

Frequently Asked Questions

Temple Israel of Hollywood Religious School/Day School Retreat
Friday, February 19 – Sunday, February 21, 2016
Wilshire Blvd. Temple's Gindling Hilltop Camp, Malibu

✓ **What are the drop off and pick up times?**

DROP OFF: The bus will be leaving Temple Israel at 4:15pm on Friday, February 19. Otherwise we will get stuck in traffic and that is not a fun way to start the weekend! Day School students will be supervised on the yard from the time school is over until the time Check In begins. Snacks will be provided for all students to eat between arrival and 4:15pm.

CHECK IN: Check in will begin at 3:30pm in the Executive Parking Lot. Please be prompt so the bus can leave on time. If you are running late on that day and will arrive after 4pm, please call Matt at (818) 620-5709.

PICK UP: Pick up will be at Temple Israel of Hollywood at 11:00am on Sunday, February 21st.

✓ **What is the 4-6th Retreat?**

The retreat is a Shabbat weekend of informal Jewish learning and fun for students in 4th-6th grade. We focus on one particular theme for many programs, and spend time relaxing and enjoying the camp facilities as well. All activities are designed to promote a “camp” atmosphere. Sports, arts and crafts, hikes, and music are just some of the things we’ll be doing together.

✓ **Who plans and staffs at the Retreat?**

Youth Director Matt Druyen and Rabbi Jocce Hudson will serve as the organizing staff on the Retreat. Teachers and teaching assistants in our Religious and Day Schools, as well as other qualified counseling staff, will serve as Retreat staff/counselors. They are enthusiastic and great Jewish role models. All of our staff is required to attend a Retreat Orientation meeting.

✓ **Where is the Retreat?**

The Retreat will be held at Wilshire Blvd. Temple's Gindling Hilltop Camp, 11495 East Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu. The students will take a bus to camp from Temple Israel of Hollywood. The camp facilities are excellent; all cabin bunks are heated and bathroom facilities are ample.

✓ **Where will my child sleep?**

All children sleep in cabins, along with a number of staff. Your child's safety and enjoyment are our top priorities and therefore we have appropriate supervision at all times throughout the Retreat.

✓ **What about the food?**

The menus are chosen with kids in mind, and there is always plenty to eat. A vegetarian option is always available, and meals are “kosher-style” (no pork or shellfish, or meat served with milk). A variety of fruit is also available at all times in the dining hall.

✓ **What if my child needs to take medication during the weekend?**

If your child needs to take medicine during the course of the weekend, you will need to bring it to us in a one gallon ziplock bag, labeled carefully with your child’s name, instructions for taking the medication and any other pertinent medical information. We will give students their medication at meals unless otherwise instructed.

✓ **My child has never slept away from home, and I’m concerned he/she will be homesick. What can I do to help?**

It is perfectly natural for students attending the Retreat for the first time to feel nervous. In School, we meet with the students before the Retreat to answer questions and address concerns. Students are generally so occupied with having fun over the weekend that they forget to be homesick! You can help by reassuring your child that she or he will have a great time and by letting him or her know that you are looking forward to hearing all about the Retreat when they return home. Sending a favorite stuffed animal or book can help too.

Students tend to become more homesick when they feel like they can go home whenever they wish. To avoid this issue, please emphasize to your child that they will have a better time if they remain at Camp for the entire weekend. Saying, “I will come and get you whenever you want me to” to a child who is already concerned about the Retreat can cause them to immediately become homesick as soon as the weekend begins. Your positive attitude will help your child have a great time! Of course, if a child is sick or truly unhappy, we will handle things in the best interest of the child.

✓ **How can I get in touch with my child during the Retreat?**

If you urgently need to reach your child, please call John Bard at the Wilshire Blvd. Temple Camp’s office at (310) 457-7861 ext. 306 or call Rabbi Jocce at (310) 497-8755.

We look forward to a wonderful Retreat weekend together!