

Camp Ashreinu



Parent Handbook
Summer 2024- 5784

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*“The Best Camp
in the Midwest...*

*...is right HERE
in Cincinnati!!”*

WELCOME!!

A FANTASTIC summer is waiting for your child at Camp Ashreinu — 2024!

We are thrilled to have your child join us for an **outstanding** camp experience!! Within our safe and positive atmosphere of Torah values and fun, a full scope of activities enables your child to grow in his/her social skills and individual character development. For “29” years (WOW!) Camp Ashreinu has been supplying Cincinnati with a wonderful camp experience, and we are looking forward to yet another GREAT summer. In order to help you prepare for the upcoming camp season, it is important that you read the following information.

I. Overview

Camp Ashreinu, founded by Mrs. Ellen Pollock, has been serving Cincinnati since 1995. Hundreds of children ages 18 months through 14 years have had the opportunity to enjoy learning, swimming, sports, trips, crafts, and much more in a Torah-true environment, supervised by counselors who are superb role models. Over the winter of 2007/8, Mrs. Pollock passed on the torch of leadership to Rabbi Shai and Tova Scherer, who served as the Camp’s Directors through the summer of 2023.

II. Health Forms

Updated Medical forms, signed by your pediatrician, must be submitted for every toddler/preschool camper by **Upon Registration**. Children will only be **registered** into Camp with a current Health form and Immunization records, indicating all immunizations are up to date. If there are any other health issues, please complete the med/physical care plan found on the website. An exemption letter is required for those without immunizations.

III. Camp Fees

All fees must be submitted by March 1st. Postdated checks will be accepted for up to one half of total Camp fees, dated up until May 2nd, 2024. **_____ be a \$50 late fee for each form (including medical statement) or fees not submitted by the deadline.**

IV. Important Dates

The Camp season of 2024 begins Tuesday, July 2nd and ends on Thursday, August 8th.

V. Daily Schedule

The official camp day is from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Supervision is provided for your child every morning starting from 8:50 am.

PLEASE, DO NOT DROP OFF CAMPERS OR ALLOW CAMPERS TO WALK AND ARRIVE BEFORE 8:50 A.M.!

Half day Preschoolers & Toddler Division campers will be dismissed at 12:30 pm.

VI. Arrival, Attendance & Dismissal

Arrival: It is essential that campers arrive promptly by 9:00 am. Late arrival interferes with the Camp program and may result in a camper being left behind on a trip.

Golf Manor Building: Toddler Division campers must be escorted by a parent or guardian through the fence to the left of the Gym Doors to the walkway, leading up to the trailer room. After drop off, parents should exit back through the fence. Preschool Division campers should be dropped off by the Gym doors, where the Camp counselors will meet them at the curb lane/doors and escort them into their bunkroom. Girls Division campers should enter the main doors and proceed to the lunchroom for line-up.

Amberley Village Building: Boys Division campers should be dropped off by the side door that faces the parking lot.

Please refer to the following diagrams for a visual guide on Arrival and Dismissal procedures at both Campuses.

Attendance & Absentee Policy: Upon arrival, the staff will be documenting daily attendance. If your child will not be in Camp on a specific day, please notify your child(ren)'s Head counselor as early as possible.

Do not leave your vehicle unattended in the curb lane in front of the main CHDS doors' and GYM doors' walkway, as the camp buses park there to safely load and unload the campers.

Dismissal @ 3:00 pm

All families must complete the enclosed "Permission to Walk/Release Home Form". Campers will only be released to parents/guardians and names listed on the "Permission to Walk/Release Home form. For any changes during the summer, please email the Division Heads prior to 2:30 pm on the day of a change.

Walkers: For those campers who have signed permission to walk home, they will be dismissed & signed out once they are picked up by the designated walker.

Cars: For those picking up their child via vehicle, line your car up along the curved semi circle curb of the School building and wait for your child to be escorted to you. **Toddlers:** Toddlers need to be picked up from the indoor hallway by the Gym doors.

Even if we have left Camp premises during the day, dismissal will always be from our campus unless you receive specific notification to the contrary. Be assured that we always add a reasonable amount of extra time into our scheduling to prevent unexpected events from delaying us past our dismissal time. However, certain conditions such as traffic, etc. are beyond our control and we ask for your indulgence and flexibility in case we are unavoidably delayed. Feel free to call your child's Head Counselor on any trip day to confirm your child's arrival time, except during dismissal time from 2:45 - 3:15 pm.

If there are any divorce/custody issues, a copy of the court custody papers must be submitted prior to the first day of camp for permission of pick-up at dismissal times.

