

We are SO happy and excited that you will be joining us for our third season this summer, IY"H. We are looking forward to another spectacular, fun filled and unforgettable camp experience, and we have the Star Studded Staff to make it happen, B'Ezras Hashem! In case you do not know all of our Head Staff yet, we have listed them here for you:

SENIOR HEAD STAFF

Rabbi Yehoshua Kohl, Rov

Avrumi Portowicz, Director

Yehuda Maryles, Head Counselor

Yisroel Moshe Rosenzweig, Kollel Coordinator

Effie Hoffman, Division Head

Kuti Roberg, Division Head

Avromie Rosenbaum, GTG

HEAD STAFF

Sruli Portowicz, Assistant Director

Sruly Scheff, Administrator

Moshe Leib Miller, Head Lifeguard

Yossi Rubin, Special Activities Coordinator

In this handbook, we will try to provide the answers to all of your questions, and perhaps even to some questions you haven't yet thought of! Read the handbook carefully, and then put it away somewhere safe, as it could be a source of valuable information that you may need during the summer. If there are any concerns that are not addressed in this handbook, please feel free to call our office, and we will be happy to discuss them with you. Maybe those concerns will be included in next year's handbook!

IMPORTANT DATES

Camp begins on Wednesday, June 29, and ends on Monday, August 22

First Trip is Wednesday, June 29 through Tuesday, July 26

Second Trip is Tuesday, July 26 through Monday, August 22

Visiting Days - Sunday, July 10 & Sunday, August 7

TRANSPORTATION & LUGGAGE

Busses will be leaving from the front of Yeshiva Derech HaTorah in Brooklyn, The Young Israel of Lawrence - Cedarhurst, in Cedarhurst, NY as well as from Cong. Bnai Yeshurin in Teaneck, NJ on June 29 and July 26 at 8:30 AM (Brooklyn) 9:15 AM (LI) & 10 AM (NJ) Sharp, and will be returning to those locations on July 26 and August 22 at 1:00 PM (NJ) & 1:45 PM (NY). Be sure to be at the bus stop at least one half hour before the departure time, and that someone is there on time to meet your son when he returns! Please fill out the Bus Transportation Form and return it to our office to reserve a space on the bus. Transportation to the airport for boys going "out of town" must be arranged in advance by calling our office.

If you are bringing your son up to camp, please plan to arrive AFTER 12 noon, (City Time). If you will be picking up your son at the end of the summer/trip, please be at camp between 10:30 and 11:30 AM (City Time).

Luggage Pick-up and Delivery is being handled by an independent company, E-Z Luggage Transport. They will have a truck AT THE BUS STOP, and will accept two pieces of luggage for \$95 prepaid, or \$110 if paid at the bus stop. This price includes bringing the luggage back to the bus stop on the way home. To reserve space on the Luggage Truck, go to www.campkochavim.com, and click on the E-Z Luggage link. Camp Kochavim will NOT handle luggage, nor will anyone be allowed to put luggage on or under the bus. The space under the bus is reserved for sodas, water bottles, sports equipment that does not fit into suitcases, etc. All luggage must be sturdy and tagged with the child's FULL name and phone number. No cartons or garbage bags are acceptable as luggage, because they are often mistakenly thrown out with the trash.

FORMS & FEES

All fees must be paid in full and all forms must be received by our office, before any camper or staff member will be allowed in camp. There will not be business office personnel at the bus stop. Do not wait until then to submit your items, as it will not be possible and will cause undue difficulties and embarrassment. "Special arrangements" should be requested from the camp office as far in advance as possible.

VISITING & COMMUNICATING

Please limit your visiting in camp to the Visiting Days listed above. Visitors who arrive unannounced often throw the entire camp schedule off. Certainly the child or staff member you are visiting will have to leave what he is doing, and his friends and teammates will either have to go on without him, or wait for him to return. Game delays could cause meal delays or davening delays which can cause..... you get the picture.

If a parent or visitor can absolutely not make it for visiting day, and would like to SCHEDULE an alternate visit, please call our office, and together we will work out the best date and time for that visit to take place. Please note: Generally speaking, visitors who arrive at camp without pre-scheduling, will not be allowed to visit.

Aside from visiting, we encourage communication between parents and their children in camp. Don't you want to hear how much fun your son is having? Don't you want to be asked to send money a few times a week?

Campers will be able to call home. Younger campers will be scheduled to call home once a week, older campers will be allowed to make phone calls on any day after Maariv or after Night Activity. Please make sure they have calling cards, and know how to use them.

