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ABOUT MACHANEH (CAMP) GESHER

ABOUT CAMP GESHER

Camp Geshher is one of the seven camps that are part of the Habonim Dror Youth Movement in Canada and the U.S. This worldwide movement, centered in Israel, has affiliates in over 15 countries. The six other camps within the North American movement are: Machaneh Galil (Pennsylvania); Machaneh Miriam (B.C.); Machaneh Moshava (Maryland), Machaneh Tavor (Michigan), Machaneh Gilboa (Los Angeles) and Machaneh Naaleh (New York). Each of the camps in North America follows a similar daily routine and share ideas for programming. Part of the camp fees goes to the movement to fund North American programs such as seminars and leadership training programs.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF HABONIM DROR

The philosophy of Habonim Dror is based on five pillars. The five pillars are Cultural Judaism, Progressive Labour Zionism, Socialism, Actualization and Social Justice. Habonim Dror North America calls upon its members to collectively determine how to fulfill these goals, and as a result, the movement is constantly changing and growing.

CULTURAL JUDAISM • In its programs, Habonim Dror fosters an appreciation for Jewish traditions, culture, the Hebrew language and understanding of Jewish history and religious pluralism. The informal Jewish education that is nurtured at Geshher has lead many to discover a unique Jewish identity and community.

PROGRESSIVE LABOUR ZIONISM • Habonim Dror was started in the 1930's to fulfill the need for a better Jewish life. To this end, Habonim Dror supports the exploration of Aliyah (moving to Israel) and it supports the State of Israel as a place for Jews around the world.

SOCIALISM • In the spirit of the Chalutzim (pioneers) who settled in collective kvutzot (groups) in Israel, Habonim Dror encourages its members to structure its frameworks in a collective fashion, and to contribute to the local community through social justice projects.

SELF & COLLECTIVE ACTUALIZATION • Hagshama (actualization) is a means for individuals and kvutzot (groups) fulfill their ideological goals. Examples of this are Aliyah (moving to Israel), and setting up or participating in social justice projects in local North American communities, international countries and Israel.

SOCIAL JUSTICE • In the daily routine of camp, the concept of Tikun Olam, or repairing the world, is implemented whenever possible. The idea that one has a responsibility to her/his community is often central to many camp activities. Campers have visited old age homes and have worked on projects to make camp more environmentally friendly. Issues pertaining to social equality, such as anti-Semitism, racism, sexism, environmental issues and class distinction are also discussed and analyzed.

HOW TO GET TO GESHER

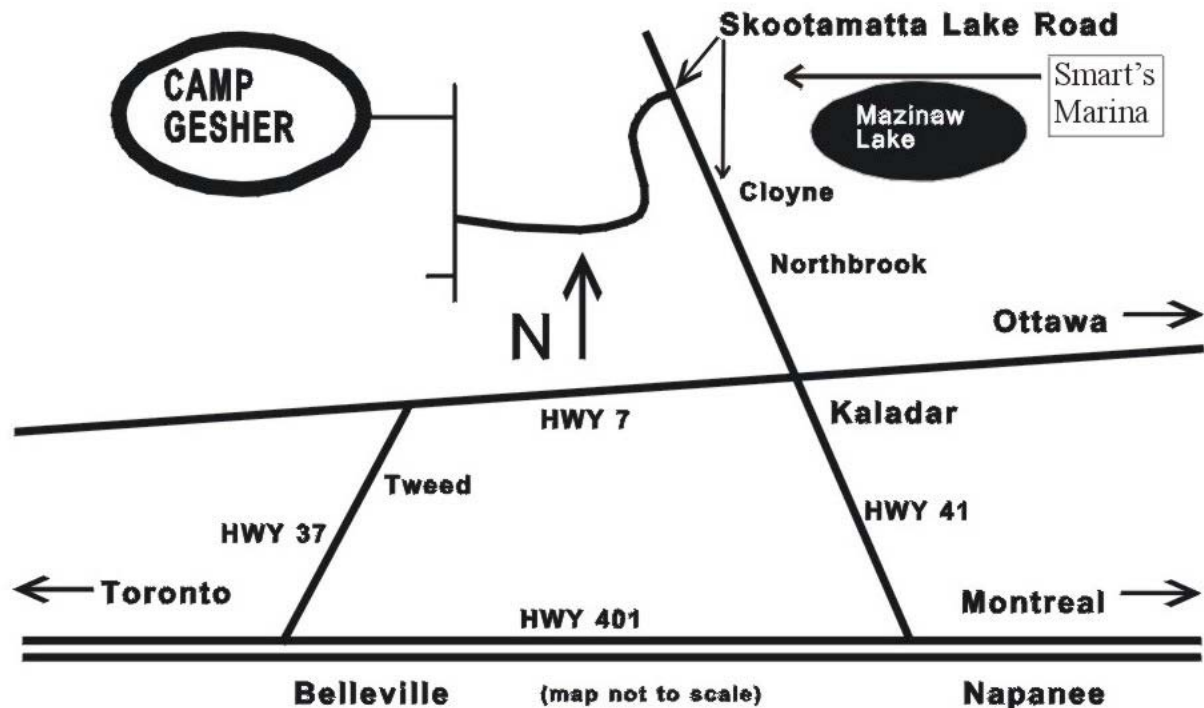
From **Toronto**: Hwy 401 East to Belleville; Hwy 37 North to Hwy 7, then East to Kaladar; (approx. 3 hrs.) Hwy 41 North to Cloyne; pass Cloyne, turn left at **the second** Skootamatta Lake Road sign (after Smart's Marina). Make a right on Addington Rd. #4 (the first street) and follow signs to the camp.