VII. What Should I Bring?

We suggest that you do not send your child's belongings in a typical plastic bag (Remke's or Kroger's bag). Having a more distinctive bag will make it easier for your child to find his/her things - and less likely that you will need to replace items.

Swim-Gear: Every camper should bring a bathing suit, (cover-up designed for swimming for the girls), towel, sunscreen, pool shoes, and a plastic bag for wet things each day. (Be sure to clearly label everything.) If your child wears glasses, we suggest that he/she bring their protective case for safekeeping while he/she is in the pool.

Lunch: Campers must bring a lunch with a drink each day. (Meat lunches should be eaten over a napkin/placemat for Halachic purposes). Sharing of lunches is not permitted. Please do not send any red drinks or any other color that may stain the floor. **For safety reasons, we do not allow glass bottles in Camp.** Please make sure that all drinks are brought in cans or plastic. Boys' Division and Girls' Division campers should bring a water bottle to use when he/she is outdoors. Each lunch and water bottle should be clearly marked with the camper's name. The Camp will provide snacks to the Toddler and Preschool campers during the day. The snacks may consist of items such as pretzels, crackers and juice. Boys and Girls Divisions: Please be sure to send in adequate snacks for your child daily, as snacks will not be supplemented. Cold water is available throughout the day. If you would like to send food as a special treat for your camper's bunk, or for any other reason, it must be approved in advance by the Directors.

Siddurim: For Boys Division & Girls Division only:

Please have your child bring his/her Siddur (with his/her name written in it) on the first day of Camp. Siddurim must remain in Camp for daily davening until the last day of Camp. Boys' Division campers will be notified on the 1st day of Camp, as to what Sefer to bring for Learning (if Camp cannot provide it).

Sports equipment: Campers in **Boys Division** should bring a baseball glove daily.

Old shirt and change of clothing for Girls Division: We will get dirty and wet at times;

A more detailed list of what to bring daily will be distributed by each division hc closer to the Summer.

What not to bring:

Please keep all personal items at home unless requested by the head staff. Specifically trading items, Water guns/super soakers, and any electronic devices ie. I-Pods, and cell phones, etc; are not allowed in

Camp, and will be taken away. Additionally, please do not send your child with money to Camp, even on trip days (unless specifically suggested/requested on the Trip reminder form, given out a day prior to the trip). It can get lost and may be the source of jealousy and ill will.

Personal Property Policy as per ACA Requirements

As per ACA mandates, Camp Ashreinu has a no tolerance policy regarding possession of alcohol, drugs, or weapons. Any campers or staff found to have any of these items in their possession will be asked to leave Camp. No private vehicles should be used during camp. No animals or pets may be brought to Camp unless there is special permission from the Camp Director. No personal sports equipment should be brought to Camp with exception of personal base-ball gloves and non-metal bats. Any other equipment which may be needed for an activity will be provided by Camp.

VIII. Hashavas Aveida - Lost and Found

Due to Halachic, as well as monetary concerns, we are listing Hashavas Aveida information separately so that it will be very noticeable. Please make sure that any item that your child brings to Camp is **clearly labeled** with your child's name. Camp maintains a “Lost and Found” box that is available for your inspection. We urge you to periodically check it for your child's belongings. While we make an effort to return these items, inevitably many items remain unclaimed. After the Camp season is over, all items not recovered by their owners will be dealt with at our discretion.

IX. Dress Code

Appropriate Dress must be worn every day.

Boys: Boys may wear shorts and short sleeve T-shirts. No tank tops or athletic jerseys will be allowed. Tzitzis and yarmulkes must be worn at all times, (aside from boys in the Toddler Program).

Girls: Girls Division campers must wear skirts or dresses & socks. Skirts must cover their knees and shirts and dresses must cover their elbows.

All campers (including Preschool) must wear sturdy shoes. FOR YOUR CHILD'S SAFETY, NO CHILD IS ALLOWED TO ENTER CAMP WEARING CROCKS.

X. Trips & Transportation

In Camp Ashreinu, we greatly enjoy a variety of trips.

Preschool will have some Amazing ‘trips’ come to Camp and some will be off campus. Boys and Girls Divisions will enjoy exciting trips off campgrounds. Stay tuned for the Preschool, Boys and Girls Divisions trip schedules. As in the past, Trip reminders will be sent home the day before a trip. **Please read the Trip reminders carefully for specific information**, (ie. Camp shirt, lunch, snacks, other items to bring, items not to bring etc.)

The Camp will be contracting the First Student Bus Co. to transport the campers to Swim and Trips. Rental vans will be used for the Oldest Boys and Girls Divisions, for short excursions and in case of an emergency. All Camp drivers will be over the age of 18, have a clean driving record and trained in transporting campers.