A parent may call camp to speak to our head staff to find out how their son is doing, and even leave a message for their son, but we will not page campers to the phone, except on Erev Shabbat, after regular activities.

All campers will be allowed to call home on Erev Shabbat after regular activities. This may be more difficult than it sounds, as there are limited phones available. We will make every effort to give everybody a fair chance to use the phones.

It's also always fun to get good ol' US Mail. Nothing is as exciting as opening a card or a letter from home. Write as often as you'd like; mail will be distributed daily, during lunch. Remember to put your son's name **and** bunk number on the FRONT of the envelope!

Faxes may also be sent to campers via our office. Please limit faxes to ONE sheet, and be sure to put the camper's name and his bunk number CLEARLY on the top of the page. Do not use cover sheets, as they tend to separate from the letter, which makes it difficult to distribute. Faxes will be distributed every day, with the mail, during lunch.

We are in the process of implementing an email system for campers to use to write and receive emails. Details will be provided as they become available.

Campers may not use cell phones in camp. (see "What Not to Bring to Camp")

LEARNING & TUTORING

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your son's learning during the summer, or if you would like to arrange extra learning, private tutoring, Bar Mitzvah practice, etc, please contact our Learning Director, at LearningDirector@campkochavim.com. Arrangements for private lessons will be made before camp begins or during the first few days of camp.

If you would like to arrange for private sports lessons for your son, please contact our Sports/Program Director, at SportsDirector@campkochavim.com.

If you would like to arrange for private swimming lessons for your son, please contact our Head Lifeguard, Moshe Leib Miller at Moleib@gmail.com or HeadLG@campkochavim.com.

Fees for private tutoring or lessons are NOT included in your camp fees and may be negotiated with the tutor on an individual basis.

LAUNDRY

Laundry will be done six times during the summer, approximately once a week, except during the nine days. Make sure all clothing is clearly marked with your name and phone number. Be sure to use durable ink. If you are using name labels, be sure they are affixed securely.

It is important that your son has enough clothing to last between Laundry Dates. (see "Suggested Clothing List") Please pre-wash new, colored clothing so that they do not "run" in the wash. If your son has a bedwetting problem, include extra sheets, pajamas, etc. (and notify the camp nurse). A mesh bag for socks and Tzitzit is a definite necessity!

DRY CLEANING

A Dry Cleaning Service will pick up on Mondays and return on Thursdays, every week except during the Nine Days. Campers can pay for this service through the canteen. This service is also available for laundering dress-shirts.

MEDICAL CONCERNS

Every camper must have a physical examination before coming to camp. This examination should be made by your personal physician who knows the child best. We reserve the right to limit certain camp activities to ensure the safety and health of your child. Please have the doctor complete the medical form. This form must be submitted to our office **no later than June 15th**, with a parent/guardian signature in the space provided. Do not forget to check off the appropriate response for the meningitis information.

VERY IMPORTANT: State Law does not allow us to have anyone in camp, without a fully filled out and signed Medical Form. As sad as it may be, Camp Kochavim will be forced to send a camper or Junior Staff Member home, if his form is not in camp before he is!

Camp Kochavim maintains an infirmary with a full time Registered Nurse and an EMT in residence. In case of accidents or illness requiring special medical attention, we will make every effort to contact you before bringing your son to a medical facility, if that is possible. If, G-d Forbid, outside medical attention is required, we will use the insurance information that you have provided to pay the medical bill. Please be sure the name and policy number of your insurance company, and a CLEAR copy of your insurance card, (and drug card if applicable) front and back, is on the camper medical form. If the information supplied is not clear and/or not accurate, the camp will not assume any responsibility to pay the medical charges, but will pass the cost on to you. Co-pays must be paid at the time of treatment, or as soon as we reach you. In short, you are responsible for any medical charges incurred by the camp for the treatment of your son.

It is very important that we have UPDATED contact information during your son's stay in camp. If you will not be available at the contact number provided on your application, (i.e. you go on vacation); please make sure to call the camp office with an alternate contact information. Please include the name, phone number and relationship of that contact to your son. If this contact person is NOT a direct family member we will need this information in writing (faxes are OK for this purpose).

If your son needs any medication on a regular basis please have your doctor write a note, detailing the dosage, time and frequency, or our nurse will **not** be allowed to dispense it. Do not send any unlabelled medication, as it will be immediately discarded. All medication, prescription and over the counter, **must** be kept in the infirmary. It is a violation of the Board of Health regulations for campers to have

even over-the-counter medications such as Tylenol, Advil or cough medicines in the bunk.

We encourage parents to contact our Nurse, via e-mail, Nurse@campkochavim.com, before the summer, to discuss any concerns you may have, or to arrange any thing medical.