From **Hamilton**: Follow same route as Toronto.
(approx. 4 hrs.)

From **Ottawa**: Hwy 7 West to Kaladar; Hwy 41 North to Cloyne; pass Cloyne, turn left at (approx. 2 hrs.) **the second** Skootamatta Lake Road sign. Make a right on Addington Rd. #4 (the first street) and follow signs to camp.

From **Montreal**: Hwy 20 West; changes to 401 in Ontario; follow 401 to Napanee; Hwy 41 (approx. 3½ hrs.) North through Kaladar, to Cloyne; pass Cloyne, turn left at **the second** Skootamatta Lake Rd. sign. Make a right on Addington Rd. #4 (the first street) and follow signs to camp.

Summer Address: General Delivery, Cloyne, Ontario K0H 1K0 Phone: (613) 336-2583



WHO'S WHO AT MACHANEH GESHER 2010

Our **Rosh Machaneh** (Head Counselor) this summer is **Dana Brookman**. This will be Dana's 15th summer at *Gesher*. She has previously worked as a counselor, arts and crafts specialist, and mitbach (kitchen) specialist. Last summer, she was a counselor on MBI, Habonim Dror's summer Israel program. Dana has participated in Workshop (Habonim Dror's year-long Israel program) and spent a year studying at the University of Haifa as a participant of HaboU, Habonim Dror's study abroad program. Dana has a Bachelor of Education from McGill University, specializing in Jewish Education, and an Early Childhood Education diploma from George Brown College. Dana lives in Toronto and works as a preschool teacher, a Jewish studies teacher and a Hebrew teacher. She is very excited for the upcoming summer!

Evan Mendel is returning this summer as the **Merakez Techni** (Technical Director). He has been at camp since 1997, and has considered *Gesher* his second home for the past 12 years. This will be his fifth year on tzevet (staff), and second year as Merakez Techni. Evan has taught in a supplementary Hebrew school for seven years, teaching curriculum classes, music classes, and Hebrew reading. Evan graduated from Seneca College's Real Property Administration program, and as well from Seneca College's Financial Services Underwriting program. He works as a community outreach program coordinator for the Regional Jewish Communities of Ontario (RJCO). Evan is looking forward to another great summer at *Gesher*.

Hyla Kemeny is thrilled to be back at *Gesher* this summer as Merakzet Chinuch (educational director). This is her eleventh summer at *Gesher* and her fourth year on tzevet (staff). She goes to school at Concordia University in Montreal where she studies Political Science and Religion. Hyla participated in Workshop (Habonim Dror's year long program in Israel) and just returned from another movement seminar in Israel. For Hyla, the summer cannot come fast enough.

Eitan Grinspun, our **Shaliach/Educational Director**, has vast experience in working with Israeli youth and students. Part of the first generation of Argentineans who made Aliya and settled in Eilat, he has a Bachelor of International Relations from Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Eitan's goal is to help create a personal connection to Israel for each camper. He is joining Mazkirut and Tzevet to ensure the kids learn Movement ideology (and Zionism within) that it is meaningful and practical. This is his third summer at camp.