*Please note: there are times when we may go off campus without prior notice - for example, to a nearby park. To avoid confusion or difficulties, if you will need to pick up your child early, please notify the Division's Head Counselor ahead of time by phone.

XI. Swimming

Girls and Boys Division will be swimming at Norwood Recreation Center on 2039 Sherman Ave. on most Tues. Thurs. Fridays. On the first day of swimming, all Campers will have the option of taking the deep water test. If passed, they will receive a “deep water test” bracelet and only those children will be allowed to swim in the deep water. The Toddler and Preschool division will swim in inflatable water parks, wading pools, and the kdg will enjoy the above ground pools.

*Please note that if the Nine Days this year will still be a time of mourning, then there will be no swimming in Camp from Monday, August 5th through Thursday, Aug.8th.

XII. Activities & Goals

Camp Ashreinu provides a broad range of activities for our campers in order to provide something all campers will enjoy and to help bring out the talents of each child. Activities may include: swimming, baking, dancing, woodwork, music, sports, drama, art & crafts, zip-lining, boating, archery, and many more. We hope you understand that some of these activities require that your child be in adequate physical condition in order to participate. If you feel your child may not be able to participate in a particular activity, please notify the Head Counselor. While all of these activities help to attain our overall goal of giving your child a fun and safe time in a Torah-true environment, each one also has its own unique goals we hope campers will reach by summer-end.

Some of these may include, but are not limited to:

Dance: Campers will memorize and learn a multi-step dance, while improving kinesthetic functioning

Woodworking: Campers will learn how to assemble a woodworking kit. They will learn to use some basic tools with the assistance of a staff member.

Music: Campers will sing in a group. They will improve self esteem and confidence by performing to an audience. Also, they will learn beginning skills of rhythm & beats and use musical instruments.

Sports: Campers will learn team-work skills. They will improve their physical condition and co-ordination.

Learning: Camp will improve their knowledge of the Torah and strengthen their character and emotional development.

Arts & Crafts: Campers will learn creative expression through crafts while improving hand strength and fine-motor coordination.

Drama: Campers will improve self-confidence and self-expression as well as perform to an audience.

Ceramics: Campers will learn to use clay to create or glaze an object.

Cooking: Campers will learn how to follow multi-step directions and learn how to measure ingredients, in order to create delicious food.

XIII. Staff/Supervision

We are proud of our wonderful staff. They are caring and enthusiastic Torah-oriented role models. Our staff excels at maintaining the highest level of supervision throughout the day, whether we are on or off our campus.

Our exemplary Division Heads:

Toddlers -

Preschool-Mrs. Aliza Brand (773) 663-1512

Girls Division –

Boys Division- Rabbi Yair Kugel (513) 673-5072

Rabbi Shalom Zehnwirth- TC Boys (443) 258-9254

Administrator- Miss Rivka Morton (513) 581-8714

We pride ourselves on our low camper to staff ratio. At the very minimum, we maintain the following ratio.

Toddlers 1:7, Preschool 1:7 Boys Division and Girls Division 1:10

Furthermore, we are excited to have boy counselors from the finest Yeshivos, who will learn with our boys and act as excellent role models. Along with our excellent local female counselors, the Pre-school and Girls Divisions will have extraordinary staff from all over the globe.

XIV. Child Guidance/Behavior Management Policy

Camp Ashreinu advocates a positive guidance and discipline policy with an emphasis on positive reinforcement, redirection, prevention, and the development of self-discipline. Corrective discipline must be a creative, caring effort on the part of the counselor and it must be seen as such by the camper. Staff members are encouraged to always suggest positive alternatives to unacceptable behavior before it gets out of control.

Our staff will adhere to the following:

1. Discuss rules with campers and identify out-of-bounds areas.
2. Discuss the possible consequences of breaking any rule:
 - (a) Quiet time

- (b) Restriction from activity
- (c) Restriction to Adult supervision
- (d) Conference with Head-Staff
- (e) Conference with Parent and/or Camp Director
- (f) Removal from Camp

3. Enforce all rules at all times, without malice, and be consistent in application. The Camp is vigilant in maintaining a standard of zero tolerance towards hitting, kicking or other violent activities at camp or during Camp activities. Campers involved in such incidents will receive either in-Camp or at home suspension at the discretion of the Head-staff and Director. It should be noted that verbal abuse of one camper by another will similarly not be tolerated. Parents of a camper involved in serious offenses will be expected to confer with the Head-staff and Director to set conditions under which the camper may remain at Camp.

