



# INFORMATION HANDBOOK

FOR PARENTS



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## Contact Information

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The following is a calendar of important Mach Hach BaAretz dates, followed by a checklist and brief explanation of the forms that you will need to complete.

## Important Dates

May 1	All Forms Due
Sunday, July 6	Group Flights Depart
Monday, July 7	Arrival at Ben Gurion Airport! Welcome to Israel!!
Friday, July 25 – Sunday, July 27	Free Weekend
Monday, July 28 – Thursday, July 31	Adventure Week
Shabbat, August 1-3	Shabbat Mach Hach
Tuesday-Wednesday, August 12-13	Mach Hach program ends. Group flights depart from Ben Gurion Airport.
Wednesday, August 13	Group flights arrive in Newark, JFK, Miami and LAX

## Checklist of forms

### Due May 1:

- ☐ **Camper Health History:** To be filled out by a parent online. A doctor is not needed.
- ☐ **Physician's Exam Form:** To be downloaded and filled out by the camper's physician after an examination. It can be uploaded to your online account or faxed/emailed to the office.
- ☐ **Immunization History:** The form can be downloaded from your account or your doctor's office can provide a printout from their records.
- ☐ **Camper Profile:** Must be filled out by a parent. The background information on this form helps us understand your child's needs, and allows us to care for him/her in the best possible manner.

### Due June 15:

- ☐ **Free Weekend Form:** Details of where your child will be staying for the free weekend. We can set you up with a Bnei Akiva host for the weekend if you do not have plans. This will be a separate form not in your Campminder account.

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The following vendors can be contacted directly, via our website. Please check their materials for suggested deadlines:

- ☐ **Phone Plan:** Rent SIM cards and related equipment. See Chapter 3 for details.
- ☐ **Pack For Camp:** Order camp supplies that will be delivered to your home.



## Flights

### To Israel

Mach Hach BaAretz tuition includes a round-trip flight on one of our six group flight options departing on Sunday, July 6th:

- ELAL-Newark #1: ELAL #028 leaves at 1:30 PM and arrives the next day at 6:55 AM.
- ELAL-Newark #2: ELAL #026 leaves at 9:00 PM and arrives the next day at 2:25 PM.
- ELAL-JFK #1: ELAL #010 leaves at 1:29 PM and arrives the next day at 7:00 AM.
- ELAL-JFK #2: ELAL #002 leaves at 5:30 PM and arrives the next day at 11:00 AM
- Los Angeles: ELAL #006 leaves at 2:00 PM and arrives the next day at 1:55 PM.
- Miami: ELAL #018 leaves at 2:00 PM and arrives the next day at 9:00 AM

### From Israel

For the return trip there will be six group flights, departing on Tuesday night/Wednesday morning August 13th and arriving in the US on the 13th:

- ELAL-Newark #1: ELAL #027 leaves at 12:30 AM and arrives at 5:15 AM.
- ELAL-Newark #2: ELAL #025 leaves at 1:00 AM and arrives at 5:45 AM.
- ELAL-JFK #1: ELAL #003 leaves at 12:05 AM and arrives at 4:55 AM.
- ELAL-JFK #2: ELAL #009 leaves at 5:55 AM and arrives at 10:45 AM.
- Los Angeles: ELAL #005 leaves at 1:05 AM and arrives at 6:00 AM.
- Miami: ELAL #017 leaves at 12:15 AM and arrives at 6:30 AM.

### Flight Credit

Anyone who chooses to book their own flight will receive a \$1800 tuition credit. Please send us a copy of your e-ticket and the credit will be assigned to your account.

### Alternate Flight Plans

If you wish to fly only one way on the Group Flight, please contact our travel agent, Stuart Katz, at [stuart@taltours.com](mailto:stuart@taltours.com). He'd also be happy to help with domestic flight connections and any additional travel needs. It is often cheaper and more efficient to book a connecting ticket with the group flight.