Shaul Zobary is the **Camp Director**. This will be Shaul's 11th summer at the camp. Shaul was a member of 'Hanoar Haoved Vhalomed' youth movement in Israel, a sister movement of Habonim Dror. He brings with him a great deal of enthusiasm, a very positive outlook, and a love for informal Jewish education. Shaul's goals are to ensure that campers and staff have a meaningful, enjoyable and safe summer, and to ensure Camp *Gesher*'s continued growth.

Almost all of the madrichim (counselors) at *Gesher* are former *Gesher* campers who have been to Israel and attended Movement leadership. In addition to their Movement background, they come with many other skills that add to *Gesher*'s resources, including swimming, water-skiing, canoeing, lifeguarding, scouting, navigation, arts and crafts, theater, Hebrew language, Israeli dancing, athletics and more.

WHAT IS THE CAMP GESHER CAMP COMMITTEE?

The camp committee is made up of a group of parents/guardians, madrichim (counselors), alumni and other interested parties who function as an advisory to the Shlichim and Camp Director. The mandate of the committee is to provide input and direction for *Gesher's* future.

The committee is made up of representatives from Hamilton, Toronto, Ottawa, and Ontario's small Jewish communities. Committee members meet numerous times during the year, and **new members are most welcome**.

The camp committee is organized around several sub-committees that meet throughout the year. These committees deal with issues such as camp finances, subsidies, fundraising, personnel-related matters, health, medical and safety concerns.

For more information about the camp committee and how to get involved, please contact:

info@campgesher.com

TORONTO

Gary Lichtblau & Benita Friedlander
(Executive Board Members) (416) 633-2511

THE STRUCTURE OF MACHANEH GESHER

Camp Geshher divides the chanichim (campers) by different age groups. The ages are based on grade. Once again we are offering our successful **Ofarim** program for children in Grades 2 and 3. It is a unique 12, 10 or 25-day introductory camping experience that gives younger campers an opportunity to experience Geshher for the first time in a fully supervised and creative program. It is also a chance for young campers to experience "everything there is to do at camp."

The youngest age group is **Amelim**, for campers who have just finished Grade 4. Next are **Chalutzim**, **Solelim**, **Chotrim**, **Bonim** and **Bogrim**, for campers about to enter Grade 10. The Bogrim program is aimed at developing leadership skills and includes more in-depth educational programs.

The following summer, campers entering Grade 11 have the opportunity to participate in the North American program called **MBI (Machaneh Bonim B'Israel)**. MBI is a program sponsored by Habonim Dror North America for participants from all the North American machanot and kenim. It is a five-week program, in which the participants experience different aspects of the country. After spending time on a kibbutz and participating in an Israeli kaytana (summer camp), the rest of the trip is spent hiking, touring and learning about Israeli history, society, culture and politics. Leadership training is also an important aspect part of the program. The participants learn about Habonim Dror in a much more in-depth manner and how to act responsibly as individuals and as Movement members. This enables the participants to come back to their cities and camps and take on more of a leadership role. Upon their return, participants from MBI are instrumental in running the city activities for the Movement.

Madatz is the last phase in leadership training for Camp Geshher. In Hebrew, Madatz is the acronym for Madrichim Tze'irim, or young counselors. MBI participants return to their camps the following summer to take part in this hands-on leadership program. Within this framework, Madatz participants experience what it is like to work with and lead activities for campers on a daily basis. They learn to work together as a team, as well as with older counselors. The participants grow as a kvutza (group) through the leadership and educational programs they receive, both of which enable them to develop as individuals and as leaders of the Movement. A large focus is placed on educational programs for the Madatz participants. They gain a lot from their experience, which prepares them for future work in Habonim Dror and as counselors at Geshher.

