



# MOSHAVA BA'IR PARENT HANDBOOK

— SUMMER 2024/5784 —

*WELCOME TO MOSHAVA BA'IR LONG ISLAND!*



# WELCOME TO MOSHAVA BA'IR!

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 13th summer of Moshava Ba'ir camping and the second summer of Moshava Ba'ir Long Island! To long-standing Bnei Akiva families, we are so happy to continue this journey with you, and to all of our new families, we are so excited to welcome you to the fold!

Machane (summer camp) provides a uniquely transformational experience for campers and staff. We have a magical summer ahead of us, and we are excited about the creative and inventive programs, sports, arts, specialties and trips that we have planned for your children. We spend the winter working to craft a wonderful tochnit for you and your children, and we can't wait to launch!

In the following pages, you will find important guidelines and information for the upcoming summer. Please familiarize yourself with this handbook, as its contents will be helpful throughout the summer. Important dates, policies, program content, and other helpful information will assist you as you prepare your child for camp. Please note: it is essential that you adhere to the deadlines for all information or payments required. If you have any specific concerns, please contact the camp office directly, and we will be happy to assist you.

Over the course of the summer, we will stay in touch through emails, our website, weekly newsletter, our facebook page (become a fan: [www.facebook.com/MoshavaBairLI](http://www.facebook.com/MoshavaBairLI)), our Instagram account (@moshavabairli) and individual calls. We welcome your thoughts and input at any point, so please feel comfortable reaching out to us by phone at 212-465-9536 or via email at [MBLloffice@moshavabair.org](mailto:MBLloffice@moshavabair.org)

We thank you for joining us and appreciate your patience with any concerns that arise over the course of the summer. We are confident that, with capable and qualified staff at the helm of the camp, as well as our enthusiastic and spirited group of emerging young leaders, Moshava Ba'ir will be an unforgettable learning and growing experience for your children!

Sincerely,

**Eli Seidman**

Camp Director, Moshava Ba'ir

[eseidman@bneiakiva.org](mailto:eseidman@bneiakiva.org)

Winter office: (212) 465-9536

**Rav Shaul Feldman**

Executive Director, Bnei Akiva of the US  
& Canada

[sfeldman@bneiakiva.org](mailto:sfeldman@bneiakiva.org)

## IMPORTANT DATES

### SUMMER 2024

- **March 15** Tuition is due in full
- **May 1** Camper Forms Due
- **June 26** Open House for parents and campers (5pm-7pm)
- **June 27** First day of camp
- **July 4** National Holiday - No Camp
- **August 13** Tisha B'Av - No Camp
- **August 20** Last day of camp - 1pm Dismissal

#### **NY Winter Office**

Moshava Ba'ir  
520 Eighth Ave. 15th Fl, New York, NY 10018  
Phone: (212) 465-9536  
Fax: (212) 216-9538  
[MBLI@bneiakiva.org](mailto:MBLI@bneiakiva.org)

#### **NY Summer Office**

Moshava Ba'ir Long Island  
HANC campus  
215 Oak Street  
Uniondale, NY 11553  
Phone: (516) 538-8161 x336  
[MBLloffice@moshavabair.org](mailto:MBLloffice@moshavabair.org)

## CAMP HOURS

Our regular camp hours are Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm.

## TZEVET

We take great pride in the quality and dedication of our staff. Moshava Ba'ir tzevet are selected for their warmth, expertise, and desire to work with children, as well as their commitment to the ideals and values for which Bnei Akiva and Moshava Ba'ir stand. We orient all staff members prior to the camp season with a week of pre-camp training and orientation, as well as follow-up training and professional development over the course of the summer.

## COMMUNICATION

At Moshava Ba'ir, we believe that a close relationship between camp and parents helps enhance each child's summer experience, and that open lines of communication are critical to a successful summer. In addition to weekly newsletters distributed via e-mail each Friday, we communicate regularly through Facebook, Instagram, and email. If you are not receiving your newsletter via e-mail, please email the camp office at [MBLloffic@moshavabair.org](mailto:MBLloffic@moshavabair.org) to confirm the correct contact information.

