

Camp YTT - Handbook for Summer 2025-5785

BH

Dear Parents and Campers, shetichyu

We understand that this is a big undertaking for you. You had many choices where to send your daughter, we appreciate that you chose YTT.

You have our promise, OURS and the counselors, that we will work hard and do our best to make this the best experience ever, this is a life changing trip, and we are soooo proud to be a part of it, and I know that together we will achieve our dream.

Please feel free to contact me by email mswerdlov@gmail.com or at 347.228.2907, or Rabbi Mordechai Telsner at admin@campytt.com, if you have any questions or concerns. If I am not available, leave a message and I will be happy to call back.

Looking forward to a great summer, and hoping that we are ALL going with Moshiach,

Miryam Swerdlov

Shosh Rabinowitz

Mordechai and Shuffi Telsner

YHEY!!

Please take a tall glass of something to drink, turn OFF the cell phone, and go through this booklet VERY CAREFULLY with your daughter. You will understand everything better, AND save money, you don't have to buy so many clothes. THE MORE YOU KNOW THE BETTER YOU WILL FEEL. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE PARENTS BE INFORMED AND PART OF THIS INCREDIBLE LIFE CHANGING ADVENTURE. YOU ARE OUR PARTNERS. We try to be transparent.. but you have to look through the glass to understand and to know and to partner.

WE R VERY EXCITED ABOUT OUR HEAD STAFF. They are: Itty Barber, Sara Bracha Kalantarov, Leiba Shaina Kreisman and Nechama Israily. We are also very lucky that Mrs. Shuffi Telsner (nee Swerdlov...) joins us for the last few weeks of the summer.

OK, we begin:

First of all: Our flight will be leaving IY”H on Tuesday, July 8th at 5:45pm - (Lot 007 to Warsaw) and returning to JFK, Monday, August 11th, at 3:45pm (Lot 006 from Warsaw).

There will be a bus from the Swerdlov home. Please come to 484 Crown Street at 11:30am in the morning, on Tuesday July 8th. Please bring a sandwich and a drink, in addition to the plane food, never too much food when you are traveling...we will go to the Ohel first and then to the Airport.

On the return, there will NOT be a bus, please pick your daughter up from the airport, we will update you via WhatsApp on the day of the return.

VERY IMPORTANT TO BRING:

Watch, as the girls dont have their phones, they must have a wrist watch.

Water packs, Camelbacks, 3 LITERS or any other name.

YOU MUST HAVE A WATER PACK. PLEASE

Spending money: we suggest around \$350.

You should send a credit card (best that does not have foreign transaction fees), it is accepted everywhere, but I think that \$200 at least should be in cash.

What else do the girls need money for? Ice creams and nosh on the trip when we stop at the sites or at gas stations, and of course, my daily cheese cake.....(only kidding, of course, or am I?????)

There will be opportunities to change money into shekels (tip: most change places do not accept older \$100 bills). All the other monies and passports will be kept in a locked safe.

Tips: Please send an additional \$250 for counselor tips, the tip money has to be in cash.

Thank you.

About laundry: We will let you know as soon as we know the exact dates of giving and receiving the laundry. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

PLEASE WRITE YOUR NAME or LABEL EVERY ITEM. You all have the same shirts, patooties and the same lotsa other stuffs, so PLEASE LABEL YOUR THINGS. There will not be a possibility of dry cleaning.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING TOO MUCH CLOTHING. FOLLOW THE LIST. This year, you will be getting 7 camp shirts.

Please have enough patooties (you will soon know what that means....) for 14 days. at least....

ABOUT PACKING: READ THIS VERY CAREFULLY: You are allowed ONE suitcase, 50 lbs. and one roly- HAND LUGGAGE (17lbs), You can also have a SMALL backpack. If there is overweight, you will have to pay, sorry. Airline rules.

THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT. WE HAVE LIMITED ROOM FOR LUGGAGE, AND YOU DON'T NEED MORE THAN THE PACKING LIST SAYS. PLEASE DO NOT BRING EXTRA THINGS, YOU DO NOT NEED THEM.