A "TYPICAL DAY" AT MACHANEH GESHER*

8:30	Kima (wake-up)
9:00	Mifkad (raising the flags)
9:15	Avodah (work projects)
9:45	Aruchat Boker (breakfast)
10:40	Peula Aleph (first activity)
11:30	Peula Bet (second activity)
12:20	Shira (sing-a-long)
12:45	Aruchat Tzoriam (lunch)
1:30	Intramurals
2:20	Schiya Klalit (general swim)
3:20	Nikayon (cabin clean-up)
4:00	Peula Gimel (third activity)
5:30	Chugim (hobbies)
6:15	Mifkad (lowering the flags)
6:30	Aruchat Erev (dinner)
7:05	Madatz Chugim (C.I.T. run hobbies)
8:15	Tochnit Erev (evening program)
9:45	Amelim bedtime
10:00	Chalutzim bedtime
10:15	Solelim bedtime
10:30	Chotrim bedtime
10:45	Bonim bedtime
11:00	Bogrim bedtime

*Although this is a "typical" day, we of course have various other programs, including Yom Meuchad (special/theme days); Overnight Tiyulim (canoe trips); and many other special events and visitors throughout the summer.

HEBREW WORDS USED AT CAMP

Hebrew is an important part of our camp culture, so we try to use it in as much as possible in our everyday interactions. Here are some words that are used regularly at camp.

GROUPS (*Shchavat*)

Ofarim - fawns (campers who have finished Grades 2 & 3)

Amelim - workers (campers who have finished Grade 4)

Chalutzim - pioneers (campers who have finished Grade 5)

Solelim - pavers (campers who have finished Grade 6)

Chotrim - rowers (campers who have finished Grade 7)

Bonim - builders (campers who have finished Grade 8)

Bogrim - graduates (campers who have finished Grade 9)

TITLES

chanich(a) - camper

madrich(a) - counselor

Merakez(et) Chinuch - educational coordinator

Merakez(et) Techni - technical coordinator

Rosh Machaneh - head counselor

Shaliach/Shlichah - emissary (from Israel)

EVENTS

mifkad - assembly

pe'ula - activity

avoda - work

arucha - meal

boker - morning

tzohorayim - afternoon

erev - evening

layla - night

kima - wake-up

tochnit - program

chugim - interest groups

hoda'a - announcement

ashpa - garbage

michzur - recycling

PLACES

tzrif - cabin

mirpa'ah - infirmary

chadar ochel - dining hall

beit tarbut - recreation/culture hall

moadon - meeting place

POLICIES

1. MEDICAL NOTES

MEDICAL & PERMISSION FORMS: The enclosed medical and permission forms **MUST** be returned to the Camp Office in the envelope provided and must be received by **June 1, 2010**. Please complete with all the information required and sign. (**Note:** Because of recent changes to the Ontario Camping Association rules, we are recommending, but not requiring the medical form to be endorsed by a doctor).

NO CAMPER WILL BE ALLOWED TO BOARD THE BUS OR BE ADMITTED TO CAMP UNLESS MEDICAL FORMS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED.

CONFIDENTIALITY: Medical information is required so that proper treatment can be obtained for your child if necessary. Only required medical information about your child will be conveyed in order to provide quality of care.

MEDICATIONS: Parents/guardians may send up appropriate medication that will be stored and dispensed by the doctor or camp nurse/medic. The infirmary is well stocked with all customary items (e.g., cough, cold and allergy remedies, antibiotics, and creams). Only when a prescription is dispensed from the Northbrook Clinic or other pharmacy will there be a charge that we will ask you to honour.

ALLERGY SHOTS WILL NOT BE GIVEN AT CAMP.

OTHER MEDICAL EXPENSES: Northbrook Clinic physicians will bill OHIP directly for all residents of Ontario and other Canadian provinces except Quebec. As the camp has to pay the Clinic physician at the time of the visit for those who are not covered by OHIP, we ask that the camp be reimbursed immediately. Documentation of the visit will be sent to you to submit to your health plan for reimbursement. Any camper or counselor who resides **outside** of Canada, must have his/her own medical insurance and will be **personally responsible** for all medical expenses. On arrival, each camper has a short meeting with the doctor or nurse/medic. Please inform your child that s/he must give all medication and any insurance documents to the nurse/medic at that time.

ILLNESS: Campers and staff who are acutely ill at the opening of camp should be kept at home until better. **Campers who are sent to camp sick will be sent home immediately.**

GENERAL CLEANLINESS: Basic rules of hygiene are observed at camp. Cabin and campground cleanliness is emphasized. The camp cabins are inspected every day.

