

## 4th – 6th Grade Retreat

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **What is the Or Ami 4th-6th Grade Retreat?**

The retreat is a Shabbat weekend opportunity for 4th-6th grade participants from all of Or Ami's learning programs, including Keshet 3.0 and Mensch-ify, to spend a weekend of fun at Camp Alonim in Simi Valley. All activities are designed to promote a "camp" atmosphere. Sports, arts and crafts, hikes, and music are just some of the activities we will be sharing together.

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

**Drop Off:** The bus will be leaving Or Ami at 4:00 pm on Friday. Please drop off your child between 3:30 and 3:45 pm for sign-in and bus loading.

**Pick Up:** Pick up will be at Or Ami at 11:00 am on Sunday.

#### **How much does the retreat cost?**

You will receive the early bird registration price (\$220) if you register your child by the early bird deadline. After that time, the regular registration price (\$240) kicks in. Retreat sweatshirts are included in the price of the retreat. You can find the registration form at [orami.org/RSVP](http://orami.org/RSVP), or find the link in The Buzz or retreat emails.

If they wish, Or Ami 4th-6th graders can invite Jewish friends who are not Or Ami members to join them at the retreat. If your child wants to invite a friend, please direct the parents to [orami.org/RSVP](http://orami.org/RSVP) to register.

#### **Where is the retreat?**

The retreat will be held at Camp Alonim, 1101 Peppertree Lane, Simi Valley, CA 93064.

The students will take a school bus both ways between camp and Congregation Or Ami.

#### **Is there funding available for those who need it?**

Yes. We do not want anyone to feel that they cannot attend the 4th-6th grade retreat for financial reasons. Parents should contact Rabbi Julia Weisz confidentially at [rabbijulia@orami.org](mailto:rabbijulia@orami.org) or at (818) 880-4880 as soon as possible to discuss. All conversations will be kept respectfully private.

#### **Who plans and staffs the retreat?**

The retreat coordinator, with the help of 9th-12th grade Madrichim and Rabbi Julia Weisz, plan retreat programs and activities. Rabbi Julia Weisz, Keshet 3.0 and Mensch-ify faculty, Madrichim, and counselors (staff over the age of 18) will provide programming, direction, and guidance at the retreat.

**Where will my child sleep?**

All children will be divided into girls' cabins and boys' cabins, along with the appropriate number of staff. All cabins are heated and the camp has indoor plumbing. Because your child's safety is our top priority, you can be assured of appropriate adult supervision at all times throughout the retreat.

**What about the food?**

The menus are chosen with kids in mind, and there is plenty to eat. All meals at Camp Alonim are Kosher. Make sure you inform us about your child's allergy/dietary needs on the online registration form.

**If there is an emergency, how can I get in touch with the staff?**

We will be emailing emergency contact information to all parents/guardians of participating children before the start of the retreat. If you have recently changed your contact information, please alert the Or Ami office so we can update your records.

**May my child bring a cell phone?**

No. Children may call home only in the event of an emergency and will use a staff phone.

**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 in a Ziploc bag in the original prescription bottle with written instructions for distribution. You will give this bag to the designated retreat staff member when you drop off your child the day of the retreat. There will be a nurse at the retreat to dispense medication and first aid if needed.

**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 campers attending the retreat for the first time to feel nervous. At Keshet 3.0 and Mensch-ify 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 children that they will have a great time and by telling them 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.

Campers tend to become more homesick when they feel like they can go home whenever they wish. To avoid this issue, please emphasize to your children that they will be remaining for the entire weekend of fun. Your positive attitude will help your children 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.

**If you have any more questions please email Rabbi Julia Weisz at [rabbijulia@orami.org](mailto:rabbijulia@orami.org).**

**We look forward to a wonderful retreat weekend together!**