XV. Camper Illness

Camp Ashreinu is committed to create an environment where children are safe & healthy. In an effort to keep your child safe and healthy, and to prevent the spread of illness to other children, children with conditions or symptoms seen below will be treated as indicated. It should additionally be noted that sometimes a child may be deemed unfit to remain in Camp without being categorized definitively. Our staff is entrusted to determine when a child seems too sick to remain in Camp, due to lethargy or otherwise being unable to be involved in normal activities. In such cases, it is not only the spread of disease or sickness that is the prime concern, but also our concern that such a child should be resting at home, rather than remaining in Camp.

A child is considered to be sick when demonstrating any of the following symptoms: (The following criteria are from the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services)

- * Temperature of at least 101 F (100 deg F if taken axillary) when in combination with any other sign or symptom of illness.
- * Diarrhea (3 or more abnormally, unexpectedly or unexplained loose stools within a 24 hour period).
- * Severe coughing, causing the child to become red or blue in the face or to make a whooping sound
- * Difficult or rapid breathing
- * Yellowish skin or eyes
- * Redness of the eye or eyelid, thick and purulent (pus) eye discharge, matted eyelashes, burning, itching or eye pain.
- * Untreated infected skin patches, unusual spots or rashes
- * Unusually dark urine and /or gray or white stool
- * Stiff neck with elevated temperature.
- * Evidence of untreated lice/scabies or other parasitic infestations.
- * Sore throat or difficulty in swallowing
- * Vomiting more than one time or when accompanied by any other sign or symptom of illness.

When caring for sick children, the camp will

- * Isolate the sick child away from other children, in another room or portion of a room, but within sight and hearing at all times.
- * Provide the sick child with a cot or mat and make comfortable.
- * Notify the child's parents immediately to arrange discharge
- * Sanitize the thermometer after each use.

XVI. Special Issues & Medication

If your child has any special social or medical issues, it is important for his/her sake that you let us know. If this information was not written on the child's registration form, please inform his/her Head Counselor before the 1st day of Camp. Also, if your child takes any medication during the school year, whether or not he/she will be taking it during the summer, please inform the Camp Directors. Matters such as these often play a large role in assuring a stress-free and easy-going summer for your child. It is policy that all medication (stock meds & personal meds) are kept in a secured place out of reach of campers. All medications brought to camp should be brought in their original containers. In addition, they should be brought each day with the child and sent home with the child. All medication will be distributed by a Head Counselor. In addition, it will only be given to children whose parents sign a permission form to medicate, indicating permission for that specific medicine. Children will not be allowed to carry around their own medication (with the exception of sunscreen and bug-spray, inhaler or EpiPen).

Lice free—all campers will need to be checked several days before camp by a designated “lice inspector” to verify absence of head lice/nits.

All children must be completely toilet-trained in order to be admitted into the Preschool Division.

XVII. Emergency Serious Illness or Injuries:

The following procedures are in place in the event of the following emergencies:

Fire: Child care staff will guide the children out of the building through their nearest exit (according to the diagram hanging in each classroom) until it is safe to return to the building.

Tornado: Child care staff will direct children to the hallways away from any windows and doors.

There will always be at least one child care staff member trained in CPR and First Aid. If there is a serious incident, injury or illness, a staff member or the administrator will call 911. CPR and/or First Aid will be administered by the trained staff member until a paramedic arrives. The child's parents/guardian will be notified immediately.

If a child requires Emergency Medical Treatment or transportation for treatment due to an accident, the child's parents/guardian will be notified immediately. The program's administrator or a childcare staff member will stay with the child until the parent/guardian assumes responsibility.

An incident/injury report (01156) will be completed, one copy will be sent to the parent and a copy will be filed when:

- 1) a child has an illness, accident, or injury that requires first aid treatment.
- 2) a child gets a bump or blow to the head.
- 3) a child requires emergency transportation.
- 4) there is an unusual or unexpected event which jeopardizes the safety of the children or staff.....

In the event that Camp needs to close due to weather or any factor, all parents will immediately be contacted via email.

XIII. Parent Communication, Information & Involvement

Camp Ashreinu believes strongly in good parent/staff communication. Prior to Camp, you will have the opportunity to meet with your child's Division Head. Feel free to contact them to schedule a meeting time. At any point during the summer, if a parent/guardian or any employee needs to discuss issues or if they need assistance with resolving problems related to their child during the Camp Day, they should notify the Division Head or Directors to arrange a meeting, or phone conference, at a time that is convenient.

A weekly newsletter will be emailed every Friday, as well as a hard copy sent home with your oldest child, giving you a brief review of some of the past week's highlights and informing you of important upcoming events. As well, all Camp forms, weekly pictures and general Camp info. will be available on the Camps' website.

