

Sephardic Adventure Camp 2011 Parent Information Packet



Dear SAC Families,

Sephardic Adventure Camp is preparing for another outstanding summer! New additions and enhancements to the recreational and educational components of our program promise to bring exciting activities to our 2011 campers.

Enclosed is the first of two comprehensive parent mailings you will receive as we prepare for the summer. We encourage both new and returning camp families to read these materials carefully, as a great deal of updated and important information is included.

This summer we ask for your full cooperation in enforcing two key policies. First, camper cellular phones and other electronic devices which provide internet access and video files are strictly prohibited at camp. Despite this ongoing policy, a small number of campers continue to arrive with these devices. Cell phones disrupt the independent environment we try to create at camp and prevent campers from giving their full attention to the program we work hard to provide. Unfortunately each year we have to confiscate phones. If your child has a cell phone, please collect it before they head to camp. Please read the enclosed Parent Handbook for details on the above policies as well as other important information regarding summer 2011.

A FEW IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Camp fees are due in full by April 30th. Unless you have a written, approved payment plan, or are awaiting financial aid awards from the camp, we expect your full payment to be made. Your camper's space may be forfeited at the discretion of camp management and camp's cancellation policy will be enforced if the balance is not paid in full or if arrangements for the balance have not been made with our business office
- The following paper forms must be submitted to the SAC office no later than June 6, 2011: Registration Form with payment, Medical Forms (4 parts) and the Code of Conduct Agreement. You may send them either by email to office@sephardicadventurecamp.org by fax to 206-922-5737 or by mail to, PO Box 28511 Seattle, Wa. 98118.
- **Visiting camp is not permitted unless arranged ahead of time with the camp director.**
- At Sephardic Adventure Camp we strive to ensure that no camper is denied an SAC summer for financial reasons. This goal is particularly important this year. To help us achieve this important goal, we ask you to participate in our annual scholarship campaign if you have not already done so. Every dollar makes a difference so please send in your contribution today!

Please do not hesitate to call our office should you have any questions. We look forward to another memorable SAC summer!

Jeffrey Solam
SAC Executive Director

CAMP SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Normal summer office hours: Sunday-Thursday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm and 5:00 – 6:00 pm
Friday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Saturday CLOSED

Camp phone number up at camp: **425-430-0040 or 206-949-5961**

If you have general questions that do not need immediate attention, you can contact our Seattle office:
Phone: 206-257-2225 or email: office@sephardicadventurecamp.org

Please be advised that SAC is Shabbat observant; therefore our office is closed before sundown on Friday and all day Saturday. Our voicemail system will take all calls. Voicemail will be checked after Shabbat and all emergency calls will be returned immediately. If you call during office hours and no one is available to take your call please leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

COMMUNICATING WITH CAMP

MAIL (TO CAMP/FROM CAMP):

We have our campers write home frequently, but also realize that it is very important and exciting when the children receive letters from home. Please write to your children often. We recommend that parents write a few days before camp so there will be a letter from home waiting upon arrival. The campers are delighted with this and it can help a great deal with the early adjustment to being away. It helps to focus your mail on what is happening at camp, rather than dwell on what the camper is missing at home or how much you miss them.

Please **do not be alarmed** if the first few letters sound homesick. This is natural, but do let us know if it doesn't change.

Address your mail to campers as follows: Sephardic Adventure Camp (camper's name)
C/O Camp Bishop
1476 W. Lost Lake Rd.
Shelton, WA 98584

We recommend sending your child with pre-addressed and stamped postcards or envelopes to “ease the burden” of letter writing. Also, sending sufficient paper, envelopes, stamps and writing implements is a must.

TELEPHONE CALLS:

If you are calling in an emergency situation outside of normal business hours, please leave a message on our voicemail system. We check our voicemail regularly and emergency calls are returned immediately.

CAMPER TELEPHONE CALLS:

Campers are encouraged **not** to use the phone. However, we will have scheduled times when your children can call home. The times are 9:00 am to 10:00 am, 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm and 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Exceptions will absolutely be made in case of emergency or with very specific situations. Should you have a question about your child, please feel free to call the camp office. Jeffrey Solam or Chelsie Russ will return your call. Naturally, you can expect a call immediately in any emergency situation.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

HEALTH FORMS:

The health and safety of all our campers is the **primary** concern for everyone at SAC. We therefore, must have a fully completed and signed health form for each camper by his/her parents or guardian and the camper's physician. Our resident medical personnel will carefully review these forms. Any special needs and considerations are confidentially communicated to necessary staff (counselors, specialists, chef, etc...). All information is treated strictly confidential and is shared only with those staff members who have an absolute need to know about any condition that your child may have. We understand parental fears about having their child "labeled" if they provide too much information, and we appreciate the desire to give your child an environment where he or she gets a summer with no pre-judgments. However, since we are ultimately responsible for your child's physical and emotional health, we ask that you provide us with as much information as possible about your child and his or her conditions.

Again the information is strictly confidential, but extremely important to us. We will treat your child properly and fairly, and the only way to do that is with FULL knowledge of your child's medical and or mental condition.

SAC operates a fully equipped infirmary with trained medical staff on site 7 days a week. In case of emergency, we will use the nearest medical facility.

INSURANCE:

Every camper **MUST** have medical insurance coverage. A **copy** of your card is necessary for our records. SAC cannot be responsible for any medical expenses incurred during the camp season.