#### Arrivals

Staff will be at Ben Gurion Airport from 7:00 AM until 4:00 PM to meet campers not on the group flight. A bus will be available from Jerusalem to the airport for any campers already in Israel (further information to follow in June). Those who would like to meet us at the airport, should arrive no later than 2:30 PM. In the weeks before arrival, exact details will be shared and you will be asked to fill out a form to let us know your plans.

#### Departures

At the end of the trip, the group flights depart from Ben Gurion Airport. All campers will be transported to Ben Gurion Airport. Anyone who is not flying on a group flight should be picked up from the airport, or can be put into a taxi by our staff. We do not recommend picking up campers from anywhere other than the airport; the last hours of Mach Hach are precious and nobody wants to miss them! Passports

are given out at the airport – if anyone does need to leave earlier that day, they may need to pick up their passport at the Bnei Akiva office in Jerusalem at another time. Bnei Akiva is not responsible for transportation or lodging costs of any camper not on a group flight that requires him/her to arrive at the airport at any other time. For those who would like to pick up in Israel prior to arrival at the airport, you can be in touch with our staff one week before the end of the summer to coordinate.

### **Electronic Travel Authorization For Entry Into Israel (ETA-IL)**

As of January 1, 2025, all international travelers from visa-exempt countries must have a valid ETA-IL prior to departing for Israel. **All campers who are not Israeli citizens must fill out their own form in order to board a flight to Israel.** The cost of the application is 25 Shekel (roughly \$7 USD). The form can be accessed at: <https://israel-entry.piba.gov.il/>

### **Supervision**

Members of the Senior Staff of Mach Hach BaAretz/Bnei Akiva will be present at all airports for the departures and arrivals of the group flights. Staff members will be on those flights to accompany and supervise the campers.

### **Domestic Connecting Flights**

Campers from outside of New York who are flying into New York area airports to connect to the group flights can be met by Mach Hach staff and escorted to the group flight terminal. Those arriving in JFK or Newark should arrive 4½ to 6½ hours before the departure of their respective flight.

At the end of the program, we will escort campers to flight terminals at Newark or JFK. Connecting flights should not depart earlier than 3 hours after arrival of the group flight. Please note that while it may be possible to catch an earlier connection, we cannot promise that we will be able to escort the camper to his/her terminal. **Please forward the e-ticket or flight itinerary to our office so we can give it to the camper before the flight, and so we can help everyone arrive at his/her proper connecting terminal on time for the flight.**

### **Passports**

**Please make sure that your passport is valid for six months after the date of return from Israel.** Participants not holding a valid American or Canadian passport should contact our office to ascertain if a tourist visa must be obtained prior to your departure for Israel. All passports will be collected upon arrival in Israel and stored in our safe until the conclusion of the program.

### **Luggage**

Because of the traveling nature of the program we recommend that you pack lightly. Each camper is allowed to bring one large suitcase and hand luggage; the storage space under the buses cannot accommodate more than that. We find that a sturdy duffle bag with wheels is best. In Israel, each camper will receive a Mach Hach backpack to be used for day trips and hikes. Airline baggage regulations allow each passenger to bring one bag weighing up to 50 pounds. Please see their websites for additional details and updates, and for carry-on luggage regulations. For bus-packing purposes, we also request that any carry-on bags you bring on the flight be foldable once in Israel.

### Security

The staff of Mach Hach BaAretz is in constant contact throughout the summer with the Moked Teva, a branch of the Jewish Agency responsible for tourist groups. We are notified immediately if a security situation or alert arises anywhere in the country, and our staff is trained in dealing with all types of situations. All itineraries are approved by the Moked Teva before the summer and we reconfirm the following day's schedule each night of the summer. We follow all their safety protocols throughout the summer.