BIRTHDAY CAKES

If you would like to celebrate your son's birthday while at camp, we offer birthday cakes that can generously serve an entire bunk for \$35. Please call the camp office to place an order.

CANTEEN

Our Canteen will serve Nosh, Snacks and Drinks. It is advisable that you send a check ahead of time for your son's Canteen Account, with enough to cover his "Nosh expenses" as well as any other incidentals that can be paid for through the canteen, i.e. Dry Cleaning, Kochavim Klothes, Gemoras, Haircuts, Trip Spending Money, etc.

Campers have **no need to keep cash** with them in the bunk, other than some change for the soda machines. Cash has a way of "disappearing" from a bunk, and Camp Kochavim cannot and will not be responsible for money missing if left in the bunk. Campers will always have access to their Canteen Accounts before a trip, to get "spending money". Cash may be kept in the office safe if it is in a sealed, labeled envelope.

Please note: The canteen is separate from the camp. Therefore, separate checks for canteen should be made out to Camp Kochavim, with **CANTEEN** clearly listed in the memo portion of the check. We are sorry but Credit Cards may not be used to fund canteen accounts. The canteen will NOT issue credit to any camper or Junior Staff member, under any circumstances. If you want your son's canteen spending to be closely monitored, please advise us in advance.

Please be aware that Camp Kochavim will only serve Cholov Yisrael in the Dining Room or for daily snack. However, the canteen may offer non-Cholov Yisrael products. Again, if you want this to be monitored by your son's counselor, please advise us in advance. Products containing nuts or produced in a facility containing nuts will NOT be served in our Dining Room, but may be sold in our canteen. Please make sure to advise the nurse if there are any allergy concerns.

SUGGESTED CLOTHING/ACCESSORY LIST

12 Pairs of Underwear
15 Pairs of Socks
5 – 6 Pairs of Pants
5 – 6 Pairs of Shorts
3 Pairs of Tzitzit
12 Polo/Tee Shirts
2 Long Sleeve Shirts
2 Dress/Shabbat Shirts
Shabbat Suit
Sweaters/Sweatshirts
Hat, Caps
Rain Coat with Hood
Light Jacket
Heavy Jacket
3 Pairs Bathing Trunks
2 Pairs Light Pajamas
2 Pairs Warm Pajamas
Bathrobe
5 Towels, Wash Cloths
Quilt or Blanket
Pillow
2 Sets of Linen
Shoes, Sneakers
Slippers/ Tisha B'av Shoes
Galoshes, Boots
Tissues

Siddur, Tfillin
Chumash Mishnayos
Gemara (Rosh HaShana)
Yarmulkas
Laundry Bag
Mesh Bag (for Socks)
Deodorant
Soap, Shampoo
Cup, Comb, Brush
Toothbrush, Toothpaste
Safety Pins
Hangers
Flashlight & Batteries
Roller Blades
Fishing Rod
Baseball Glove
Tennis Racket
Hockey Stick & Helmet
Protective Gear for Sports
Inexpensive Camera
Books & Games
Pens & Pencils & Paper
Postcards, Envelopes
Water Canteen
Calling Cards, Stamps

REMEMBER TO PUT NAME TAGS ON EVERYTHING!!!

Send proper protective gear for the extra sports equipment that you are sending.
(i.e. Helmets, knee pads, elbow pads, etc.)

THINGS **NOT** TO BRING TO CAMP

Cell Phones	Laser Lights
Refrigerators	Electric Grills
Electronic Devices that have Video Capability	Books, Tapes or CD's that are not appropriate
Electronic devices that can connect to the Internet	Any item of extreme value that can be "lifted" easily

*If these items are brought to camp, they will be put into "storage" until the end of the summer.
Camp Kochavim cannot assume responsibility for items of value that "go missing" from the bunk house.*

KOCHAVIM KLOTHES

Every camper will receive one free Camp Kochavim Tee Shirt and Cap during the first days of camp. Additional shirts, and other Kochavim Klothes may be ordered using the order form at the end of this handbook. Limited quantities will be available in the Camp Office, so it is best to pre-order using the form. Campers will be required to wear a Kochavim Tee Shirt and cap on all out of camp trips, so it is a good idea to have an extra one or two. (*See Kochavim Klothes Order Form*)

LOST & FOUND

Items found which are clearly marked with a campers name will be returned to their owners. Unidentified items will be displayed periodically during the summer, so that they could be claimed by their owners.

