

Subject: GFC Wednesday Weekly – 3 Weeks Until Summer 2023!



Summer 2023 is just around the corner! In this email, we will cover:

- How to stay in touch during the summer
  - Snail mail
  - Emails and camper emails
  - Packages
  - Viewing photos and Companion app facial recognition
  - Social media
  - Greene Family Camp Blog
- Opening Day Document
- GFC Online Store \*added item!
- Camper Corner: Musical Artists in Residence!

#### **How To Stay in Touch During the Summer:**

With our campers spending time away from home, we know that staying in touch is very important. With that in mind, here are the best ways to keep up with everything happening at GFC and to stay in touch with your camper!

#### **Snail Mail:**

We encourage all campers to write home at least 3 times each week, and we know they absolutely love receiving letters from family and friends too! Please note that the USPS can take a few additional days, but mail is sent out from and delivered to camp Monday-Saturday.

To address traditional letters and post cards to your camper, please use the format below:

Camper's Name – Cabin Letter & Number (*you will receive this on Opening Day*)

URJ Greene Family Camp

1192 Smith Lane

Bruceville, Texas 76630

We suggest pre-addressing envelopes for your camper to bring to camp, especially for our younger campers.

#### Emailing your camper:

If you prefer, you can send your camper letters through the [CampInTouch](#) email system. In addition to emailing your camper on your CampInTouch account, you can also send emails using the Companion app to make it easier to send email directly from your mobile device.

Once logged into your CampInTouch account, you will see a button for 'email' under the Online Community menu. You will then be able to send emails to your camper. Once the email is sent you will be charged Camp Stamps, which you can purchase through your account. Emails are printed at the end of each day and given to campers with regular mail after lunch the next day.

**\*NEW\*** This year you will also be able to purchase handwritten **eLetter reply pages for your camper**. This prints a second page with your letter for campers to handwrite (in pen) on. When a camper turns in an eLetter reply page, it gets scanned and added to your CampInTouch account by breakfast the following day. There is also an option to print a stack of eLetter reply pages prior to camp to send with your camper. You will only be charged for reply sheets when they are scanned into your account.

#### Packages:

We have a no package policy at GFC. However, we will accept an unlimited number of large flat envelopes up to 12"x15" for magazines, photos, or small books, no more than 1" thick. Any "lumpy" envelopes will be opened by the mail room staff. Packages any larger will either be held at the office to be picked up on Closing Day or will be returned to the sender at the sender's expense. No food or candy of any kind can be sent to camp.

Of course, we understand that sometimes sending items to camp will be necessary. If your camper has forgotten something (for example, a teddy bear they need to feel comfortable or to fall asleep) or needs something replaced (athletic shoes or additional sunscreen), you will be able to send those items. Please contact us at Camp prior to mailing the items. You can call our camp office at 254-859-5411 or email [gfc@urj.org](mailto:gfc@urj.org) and we will be able to discuss the need and the best way for you to send the item to our Camp Care team for delivery to your camper.

Birthdays at camp are special. Do not worry- campers celebrating a birthday at camp receive a cookie cake and celebration at lunch. Counselors also receive decorations for the bunk ahead of time. Please do not send a cake or other treats for the birthday child.

#### Photos:

Every day, we post camp photos to our [CampInTouch photo albums](#). After logging in, you will find a secure, easy-to-use platform to view photos of what is happening here all summer. You can also view photos via the Companion App, which you can download from your phone's app store. This App will not only give you mobile access to our daily photos, but also provides the option to be alerted when a photo of your child appears during the session using facial recognition technology. Once you download the

app, you can log in using the same credentials as your CampInTouch account and follow the instructions to set up facial recognition and push notifications.

We know how popular the CampInTouch photo albums are, and we ask you to please keep the following in mind as you view the photos:

- First and foremost, if there is any issue that would require contacting a parent, we will always call you right away! If you do not see a photo of your child one day, please do not be concerned. Remember, some campers run towards the camera, while others hide from it. We will not force any camper to be in a photograph.
- The CampInTouch service is meant to be a bonus for our families, and a fun window into our day-to-day activities. We love providing photos each day, but this is secondary to other camp operations.
- We will NOT be taking a photograph of every child every day, and we cannot guarantee how often any camper will appear in photos. The primary purpose of sharing daily photos is for families to see the kinds of activities your child is participating in, not to see a picture of your child every day.
- There is not a set time every day when we guarantee photos will be uploaded, so please be patient. Photos will be uploaded by the end of breakfast the following morning, and sooner if time allows.
- Photos are only a split-second view of an experience that has millions of moments – so please do not be concerned if you see your child looking less than happy!

#### Social Media:

Follow us on your favorite social media platforms! This is a great way to see more of what is going on every day at camp. Each day we will post a Daily Update with information about meals, activities, and special events. We will also post photos or videos highlighting various activities around camp.

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

#### Greene Family Camp Blog:

You can find our [Camp blog on our website](#). Each day we will post our Daily Update here as well. You will also find regular posts written by staff members, visiting faculty, guests, and sometimes even campers!

#### Opening Day Document:

You can access our [Opening Day Document here](#). This document describes our Opening Day procedure and pre-arrival policies in one easy-to-read place. On the second page you will find detailed information about storage in the cabins, including cubby dimensions.

#### Online Store:

Do not forget to check out the [GFC Online Store](#)! We have just added \*new\* UPF protected shirts in youth and adult sizes! Items take 4-6 weeks to ship.

#### Wednesday Weekly Preview:

Next week is just 2 weeks away from Session 1 Opening Day! If you are a parent of a Session 1 (Bonim A and Bonim B included) camper, expect an email with **driving directions and reminders**. If you are a parent of a Session 2 (Bonim C, Machar, and Shorashim included) camper, your next Weekly Wednesday email will come 2 weeks prior to your Opening Day.

| <h2 style="text-align: center;">Wednesday Weekly email preview</h2> |  |
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| Wednesday, April 19   | Wednesday Weekly Introduction & medical form reminder<br>Camper Corner: 2023 Leadership Team introductions |
| Wednesday, April 26   | Opening Day procedures<br>Camper Corner: 2023 staff reveal   |
| Wednesday, May 3  | Summer 2023 Reminders<br>Camper Corner: Daily schedule highlights  |
| Wednesday, May 10   | Family Guide & Summer 2023 unit rosters<br>Camper Corner: Session event highlights                         |
| Wednesday, May 17   | Summer 2023 COVID-19 Protocols<br>Camper Corner: Theme days  |
| Wednesday, May 24   | Getting in touch with your camper: emails, letters, and photos<br>Camper Corner: Musical guests            |
| 10 days prior to your session start date                            | Driving directions and reminders<br>Camper Corner: GFC Camp Prep playlist                                  |
| 5 days prior to your session start date                             | Opening Day refresher<br>Camper Corner: First day of camp 2023 sign  |

### Camper Corner:



This year we are very excited to announce our Musical Artists in Residence who will be on Camp to help lead us in song:

- [Dan Nichols](#) (June 14 – June 17)

- [Jacob 'Spike' Kraus](#) (June 27 – June 29)
- [Noam Katz](#) (July 10 – July 13)
- [Ben Pagliaro](#) (July 18 – August 1)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Marissa Meador at [MMeador@urj.org](mailto:MMeador@urj.org). To view previously sent emails to enrolled families, please visit our pre-summer communication page [here](#).

We cannot wait for Summer 2023 to begin in just 3 weeks!

L'Shalom,

The Greene Team

Click [here](#) to meet our full-time team