### Travel Advisory

On a yearly basis, millions of foreigners, including hundreds of thousands of US citizens, safely visit Israel for tourism, study and business. In addition, Mach Hach has a sterling 50 year history of running safe trips to Israel. That being said, the security environment in Israel remains complex and can quickly change. Participants of the program who would like further details are encouraged to read the travel warning provided by the US State Department at: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/israel-west-bank-and-gaza-travel-advisory.html>

For more up to date information, you are also welcome to contact the State Department at 1-888-407-4747, within the US and Canada, or at 1-202-501-4444 when overseas. These numbers are available 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM Eastern time, Monday through Friday (excluding US holidays).

### Heat

It is very hot in Israel during the summer! All campers are required to carry water with them at all times, and the staff reminds them to drink CONSISTENTLY AND CONSTANTLY. Everyone is required to wear hats and sunscreen on all hikes. On days of extreme heat, we receive heat-warnings from the Moked Teva and we cancel or modify our hikes according to their recommendations. All of our buses and hotels are air-conditioned.

### Staff

The Director and other senior staff members of Mach Hach BaAretz live in Israel, spend very significant amounts of time with the groups and are in 24-hour-a-day contact with them. Each bus has a Rosh Bus (Head Counselor), a Logistics Coordinator, a tour guide and 3 additional counselors. There is also a Medic/Security Guard with them when required by Moked Teva protocols. In addition to the fact that they are all experienced madrichim (counselors), they undergo extensive training from Bnei Akiva prior to Mach Hach.

### Leaving the Group

**Leaving the group without permission from the Rosh Bus is grounds for immediate dismissal from the program.** Friends and relatives are not permitted to take campers away from the group at any time. This is due to the fact that many participants have friends and family in Israel and we receive many such requests. Allowing participants to come and go would be detrimental to building the group dynamic and to the overall program. We appreciate your understanding in this matter. If there are special circumstances such as a family simcha or event, please contact us and we will evaluate whether it is feasible for the camper to attend. If friends or relatives want to meet a camper at the group's hostel during the camper's free time, they may do so with the prior consent of the Rosh Bus.

### Communicating with the Staff

Senior-staff members will be happy to speak with parents at any time. A contact list will be sent out prior to the summer. While calls will be answered 24 hours a day, we respectfully request that you refrain from calling between 10:00 PM and 7:30 AM Israel time, unless there is an emergency. You may also call our New York office during business hours. E-mail is an excellent way to get in touch with us – mail sent to machhach@bneiakiva.org will always be answered within a short period of time. The Senior Staff will be happy to relay messages to the bus-based staff but the bus-based staff does not communicate directly with parents as this would encumber their ability to run the program efficiently.

### Communicating with Campers

Campers are permitted to bring or rent cell phones and can use them during their free time. Campers are not permitted to use their phones during hikes, study sessions or other programming.

A phone or SIM card rental plan can be purchased through our website. We recommend signing up for the group plan as it will allow for phone complications (technical difficulties, loss, theft, etc) to be fixed in a far quicker fashion. If you order a SIM card and bring your smart phone from home, please do not send an overly expensive one with your child as Mach Hach does not take responsibility for any phones that are broken, lost or stolen. ***Please ensure that the phone is unlocked by your carrier before arrival in Israel or it will not work.***

### Mail

We do not recommend sending mail to campers during the summer. Past experience has shown that such deliveries are not always reliable and often can take weeks to arrive. If you must send something by mail, please coordinate first with Mach Hach staff. **Food, medications and electronics should never be sent by mail or delivery services (UPS, Fedex, etc) as this can cause large fees and delays from Israeli Customs.**

### Updates via Newsletters and Social Media

We are very excited that today's modern technology allows parents and friends to experience Mach Hach BaAretz vicariously. A weekly electronic newsletter will be sent out, containing highlights from the past week and important announcements about the coming weeks. Our Facebook page is updated constantly and is a fun way to see pictures and videos from all buses. Please "Like" our page, "Mach Hach BaAretz". Check YouTube and Instagram for additional footage throughout the summer.