HEAD LICE: We are asking parents/guardians to regularly check their children for nits or head lice prior to sending them to camp. Please inform us if your child is being treated for lice, and send any treatment for your child that should be continued at camp. On the first day of camp, trained head lice inspectors will carefully check each child. If any head lice/nits are found, the parents/guardians will be contacted immediately to discuss the procedure to follow. To avoid the spread of head lice/nits, we recommend that you explain to your children that certain objects should not be shared, such as hats or hairbrushes.

CONTACTING FAMILIES: Camp Geshar will make every effort to contact a parent/guardian in the case of an emergency (see the Medical Form for more information). Depending on the nature of other minor illnesses or injuries, or in the event the camper needs to consult with a specialist in a non-emergency, the Camp Director or nurse/medic may also contact a parent/guardian.

2. BEHAVIOUR PROBLEMS

Please inform the camp, prior to your child's arrival, of any necessary information that will make his/her stay at camp smoother. This information will be kept confidential with the nurse/medic, Rosh Machaneh and the necessary madrichim. The camp reserves the right to send home any camper whom, in the opinion of the Camp Director, is continuously disruptive to the camp programming or to his/her fellow campers. This camper will be sent home at his/her parents/guardian's expense and there will be no refund of fees.

3. ALCOHOL, DRUGS & SMOKING

ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND SMOKING ARE NOT PERMITTED AT CAMP. ANY CAMPER VIOLATING THE ABOVE WILL BE SENT HOME IMMEDIATELY AT THE PARENTS/GUARDIAN'S EXPENSE AND THERE WILL BE NO REFUND OF FEES.

Unfortunately, in the past, we have had to invoke this policy, and, if necessary, we will do it again. We hope that this is clearly understood, and suggest that if any camper (or parent/guardian) feels that he s/he will be unable to abide by this rule, s/he should withdraw his/her application immediately.

4. KUPA

There is no Tuck Shop or store at Camp Geshar. Based on the Habonim Dror ideology of communal living, all food articles that are brought or sent from home are placed in kupa to be shared equally with all group members. Each camper also brings a suggested amount of money at the start of each session and each age group pools its allowance, runs its own budget and decides what to do with the group fund. Often the group decides to go on a day trip or bring in food for a special occasion. On the basis of past years, we feel that **\$30 per session** is sufficient for *kupa*. We ask that all food products that are sent up to camp are **KOSHER** and **DO NOT CONTAIN ANY NUTS**. Any products that do contain nuts will be donated to a local food bank. Although in previous years, campers have kept dried soup or canned food in their cabins, this year all food will be put into kupa. This is to ensure that the campers are eating properly at meals, and to avoid any problems with animals in the cabins.

5. CANOE TRIPS & OVERNIGHT CAMPING

All campers have the experience of an overnight canoe trip. As in the past, we are asking that each camper bring a small 'tripping kit' to be used for such purposes. This 'kit' should consist of a compact cup, plate and utensils. Also, please ensure all shampoo and body washes are biodegradable - help us help the environment.

6. WATER

Throughout the summer, we encourage campers to drink as much water as possible. To this end, it has been the practice of some families in the past to send bottled water up to camp with their children. We strongly discourage this practice as it is in direct contradiction with our environmentally friendly policies.

7. LETTER WRITING

Receiving letters at camp is very important to campers. Families are encouraged to write letters to their children on a regular basis. We encourage campers to write home regularly. Be sure to send sufficient postage, paper, etc. with your child(ren). Pre-addressed envelopes are often helpful for younger children. In our experience **the first letter home** sometimes includes the first few day's difficulties and adaptations to your camper's new surroundings. Please call the Camp Director or Rosh Machaneh so that any concerns or clarifications can be addressed immediately. If you would like to email your child, please send them to gesher@sympatico.ca. Emails are checked twice daily, printed out and given to your child. Campers are not allowed to send email replies.

8. TELEPHONE CALLS

Phoning home may trigger homesickness. Therefore, campers will be called to the telephone to receive telephone calls in emergency situations only. Families may call on their child's birthday. To ensure that your child will be near the phone to receive the call, please notify the camp in advance. **Campers are not permitted to call home.** The camp will immediately contact parents/guardians by telephone if there is a problem or if a situation warrants a call.

9. TIPPING

At Camp Geshher families are welcome (but in no way required) to tip any counselors, specialists or other staff members. Any tips that are received go into a counselor's kupa, and are shared by the counselors much in the same way that the campers share their kupa.

