

PARENT HANDBOOK

Summer 2024



BB Camp provides a fun, supportive and inclusive Jewish environment in which youth can explore, grow and mature. Campers are provided opportunities to develop independence, foster lasting friendships, and strengthen their identities within a natural wilderness setting.

Welcome to BB Camp Summer 2024!

Welcome to the BB Camp family! We are so excited to welcome your camper to BB Camp this summer.

We urge you to read through this handbook with your camper. Our goal at BB Camp is to create a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment where campers are free to be their truest self. We strive to make each young person's summer at BB Camp a memorable experience where they can make lifelong friendships and gain independence in an inclusive and welcoming Jewish environment.

We're very excited about the upcoming summer! Our staff are already working hard to help make this summer a wonderful camp experience for your family and one that you child will enjoy and remember for a lifetime. We look forward to having your camper at Camp this summer. If while reading through this handbook you have any questions or concerns about your camper's upcoming camp experience, please do not hesitate to book a call with us to discuss. We welcome the opportunity to connect with you and/or your camper to ensure your camper is successful this summer.

See you soon!

Jacob Brodovsky and Lexie Yurman
Executive Directors

WHOM TO CONTACT & FOR WHAT

Our year-round office telephone number is 204.477.7512. Here is a brief list of whom to contact for what:

Issue	Contact Person	Email
Camper Concerns	Jacob Brodovsky Lexie Yurman	jbrodovsky@bbcamp.ca lyurman@bbcamp.ca
Transportation, Baggage	General Information	info@bbcamp.ca
Registration, Forms, Payments, Camperships	Linsey Callaghan	lcallaghan@bbcamp.ca
Lost & Found	General Information	info@bbcamp.ca
Medical/Health	Lexie Yurman	lyurman@bbcamp.ca
Donations	General Information	info@bbcamp.ca

Please do not contact Jacob or Lexie by their Cell Phone numbers as those lines are reserved for staff at camp and on the lake.

Emergencies

If there is a family emergency, please state this when you call the Winnipeg Office (204 477 7512) and ask to speak to Lexie Yurman or Jacob Brodovsky, Executive Directors. Your call will be handled as quickly as possible. The best way to get in touch with us is always by email: lyurman@bbcamp.ca or jbrodovsky@bbcamp.ca. While at camp, we strive to respond to all emails within 48 hrs.

FORMS

In addition to this Summer 2024 Parent Handbook, there are 9 important pieces of paperwork that must be reviewed/filled out/uploaded and received by the Camp on behalf of each camper. THE FOLLOWING FORMS WILL BE OPENED ON APRIL 15TH, AND ARE DUE ON JUNE 1ST, 2024, including:

1. CAMPER CONSENT FORM (mandatory for each camper and found online).
2. CAMPER & PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT (mandatory for each camper and found online).
3. INTERNET COMMUNICATION FORM (mandatory for each camper and found online).
4. CAMPER INTEREST FORM (mandatory for each camper and found online).
5. SLEEP-AWAY CAMP TERMS AND CONDITIONS (mandatory for each camper & form found online).
6. CAMPER MEDICAL FORM (mandatory for each camper & form found online).
7. CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION RECORD (mandatory for each camper & can be uploaded online).
8. CAMPER PHOTO (mandatory for each camper & can be uploaded online).
9. PHYSICIAN DECLARATION FORM (if applicable, can be uploaded online).
10. ANAPHYLAXIS ACTION PLAN (if applicable, can be uploaded online).

If you have yet to complete the forms, please visit our website at <https://bbcamp.campbrainregistration.com> to access our Online Registration System. Please make sure a separate form is filled out for each camper attending, as indicated above and that the completed forms are submitted online no later than JUNE 1ST, 2024.

PREPARING FOR CAMP

As you spend the weeks leading up to Camp packing, we recommend spending some time preparing emotionally as well. Everyone experiences homesickness at camp (even staff!) Speak to your child about strategies that may help them cope with anxious feelings they are having about camp, and assure them it's perfectly normal to have highs and lows at camp. One of the greatest lessons at camp, is learning how to manage and persevere through difficult moments, while celebrating the positive ones. If your child has been to BB Camp before, help them

focus on the parts they loved and are looking forward to experiencing again. If this is their first summer, encourage to talk with friends who have gone, or schedule a call/Zoom with Jacob and Lexie to discuss any concerns they may have.