If at any time during the course of the summer you would like to speak with someone directly regarding your child, please call the camp office at (516) 538-8161 x336. Please appreciate that your child's Sgan Rosh Moshava (Head Counselor) and Camp Director will not be available to talk during the camp day, as they will be busy observing and overseeing camp programs (and spending time with your wonderful children). We will make every effort to return calls as quickly as possible; our goal is to return all messages within 24 hours.

For schedule or transportation changes, please contact the camp office directly (516) 538-8161 x336. We cannot make any transportation changes without notification by a parent or guardian. Please note, that any bus-related questions, concerns, or changes must be communicated directly to our camp office and not to individual bus counselors. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding.

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Over the course of the summer, we are excited to run a number of community programs for Moshava Ba'ir families. These are wonderful opportunities to get to know us and enjoy the Bnei Akiva experience for your whole family. Programs include parent-child Torah learning and Chesed programs at camp and a closing Chagigat Siyum Celebration on the final evening of camp. You

can find info about upcoming events on the online calendar on our website at [www.moshavabair.org](http://www.moshavabair.org), and on our facebook page [www.facebook.com/MoshavaBairLI](https://www.facebook.com/MoshavaBairLI).

## **CAMPER PERSONAL FORM**

Moshava Ba'ir's educational philosophy embraces the importance of individual attention and program personalization. The Personal Form is an important tool to help our staff prepare for your child. This form is designed to enable us to help your child become an integral part of camp life and adjust to general and specialized activities as smoothly and easily as possible. Any requests for individualized attention should be indicated on this form. While we cannot guarantee fulfillment of all requests, we do our best to honor as many as we can. You should fill out this form as accurately and completely as possible. Under no circumstances should you permit your child to fill this form out. Your complete and honest answers to all questions will greatly facilitate our ability to care for your child.

Please complete your forms via your Campintouch account by May 15th.

## **MEDICAL FORM**

All children must be examined by a physician prior to their arrival at Camp. Medical forms are available in your online camp account, which you can access through our website. Please note that all medical forms must be completed by May 15th. No child can be permitted to enter camp without a properly completed and signed medical form on file with the camp. Please also read the section in this manual that is dedicated to health and medical information. Please note that Moshava Ba'ir requires that children have an annual check-up before camp and requires that a physician fill out and sign a new medical form each year.

## **THERAPY**

With increasing frequency, it has become perfectly natural for children to see a psychotherapist or counselor to assist with growth, development or adjustment issues. If your child is, or has been in therapy, please provide the information requested in the appropriate section of the personal information form. MBLI has a full-time Director of Camper Support who, with many years of professional experience in the field of Psychology, will review the information you provide and will expertly address all mental health and behavioral needs on campus. Should you need to speak with our Director of Camper Support in greater detail, please reach out to her at: [mblicampersupport@moshavabair.org](mailto:mblicampersupport@moshavabair.org).

## HEALTH AND MEDICAL

Our primary concern is for the safety, health and welfare of your child. To this end, we have established a comprehensive health and medical program, including a full-time nursing staff on campus. We are minutes from hospitals where we have access to a full complement of specialists and advanced facilities.

While minor injuries and illness are part of camp life, you can help minimize any problems by doing your part. This involves properly completing our camper evaluation and medical forms —important tools in our child welfare efforts— and by heeding the information, requirements and suggestions which follow.

## MEDICAL LIMITATIONS

Please be in touch with the Camp Director and nursing staff at [MBLnurse@moshavabair.org](mailto:MBLnurse@moshavabair.org) if your child...

- cannot swim due to physical limitations
- needs special medication or constant medical attention
- is diabetic, asthmatic or subject to fainting spells
- has life-threatening allergies
- for any reason cannot participate fully in our very active outdoors program

Should your child's ability to participate during a regular camp day change over the course of the summer due to injury, illness, etc, please be sure to speak to the camp director to arrange proper assistance from our Tzevet.