Parents will be notified via email for any unexpected Trip delays, resulting in a delayed dismissal or any other important updates. Be sure to check your email daily!

We welcome parent involvement throughout the Camp Day. If you have a talent, or something you want to share with your child's bunk, feel free to contact your child's Division Head or the Camp Directors. If the Camp determines a closing or delay is necessary due to extreme weather or another factor, Camp will notify parents via email.

If the Camp (based on administrator and staff collaboration) determine that it becomes necessary to disenroll a child, the Directors will notify and discuss with the parents.

Please visit us at [http:// campashreincincy.com](http://campashreincincy.com)

We appreciate your comments and feedback - whether they are positive or constructive criticism.

If you want to contact Camp Ashreinu, please call

Miss Rivka Morton at (513) 581-8714
or email ashreinusummer@gmail.com

Additionally, Camp Ashreinu is a Registered Day Camp and so any parent may contact the Hamilton County Job & Family Services at (513) 946-1800 or the Health Department at (513) 357-7200, to voice any concern regarding Camp. Please note: Camp Ashreinu has an accident policy which provides limited medical payments coverage in Excess of any other insurance available to the injured camper

XIV: Arrival & Dismissal Diagrams**Golf Manor Building Carpool**

****Walkers:** Enter & Exit on the driveway to CHDS from Elbrook Ave, as it's CLOSED to vehicular traffic at all times. The gate will be open for walkers during pickup & drop-off times.

**** Cars:** 1. Enter the CHDS parking lot via Losantiville avenue. Use the first CHDS entrance. It is clearly marked with an "ENTER" sign.

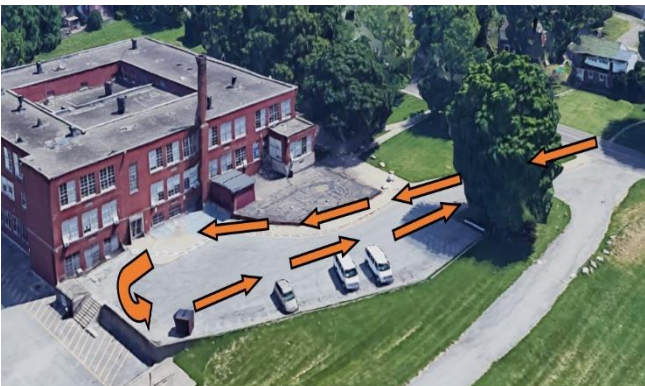
2. Use the painted lane and follow the arrows to form the carpool line. The line starts at the main entrance and continues to the grass field area of the parking lot.

3. **Girls' Division** Campers should be dropped off and picked up at the front of the main entrance.

4. **Preschool Campers** should be dropped and picked up at the Gym entrance.

5. **Toddler Campers** should be escorted by a parent/guardian through the Gym doors to the back trailer. Toddlers should be picked up from the hallway by the Gym entrance.

6. When it is safe to do so, you may leave the line and proceed to the exit at the far end of our parking lot.

Amberley Building Carpool

*****Walkers: Enter & Exit towards Elbrook Ave. Please do not cross through the parking lot***

***** Enter the upper parking lot via Elbrook Ave. Stay to the right of the fork and proceed down the driveway.***

2. The drop-off and pickup are at the side doors of the building.

3. When you are ready, carefully turn around - it is tight - and head back down the driveway. NOTE: Do not attempt to leave the line or turn around before the person in front of you is ready. There is not enough space to do so safely. Please be patient and wait for the person in front of you to proceed.

Entrances will be locked at 9:05 am. To enter the building, contact Rabbi Kugel.

How to do a ONE-Building Pickup

If you have campers in both buildings, you do not have to wait in 2 carpool lines.

Simply sign a Walker permission form for your son at the Amberley Building and pick up all your children at the Golf Manor Campus.



*We hope that you have found this handbook informative and helpful.
We are looking forward to a
fun-filled and enjoyable summer, and we are eagerly
awaiting the start of another "most-successful-ever" season.
Thank you for entrusting us with your most precious possession.....your child.
We are confident that he/she will have a fantastic time in*

Camp Ashreinu '24!!

*"The Best Camp in the Midwest.....
....is right HERE in Cincinnati!!"*

*Camp Ashreinu's
Toddler, Preschool and Girls Divisions
are located at
2222 Losantiville Ave*

*Camp Ashreinu's
Boys Division
is located at 6701 Elbrook Ave*

Mailing Address is

7670 Elbrook Ave

45237

Phone: (513) 581-8714

Or Email: ashreinusummer@gmail.com