Most importantly, speak to your camper about who their “go-to” person at camp is going to be when they are feeling sad. It can be their counsellor, a friend or relative on staff, Jacob or Lexie, or any other staff member. It’s vitally important that when campers are feeling sad at camp, they have a friendly and supportive staff member to tell them how they feel and help them feel better.

Further info can be found on our [Camper Readiness Guide](#)

Cabin Requests

As part of the application process, all campers have the opportunity to request cabinmates. We feel it is important to ensure each camper has a “support person” they feel comfortable with in their cabin. Please ensure that you complete the online Camper Interest Form to fill out your cabin request prior to June 1st. Requests made after June 1st, may not be honored.

We will be releasing cabin lists 2-4 days prior to your child’s arrival at camp. We will do our utmost to ensure that your child is in a cabin filled with old and new friends. Your support and understanding is critical in encouraging positive group experiences at Camp. We ask that you discuss cabin placements with your children and discuss the positive aspects of meeting new friends.

In the past, we have received requests from parents asking the administration to keep specific children apart. We understand that some campers arrive at Camp with a history of difficulty getting along with a particular camper or group of campers. If you have a specific concern regarding cabin placement, please email the Director at lyurman@bbcamp.ca. In these instances we try to honour the cabin request in addition to separating your camper from these particular child(ren), but in the event that it affects other campers’ cabin requests, only the request to separate your camper from a particular child/group will be honoured.

Counsellors

All BB Camp Counsellors undergo extensive camper care training during our 10-day training session and are supported by our Camper Care Team. Many if not most of our counsellors grew up at camp so we have the advantage of having known our staff for over a decade in many cases which allows us to be quite intentional in matching staff to the individual needs and personalities of campers.

We determine counsellor assignments based on prior experience, relevant certifications, and the individual camper needs in each cabin. Depending on the demographics and gender distribution of our staff team, we often have mixed-gender counsellor pairings. All BB Camp staff receive extensive child protection and

camper care training, and are expected to uphold BB Camp's child protection policy. All cabins are equipped with change rooms, and counsellor quarters. Feel free to book a call should you have any concerns or questions about your camper's counsellor.

The First Few Days at Camp

Coming to Camp can be a big adjustment for many campers, which is completely normal. Our staff go through extensive training to be aware of and manage each camper's emotional needs. Each camper will have a 1-on-1 meeting with one of their counsellors on the first day of camp to set goals, talk about hopes and fears, and identify any foods or activities they are particularly excited for, or keen on avoiding. Our counsellors will continue to periodically check-in on campers throughout the session to ensure all campers are feeling safe and supported.

Please do not be alarmed if you receive a "homesick letter". Campers who are homesick will often write letters that say, "I hate Camp" or "please come and pick me up". These are common responses to homesickness. This does not mean the camper is not having a good time, but rather they miss their parents and home. Do not panic when you receive a letter like this. By the time you receive the letter your child will have further adjusted to Camp and is likely to be having a great time! If, however, you receive a second letter that causes concern, call the camp office at 204.477.7512 and ask for Lexie Yurman or Jacob Brodovsky, Executive Directors; it helps us to get to the bottom of any challenges your child may be experiencing.

A Word About Homesickness

Most children who go away from home for the first time experience a certain amount of homesickness.

We have learned that the single worst thing you can do as a parent is to tell your child that you will take them home if they don't like Camp. This prevents most children from making the effort it takes to overcome homesickness. Instead, when they experience the normal discomfort of getting used to a new place, they can think of nothing but their parents' promise to take them home and they focus on this instead of making the adjustment. This can sabotage their camp experience before it begins.

Camp has an enormous arsenal of techniques to combat homesickness, which it has developed over many years. When dealing with homesickness, we give one-on-one attention to your child and the staff involved may be anyone from the counselors to the camp directors. Our goal is to keep the children busy – at first doing the things most familiar and enjoyable to them. If campers continue to struggle with homesickness past the first few days of camp, we may contact you with a scanned letter from your camper asking for an encouraging and positive response. Often

having that more direct correspondence from a parent or support person is the extra boost a camper needs to overcome feeling sad at camp.