10. RECEIPTS

Receipts for camp fees are enclosed in the envelope. Please retain this receipt in a safe place for any tax purposes. If you have outstanding fees please remit them immediately. **NO CHILD WILL BE ALLOWED ON THE BUS IF FEES HAVE NOT BEEN PAID IN FULL. NO EXCEPTIONS!**

11. WEST NILE VIRUS

Geshher chose a pro-active approach regarding the West Nile Virus. We will educate staff and campers of the need to protect themselves by applying insect repellent and wearing light coloured long sleeves and pants. Staff will be given information on which areas at camp to avoid. The camp will cut all grassy areas regularly, and will empty all areas with standing water to reduce the number of mosquitoes.

Camp Geshher has a manual of all its policies and procedures that visitors are welcome to see on Visitors' Day, or contact Shaul Zobary at (416) 633-2511 to make any inquiries.

TRANSPORTATION & CLOTHING

BAGGAGE

As in the past years, we are taking baggage and campers up to camp on the same day. We ask that campers pack **no more than two (2) duffel bags** and a sleeping bag. Campers will be allowed one (1) handbag for the bus ride. We ask that all families be at the drop-off points listed below at the *appropriate* times. A camp representative will be at these locations. We will be making a 10-minute bathroom stop along the way. If you would like to send some pocket money with your child to purchase a snack or drink, please feel free to do so. Campers will have lunch upon arrival at camp, however, we suggest that you pack snacks for them to eat on the way, especially if we get caught in traffic.

ABSOLUTELY NO TRUNKS WILL BE TAKEN UP TO CAMP!

LUGGAGE TAGS: Please make sure that all of your child(ren)'s bags are labeled (either written directly on the bags or with luggage tags) with your child's name and age group. Please attach the tags to your child's luggage (an elastic band or string works well) in a noticeable spot.

FIRST SESSION

Leaving to Camp Gesher: Sunday June 27, 2010

BUS SCHEDULE:

CITY	DEPARTURE PLACE ARRIVAL TIME	DEPARTURE PLACE	DETAILS
Toronto	8:30 AM arrive with bags*	The Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Avenue	Off Wilson Heights, north of Sheppard
Montreal	7:15 AM arrive with bags	Plamondon Metro Station, Van Horne Shopping Centre	Please meet in front of IGA
Ottawa	10:00 AM arrive with bags	Jewish Community Campus, 881 Broadview Avenue	

TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS FROM CAMP GESHER

FIRST SESSION CAMPERS: Return home with their families on Visitors' Day: **Sunday, July 18, 2010.**

*We will have an opportunity for you to bring your luggage the night before to make boarding easier. You will receive an email closer to the date advising where your nearest south or north luggage drop off location will be.

SECOND SESSION

Leaving to Camp Gesher: Wednesday July 21, 2010

BUS SCHEDULE:

CITY	DEPARTURE PLACE ARRIVAL TIME	DEPARTURE PLACE	DETAILS
Toronto	8:30 AM arrive with bags	The Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Avenue	Off Wilson Heights, north of Sheppard
Montreal	7:15 AM arrive with bags	Plamondon Metro Station, Van Horne Shopping Centre	Please meet in front of IGA
Ottawa	10:00 AM arrive with bags	Jewish Community Campus, 881 Broadview Avenue	

TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS FROM CAMP GESHER

SECOND SESSION CAMPERS: Buses will be leaving from Camp Gesher: **Sunday, August 15, 2010.**

All buses will leave Gesher at approximately 1:00 PM.

Estimated arrival times in the cities are:

Toronto 4:00 PM (Borochov Center)

Montreal 5:00 PM (Van Horne Shopping Center)

Ottawa 2:30 PM (Hillel Academy)

ALL buses will be arriving at the locations from which they departed (see above).

CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT LIST

The following list is a general guide based on a 10-day supply. Washing is done weekly at a nearby Laundromat.