### Group Assignments

Each group ("Bus") consists of approximately 40 campers from throughout North America. Because of the richness of the activities and the sharing of a multitude of special experiences, life-long friendships are often formed. Each participant has the opportunity to request people with whom s/he would like to be placed, and we guarantee that s/he will be with at least one of them.

### Itineraries

Tremendous thought is put into the planning of every minute of Mach Hach BaAretz. The program is designed to be inspirational, educational and fun. Time is spent in each region of the country so that campers can gain an appreciation for the historical and modern significance of each area. A group generally sleeps in the same place for 2-5 nights and then moves on. If you suspect that your child will have difficulty organizing his/her belongings for all the packing and unpacking involved, please discuss strategies that will help him/her. Feel free to contact us for guidance. A written itinerary (calendar style), specific to your bus, will be sent to you before the summer. It will be as exact as possible, but please understand that last minute changes in program sometimes occur.

### Lodging

Throughout the course of the program, each group sleeps in approximately ten different hotels, guest houses and dormitories throughout the country. All are clean, comfortable and air-conditioned. Bathrooms are connected to the rooms. Generally there are 2-4 campers in a room. Towels and linens are supplied (we recommend that you bring 2 towels for use at water activities outside the hotel). Sleeping bags will be provided during Yam L'Yam and Army. There is no need to bring your own.

### Inter-Bus Programming

There are several times over the course of the program when all the groups will be together. These are opportunities to spend time with old and new friends from other buses, and to experience the strength and spirit of the group as a whole. Those events are: an opening ceremony, Shabbat Mach Hach, Tisha B'Av, and the closing banquet of the summer. In addition, all Adventure Week programs combine campers from all buses. Lastly, individual buses will meet up for inter-bus basketball games.

### Adventure Week Options

More complete descriptions are available on our website and sent out in mailings. Please choose wisely as switching options during the summer may not be possible. Be sure to choose the track that is appropriate for you.

- **Army** - Participants will learn navigation skills and shooting positions and will go to battle on the paintball field. They will wear army uniforms and experience life as Israeli soldiers.
- **Chessed** - Each day will have a different focus which will allow us to learn about a unique population in need and to volunteer with them (Physical disabilities, special needs...).
- **Culturefest** - Engage with all the culture that modern Israel has to offer. Enjoy its foods, music, art and film. See Israel through a different lens.

- **Sports** - An amazing opportunity to add four days of athletics this summer while also experiencing Israel's sports history and culture. Participants will take part in a diverse range of sports activities including basketball, flag football and biking.
- **Yam Le'Yam** - Hike the width of Israel, from the Kineret to the Mediterranean. Help prepare meals over an open fire, star gaze and sleep outdoors surrounded by the lushness of the North.

### Hikes

Hiking is a major component of Mach Hach BaAretz. We believe that it is critical to learn about and experience Israel with our bodies as well as with our minds. Hiking will take place in deserts, mountains and water. Please be aware that it is geared toward normal, healthy teenagers but will be physically strenuous at times. We do not have facilities for people who are unable to hike on a consistent basis, so please be sure that you are physically and emotionally prepared for such a program. That said, if you are not an experienced hiker do not worry. Your madrichim and friends will be there to give you loads of encouragement and support.

### Daily Routine

All aspects of the program are mandatory. Campers are expected to be at each activity on time unless they have special permission from a staff member. This includes tfilah 3 times a day, meals, shiurim and all other activities. There will be a nightly curfew so that every camper will get adequate sleep in order to be sufficiently rested to meet the physical demands of the program.