Usually homesickness subsides after a day or two, because the pace of camp life is so busy and distracting. The good news is like all things, time heals homesickness too. With your support, the likelihood that your child will overcome this obstacle is extremely high.

We do our absolute best to make sure every camper is successful at camp. If a camper is having fun during activities, but homesick during downtime, bedtime, or meal times, that means there is more we can do to keep them busy and distracted during downtime. If a camper is homesick and sad all day for a prolonged period past the first 3 or 4 days of camp, we will contact you to discuss if camp is the right place for your camper this season.

A Typical Day at BB Camp

At BB Camp, our campers are able to enjoy a wide range of activities and programs all under the supervision of our qualified staff. Typically, the day is filled with rotations (canoeing, kayaking, tripping, waterfront, arts and crafts, ropes course) and fun, immersive programs planned by the staff.

Shabbat at Camp is a beautiful time. Each Friday afternoon, activities at BB Camp wind down as campers prepare to celebrate the beauty of Shabbat. A Shabbat procession through the cabin line gathers campers to begin their time together as a community. We have a beautiful Kabbalat Shabbat service, and a delicious Friday night Dinner of roast chicken and homemade challah. On Shabbat mornings (Saturday) we sleep later, we enjoy a delicious breakfast buffet of freshly baked pastries, fruit, and cereal. A relaxed schedule is introduced to ensure that all campers have a peaceful and restful Shabbat which ends with a camp-wide sing along and Havdallah bonfire in the evening.

Packing Preamble

Helping to preserve and strengthen every camper's sense of self is one of our most important objectives. We want our campers to feel confident and comfortable. At camp, we have a simple 'ready to play' dress code. Please ensure that clothing packed for camp will not need to be adjusted in order to maintain comfort or safety while participating in camp activities. We strive to make BB Camp a place that is absent of judgement and want to stress that comfort and safety is key.

Please keep in mind the following:

- Campers are encouraged to choose swimwear that allows free movement and will not fall off in the water.
- Graphics on clothing should be appropriate: Clothing that violates our inclusivity policy will not be allowed to be worn.
- Campers participate in a variety of activities outdoors, clothing will likely get dirty during their time at camp.

Packing

Our cabins are large enough to hold campers, staff, and their clothing comfortably, provided everyone brings a reasonable amount of clothing and personal items. Please pack all of your child's items in NO MORE than two duffel bags, one of which should be used for bedding material – sheets, pillowcases, blankets and sleeping bags, while the other should be used for clothing. Please do not send any trunks. For personal hygiene, sleeping bags are not to be used as primary bedding following your child's overnight.

The Camper Clothing List (found [here](#)) will help you keep track of what you should pack for Camp. Campers generally do not need more than what is listed for a three-week session.

It is important from the standpoint of health and cleanliness that campers have sufficient clothing. The packing list is designed to provide the camper with a suggested supply of clothing. At Camp, a child wears clothes harder than in the city. And often in a cabin, items can go missing.

We recommend that if you are purchasing T-shirts, socks, underwear, towels for your child, look for generic, inexpensive options. Some of the clothing items will not return in the same condition after it has spent considerable time on a canoe trip. Camp is not a place to bring valuables, they may get lost or damaged. If your child has a favorite clothing item that they don't want to lose, don't send it to Camp.

Please remember that when it rains at Camp, the trails can become quite muddy and filled with puddles; it is therefore critical that your child brings waterproof rainwear. Do not send rain ponchos to Camp. The ponchos are known to tear easily as soon as a child brushes against a branch while hiking and will not offer any rain protection to your child if it is torn.

Open Toe Sandals

Due to the physical surroundings of the Camp - rocks, hills and a lot of tree roots, it is very important to wear proper shoes to prevent any accident. To lessen the risk of injury, we discourage open-toe or soft-soled footwear. **Slides or Flip-Flops are prohibited at camp except for use in the shower.** All sandals must have a back ankle strap, and crocs must be work in 'sport mode.' All campers are encouraged to wear closed-toe, well-secured, waterproof shoes during cook-out/overnight activities. Some areas near the lake have sharp rocks and wearing closed-toe shoes reduces the risk of

injury to your child's feet. Our favorite camp shoes are Keen Newport Sandals as they are waterproof, durable, relatively inexpensive, and have a protected toe.