1 sleeping bag (essential)
2 blankets (we do not permit campers to sleep in their sleeping bags all summer)
2 sets of sheets (twin size - essential)
1 pillow
2 pillowcases
4 towels (2 beach/2 bath)
2 pair pajamas
10 T-shirts
5 pair pants
6 pair shorts
3 sweatshirts or warm sweaters
10 pair socks
underwear
2 bathing suits
1 "nice" outfit for Shabbat and for Banquet night
1 jacket
1 raincoat or rain poncho
1 pair of rain boots
1 pair running shoes
1 pair sandals
1 pair flip flops
1 pair water shoes with back strap for canoe trip
2 sun hats (imperative)
laundry bag
bag for toiletries
shampoo and soap (biodegradable please!)
toothbrush and toothpaste
comb and/or brush
plenty of sunscreen
insect repellent (we recommend a repellent that contains 30% DEET)
canteen or reusable water bottle (please DO NOT send bottled water)
small 'tripping food kit' including a compact cup, plate and utensils for canoe trips and overnight camping
flashlight
stationery, stamps, pens/pencils
musical instruments
small sports equipment (e.g., baseball glove)

NO CAMPER MAY BRING POCKET KNIVES, ANY SHARP INSTRUMENTS, FIRE CRACKERS OR WEAPONS OF ANY KIND TO CAMP. ALL ARTICLES OF THIS TYPE NATURE WILL BE CONFISCATED.

EXPENSIVE ITEMS

Part of the ideology of *Camp Geshher* is based on the philosophies of *kupa* and *chevrati* communal living that encourage sharing and community building. In the past, we have found that televisions, radios, tape players, electronic games, skate boards, hair dryers, straighteners, curlers, crimpers and other such technological mechanisms limit the campers' participation and encourage anti-social behaviour. **Please do not bring these items.** We hope to encourage the campers to take advantage of the summer season, and spend as much time as possible outside: TVs and hair dryers do not help to facilitate this! As well, these and similar items tend to get damaged and cause problems at camp. If this is an issue, please explain to your children the reasons that they are not allowed to bring these items to camp. Please be informed that these, and similar items that are deemed unfit for the camp lifestyle **may be confiscated** for the duration of the session.

LABELS

We strongly encourage you to label **ALL** your child/ren's clothing and personal belongings. You may use the enclosed label order form to purchase labels, or another popular method is to use a special 'laundry marker'. Many items remain unclaimed after camp ends simply because they were unmarked. Please help us return those 'lost and found' items by labeling/marking **ALL** your child/ren's belongings.

LOST ITEMS

Camp Geshher cannot assume any responsibility for any items brought to camp. Please mark all clothing and personal belongings with your child's name, especially if they are valuable to you. **Expensive items tend to get damaged or lost. Please do not bring them.**

OBLIGATION TO REPORT

If anyone at *Camp Geshher* is worried about the safety or well-being of a camper, we must, by law, contact a child protection agency. Parents/guardians will be told that a call has been placed according to instructions from a child protection worker or police officer

VISITORS' DAY • Sunday, July 18, 2010 •

The whole Habonim Dror/Camp Gesher family is invited to participate in the celebration of Summer 2010 at Gesher. Camp Gesher will be open to visitors from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm only. Counselors will be at the campers' cabins from 11:00 am to 12:00 noon. We look forward to meeting you, and will be happy to discuss any concerns you might have. **Please bring a picnic lunch for you and your family. (No lunch is provided by camp on Visitors' Day.)** Any family who is not attending must notify us in advance. **Second session families** are invited to participate in Visitors' Day and to take part in a special tour of the camp.

This tends to be a busy weekend in local hotels. If you intend to stay in one, please make early reservations to make sure you get a space.

To help make the day as enjoyable as possible for all, we have a few guidelines outlined below.

