

Edith & Carl Marks Jewish Community House of Bensonhurst
7802 Bay Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11214
(718) 331-6800
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Dear Camp Parents,

Kibbutznik Russian Immersion Day Camp Parent Manual

Contact Information

Camp Office	718-943-6396 Max@jchb.org
Marks JCH switchboard	718-331-6800
Max Slutsky, Camp Director	718-943-6396

Important Information

First day of camp:	Monday, June 29, 2020
Last day of camp:	Wednesday, August 12, 2020
Full Day Camp Hours:	9:00 AM – 4 PM
Extended Hours:	From 4 PM to 6 PM
Age of Campers:	4 – 10 years of age
Location:	Hannah Senesh Community Day School located at 342 Smith St

We would like to welcome you and your child(ren) to the 2020 Marks JCH Day Camp - Kibbutznik Russian Immersion program. It is our hope and expectation that this will be a wonderful experience for your child(ren).

Marks JCH Camp Philosophy:

The Kibbutznik program offered by the Marks JCH Day Camp is carefully designed to provide your child(ren) with a dynamic and creative small group experience that is well supervised by a dedicated, mature staff of trained professionals. We provide a safe and stimulating environment for children ages 4-10 years old where Russian language and culture are preserved through immersive play and exploration. An essential part of our camp is to ensure fun and safety for all children in a supportive environment.

Woven throughout all of our camp programs is the richness of Russian culture and Jewish tradition and values, carried out through story, dance, song and an Oneg Shabbat program that emphasizes daily camp living experiences.

In addition to the Russian Immersion, each camper will participate in a variety of activities throughout the week to promote and build self-esteem. Kibbutznik Summer Day Camp will encourage each camper to set goals and challenge themselves while discovering his or her own skills and abilities.

We have been hard at work planning the Russian Immersion program on behalf of the Marks JCH Day Camp in Park Slope. In order to ensure an incredible season, we ask all parents to please read the following information, as well as familiarize yourselves and your child(ren) with our camp policies and expectations.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Forms – The following forms are required to be fully completed & turned in to the camp office prior to the start of the camp: **Medical Form** and **Pool/Outing Consent Form**. No child will be admitted to camp without the submission of all required forms.

Fees – Full payment of all camp fees is required by June 1st, 2020 or at the time of registration. Failure to pay in full results in automatic cancellation of your child(ren)'s enrollment in Marks JCH Day Camp Kibbutznik program with a loss of all fees paid to date.

Refund Policy – There will be no refunds or reductions of fees for days missed due to illness, absence, vacations, or change in family circumstances during camp sessions. Marks JCH Day Camp reserves the right to suspend or expel any child from the day camp program. In such unfortunate instances, no refunds will be issued.

Illness & Medication – It's vital that you share with us any information about your child's health or related information that will enable us to make your child's camp experience more fulfilling. This includes information about allergies, special medication required, IEPs, etc.

- If your child does not feel well or is sick, please do not send him/her to camp.
- Please notify the camp office immediately if your child has contracted any communicable disease or infection. A doctor's note certifying that your child is well enough to return to camp (and is no longer contagious) is required upon his/her return. You will be notified in the event a child in your child's group has contracted any infectious or communicable disease.
- You must notify the camp office immediately if your child has or was exposed to Head Lice. Our camp policy is that one must be completely "NIT FREE" before returning to camp or bring a signed letter from a physician or lice professional stating the child is not contagious. The Marks JCH reserves the right to have lice checks periodically throughout the camp season.
- If your child becomes ill while at camp, you will be contacted. We reserve the right to send a child home due to illness and require that the child be picked up.

Food & Beverage – Kibbutznik provides a hot kosher lunch & beverage daily, camp provides water and a light snacks throughout the camp day as well.

- All campers may bring their own kosher lunch & snack; all food is refrigerated to prevent spoilage. We ask that all food be allergen conscious, with particular attention paid to peanuts. Please provide your child(ren) with a water bottle daily to ensure they are hydrated.

Staff – All of our camp staff are bi-lingual in English and Russian and are warm and nurturing with a great amount of experience in age-appropriate programming.

COMMUNICATION

E-Mail – Most communication between Marks JCH Camp staff & parents will be done electronically. Any changes and/or updates will be e-mailed to you. Please make sure that the camp office has the correct e-mail address on file.

Facebook – Camp pictures will be uploaded to the Marks JCH Facebook page weekly. We encourage you to "Like" us on Facebook www.facebook.com/TotTussovka & check them out.

General Communication – It is imperative that the camp is notified about any issues that might affect your child(ren) throughout the summer (ex. trauma, divorce or separation, recent move, etc.) The more information that we have about your child, the more effective we can be. If anything affects your child during the summer, please notify us so we can be sensitive. All information will be kept confidential. We welcome your feedback to help us improve camp. Please email us with questions &/or feedback that you may have and allow us sufficient time to make changes to your child's experience. We believe that communication is crucial & should work both ways – we will resolve all issues if we work together.

Emergency Communication – On rare occasions, it is critical that we be in immediate contact with a parent/guardian. Be sure to provide us with a cell phone number or one at which someone can be contacted in the event of an emergency. Please inform all of your emergency contacts that they have been listed.

Staff/Parent Conferences – Conferences may be arranged. We ask that you refrain from trying to hold a meeting with staff during drop-off & dismissal times. The children need our full attention at those times. If you need to speak with a teacher or Camp Director, please call or email the Camp Office & we will schedule a meeting.