## VACCINATION RECORDS

It is recommended that campers be up to date on their immunizations as laid out by the CDC. An updated copy of your child(ren)'s vaccination record must be on file with the camp. No child will be allowed in camp without their immunization record on file.

## MEDICATION

If your child receives medication on an ongoing basis, please bring the medication to our Open House program prior to the start of camp. Please provide a type written set of instructions with the medication, including prescribing physician and any side effects observed related to this medication. If the need for medication arises during the summer, parents should deliver the medication to the camp office. We are unable to dispense any medication to a child that is not supplied by the child's parents. Our medical staff will keep and administer all medications. Please include any specific instructions, warnings or indications which your physician or pharmacist may provide. The medication must be in an original container with the following information labeled directly on it:

1. camper's name

2. name of medication and dosage
3. doctor's name
4. whether medication needs refrigeration

In some special cases (ex.: asthma inhalers) campers may keep and administer their own medications. These cases must be discussed in advance with the camp director and information must be provided to us in writing, including permission for the camper to hold and administer his/her own medications. To reach our Nurse, please email at [MBLNurse@moshavabair.org](mailto:MBLNurse@moshavabair.org)

## **EPI-PEN**

If your child requires use of an Epi-pen, the parent/guardian must provide it on the first day of camp with complete orders from the child's physician. The Epi-pen must be labeled exactly as it came from the pharmacy. In the event that it becomes necessary to treat your child using the Epi-pen, it is our policy to have your child treated by our camp nurse and then transport him/her to the nearest emergency room by ambulance for further evaluation and stabilization.

## **LICE**

In a "communal" living setting, like camp, lice can periodically become a problem. All children will be checked for lice within the first days of camp. Campers who are found to have lice during this initial check or at any point during the camp season are required to stay home for the prescribed duration as determined by the camp nurse. If we find lice on a camper during the camp day, our policy is to separate the child and be in touch with the parent regarding immediate pick-up from camp.

## **SUN SAFETY AND SUNSCREEN**

Please be sure to apply sunscreen to your child every morning before camp. Please keep in mind that, even on overcast days, the sun is quite strong, and your child should come prepared. Please be sure to send your child with sunscreen in his/her camp bag, and please label your child's bag. Children will be reminded to reapply sunscreen throughout the day, especially before and after all swim periods. If your child requires assistance in applying sunscreen, our staff is happy to help.

Every child should bring or wear a hat to camp every day. As the majority of our activities are outside, hats provide great sun protection.

## **CLOTHING**

While clothing tends to be a very personal matter, there are some guidelines for appropriate clothing and equipment for camp. Since campers swim twice every day, we recommend that you

send your child to camp dressed in a swimsuit. Additionally, please pack an extra swimsuit and two towels.

In general, keep in mind that clothing undergoes a lot of wear and tear in camp. Do not send particularly fancy or delicate clothes, as they are prone to damage.

All campers and staff will be expected to wear a Moshava Ba'ir t-shirt every day. Each camper will receive 3 Moshava Ba'ir t-shirts. These will be distributed at the Open House on Wednesday, June 26th from 5pm-8pm. If you are unable to make it then, your children will receive their t-shirts on the first day of camp.

Additional Moshava Ba'ir t-shirts will be available for purchase at the camp office at a cost of \$5 per shirt.

Please send in a full change of dry, clean clothing with your child to be left at camp in case of need on the first day of camp.

## **WHAT TO PACK FOR CAMP DAILY:**

**(please label all belongings with the camper's name)**

- Refillable water bottle
- Sunscreen
- Change of dry clothes
- 2 towel
- 2 swimsuit (1 packed, 1 wear to camp)
- Plastic bag for wet items
- Hair bands (to tie back long hair during swimming)
- Sneakers and socks (wear to camp)
- Water Shoes (for pool use only)
- Hat (or Kippah required)

Every day before camp, apply sunscreen to your child. Sunscreen will be reapplied at your request after each swim. Please remember to send in a labeled bottle of sunscreen for your child.