Packing Tips*** Line the inside of your child's duffel bags and backpack with garbage bags and place all your child's clothes and bedding inside the garbage bags. In case of rain, your child's clothing and personal items will remain dry. Also, pack your child's rain suit inside of their backpack for the bus ride; in case of bad weather your child will have their raingear for the boat ride and arrival at camp close at hand.

If your child is bringing a disposable camera, pack it in a Ziploc bag. Label both the camera and the Ziploc bag, to provide extra waterproof protection during cookout and overnight experiences.

BB Camp Community Gear Locker

We recognize that sending your child to camp is expensive, and adding additional expenses such as items listed on the packing list isn't realistic for all families. Thanks to generous donations, BB Camp has an extensive gear locker of clothing, footwear, and canoe trip equipment in excellent condition to be loaned out. Feel free to contact us ahead of time with the items required and your camper's size to set can set aside any required items or clothing to be waiting on your campers bunk when they arrive.

Laundry

Laundry service is not available at BB Camp. Emergency laundry service is handled daily. Light bedding and clothing will be laundered at the Camp, if necessary.

Lost and Found

We strongly suggest that you mark each article clearly with your child's full name with a laundry-marking pen, nametape, or rubber stamp with permanent ink (see Lost and Found)

Please use permanent ink to mark the inside of shoes, boots, etc. and make sure all cameras, sleeping bags, bedding, and other gear are labeled clearly!!! Even shoes should be marked and there are special tags for shoes you can purchase. Help us reduce unnecessary lost and found items; please ensure all items are clearly labeled with camper's first and last name.

All campers and staff are encouraged to wear "blue & white" on Friday evening for Shabbat, so we can celebrate this part of our camp program in a special way. Given that the campsite is situated on rocky, uneven terrain, we discourage campers from wearing open-toe sandals or shoes with a high heel.

A complimentary BB Camp T-shirt will be provided to campers at the end of their respective session.

Labeled items left behind Camp will be brought back to the Winnipeg office following the end of the camp season. Due to the volume of lost and found, the Camp is restricting its resources to only collect and ship to Winnipeg clothing items that have campers' names. Unmarked clothing and articles are placed in the Lost and Found bin located on the front steps of the Chadar (Dining Hall). Staff will regularly take campers to check the bin for missing items. We will do our best, but cannot guarantee all lost items will be returned following camp.

B'nai Brith Jewish Community Camp cannot assume liability for the loss or damage of any personal items brought to Camp.

BB Camp will display all of its lost and found collection at the Winnipeg camp office in late September. We will email families to let them know when the lost and found is set up. Any unclaimed items will be sent to organizations that accept gently used clothing. A reminder notice will be sent to parents at the end of the camp season.

AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT – PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING!!!!

Technology

At BB Camp we aim to strengthen interpersonal connection, growth, and independence; technology gets in the way. We want to protect our campers' ability to play and engage face to face with their peers, and the wilderness setting at camp. Additionally the camper area of our cabins are not equipped with electrical outlets, for campers to charge these devices. Like other summer camps, we believe that unplugging over the summer enhances our connections: to each other and to our surroundings.

BB Camp Technology Policy

Campers cannot be in possession of a cell phone or any other device with access to data, cell service, WiFi, or internet. Any exceptions are only by communicated written policy and remain at the Camp Director's discretion. Parents or guardians that enable contravention of this policy are compromising the values of our Camp and are in violation of our Camper and Parent Codes of Conduct. By applying to Camp, you acknowledge and accept this policy.

Furthermore, notwithstanding that all phones and data devices are communication tools, personal property, and often are used for safety and tracking purposes, by applying to BB Camp you accept the following possible consequences if this policy is violated:

1. Confiscation of the device while the camper is at Camp for such period as the Camp Director determines.
2. Continued confiscation of the device until the camper has been released from the Camp's care and control. In this case, the Camp Director will schedule a meeting with the camper and parent(s)/guardian(s) to discuss the breach of policy, and related enabling, if applicable, and next steps going forward. Breach of this policy may

impact acceptance of a camper's registration in subsequent years and/or may be considered as part of the staff application process.