FORMS:

All forms are online at <https://campytt.com/camp-ytt-forms-and-instructions/>

- a. Contract
- b. Packing list
- c. Travel & Medical Insurance
- d. Medical form - (to be filled out by your doctor)
- e. Medical questionnaire - to be filled out by parents.
- f. Shabbos off form
- g. Apply for your Israel ETA
- h. Cell phone orders (sim plan and simple phone).

Please fill out the medical questionnaire online and have your doctor fill out the medical form.

Please use the link that was sent to buy travel health insurance. YOU MUST BRING A CREDIT CARD (NOT A COPY) WITH YOU (IT CAN BE HELD BY THE STAFF AND USED ONLY IN CASE CH"V YOU HAVE TO SEE A DOCTOR).

ITINERARY

We are called Camp YT" T. Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. We learn from Yesterday to live a better Today and that results in a Moshiachdik Tomorrow. We are fortunate to be able to go to Poland. Part of our Yesterday. We start in Warsaw, where the Rebbe and Rebbetin got married, we even found the hotel that Rebbetzin Mussia stayed in before the wedding. We will go to Treblinka where Rebbetzin Shayna and her husband Reb Mendel Horenstein and his mother, the Rebbe Rashab's sister were 'buried' on the second day of Rosh Hashanah, 1942. We will also visit Lublin, Lisjensk, spend Shabbos in Krakow, go to Maydanek and Auschwitz, and everywhere try to learn and GROW. We have a special tour guide from Israel to help facilitate this.

You have our word that Rabbi Telsner and I will infuse as much ruchniyus as possible. AND IT WILL BE FUN!!

WE LEAVE FOR ISRAEL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Our 'home base' in Israel will be in Yerushalayim. Really special. This is mamesh near Dovid Hamelech's kever, and it's just so spiritual and special.

Our daily schedule (approximately) is: Davening, Chitas, Shiur, Breakfast, TRIP. We have great tour guides, there is a medic and a security guard with us, our bus is Air-conditioned, and I CAN'T WAIT.

You are all asking (inside,,,) what time do we get up? Well, that depends where we're going that day. Usually, around 7:00. We usually return to home base, unless we are in the Negev, or wherever the Pikud Haoref, Israel Army Security tells us we can go. When we leave for 2 days, and take our 'rolly' with us.

Roommates will be chosen at random, we change it very often. So you get to know everyone in camp. There are usually 4 girls per room.

Our Shabbosim(sos):

First Shabbos - Poland (July 11/12)

Second Shabbos - Meron? (July 18/19)

Third Shabbos - OFF (Jul 25/26)

Fourth Shabbos - ירושלים (Aug 1/2)

Fifth Shabbos - Chevron (Aug 8/9)

Camp YTT WhatsApp group will be posting pictures and news, so the parents can all be part of the adventure and the growth. Please make sure you have signed up to the WhatsApp broadcast group. Please save 718-774-2778 in your cell phone contacts, and send a message "subscribe Camp YTT" with your name.

Shabbos Off (July 25/26):

We are giving the girls the opportunity to go to family or friends for Shabbos.

From Friday late morning till Sunday afternoon. We would rather that the girls should be picked up and brought back, or share taxis. We would rather NOT have them use public transportation.

We will be in two central locations:

Depending on where their Shabbos destination is, we will be with them in Tel Aviv at Central Bus Station, and in Yerushalayim at Binyanei Haouma.

If you cannot find a family or friends, we can help arrange a place for Shabbos.

For those of you who are lucky enough to have a place, PLEASE ask them if your daughter can bring a friend. It will be better for her, and better for us.....

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RULES:

About rules: Everyone hates them, BUT you can't live without them. They are very important, and keeping the rules will make the difference between a GREAT summer, one you will never forget, a summer of growth and Ruchniyusdik achievement, or, as the Rebbe never said anything negative, I too will learn from that, and not end my sentence in a negative manner.