## **WHAT TO LEAVE AT HOME:**

- Water-guns and other toys
- Cell phones (If cell phones are brought, they must be given to the office daily)
- Money
- Watches with the ability to take pictures
- Ipods, Ipads, electronics, and electronic games
- Trading Cards (Pokemon, Yugimon, Sports Cards, etc.)

Please make your child aware of these restrictions. These items may be confiscated! Jewelry, expensive cameras, etc. are also discouraged. Cell phones and watches with photo capabilities are not allowed and will be returned to parents. DVD players, laptops and similar devices are also not allowed and should not be brought to camp.

## DRESS CODE

As an Orthodox program, appropriate dress is a critical part of creating an environment reflective of the camp's religious affiliation.

Girls:

- The camp t-shirt
- pants, shorts or skirts that approach the knee; leggings (without a skirt on top) are not allowed, and please be conscious to avoid bottoms that are too form fitting.

Boys:

- the camp t-shirt
- pants or shorts that approach the knee
- boys must have their heads covered with a kippah or hat
- boys should wear tzitzit to camp every day

## LABELS

Label, label, label. Every item which you send with your child should be identified with a label bearing his or her first and last name. Where a label cannot be attached, use a permanent marker to write your child's name on a piece of adhesive tape, and attach it to the item.

## LIABILITY

Moshava Ba'ir assumes no responsibility for wear and tear, damage to, or loss of camper's clothing, equipment or belongings. We recommend that you do not send expensive cameras, watches, jewelry, fancy clothing, etc. to camp, as we will not be responsible for loss or damage. By placing name tags on all articles, you will help us keep losses to a minimum. Insurance carried by the camp does not provide coverage for personal effects. Therefore, if such coverage is desired, you are urged to make arrangements for such coverage with your own insurance company.

## TRANSPORTATION

### BUSING

Moshava Ba'ir offers busing to the community. All of our buses are equipped with A/C and have bus counselors who are responsible staff members at Moshava Ba'ir.

We will be in touch with your bus route and bus counselor info in advance of the summer, as well as with approximate pick up and drop off times. We appreciate your patience, especially early in the summer, as bus routes occasionally have kinks that need to be addressed at the start of the summer.

If you are driving your child to camp, please park on the street and escort your child onto the premises, making sure that your child is delivered safely into the building and left with his/her counselor, division head or another staffer.

## **ABSENCES, LATE ARRIVALS, EARLY PICK-UPS**

If for any reason your child needs to miss a day of camp, please notify us by email at [MBLIdismissal@moshavabair.org](mailto:MBLIdismissal@moshavabair.org) or by phone at (516) 538-8161 x336. If you know in advance that your child will be leaving early or arriving late, please contact the camp office. If your child is arriving after morning drop-off is completed, please bring your child directly to the camp office; you will need to sign him/her in for the day. All campers who need to leave early will be brought to the camp office so that their parents can sign them out. **The camp office must be notified of same-day changes by no later than 2:30 PM, and children being picked up early must be picked up no later than 3:15 PM.**

## **AQUATICS PROGRAM**

### **INTRODUCTION**

At Moshava Ba'ir, we recognize that swim is an integral part of the summer. We offer daily free and instructional swim on campus in our 3 large in-ground pools with adjacent large decks. This year, the chanichim (campers) will have 2 swim periods.

Our swim program is designed to be a safe, fun and educational experience for all of our campers, regardless of previous swim experience or ability. The swim staff receives intensive training prior to and throughout the summer. Our instructional program follows the guidelines of the American Red Cross. In the first few days of camp, all campers will be tested to determine appropriate instructional group placement. As a child's swim ability progresses, new and more challenging skills will be taught. You will receive updates about your child's progress a few times throughout the summer through written reports. All campers will also have recreational swim time each day. It is often during this less structured time that children's skills really blossom. Lifeguards and counselors are on hand for close supervision and as active participants in recreational swim as well.