3. It remains completely in the Camp's discretion if the device will be returned during the Camp session. Therefore, by applying to Camp and violating this policy at Camp, the camper and their parents and/or guardians are deemed to relinquish any rights to possess or demand return of the device and the Camp is authorized to have full control of the device, accessories, data cards or chips, and any other related components accordingly until returned.

What NOT to Bring

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS HAVE NO PLACE AT BB CAMP. PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO CAMP WITH YOUR CHILD. THEY WILL BE CONFISCATED.

- Electronics (as listed above)
- Hot pots, hot plates, kettles
- Drones
- Candles, lighters, matches
- Anything that is considered dangerous and could cause injury or destroy property.
- Illegal drugs, alcohol, fireworks, weapons, cigarettes, e-cigarettes/vape pens, cigars or cigarettes (Any contraband will be confiscated and shipped back to your legal guardians at your own cost and could jeopardize your participation in the program. This includes removal from camp at the discretion of the Director)
- Items of high value such as watches, jewelry and expensive cameras.
- Please do not pack clothing with inappropriate language, slogans or pictures advocating use of cigarettes, alcohol, drugs or sexual overtones, or clothing that conflicts with our inclusion policy.
- Shaving cream, balloons, permanent markers
- Money
- Food of any kind including beverages

Food

Campers are not permitted to bring food. We are a nut aware facility. We have children with life-threatening food allergies and we do not want to risk a child having an allergic reaction to a treat brought into the cabin. Moreover:

- * it encourages unwanted visits from bugs and animals (mice and black bears)
- * it can create conflict amongst campers
- * it can cause discomfort and concern around levels of kashrut

In addition to three meals a day, we provide campers with at least three snacks daily.

Many campers bring candy and snacks for the bus ride to camp as has been tradition for many years. Upon arrival to camp, any remaining snacks or candy will be collected by the counsellors. Snacks with nuts or other allergens will be confiscated, and any remaining candy will be pooled together and distributed to the entire cabin at the counsellors discretion.

Peanuts and all Nut Related Products

While on site, our objective is to be a peanut “aware” Camp. Our kitchen is peanut free. That of course does not guarantee a peanut free camp as staff and campers can accidentally bring nut products into Camp and often traces of a product can surprise the best of us at any time. To ensure that BB Camp remains a safe environment for peanut allergic children:

- We do not serve peanut butter in the dining hall. Instead we serve jam, wow butter, cream cheese, and other spreads so children have a variety of alternatives. Our kitchen and canteen is nut aware and will not prepare or serve any products that may contain traces of nuts or fish products. The kitchen only uses vegetable-based cooking oils and does not use any nut related products in any baking or meals.
- If there is a known allergy to a particular fruit product, the Camp will direct its effort not to use any of that fruit product during that session the allergies are prevalent.
- All staff and all campers will be given a clear message that nut products are not allowed at Camp.
- If you give food to your child on the bus, please ensure the food contains NO NUTS or nut products.

A cabin group will only be permitted to take peanut butter on their overnights provided the cabin group is free of any nut allergies. As an alternative, “sun butter” or wow butter will be provided on overnights if there is a nut allergy in the cabin group.

Spending Money

BB Camp does not operate a kiosk (Tuck shop) with snacks and beverages. Instead, we provide campers the opportunity to choose a few treats twice a week, which is included as part of the camper tuition fee. We therefore ask campers not to bring money to Camp. Parents will be given the opportunity to purchase care packages for their camper’s cabin through our website.

Sun Protection

Campers are primarily outdoors throughout the course of the day. It is important that your child wears a hat as well as applies sunscreen during outdoor activities. Please make certain that your child has a hat suitable for active play, an ample

supply of sunscreen (minimum 30 SPF), and a water bottle. It is not a pleasant experience to be on an overnight with sunburn. Sunburns are preventable. We also encourage you to send UV protective swimwear (UPF of 50 plus).

Counselors will remind and assist young campers to reapply sunscreen every 4 hours throughout the day.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Camper Medical Form

Adequate medical records are important to ensure the wellbeing of our entire camp community. Campers without a completed medical form will be refused at the dock. If you have not yet filled in your camper's Medical Form at <https://bbcamp.campbrainregistration.com>, please do so by June 1st.

If you will be sending medication to Camp with your child, please ensure that administration instructions are included with the medications.