MEDICATIONS:

Medications of any kind that your child will use during his/her stay in camp must be sent in the original packaging, clearly labeled to indicate your child's full name and name of medications and any physician instructions. Remember, this includes non-prescription. All medications will be kept by the nurse in the infirmary and dispensed at the required times allowing accurate and precise recording of their use. The nurse cannot give medications of any kind without proper authorization on your child's health form. It is not necessary to send such items as aspirin, cold remedies as our infirmary is sufficiently stocked with these items.

WHAT TO BRING TO CAMP

The following is a list of things recommended for camp. Make sure to take into account our climate as the weather can vary between warm days and cooler nights so please pack accordingly. **PLEASE MAKE SURE TO MARK YOUR CHILD'S FULL NAME ON EVERYTHING WITH LABELS OR INDELIBLE INK.** Camp is **NOT** responsible for any camper's belongings under any circumstance.

We strongly urge you **not** to send valuable items to camp. Please leave the following items at home: jewelry, beepers, large radios, video games, computers and other electronic equipment. **CAMPERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO USE CELL PHONES.** If a camper is found in possession of a cell phone the camp director will take away the phone and hold it for the duration of camp. Small walkman type radios are okay.

KEEP IN MIND CAMP DOES **NOT** HAVE LAUNDRY FACILITIES.

MANDATORY ITEMS

3-5 KIPPOT (BOYS)
WATER BOTTLE
1-2 HATS
SUNSCREEN
BUG REPELLENT
SLEEPING BAG
FLASHLIGHT/extra batteries
1 FITTED SHEET
1 PILLOW CASE
1 PILLOW
6 TOWELS (4 SHOWER 2 LAKE)
TOILETRIES (SOAP, SHAMPOO, TOOTHBRUSH & PASTE, HAIRBRUSH)
1 LARGE LAUNDRY BAG OR GARBAGE BAG WORKS
1 FACE TOWEL
1-2 BATHING SUITS
BAR-MITZVA BOYS (T'FILLIN)

GENERAL ITEMS (TAILOR TO YOUR CHILD'S CLOTHING NEEDS) EVENINGS DO GET CHILLY

19 PAIR OF UNDERWEAR
19 PAIRS OF SOCKS
6 SHORTS
4-6 JEANS/PANTS
10-14 T-SHIRTS
2 SWEAT SHIRTS/SWEATERS
1 LIGHT JACKET
1 PAIR WALKING SHOES (SNEAKERS ARE FINE)
2 PAJAMAS
1 BATHROBE
SHABBAT CLOTHING (GIRLS MUST WEAR SKIRTS/DRESS ON SHABBAT)
SHABBAT SHOES (OPTIONAL) MOST KIDS DO NOT BRING SHABBAT SHOES AS CAMP COULD BE MUDDY
SOFTBALL MITT
CAMERA (DISPOSABLE WORK BEST AND NO WORRY IF THEY GET LOST EXPENSE WISE)
BOOKS
WATER TOYS
SQUIRT GUNS (EVERY FRIDAY WE HAVE A WATER FIGHT BEFORE SHABBAT)

WHAT NOT TO BRING TO CAMP

As parents, it is your responsibility to make sure that your child understands our policies before leaving for camp. If a child is sent home prior to the end of camp session, parents are expected to pick up their child and the camp fee will **NOT** be refunded.

NO DRUGS OR ALCOHOL

We do NOT permit the use or possession of illegal drugs or alcohol at camp. Violation of this policy will not be tolerated and will result in the camper being sent home.

NO STEREOES, COMPUTER GAMES OR CELL PHONES

Camp is a chance for our campers to get away from the pressures and technology of everyday life. Please don't send Stereos, computer games and **especially CELL PHONES**. **Any cell phone being used at camp will result in the Director taking it away until the end of camp.** Campers may bring an iPod, a small CD player or walkman to listen to during rest periods or free time, but camp is NOT responsible for loss or damage.

NO FIRE ARMS, FIRE WORKS, KNIVES, MATCHES. **If your child is caught with any of these items they will be sent home. You will not be refunded camp money.**

CONDUCT AT CAMP

SAC requires all campers and parents/guardians to sign a Code of Conduct behavior agreement. This agreement details the rules and behavior a camper is expected to abide by while at SAC. We ask that all campers listen and follow instructions, complete assigned tasks and show respect while being sensitive to others. ***Any camper who is found violating these rules may be dismissed from camp at the camp director's discretion. There will be NO second chances and NO REFUNDS.*** Please carefully look over the Code of Conduct agreement and sign.

TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM CAMP

If your child is travelling from out of state, we ask that you carefully read and fill out the Transportation Information form. If your child/children are arriving from out of State/Country by plane, please have them arrive at the Seattle International Airport June 17th Friday morning before camp, unless you have made other arrangements and notified the camp. We will arrange for transportation from the airport and will house each camper until the start of camp. If your camper is arriving June 19th Sunday morning, have him/her arrive by 11:30 a.m.

If your child/children will be returning home by plane please make flight arrangements for July 6th after 5 p.m. and no later than 8p.m. Again we will arrange for all campers to get to the airport and will wait for them to board the plane.

S.A.C. will be leaving for camp at 2:00 pm on June 19th from Sephardic Bikur Holim parking lot. We will send bus information two weeks prior to camp. We will return to Congregation Ezra Bessaroth from camp on July 6th at approximately 2:30 pm. Please make arrangements for someone to be at Ezra Bessaroth to greet your camper! All campers' luggage and lost and found **MUST** be picked up on July 6th. Any items left at Ezra Bessaroth will be donated the following week. Again we are NOT responsible for lost items.