A strong camp/parent connection is especially important to the success of our swim program. Please reinforce the following pool rules at home prior to and throughout the summer:

- Participation in daily instructional swim is MANDATORY for all campers.
- No water toys from home are allowed at camp – we will supply all the fun!
- Please do not send in any floatation devices for use at camp.
- Goggles are optional but recommended. (Make sure to label!)

If you have any specific questions or concerns regarding swim, please feel free to be in touch with us to discuss!

## FOOD POLICIES

### KASHRUT

Moshava Ba'ir is a kosher camp. All food provided by Moshava Ba'ir is kosher. Campers who choose to bring food with them are required to bring kosher food only.

### NUT POLICY

Moshava Ba'ir is a nut-free camp. Each year, several of our campers have severe, life-threatening nut allergies, and every attempt is made to ensure that all food in camp is nut-free (contains no nuts and sesame, peanut butter, peanut oils, or traces of peanuts or tree nuts).

All food served at our camp follows these guidelines. We implore our parents to support this policy: **Please do not send any food that contains nuts, sesame or traces of peanuts and other tree nuts.** There is no food to be eaten on the bus to and from camp, regardless of ingredients. Please remind your children. This will be enforced by the bus drivers and bus counselors. Please be aware that, if any such food is sent to camp, it will be removed and replaced with an equivalent substitute to the best of our ability.

### LUNCH AND SNACK

A light and nutritious snack is served twice daily, mid-morning and mid-afternoon.

Moshava Ba'ir provides lunch daily. Meals alternate between meat and dairy. Our caterer is Sharmel Caterers. All food served at camp is nut-free. We request that parents who bring in their own lunch follow our schedule of meat and dairy days in sending lunch to camp. On meat days, meat or pareve food may be sent, and on dairy days, dairy or pareve foods may be sent. A menu and calendar will be sent by email prior to camp and can be viewed on our website.

### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Campers who celebrate their birthdays during camp are made to feel special by being recognized during the camp day and given a camp-provided treat. Because we have many

campers with dietary restrictions, we ask that parents not send birthday treats for distribution to the other campers. For parents who so choose to purchase, we are happy to arrange birthday cupcakes for your child's bunk. Please contact the camp office for more information.

## **CAMP POLICIES AND GUIDELINES**

### **CAMPER PARTICIPATION AND COOPERATION**

Summer camp offers opportunities and experiences that will lead to the growth and development of your child, all while he or she is having an enjoyable and exciting time. To ensure a positive and safe camping experience, we must have the full and active cooperation and participation of your child. Please make sure to discuss the following central issues and guidelines with your child before his or her departure for camp:

- Respect for counselors, supervisory staff, fellow campers, other campers, personal belongings of others, the environment and camp property: Abusive behavior, including use of disrespectful or vulgar language and physical attacks, are not allowed and will result in immediate removal from camp activities. We expect speech and attitudes consistent with an educational and religious environment.
- No child is permitted to leave camp's grounds, at any time, except on organized, authorized, supervised camp trips. Any child leaving camp without proper supervision and authorization will be sent home immediately.
- Campers are expected to behave responsibly and safely. This includes avoiding areas which are off limits without proper supervision and authorization. These areas will be pointed out to your child upon his or her arrival at camp. Your child is not permitted to bring any items that present potential danger to others. These items are spelled out in the subsection "Items not to bring." The possession, in camp, of items that present potential danger to others is grounds for immediate dismissal.
- Graffiti and Damage: Campers and their legal guardians will be held responsible for any damages that they may cause Moshava Ba'ir as a result of a violation of camp rules, regulations or the instructions of the supervisory personnel. There will be an automatic \$150 charge for each incident of graffiti writing on walls, tables or any other camp property.
- Taking Children off Campus. Children may only be taken off campus as part of authorized, organized and supervised camp activities.