Immunization Policy

All children attending BB Camp must be up to date in their routine childhood immunization as determined by the provincial schedule. Additionally, all campers are required to be immunized with 2 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine. The routine vaccination of all campers and staff is an important public health matter especially in a high risk communal-living environment of a sleep away summer camp.

Health Centre

Our health centre is well-stocked and staffed by nursing students who have completed at least one year of clinical placements. We are a 7 minute boat ride from the Lake of the Woods District Hospital, and also utilize QDOC, a virtual telehealth service that connects us with Manitoba Doctors. BB Camp is lucky to have a robust medical committee made up of Doctors who are available for consults whenever needed.

Our camp policy is that parents are notified when:

- there is an emergency that requires your child to be taken to the hospital,
- your child is in the health centre overnight,
- your camper has a virtual visit with a doctor on QDOC
- your child needs to be taken for x-rays or lab tests and a cost may be incurred,
- your child needs to be put on antibiotics, or
- your child has been treated for lice.

Camp has experienced medical staff, and a wide network of medical professionals to consult that are qualified to make appropriate decisions concerning your child's

health. If you should have any questions about the medical care your child is receiving, please feel free to email lyurman@bbcamp.ca and you will be put in touch with the appropriate healthcare staff. Please notify Camp immediately of any medical condition that develops between the submission of your child's medical form and the start of their camp session.

Medications

The health center is stocked with a variety of over-the-counter drugs and specialized equipment. Please note that provincial law requires that all medications be kept in the health center at Camp. **There can be NO medications in the cabin this includes over the counter medications of topical creams, vitamins, and homeopathic medications - exceptions: Inhalers and Epi-Pens.** Do not send medicines such as pain relievers, eardrops, etc. as they are always kept on hand. If your child takes something over the counter on a regular basis, please include this in your medical form and send it with your camper (turning it in to staff at the dock, along with written instructions). Sharing prescription drugs with others may result in expulsion from Camp.

Blister Packs

If your camper requires two or more pills at a time, medications must come blister packed, or on a med roll by a pharmacy.

Medication "Vacation"

We understand that some parents wish to give their child a "vacation" from their regular school-year dose of medication over the summer. Often, this is because Camp is assumed to be a less structured, stress-free environment. While Camp is a time for relaxed fun, there are many different situations to deal with: new social situations, changes in routine, and different levels of structure depending on the day. For these reasons, we strongly recommend that you discuss the above factors with your physician before considering taking your child off medication. Please note that **we do not support medication holidays without the consultation of your child's physician and any plan to discontinue medication taken during the school year must be discussed with the Executive Director prior to Camp.**

Bedwetting

Our staff are trained to deal with bedwetting discreetly. If your camper regularly or periodically experiences bedwetting, please tell us about it on their medical form. It is best for us to know ahead of time so we can easily help your child. Bedwetting will certainly not affect your camper's ability to come to Camp. Be sure to include extra bedding when you pack; we want to make your camper's stay here as comfortable as possible. If and when a camper wets the bed, any sheets or clothing will be discreetly laundered in our health center.

Eyeglasses

Children who wear glasses should bring an extra pair to camp in case of breakage or loss. Please make sure your child's name is marked on their eyeglasses. If glasses need to be repaired or replaced at camp, you will be billed for this service.

Dental Work

It is important that children's dental and orthodontic needs are attended to before Camp. There is no dentist at Camp and in the event that your child must have dental or orthodontic treatment, you will be billed for this service. Camp medical insurance does not cover dental work.

Lice

We will check all campers and staff for head lice upon arrival at Camp this summer. To facilitate this, we will have to have hair loose, which may require staff to remove any braids, etc. that children arrive in. Please let them know this to avoid disappointment. We ask that you please check your child's head before the start of Camp. If your child is found to have lice or nits at Camp, your child will be treated immediately, and we will contact you once treatment has been completed. Head lice are small, wingless insects that feed on human blood. Unfortunately, they are easily spread in environments where people live closely together, like Camp. Sharing towels, beds, hair accessories, headphones, hats, kippot, T-shirts, and other personal items (i.e. combs and brushes) contribute to their ability to spread. Please discourage your child from sharing such items while in camp.

