

Living
Kiddush
Hashem
FOUNDATION
מקדשי שמך

Practical Guide for Camps

LIVING KIDDUSH HASHEM
IN ALL ENVIRONMENTS

Introduction

The summer season comes with many unique challenges in the realm of kiddush Hashem, but it also offers us many unusual opportunities to bring honor to Hashem. Camp directors and staff often find it challenging to ensure that their campers behave appropriately on outings, and the danger of chillul Hashem is enormous. What can be done to ensure that the kids will create a kiddush Hashem rather than leaving negative impressions on others?

During the year, our children spend most of their time in familiar settings within the religious community. They are not exposed to the non-Jewish world and do not understand its culture and norms. They are often oblivious to the sensitivities and norms of the outside world, simply because it is so foreign to them.

Derech erez literally means “the way of the land.” Every place in the world has its own standards of behavior. Children must be taught to respect the specific rules of etiquette in every setting.

It is most effective to take a proactive approach and teach them in advance about the rules and standards of the places they will visit. Ideally, this preparation should be done immediately before a trip, so that the ideas will still be fresh in the campers’ minds when the time comes to implement them. This is the objective of this pamphlet to provide some guidelines for the summer camp settings.

This is also excellent training for their later years, when they will have to interact with the world around them as adults.

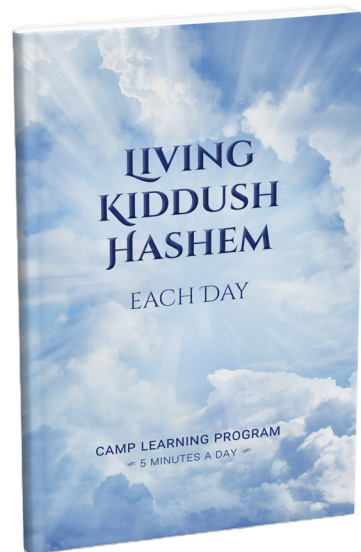
LEARNING TO LOOK BEYOND THEMSELVES AND TO KEEP OTHER PEOPLE’S SENSITIVITIES IN MIND WILL SERVE AS CRUCIAL PREPARATION FOR A LIFETIME OF KIDDUSH HASHEM.

For more information, visit LivingKiddushHashem.org,
or contact LivingKiddushHashem@gmail.com.

Suggestions

Here are a few suggestions for camp directors, or anyone supervising a trip, to motivate the children to create a kiddush Hashem:

- Tell the students that you will be asking for feedback after your trip from someone in charge of the place they will be visiting, such as the manager of a park, and that everyone will be rewarded with a special treat if you receive a good report. Of course, make sure to share the feedback with the students.
- Give every child three small slips of paper so that they can write three things they did to create a kiddush Hashem during the outing. Tell them that the papers will be used for a weekly raffle for special prizes. It is a good idea to dedicate each week's raffle to a different area of kiddush Hashem; one raffle can focus on middos, another on derech eretz, a third on kedushah, and so forth.
- Share stories and lessons about kiddush Hashem from the 30-day booklet, or bring the girls' curriculum to your camp. (Email LivingKiddushHashem@gmail.com for copies of these resources.)
- Make sure that there is plenty of adult supervision at all times, with enough staff members for all the campers on a trip.
- Kiddush Hashem can also be used as a theme for color war, to allow campers to deepen their understanding of the topic in a fun way. Possible team pairings include: Kiddush Hashem Among Jews vs. Kiddush Hashem Among Goyim; Public Kiddush Hashem vs. Private Kiddush Hashem; Living al Kiddush Hashem vs. Mesiras nefesh al Kiddush Hashem; and Kiddush Hashem through Kedushah vs. Kiddush Hashem through Derech Eretz.



Guidelines for Different Settings

The following are collections of guidelines and rules to share with your campers in advance of various trips. Select the tips that are most applicable to your specific outing.

1

GENERAL TIPS FOR ANY SETTING:

- a. Keep in mind that we are guests in *galus* in general, and we will be guests in parks or other places that are owned and run by others. The managers have the right to determine the rules for the use of their domains, and we are entering these places on the condition that we will abide by their rules.
- b. Always be sensitive to the local people and their particular etiquette. Remember that you are a guest in their community, and act accordingly.
- c. Don't lose sight of the fact that we represent the Torah and the Jewish people, and we are therefore expected to live up to a higher standard of behavior. Keep in mind that we are being watched and observed everywhere we go.
- d. Listen politely and patiently to all instructions that you are given. Wherever you go, be aware of the rules and obey all posted instructions. Even if you feel that a rule is foolish or petty, you must respect it and abide by it. Even if something is not important to you, it might be very important to your hosts.
- e. Always be a mentch. Be pleasant, greet others with a smile, and never forget to thank them.
- f. Follow halachah under any circumstances, but try to do so in a sensitive and considerate way. Uphold your standards of tznius and kedushah even if others look askance at it.
- g. When it's time to daven, find a place where your minyan won't inconvenience or disturb anyone

else. If there is a manager or someone else in charge in a park or other facility, ask in advance to be directed to the best place to hold a minyan.