### Free Weekend

The Free Weekend will be from Friday morning, July 25th, to Sunday morning, July 27th. Specific details and a form requesting host contact information will be sent out in June. Hosts can pick-up and drop-off their guests at specific times at locations in Jerusalem, Latrun, Ramat Gan and Raanana. Campers may travel to/from their hosts by taxi only if we have written permission from the parents. We recommend that campers not travel by public bus or train unless they are accompanied by their host or have spent significant time in Israel and are very familiar with the public transportation system. We highly recommend that all campers go to a family or adult friend. Spending the weekend in a dormitory or hotel without proper adult supervision is NOT permitted. If you do not have friends or family in Israel, we will arrange for your child to spend the weekend with a Bnei Akiva family. As transportation is not provided, campers going to a Bnei Akiva family will be put in a licensed taxi at their own expense. Luggage will be stored for participants during the weekend, they only need to take an overnight bag. Everyone will be taken to a supermarket before the Free Weekend to buy a small gift for their hosts, or you can order a gift basket to be delivered to their home. Please note that **all rules of conduct that apply to campers during the program apply during the Free Weekend as well.**

### Healthcare

Mach Hach BaAretz has access to healthcare for its campers 24 hours a day. Via our medical insurance provider, we are part of an extremely well structured medical system. Depending on the situation and the location of the patient, possibilities include telemedicine, a doctor coming on a “house call”, the camper being driven to a clinic or hospital, or an ambulance or paramedic being sent immediately. In the event of serious illness or injury, parents will be informed immediately. If any invasive treatment is required we will try to get parent authorization, except in an emergency where medical experts advise that a delay will be detrimental.

### Insurance

Mach Hach tuition includes limited medical insurance. This covers doctor’s visits, tests, treatments, hospitalizations and prescription drugs needed for injuries and illnesses that occur during the program. **Please note that our insurance policy might not cover certain pre-existing conditions.** For added coverage, please check your primary medical insurance policy since many policies will reimburse expenses incurred while traveling, including expenses due to pre-existing conditions.

### Inoculations

All campers are required to be up to date on all recommended inoculations and must submit a completed Immunization Form. If there are any issues with this, you must contact us.

### Medications from Home

If a camper requires a regular or daily dosage of medication, please note that it is the camper’s responsibility to store and administer their own medication. Madrichim will be happy to remind campers occasionally, but it is ultimately the responsibility of the camper. If this is an issue for you or your child, please contact us so we can discuss solutions. The exception to this rule is Epipens; any camper who requires an Epipen should bring at least three. All should be clearly labeled with his/her name. The camper should carry one and a madrich will carry an additional one. The third should be sent in case one of the others is used or compromised.

Medications that require refrigeration are complicated because of the traveling nature of the program – you must speak to us in advance so we can plan together accordingly. If your child takes prescription or non-prescription drugs, please send them with a sufficient supply to last for the duration of the program. American prescriptions cannot be filled in Israel. You may also want to pack small amounts of over-the-counter medications such as Advil, cold medicine and throat lozenges. The staff will also have a limited supply of over-the-counter medications that they can dispense to campers as needed. If you do not want your child to receive medications in this fashion, please note it on the Medical Form.

### Medications Prescribed in Israel

If a camper gets sick in Israel and medication is prescribed, we will purchase the medication and give it to the camper. If you would like to be consulted before your child starts taking a prescription drug, please contact us.

### **Special Dietary Needs**

Please be aware that because of the traveling nature of the program, Mach Hach does not operate its own kitchens and does not always have the ability to provide special meals. If your child has special dietary needs or allergies, you must indicate it on the application. In certain cases, the Mach Hach administration will then contact you to discuss whether we will be able to accommodate his/her needs. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

### **Physical Limitations**

Please be aware that some aspects of the program are physically strenuous. If your child has any physical limitations that may affect his/her ability to participate fully, please indicate it on the application or notify us immediately.

### **Covid-19**

Although Covid-19 has largely receded from our day to day lives and it has not had any significant impact on Mach Hach in a few years, it continues to exist in today's world. All decisions concerning Covid both in preparation for the trip and during the trip itself are made in accordance with Israeli guidelines and in discussion with our medical consultant, Dr. Steven Eagle. Your child's participation in this trip is an implicit understanding of the inherent risks involved in our trip, which includes possible contraction of Covid-19.