Safety

Since BB Camp's inception over 70 years ago, we have an excellent track record for safety and security. BB Camp is a caring and nurturing environment in which all programs, in and out of Camp, are planned with safety as the top priority.

To ensure a secure environment as possible for our campers, camp leadership have designed the following protocols regarding safety and security:

- Island evacuations are reviewed with all staff and fire drills are conducted.
- Emergency evacuations are reviewed with all campers groups on the first day of their arrival.
- All visitors and deliveries will be met at the Dock and directed to the Camp Director's building, and will be required to check in.
- No unexpected visitors will be allowed onto Camp.
- Camp has security cameras on each dock to ensure the camp is monitored at all hours.
- BB Camp has an excellent relationship with the local OPP detachment and have never waited longer than 10 minutes in the rare occasion that a police response is required.

TRANSPORTATION

BB Camp Provides chartered busses from The Rady JCC Parking lot in Winnipeg at 123 Doncaster St, to Kenora and back for all campers at BB Camp.

Families also have the option of dropping off and picking up their camper at the Kenora Main St Dock.

The specific details and logistics around drop-off and pick-up, i.e., assigned times, meeting locations, etc., will be shared with our families closer to the start of Camp. You can expect a careful and responsible check-in/out process that supports the stable environment inside of Camp we will create and maintain.

COMMUNICATING WITH CAMP

Living at Camp, apart from parents, gives children an opportunity to experience a wonderful sense of independence. For many of us, throughout the school year, our children are only a text away, we are in nearly constant contact. Camp is a departure from that kind of immediate contact, yet, at the same time, we recognize that ongoing communication is important - we want you to know all of the amazing things that are happening at Camp, and we want our campers to know you are thinking of them.

Birthdays

It is an old BB Camp tradition to celebrate each camper's birthday with a cake (provided by the Camp), singing in the Chadar (dining hall), raising or lowering camp flag and a cabin celebration.

You may phone your child on their birthday. To set up a phone call, Email the Camp Office a few days prior, so we can coordinate a time that supports the daily schedule. The best times are before or after lunch or before or after dinner. We will contact you at the scheduled time. If your child is on their overnight during their birthday, we are unable to coordinate the phone call until after they return.

Campers also appreciate birthday cards and letters from family members. If you would like to send a small gift for the birthday camper, please contact one of the Executive Director prior to camp. Please note that birthday items sent to Camp must adhere to camp policies and cannot include food. Please note that it is camp policy that campers not call home for family members' or friends birthdays; only their own.

Communicating by Mail

Mail from home is important for campers of all ages. For younger campers, pre-addressed and stamped envelopes or postcards are helpful. PLEASE SUPPLY YOUR CHILD WITH SUFFICIENT STAMPS, ENVELOPES, PAPER AND PENS. We will do our

best to see that every camper writes regularly. Also, many campers often write to other friends and family members. Mail is distributed daily Sunday to Friday following lunch. All camper mail is checked so we know which child has not received any mail by the end of the first week. If you have a summer address, please be sure the camp office has this information.

Letters From Campers

Campers are encouraged to write home at least once a week. Please do not be concerned if you have not heard from your child for a few days. Mail is sent from Camp daily but is often delayed getting from the Kenora post office to a larger mail hub in Winnipeg. Please write to your child frequently. If you do not hear from your child for longer periods of time, please advise the Camp Office by Email at info@bbcamp.ca and the Camp Administration will look into the matter.

Letters To Campers

Your child will want to hear from you as much as you want to hear from your child. It is especially important that younger campers and first-time campers receive mail from home within the first 24 hours of Camp. Please write to your child before Camp begins, so they can receive a letter the first day. It is a good idea to mail your first letter one week before Camp begins. (Some parents will even include a note in their child's duffels).

Here are some ideas that might be helpful in keeping in touch with your camper...

1. Keep a list of things to write about.
2. Choose distinctive stationery and use stickers.
3. Send a joke, a quiz, or an article on a topic they enjoy.
4. Send a funny greeting card (or birthday card, if appropriate).
5. Mail photos of their favourite things or family.
6. Keep it light and happy -- express how much you look forward to hearing all about the wonderful things that go on at Camp.

Mail to and from Kenora can be unpredictable and at times, slow!! It usually takes three - four working days for a letter to reach Kenora from Winnipeg. It is a good idea to send a few letters to Camp prior to the session to ensure timely delivery of mail.