Identifiable Items found after the camp season ends will be sent home by mail. Unidentified items not claimed within 7 days after camp ends, will be considered Hefker (Halachacally ownerless) and disposed of appropriately, (Items in good repair will be donated to Gmachs and Chesed organizations. Items in disrepair will be thrown away.) It truly pays to be diligent about marking or tagging all of your son's clothing and belongings!

TIPPING

Tipping is a common and expected practice in camps. A suggested Tipping Schedule will be available in camp on Visiting Days, or can be forwarded to you at your request. **Actual** amounts of "Tips" is subject to your discretion, but tipping IS a substantial part of counselors' and Rebbes' remuneration.

LEAVING CAMP

Campers and Junior Staff Members are expected to stay for the entire trip unless there is an occasion involving a close relative. Leaving in the middle of a session breaks up the program's continuity, for everyone in that person's division, league, etc. If leaving for a short period of time IS warranted, the parent/guardian must make all arrangements for the camper/junior staff member's leaving and return to camp. We will need to know who will be picking him up (only a **relative over 21** please!), and have a signed authorization in camp **before** the camper/junior staff member leaves. No camper/junior staff member will be permitted to leave or be readmitted after 8:30 PM.

It goes without saying, that any camper, junior staff or senior staff member who leaves the camp grounds without permission, at any time, will be immediately sent home.

BUS TRANSPORTATION FORM

Please fill out this form carefully. Please use a separate form for each camper/staff member

Name print _____

____ Camper

____ Junior Staff

Phone Number _____

____ Senior Staff

I will be traveling to Camp Kochavim on the following bus: (Select One)

Tuesday, June 28th, (Staff Members Only)

_____ from the front of Yeshiva Derech HaTorah in Brooklyn at 8:30 AM

_____ from the Young Israel of Lawrence -Cedarhurst at 9:15 AM

_____ from Cong. Bnai Yeshurin in Teaneck NJ at 10:00 AM

Wednesday June 29th, (Campers and Staff)

_____ from the front of Yeshiva Derech HaTorah in Brooklyn at 8:30 AM

_____ from the Young Israel of Lawrence -Cedarhurst at 9:15 AM

_____ from Cong. Bnai Yeshurin in Teaneck NJ at 10:00 AM

Tuesday July 26th, (Campers and Staff)

_____ from the front of Yeshiva Derech HaTorah in Brooklyn at 8:30 AM

_____ from the Young Israel of Lawrence -Cedarhurst at 9:15 AM

_____ from Cong. Bnai Yeshurin in Teaneck NJ at 10:00 AM

_____ **I will arrange my own transportation to Camp Kochavim**

I'll be returning home from Camp Kochavim on the following bus: (Select One)

Tuesday July 26th, (Campers and Staff)

_____ to Cong. Bnai Yeshurin in Teaneck NJ ETA 1:00 PM

_____ to the Young Israel of Lawrence -Cedarhurst ETA 1:45 PM

_____ to the front of Yeshiva Derech HaTorah in Brooklyn ETA 1:45 PM

Monday August 23rd, (Campers and Staff)

_____ to Cong. Bnai Yeshurin in Teaneck NJ ETA 1:00 PM

_____ to the Young Israel of Lawrence -Cedarhurst ETA 1:45 PM

_____ to the front of Yeshiva Derech HaTorah in Brooklyn ETA 1:45 PM

_____ **I will arrange my own transportation home from Camp Kochavim**

Parent's Signature _____

Staff Member Signature _____

E-Z LUGGAGE TRANSPORT

Reservation Form

Luggage Pick-up and Delivery for Camp Kochavim, Inc. is being handled by E-Z Luggage Transport. They will have a truck AT THE BUS STOP, and will accept two pieces of luggage for **\$95 PREPAID or \$110 if paid at the bus stop**. This is the minimum price even for one suitcase. Additional suitcases or bags/boxes/cases etc are \$25 each. This price includes bringing the luggage back to the bus stop on the way home. Camp Kochavim will NOT handle luggage, nor will anyone be allowed to put luggage on or under the bus, without E-Z Luggage Transport's approval. All luggage must be sturdy and tagged with the child's FULL name and phone number. No cartons or garbage bags are acceptable as luggage, because they are often mistakenly thrown out with the trash.

Please complete this form and return with payment to the Camp Kochavim Office.

Payment may be made in cash or by check to Camp Kochavim.

Please write EZ Luggage in the memo on the front of the check. No credit cards, please.

Camper's Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

How many pieces of Luggage? _____ Which Bus Stop? _____

I have enclosed \$ _____ to cover the cost of the Luggage Transport, to and from Camp Kochavim.

Parent Signature _____

Date _____