- h. Clean up after yourselves.
- i. Be honest about your age and anything else that you are asked. Remember that we are representing Hashem's middah of truth!
- j. Don't stare at others.
- k. Stick to the intended use of recreational facilities. Don't climb on anything that wasn't meant for that purpose.
- l. Be aware of the behavior of others around you, and take note of whether your own behavior is drawing attention to you. Don't behave in a way that will draw the disapproval of others.

2

HIKING, CAMPING, AND BONFIRES

- a. Follow all rules: Campsites always have many rules, which are strictly enforced by park rangers. Don't think that an infraction will go unnoticed. Other hikers and campers tend to care very deeply about nature and the preservation of their parks, and they will report any violations of the rules to the park rangers. Keep the following common guidelines in mind at all times:
 - i. Don't veer off the marked trails.
 - ii. Don't litter.
 - iii. Make fires in the designated areas, and limit them to the permitted height.
 - iv. Don't burn anything other than firewood.
 - v. Avoid making noise or singing after curfew hours; remember that other people are likely to be sleeping in the vicinity.
- b. Don't be cruel to the wildlife, and don't feed the animals.
- c. Be pleasant and considerate to other hikers, and let others pass you on narrow paths.
- d. Clean up after yourselves; do not leave a mess behind.
- e. Give others their privacy.



3

WATER SPORTS (E.G., BOATING, TUBING, CANOEING, AND WHITE-WATER RAFTING)

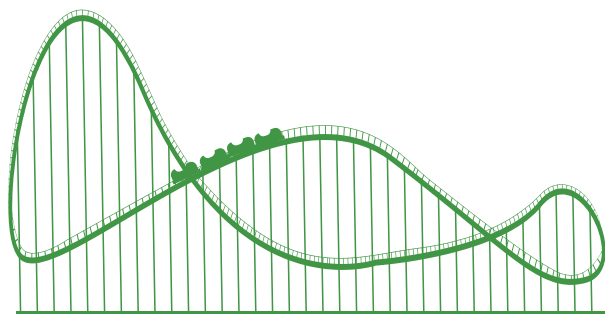
- a. Be patient and attentive during safety instructions.
- b. Follow the safety protocols.
- c. Stay within the designated boundaries at all times.



4

AMUSEMENT PARKS AND WATER PARKS

- a. Remember that people are very sensitive to safety protocols, and respect the rules.
- b. Wait your turn on line. Don't cut the line or hold places for others.
- c. Take care not to bump into others.
- d. Follow all the rules for the use of playground equipment.
 - i. Stay in the accepted positions while going down the slides.
 - ii. Do not exceed the number of people permitted on a slide at one time.



5

OUTDOOR PARKS (E.G., ROPE COURSES, PAINTBALL FIELDS, GO-KARTING TRACKS, MINIATURE GOLF COURSES, AND BATTING CAGES)



- a. Go-karts are not bumper cars; use them accordingly.
- b. Listen carefully and obey all instructions.
- c. Respect the intended use of sports equipment

6

INDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

(E.G., TRAMPOLINE PARKS, ROCK CLIMBING GYMS, ARCADES, LASER TAG FACILITIES, ROLLER SKATING RINKS, OR BOWLING ALLEYS)

- a. Follow the rules at all times.
 - i. Do not bring food out of the permitted areas.
 - ii. Respect the limits on the number of children allowed on a trampoline.
- b. In a bowling alley, leave some bowling balls for other patrons. Return bowling balls to their racks.
- c. Don't share bowling shoes with a friend to avoid rental fees.
- d. Do not walk on the actual lanes.
- e. Be considerate of the people in the lane next to you, who might take their bowling very seriously.
- f. Avoid theft! If you buy a soda that comes with free refills, it might be considered stealing to share it with others



7

SIGHTSEEING DESTINATIONS

(E.G., ZOOS, MUSEUMS, AND SPORTS GAMES)

- a. Treat animals properly at the zoo; do not tease them.
- b. Don't nag, incite, or insult the sports players.
- c. Don't walk or sit in places that are off limits or not designated for guests.
- d. Monuments and art pieces are taken very seriously by the public, and visitors are expected to treat them with proper respect.