### **Disclosure**

In order for us to properly prepare for each camper, it is incumbent upon parents and campers that they disclose to the administrators of Mach Hach BaAretz any issue regarding the physical or mental/emotional health of the participant. Without this, we will not be able to properly prepare for the camper's arrival or make sure that they have a successful experience. Without advance notification, it is possible that the camper will not be able to remain on the program.

Below you will find the rules that Bnei Akiva has established for all Mach Hach BaAretz participants. These rules are designed to create an atmosphere of adherence to *halacha* (Jewish law), self-respect and respect for others. Please read and consider the rules carefully. All participants must sign a copy of these rules to demonstrate your acceptance of these rules. The form is available in your online account.

1. All campers are expected to act respectfully and cooperatively at all times. Any form of aggressive, abusive or harassing behavior toward staff members or fellow campers will not be tolerated nor will inappropriate speech (word choice or content). The same applies to all digital interactions.
2. Disrespect for property, public or private, will not be tolerated. Any repair or replacement fees incurred by Bnei Akiva for damages caused by a camper (whether or not the act was intentionally destructive) will be charged to the family.
3. All aspects of the program are mandatory, and punctuality at all activities is expected. Campers may not leave the group at any time without authorization from the head counselor.
4. It is strictly forbidden to engage in or possess drugs, alcohol, cigarettes or e-cigarettes (Juul, vape, etc.) during the program. Involvement in, or possession of, any of these items may result in immediate expulsion from the program and will be reported to your high school. If you have a history of usage of any of these in the past, you are obligated to notify the Director of the program immediately. Please note that this is not grounds for automatic non-acceptance. Possession of lighters is strictly forbidden.
5. Body piercing (including ears), dying of hair, shaving of head, mohawks and tattooing during the program are forbidden.
6. The Mach Hach program is structured around strict observance of *halacha*. Attendance at *Tfilah* 3 times a day, attendance at daily *sheurim*, *Kashrut* observance and *Shabbat* observance are all mandatory. Non-conformance may be grounds for dismissal from the program.
7. Girls and boys are not allowed in each other's rooms at any time. Violation of this rule may lead to suspension and/or expulsion from the program. Girls and boys are expected to conduct themselves according to the laws of *negiah*, *yichud* and *tzniut*. No physical contact between the genders will be permitted.
8. Girls and boys are expected to adhere to the dress code when in public areas. Tight clothing is not permitted, and the midriff must be covered. Some specifics follow, and more details can be found on the packing list. Please note that any camper who does not possess clothing that conforms to the dress code, will be required to purchase such clothing at their own expense.

## Boys:

- Kippah and tzitzit must be worn at all times.
- Shirts must have sleeves and shorts must reach the lower thigh.
- Earrings and other body piercings are not permissible nor is painting fingernails.

## Girls:

- Shorts and skirts must come to the knee.
- Shirts must have sleeves that cover shoulders and armpits at all times. Low-cut and sheer shirts are not permitted.
- Leggings, tights and yoga pants may only be worn under knee-length skirts or shorts.



**Everyone**

- ☐ 1 Siddur
- ☐ 14 T-shirts (most for active wear)
- ☐ 2 dark shirts for water hikes
- ☐ 2 sweaters or sweatshirts
- ☐ 1 pair sweatpants
- ☐ 2 bathing suits (no bikinis)
- ☐ 2 pair pajamas
- ☐ 2 hats
- ☐ 20 pair underwear
- ☐ 20 pair socks
- ☐ 1 pair sneakers and/or pair of hiking shoes
- ☐ 1 pair water shoes for water hikes
- ☐ 1 pair comfortable Shabbat shoes
- ☐ 2 towels
- ☐ Soap, shampoo, deodorant
- ☐ Toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush
- ☐ Laundry bag
- ☐ Sunscreen, Bug Repellent
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Masks
- ☐ Cold medicine, cough drops