1. **ABSOLUTELY NO PETS ARE ALLOWED IN THE CAMP AREA.** The health authorities mandate this. Admission of pets into camp could cost us our operating license. As we have done in the past, we are going to be very strict about this. Please help us avoid unpleasant incidents.
2. Gesher's population quadruples on Visitors' Day. There is no way we can keep up with cleaning the grounds given all the crowds and activities of the day. You can help us. **Please bring your own garbage bags** and use them to clean up around your picnic spot. You may leave the full garbage bags tightly closed along the camp road and they will be picked up later. Recycling bins will be centrally located - please help us help the environment.
3. On Visitors' Day, like the rest of the summer, there is **no alcohol or illegal drugs allowed** in camp.
4. We are located in a heavily wooded area. **Be cautious with fire.** Please use your barbecues in open areas only; make sure they are well attended to until properly extinguished. We also ask that you not smoke in any of the camp buildings, and that you do not litter the grounds with cigarette butts.
5. Visitors' Day is a festive event for the entire Gesher community. Please enjoy it with us. On Visitors' Day, families are responsible for the supervision of their children. **No camper is allowed to leave the campgrounds on Visitors' Day without the Camp Director's approval.** Campers who intend to go off-site during Visitors' Day, but are expected to return, must be signed in and out by the Camp Director or Mazkirut. Another adult may wish to take a child whose family is not visiting off campgrounds. The Camp Director must receive written consent by mail, email or fax from an absent parent/guardian, confirming who has permission to take the child off the campgrounds during Visitors' Day.
6. Any food items that are left after Visitors' Day will be placed in *kupa*. (See page 10 for a description of *kupa*.)
7. Camp Gesher will provide lifeguard supervision for 1 hour during the designated swim time. Camp Gesher is in no way liable or responsible to anyone who chooses to swim

during Visitors' Day. Therefore, ALL SWIMMERS MUST SWIM AT THEIR OWN RISK. In addition, Camp Geshher requires that children deciding to swim be supervised at all times by their parents or guardians.

VISITORS TO CAMP

As visitors are very disruptive to the camp routine, they are not permitted to visit camp other than on the specified Visitors' Day. If it is impossible for families to visit camp on Visitors' Day and they wish to visit at another time, this must be arranged well in advance with the Rosh Machaneh and Camp Director.

NOTE: This policy applies to ALL visitors.

INTERSESSION

The Camp Geshher summer season operates in two sessions. The first session comes to a close on Visitors' Day (July 18). Before the second session begins, there is a two-day interval where no new campers arrive at camp. This period in the middle of the summer is called "intersession." Those campers staying over for both sessions (the full summer) remain at camp for some truly special and unique experiences.

It is during this two-day period that the Geshher counselors in training, the Madatz, get to use their first month of intense training in practical experiences. For this period, the Madatz become counselors for the campers that remain at camp - of course under careful supervision of our counselor trainers. The programs that are run are focused on a very relaxed curriculum so as to ensure that the campers are able to slowly adjust to the fact that some of their peers have left and others will be arriving. In addition, some very unique programs will be enjoyed. The supervised training that our counselors in training receive is an invaluable tool for their future leadership in the movement.

The full-time staff of the camp take the opportunity to rest and reflect on those experiences of the first half of the summer. The reflection is then followed up with action. Everything learned and experienced, both the positives and the challenges, are reformulated into programming for the second half.

Note: For those campers registered for the full summer - in case there is a special need for your child to return home during the intercession, please make arrangements with the Camp Director prior to Visitors' Day.

STAYING AT CAMP FOR THE SECOND SESSION

Any camper registered for the first session may remain for the second session **if there is room in his/her age group**. Due to the small size of the camp, this cannot be guaranteed. All arrangements must be made with the Camp Director on Visitors' Day, or earlier if possible. When

a camper does stay on for the second session, the remaining payments must be made on Visitors' Day. A camper registered for the entire season that decides to leave camp on Visitors' Day will receive a refund less \$350 (the \$250 deposit plus a \$100 administration fee) within a few weeks.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you need information or have any questions about camp, these are the people to contact:

TORONTO

Head Office (Winter):

Shaul Zobary - Camp Director

Oren Sukenik - Shaliach

office phone: (416) 633-2511

office fax: (416) 636-5248

272 Codsell Avenue

Toronto Ontario

M3H 3X2

Email: info@campgesher.com

Website: www.campgesher.com

DURING THE CAMP SEASON

Camp Gesher:

Phone: (613) 336-2583

Fax: (613) 336-1719

Summer Address: Camp Gesher

General Delivery

Cloyne, Ontario K0H 1K0

When sending mail to your children, please indicate their age group (*shichva*). Look at the Hebrew listings of "Shchavot" on page 8

Name of Child (Group Name)

Camp Gesher

General Delivery

Cloyne, ON K0H 1K0

Email: gesher@sympatico.ca

WEBSITE

We would like to let you know that throughout the summer you will be able to log on to our website at www.campgesher.com and we will be periodically uploading pictures taken throughout

the summer. During the summer you will be receiving email notifications pertaining to our activities and important dates.