Please understand that in order to get EVERYTHING out of your summer, you must really pay attention to the following:

When you sign your contract, know that this really is a serious contract. I'm sorry, but not keeping any of the clauses on it, even when not on camp grounds, is an immediate break, and you will have to go home. So sorry. Better you know now. I will personally make sure that ALL rules are abided by. Please go over all of these with your parents, make sure that NOTHING is packed in the suitcase that should not be there, (short socks, reading material that is not approved, smart devices etc.,) and I am sorry to say, anything that is not approved, will be confiscated, So sorry for the 'bad' tone.

If you come late to davening, sorry, you will not get your phone the next time it is given. If you do not come to talk to Ovinu sheBashamayim, you can't talk to imeinu shbAmerica...SORRY

I take the tznius rules very seriously. Even on days off and Shabbosim off. NECKS ARE CLOSED, NOT BOAT NECKS. Listen, if you can't do it, PLEASE DO NOT COME, SORRY. Better to be warned.

Skirts ALWAYS covering knees, ALWAYS. THIS IS SERIOUS. (and don't think you can 'get away with it'...)

No form fitting tops. No bandage skirts. No tight skirts. THIS IS SERIOUS. If it is questionable, you can't wear it. Please, no long earrings, (BR rule, 1.5 inch) Makeup for Shabbos only, and of course NOT ON SHABBOS. Hair ALWAYS up. Of course, only one earring, per ear

We want a frum, shulchan oruch keeping, chassidish camp. REALLY, please, take this seriously. I do not want to sound negative, and I do not want to constantly remind you in camp. TOTAL TZNIUS, if you cannot do this, please.....you understand.

Three infractions of the above, means an early return home. REALLY. WARNED...SORRY.

Understand that we DO NOT WANT TO EVER carry this out, but we will if we have to. IT'S' UP TO YOU.

There is a wonderful merit system. The counselors will be marking you all for good things, extra kindness, extra eidelkeit, extra ANYTHING, you will go to Yerushalayim for an evening out, just the girls that were 'caught' going above and beyond. See, we are not only telling you negative things, we can't wait to give you extra outings to town, but remember, you MUST bring me back something.....(not kidding)...

Cell phones/Smart devices: In Poland, possibly on Friday afternoon, the girls will have their smartphones to say Gut Shabbos. At all other times, the Smart Phones are put into a safe, the campers do not have them. You could communicate with us by whatsapp, 347.228.2907. For cell phones in Israel, you will also receive a separate email on how to order. NO IPHONES, ANDROID, ANY SMART PHONES, Tablets, Laptops, Smart watches, etc., are allowed in camp.

In Israel the rules for phones are as follows: Twice a week for an hour, Monday and Wednesday, at 9pm Israel time - subject to our travel schedule, plus an hour on Erev Shabbos. At other times, the phones will be in the office. You can reach Mrs. Swerdlov 24/6 at 347.228.2907, or Rabbi Telsner at admin@campytt.com OR on whatsapp 718-774-2778

FORGIVE ME, IF ANY SMARTPHONE OR SMART DEVICE WILL BE FOUND that was not handed in, IT WILL BE CONFISCATED. NOT RETURNED. PLEASE, PLEASE FOLLOW RULES. THIS IS STRICTLY ENFORCED. YOU MAY LOSE ALL the INFORMATION on the phone etc, since WE WILL NOT RETURN IT. TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY.

CHECK LIST: REMEMBER, A Chossid iz a mesudar.

1. Filled out the online form for Shabbos off.
2. Medical form from the Doctor. Send it to admin@campytt.com or fax it to 212 681 9330 and fill out the medical questionnaire by June 15th.
3. Bought Travel Health Insurance (email confirmation to admin@campytt.com).
4. Apply for your Israel ETA (email confirmation to admin@campytt.com)
5. Have an actual credit card (not a copy), for Medical Emergencies only.
6. Ordered the cell phone (with an Israeli adapter) AND the Israeli sim card.
7. Remember to bring the \$250 tip in cash for our incredible HCs. (separate envelope).
8. Have a simple watch.
9. Bought a 3 liter water pack.
10. Have a Siddur and or Chitas
11. Must bring a head covering - cap, tichel, bandana etc

THANK YOU

Miryam Swerdlov

Rabbi Mordechai Telsner