### **VISITOR POLICY**

Unaccompanied visitors are not permitted on the Moshava Ba'ir grounds during camp hours. If parents need to come to the camp during the day (to pick a child up early, to meet with the staff, etc.), they must be accompanied by a security guard to the camp office and wait there for their child. Parents may not walk through camp unescorted. Children adjust to being away from their parents differently—please

respect our policy, and be in touch with the camp office with specific concerns.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY POLICY**

Moshava Ba'ir will display photographs of campers and staff on our Facebook page among other designated locations. Moshava Ba'ir does not post mailing lists or e-mail addresses of campers or staff on the web site. We understand that parents give permission and consent for such photographs to be used and published on our website or newsletters where they are used to illustrate, promote and advertise the camp. Any parents that object to the use of photographs that include their children should send a letter to the camp office.

## **CUSTODY ISSUES**

In the event of divorce, parental separation, or other custody issues, in order to maximize your child's camp experience, we follow the wishes of the parent that signs the enrollment form in deciding who may have contact with the child, who may remove the child from the campus and who may have access to the child's files and records. Any such instructions should be provided to us, in writing, by the parent who signs the enrollment form. If both parents sign, then each will have the same rights in this regard. Similarly, the parent(s) who sign the enrollment form remains financially responsible to the camp for any obligations resulting from the child's stay at camp, including but not limited to tuition, and regardless of any private arrangements between the parents.

## **CANCELLATIONS**

All cancellations and changes of registration must be in writing. Please be aware that no refunds or changes to your camp registration will be issued after March 15th. Parents who voluntarily withdraw their child from camp or children who are asked to leave the camp and children who are sent home for disciplinary reasons are not entitled to a refund. All refund requests must be made in writing to the Camp Office. The refund subcommittee of the board of Bnei Akiva decides on refund requests within two months after the end of the camp season.

## IN CLOSING

Thanks for reading our camp guidelines! As you can see, this handbook contains a great deal of important information, and we hope that you find it a useful reference tool. We ask that you become familiar with its contents, and we would be pleased to hear from you with any questions. Our office is open during business hours, from Monday through Thursday, except for legal and Jewish holidays. You can reach us until the summer at 212-465-9536 or via email at [MBLloffice@moshavabair.org](mailto:MBLloffice@moshavabair.org) In the months and weeks that follow, you will receive regular correspondence and additional material from us. These, along with this handbook, are designed to optimize your child's summer experience, as well as ease your preparation for camp.

Thank you for your support. We can't wait to see you and your children this summer!

Sincerely,

**Eli Seidman**

Director, Moshava Ba'ir

[eseidman@bneiakiva.org](mailto:eseidman@bneiakiva.org)

winter office: (212) 465-9536

summer office: (516) 538-8161

## **CAMP PREPARATION CHECKLIST**

HAVE YOU.....

- Read through the Parent Handbook and accompanying information?
- Paid all outstanding tuition payments Deadline: March 15th
- Completed and uploaded your child's forms Deadline: May 15th
- Made sure that all your child's vaccinations are up to date?
- Prepared a camp bag with a water bottle, suntan lotion, and clothes?

**SEE YOU SOON!**

BRUCE A. BLAKEMAN  
NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE



Irina Gelman, DPM, MPH, PhD  
Commissioner of Health

## NASSAU COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

### **Rights and Responsibilities of Camp Operators**

NY State Sanitary Code Subpart 7-2 requires camp operators to provide parents with any enrollment application forms the rights and responsibilities of camp operators:

- To inform you and the local health department if your child is involved in any serious injury, illness or abuse incident.
- To screen the background and qualifications of all staff.
- To train staff about their duties.
- To provide supervision for all campers 24 hours a day at overnight camps, and during hours of operation for day camps.
- To maintain all camp physical facilities in a safe and sanitary condition.
- To provide safe and wholesome meals.
- To have and follow required written plans for camp safety, health and fire safety.
- To notify the parent or guardian, with the enrollment application or enrollment contract, that:
  - the camp is required to be permitted to operate by Nassau County Department of Health;
  - the camp is required to be inspected twice yearly; and
  - The inspection reports concerning such camps are filed at:  
200 County Seat Drive, Mineola, New York 11501