

**Rick Degelsmith - Camp Akiba Director**  
**5249 So. Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City, Ca. 90230**  
**Rick's Phone: 760-715-3746**  
**Temple Phone: 310-398-5783**

Dear Camper and Parents,

It's THAT time...again. This year we will be at a new facility for us...in the San Bernardino Mountains near Angelus Oaks -- beautiful **Camp Ta Ta Pochon!** As you know, this year camp begins on **Wednesday August 5<sup>th</sup> and ends on Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup>**. Our theme this year is: "**The Word of ISRAEL!**"

We will meet on **Wednesday August 5<sup>th</sup>** at El Marino Park (see directions) at **10:00 am**. We will NOT be making any additional stops this year, **so all participants will need to get to Culver City for our departure**. We will do a short orientation with the campers in their units, while the CITs and staff load the buses (parents are welcomed to help!!). We will then board the buses, count heads, and l'hitraot. Please be on time to the park. **If you incur any delays or problems that morning, please call me on my cell phone, 760-715-3746**. We will arrive back at El Marino Park on **August 16<sup>th</sup>** at about **2:00pm**. Please be there on time for your camper(s). Kids love to see their parents waving to the buses as we arrive back home (they love this even more than waving goodbye when we leave).

This message contains links (below) to the medical form, the packing list, directions to El Marino Park, and the camp mailing address, cabin request form, cell phone policy, and this letter itself – all forms are available on our website (<http://www.campakiba.org>).

<http://www.campakiba.org/forms/Packinglist.pdf>  
<http://www.campakiba.org/forms/CampAkibaAddress2009.pdf>  
<http://www.campakiba.org/forms/DirtoElMarinoPark.pdf>  
<http://www.campakiba.org/forms/PhonePolicyCabinRequest.pdf>  
<http://www.campakiba.org/forms/AKIBAMEDFORM2009.pdf>  
<http://www.campakiba.org/forms/CampWelcomeletter2009.pdf>

Please print and have the med form(s) filled out and signed by your physician. Then return all completed forms to Temple Akiba (5249 So. Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City 90230) as soon as possible. Make sure that you write letters and send them to your camper the day or two before we leave for camp so that they will receive mail right from the beginning. When you write, please remember, "good news only!!!" Keep letters upbeat and fun. Send puzzles, magazines, comic books, cards, **but do not send food**. Any food care packages will be collected and distributed to a food bank upon our return (or served to the hard working and always hungry counselors). We do see critters at camp, and we don't want to encourage them with free handouts.

**Please leave your camper's cell phones at home. Cell phone access increases problems with home sickness, and often inhibits our campers in making new friends and focusing on the programs the staff has worked so hard to produce. Cell phones will be confiscated upon arrival at camp and we will not take responsibility for them; thus, a cell phone that arrives at camp may not make its way back home in good condition – HAVE YOUR CAMPERS LEAVE THEIR CELL PHONES WITH YOU AT HOME. Your cooperation is appreciated. Any parents needing to reach their child at camp in an emergency can reach me on my cell, 760-715-3746, which is with me 24/7 (and should be the ONLY cell phone in use at camp) or through the camp phone (909 / 794-2927). However, the mountainous area sometimes requires patience in getting calls through to cell phones. If I don't answer the call immediately, please leave a voice message and then be patient – I will call you back as soon as I am able. Test messages are another way to communicate with me and I will respond as soon as I am able.**

If your child is celebrating a birthday while at camp, please let us know so that we can be sure to mark the occasion. If you want to prepare some kind of treat to send up with the counselor, or mail it during the week, you can send it to the camp in care of Rick Degelsmith and we will be happy to distribute it to the cabin. Please make sure that there is enough for about 20 kids to share.

Remember that all medications, **including vitamins and all over-the-counter basics**, must be sent in original packaging with clear and specific instructions. It is costly and time consuming to have to call parents with medication questions, and it is critical for our nurse to be able to dispense meds accurately.

Please make sure that your final camp bill has been paid before we leave for camp. We must have received full payment before we can let a camper get on the bus. If there has been a specific financial concern, feel free to email me at [rick@campakiba.org](mailto:rick@campakiba.org) to discuss a solution or call me at 760-715-3746.

Looking forward to a great camp summer,

B'shalom,

Rick