Parent Feedback – The goal of the Marks JCH Camp Kibbutznik is to introduce our campers to the richness of Russian language and culture through informal means of games, arts & crafts, dance, literature, organized group activities, outdoor time, and more. It is also our goal to ensure that each child has a successful, happy & safe summer experience. At the end of the summer, we will e-mail you a Parent Feedback Form, which we hope that you can complete to ensure successful upcoming camp seasons.

DAY TO DAY INFORMATION

Every Day Dress Code – Campers should wear comfortable & appropriate clothing for indoor & outdoor activities. Sneakers are required on a daily basis & lightweight shirts & shorts are recommended.

In their book bags, campers should always have with them:

- a. Sunscreen – Please apply water-resistant sunscreen on your child(ren) every day & send additional sunscreen with your child(ren). *Please note that by the Department of Health regulation, staff are not allowed to apply sunscreen to campers. In addition children should not share sunscreen due to varying allergies.*
- b. A hat & a water bottle.
- c. An extra change of clothing in case of an accident.
- d. A bathing suit and a towel

Items to Bring on the First Day of Camp

Younger age group (4-6 year olds) – sleeping bag, 1 small crib style sheet for rest period (pillows are not permitted for safety reasons). LABEL ALL BELONGINGS WITH A PERMANENT MARKER!

Swimming in Camp – Our campers receive instructional swim in our indoor Marks JCH pool once a week. On **swim** days, children have to **bring with them** a bathing suit, towel, pool shoes/flip flops & a swimming cap. *Our policy is to never force children into the pool, but we will provide encouragement and guidance.*

Outdoor Time at Prospect Park – Our campers spend time at the local Prospect Park playground and nearby areas. Teachers and staff ensure the children’s safety at all times during outdoor time.

Prohibited Items – *The Marks JCH is not responsible for any damaged, lost or stolen items.*

- a. We highly discourage campers from bringing in any electronic devices, including iPods, iPads, (unless programmatic) MP3s, Nintendo DSs, Sony PSPs, & other portable game systems. Toys, money & other valuables should not be brought to camp.
- b. Weapons & sharp objects are not allowed in camp.

Lost & Found – Please make sure to properly label each item with the child’s first and last names. All lost & found items will be placed in a container in a designated area. At the end of the camp season, all unclaimed items will be donated.

Excessive Heat, Rain, or Poor Air Quality Days – Hours for camp are the same, although programming might change if the weather does not permit the scheduled program. In addition, send rain gear on rainy days.

Camp Conduct Policy – All campers are expected to behave according to camp rules & policies. In the event that there are irreconcilable behavior difficulties, a child may be suspended or removed from Marks JCH Day Camp. In such unfortunate instances, no refund will be issued.

It is our philosophy to provide an atmosphere where children feel protected and secure physically, emotionally, and socially. Children must know the camp is a safe environment, and that they are supported while meeting challenges. Each child is viewed as unique, important, special, and deserves the chance to feel that way at camp every day. It is our vision that all campers will thrive in a safe and positive environment.

Internet Policy – When it comes to internet, we will try our very best to insure your child’s safety. In return, we expect the same when it comes to our internet image by asking each camp family to honor and respect these policies:

- a. Understand and acknowledge that the internet contains information, both written and pictorial, which may be offensive or harmful.
- b. Understand that any harm or harassment to any Marks JCH employee or member of the public can be harmful mentally, emotionally, and/or physically to that individual.

- c. And promise not to violate any state or federal statute in an attempt to jeopardize the image of the Marks JCH.

DROP-OFF & PICK-UP PROCEDURES

Camper Drop-Off and Pick-Up: Marks JCH Day Camp is hosted at Hannah Senesh Community Day School located at 342 Smith St, Brooklyn, NY 11231. We ask that parents/guardians please arrive on time for drop-off at 8:45 AM & pick-up at 4 PM (unless extended hours were selected). If your child travels via the means of a vehicle, such as a scooter, bike, roller blades, etc. we try our best to make the necessary accommodations for storage, but cannot guarantee space. For your child’s safety, no adult is permitted in camp program areas without the permission of the Camp Director.

Bus: Bus routes are developed by Marks JCH Kibbutznik Camp. A few days prior to the beginning of camp, you will be contacted by the camp office about your bus pick-up/drop-off location & time. All children must be met at the bus stop by a parent or pre-authorized guardian otherwise, they will not be released. All campers must follow bus safety protocol and rules while on the bus.

Camper Pick-Up - No child will be released to anyone who is not written in on the camp application as an authorized pick-up person without prior notification. Campers should not be picked up prior to dismissal time without a prior arrangement with the camp office.

Early Drop-Off – Early morning drop-off is available at **8:00 AM**. Registration, in advance, is required for this program. Early Drop off fee is \$15 per day.

Late Stay – An after-camp childcare program is available from **4:00 PM to 6:00 PM** daily Monday through Friday. Registration in advance is required for this program. Late Stay fee is \$18 per day.

RUSSIAN IMMERSION AND JEWISH EDUCATION

Russian language immersion and Jewish Education are incorporated into almost every activity of the Marks JCH Day Camp Kibbutznik program. All of our programming is designed around the Russian Immersion concept and includes art, Jewish values, yoga, Russian culture, literature, music, swimming (once a week), and outdoor time at Prospect Park. Every Friday, campers will celebrate **Oneg Shabbat** together by singing songs, telling stories, & participating in other fun-filled Shabbat related activities. All of the programming is age-appropriate and is aimed to cultivate their development.