**Optional**

- ☐ A camelback or reusable water bottle
- ☐ Tylenol
- ☐ Apple AirTags

**Boys**

- ☐ 10 pairs of shorts
- ☐ 3 pair long pants
- ☐ 4 collared white shirts for Shabbat (polo shirts are permissible)
- ☐ 2 pair blue/black pants for Shabbat
- ☐ Tfillin
- ☐ 3 kippot
- ☐ 3 pair Tzitzit
- ☐ Kohanim: Talit for daily Birkat Kohanim

**Girls**

- ☐ 8 skirts/pants/knee length shorts for hiking
- ☐ 3-4 additional skirts/pants/knee-length shorts
- ☐ 3 white shirts for Shabbat
- ☐ 2 blue/black skirts for Shabbat
- ☐ 3 additional Shabbat outfits
- ☐ Personal hygiene supplies

**Luggage**

We recommend using a soft duffle with wheels so that it is light weight and easily portable.

### Laundry

Laundry service will be available twice during the program. Campers' laundry will be collected, laundered and returned a few days later. Please do not send expensive clothing or clothing that has special laundering instructions. Dry cleaning and ironing will not be possible.

### Electrical Appliances

Please do not send expensive electrical appliances. The voltage in Israel is 220; if you plug in an appliance that is not made for this type of voltage it will be ruined. Many appliances that are used by travelers, such as phones, shavers and blow dryers, are 110/220, but you should double-check. Also, please be aware that the prongs on the wall sockets are different than in America, you will need a two pronged adapter, called a VCT VP-5.

### Spending Money

Mach Hach BaAretz provides campers with everything that they need during the program. Campers like to bring spending money for the purchase of souvenirs and snacks, and possibly for transportation during the Free Weekend. In the past, we've seen that \$300-\$400 is the average amount spent. If you choose to send dollars with your camper, we will try to get him/her to a money changing station as needed, but this will not always be possible. **We do not recommend bringing large amounts of cash;** because of the traveling nature of the program it's sometimes hard to keep track of the money, and because it is not a controlled "camp-like" environment, we have occasionally had cases of theft. You are best off contacting your bank to ask if they have a debit card you can provide your child with while overseas this summer. Apple Pay and similar apps are widely accepted in Israel.

### Water

We encourage campers to refill bottles or their camelback with tap water, which is readily available. For those who do not wish to do this we will attempt to have bottled water available for purchase on the bus at a fair price.

### Apple AirTags

Placing Apple AirTags into your child's bags for the summer can be helpful in the event that a bag is lost. Ideally, the tags should be connected to your child's phone so that we can use it to find the lost bag. In addition, it is wise for boys to keep one in their Tefillin bag for the same reason. It is also advisable for parents to have a conversation with their sons regarding the importance of keeping track of their Tefillin throughout the summer whenever we switch locations.

### Liability

Bnei Akiva and its assisting and handling agencies assume no responsibility for any loss, damage or theft to baggage or personal belongings, from the time of the originating flight in North America until the return home. We suggest that you check your family's home insurance policy to see if you are covered for any such occurrence. We highly recommend that you not pack expensive jewelry, clothing, electronics or large amounts of cash. If you are sending a smartphone with your child, please think about the risks carefully. Furthermore, Bnei Akiva and its officers, agents and employees shall not be liable for any personal injury to campers.

### Birthdays

If a camper is going to be celebrating a birthday during the program, please e-mail us a day or two in advance to make sure that we're aware of it. If you wish for us to provide a party with special snacks there is a \$50 fee, you can sign up in your electronic account or email us at least ten days in advance. We can charge the billing information we have on file for you. Please note that if a birthday falls out during Adventure Week, it may not be possible to conduct a proper party on the actual date. In this case, the birthday will be acknowledged on that day, and the party will be held later in the week

# נסיעה טובה!