8

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

- a. Relate to your fellow passengers and to bus drivers with respect and courtesy.
- b. Keep your surroundings clean and neat; do not leave a mess.
- c. Keep your voices appropriately low, to avoid disturbing other passengers.
- d. If you are given a seat next to a woman, don't make a scene. If you want to request a seat change, do it in a sensitive and respectful way. (It's best to be proactive and ask your rebbi for guidance for such a situation before you set out on the trip.)
- e. When you are on a plane, remember that it is a public place, not your private domain. Be considerate of others.
- f. Leave room in the overhead bins for others.
- g. When the seat belt light goes on, take your seat and buckle up. Do not be the passenger who needs a personal reminder to sit down and fasten their seat belt.



9

SHOPPING (SEVEN ELEVEN AND WALMART)

- a. Take care not to fill your Slurpee to the point that it overflows.
- b. Don't make a mess in the store.
- c. When you are buying a drink, remove one cover and one cup from the stacks without knocking others onto the floor.
- d. Wait until leaving the store to begin eating and drinking.
- e. Wait on line patiently and be polite to the cashier.
- f. Don't enter a store in a large crowd that will disturb other customers.
- g. Keep your voices down to the noise level that is appropriate for an indoor setting.
- h. Don't use the handicapped shopping carts or ride the bikes in the aisles.
- i. Walmart is a retail store; their merchandise is meant to be bought, not rented. Even if they have a "no questions asked" return policy, don't buy things that you need for the summer (such as air conditioners, fans, and bikes) and then return them after the summer is over. They may not ask questions, but it isn't honest or right.



Quotes

“Kiddush Hashem is our ultimate mission.” -*Shaarei Teshuvah* 3:158

“Kiddush Hashem is the purpose of all of Torah and mitzvos.” -*Michtav Me’Eliyahu* vol. 1, p. 22

“The mitzvah that is the mission of our generation is ‘that the name of Heaven should become beloved through you.’” -*Rav Yosef Shalom Elyashiv zt”l*

“Always act with royalty and dignity. We are the royalty of the world. We represent the King.”

“Although we must always follow the dictates of halachah in every situation, even if our actions seem strange or even distasteful to others, we must always try to show sensitivity. Whenever possible, we should explain the reasons for the things we do.”

“With every step we take, every breath we breathe, every word we speak, and every action we perform, we represent Hashem. Kiddush Hashem is the purpose of the world’s creation, and it is likely the paramount mitzvah of our generation. In this era, we are no longer in survival mode; we live in a land of freedom and liberty, and that gives us the opportunity to excel at kiddush Hashem perhaps more than at any other time in history. That is our obligation; let us do it right.”

-Excerpts from Rabbi Moshe Tuvia Lief’s foreword to *A Life Worth Living*

“Kiddush Hashem means being a master of treating other people with respect and speaking to them with pleasantness. It means being such an elevated person that other people will marvel at the character traits of a person who is known to study Torah.” -*Rav Yerucham Levovitz, mashgiach of the Mir yeshiva*

“We make a kiddush Hashem by being the best reflections of Hashem (tzelem Elokim) that we are able to become.” -*Michtav Me’Eliyahu* vol. 1, p. 138

“What you do speaks so loudly that what you say I cannot hear.”

“We are noticed wherever we go.”

“The Gemara (Berachos 17a) states that Rabban Yochanan ben Zakkai was always so quick to greet the people he met, even the non-Jews whom he passed on the street, that no one ever managed to greet him before he greeted them. Rav Dessler (Michtav Me’Eliyahu vol. 4 p. 246) points out that Rabban Yochanan ben Zakkai was an exceedingly erudite scholar, who was extraordinarily well-versed in every imaginable area of the Torah. Certainly, his mind must have been constantly focused on his learning. Furthermore, he was a leader of Klal Yisrael, and all of the nation’s needs and issues required his constant attention. Yet despite all of this, he was never so distracted that he overlooked greeting anyone he passed, even for a second.”

-Michtav Me’Eliyahu

“Where menschlichkeit ends its achievements – at that place, Yiddishkeit begins.”

–Rav Shimon Schwab

“The mouth is the quill of the heart. Through our speech, we reveal the tzelem Elokim, the Divine spark hidden within each of us. When a religious Jew speaks with refinement, with respect for others, or in a way that demonstrates his elevated moral standards, he reveals the workings of his heart.” *–A Life Worth Living, based on Chovos Halevavos*

“*Derech erez kadmah l’Torah* [means that] the purpose of Torah study is to bring about kiddush shem Shamayim. Without derech erez, our Torah can become a chillul Hashem, and its power can be lost.” —Rav Matisyahu Salomon shlita

“Identity theft: Hashem has entrusted us with representing His ‘identity’ to the world, and we must make certain that our actions do not tarnish His ‘image.’”

-Excerpts from A Life Worth Living

“No single drop of rain believes it is to blame for the flood.”