To assist with the prompt delivery of your mail, please address each letter as follows:

Camper's Full Name (both first and last name - very important!!!)

Cabin Number (once you receive this information)

BB Camp

Box 559

Kenora, Ontario Canada

P9N 3X5

Communicating by Phone

One of the goals at BB Camp is to create a positive, immersive Jewish summer camp experience. One of the things that allows us to achieve this goal is the creation of an environment that is free from some of the modern technologies of today and unaffected by the hustle and bustle of modern life.

If you need to discuss something with your child, please contact the Camp Office. The administration will help you communicate with your child in the case of family emergencies or other special circumstances where a message needs to be delivered to your child.

The best way to get in contact with us is to email us at lyurman@bbcamp.ca or jbrodovsky@bbcamp.ca, and we will call you back ASAP. Unfortunately voicemail has been discontinued in our area, and though we strive to have someone by the phone at all times, we cannot guarantee it.

Because the staff's priority is attending to your children out on the campsite rather than in the office, calls may sometimes not be returned until late in the evening. We ask for your understanding in this regard.

Camper Phone Usage

As a general policy, campers are not permitted to use the telephone while at Camp. From past experience, we have found that phone calls home do not help children who are having a difficult time adjusting to Camp, and in fact can create more challenges for a child. If you have questions or concerns about your camper, please email Lexie or Jacob. Please do not tell your child that they may call you if they want to go home. Instead, they should discuss problems with their counselors or counsellor coordinator. The Director will contact you only if necessary. In the event of an emergency, the phone call policy will be left to the discretion of the Executive Directors.

Packages

We strongly discourage all unnecessary packages at Camp. If a parent must send a package, please adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Do not send food or candy. All packages will be opened and campers will not receive any food or candy contents. The Camp will not store any food care packages until the end of a session for your child. Please respect this policy.
2. The only exception to the package policy is birthdays and necessities. If you are sending a birthday package or items that your child needs (clothing, medicine, extra glasses, retainer, etc.) please call ahead and notify the Director. If the Camp can accommodate the pick-up for these items, it will facilitate the request.

3. Please be mindful of the feelings of other cabin mates - often packages can create feelings of inequity and disappointment. Please keep packages and their contents to a minimum.

Care packages may be purchased for your child's entire cabin and will be available on our online store at www.bbcamp.ca/store

Administrative Staff will open all boxes and large envelopes. If there are non-food items that are deemed inappropriate, they will be stored throughout the session and returned to Winnipeg at the end of the session. The Executive Directors reserve the right to make final determinations on the appropriateness of all items sent to campers.

IMPORTANT ITEMS

MCA Accreditation

B'nai Brith Jewish Community Camp is an accredited member of the Manitoba Camping Association (MCA), and our staff are active on the Manitoba Camping Association board and accreditation committee.

MCA's accreditation program requires review of every facet of the camp operation. Every three years, trained camp professionals observe the Camp while it is in operation and compare its practices against the standards for the industry. They scrutinize every aspect of the staff, facility, medical service, food service, program protocol and supplies and equipment for each program area in Camp. By becoming accredited, BB Camp has demonstrated its commitment to the highest standards established for the camping industry. MCA's standards program is nationally recognized by the Canadian Camping Association and is frequently updated to reflect the latest in camping.

Visitor's Policy

There are no visiting days during any camp session. Parents who have a summer cottage in Lake of the Woods are not permitted to drive up to the camp by boat to visit their child(ren). This is highly disruptive and creates numerous problems for the camp. As safety is always our primary concern, we ask that parents support and abide by this policy. If you have any questions concerning this policy, please contact the camp office.

Special appointments for visitations during the spring and early summer months must be arranged by emailing info@bbcamp.ca. All visitations must have prior approval from the Executive Directors.

Knives

Young campers (Habonim, Taste of BB and First Session) should not bring knives to Camp. Campers attending Second Session may bring a Swiss Army knife to Camp for cookouts and overnights. Please make sure the camper's name is clearly marked on the knife. All campers who choose to bring a pocketknife to Camp must hand them over to their counselors who will ensure they are safely stored until their supervised use. LARGE KNIVES ARE COMPLETELY UNNECESSARY.