

# HOW TO CONTACT YOUR CAMPER & OUR STAFF



## TO CALL OUR STAFF OR CAMP: 415-392-7080

- While campers cannot use the phone or receive calls, if you have any questions or concerns about your child, feel free to call 415-392-7080 to speak with your child's *rosh eidah* (unit head), who will return your message within 24 hours.
- During Shabbat (Friday evening to Saturday evening), the office is closed. All voicemails will be checked often and returned as soon as possible.
- ***Please know that if any concern arises, we will be in touch immediately.***



## TO VIEW PHOTOS –OR–



## TO SEND ONE-WAY EMAIL TO YOUR CAMPER:

- [Log in to your CampInTouch account](#) using the same login you used to register for camp. **CampInTouch** is the same system you used to register for camp. Once logged in, on your family dashboard page, click the "email" link. Their secure, easy to use website service lets you send one-way e-mails to your camper, as well as view and purchase session photos.
- Emails you send through CampInTouch are printed daily at 10am and handed out at the following lunch time (except for during Shabbat on Saturday).
- *Please note: CampInTouch is an outside service; Camp Newman does not profit from any photos/emails your purchase. CampInTouch F.A.Q.s: [urjnewman.campintouch.com/Help2007](http://urjnewman.campintouch.com/Help2007)*



## TO SEND A LETTER TO/FROM YOUR CAMPER

There's nothing more exciting than mail time at camp! We strongly encourage both you and your camper to write each other regularly. Your camper wants to hear from you!

- **For campers to send a letter to friends & family:** You must pack stamps, envelopes, paper, and pens (these are NOT sold at camp). For younger children, try giving them pre-addressed and pre-stamped envelopes or postcards.
- **For parents, friends & family to send a letter to campers:** Address mail to: **Camper's Name**, Camp Newman – **Session Name**, 1 Morrow Cove, Vallejo, CA 94590. And don't forget to include your return address!



## PACKAGE POLICY

**Starting in summer 2019, our camp will no longer accept packages sent to campers.** Please communicate this policy with anyone else who may be sending mail to your campers.

- What's NOT allowed:
  - **No** boxes or large mailing envelopes of any size
  - **No** bubble or padded envelopes
- What's allowed:
  - Standard #10 size business envelope (4-1/8" x 9-1/2")
  - Standard greeting card (e.g., 4-1/4" x 5.5" or 5" x 7")
  - 8-1/2" X 11" (or 9" x12") flat envelopes

**Of course, we understand that sometimes sending items to camp will be necessary.** To ensure that your child has everything they need while at camp:

- **Any forgotten items** such as soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc., will be supplied by camp. If your child runs out of any of these items while at camp, we will make sure they have enough for the entirety of their session.

- **If your child loses an item or something breaks**, such as a hairdryer or a bathing suit, we will get in touch with you directly so you can send a replacement to camp.
- **If your child has forgotten or needs an essential item** such as a security blanket, shoes, jacket, or a retainer, **please email [newmanpackages@gmail.com](mailto:newmanpackages@gmail.com) BEFORE sending any package to camp and await a reply before sending the package.** Note that this will be done on an exception-only basis. Unless we know a package is coming, we will refuse to accept it at camp.
- **Full-summer campers (Avodah and CIT)** will have specific guidelines sent to them separately.

Our experience through the years has shown us that our current system of accepting packages from families is not sustainable or desirable. **We believe this decision is truly in the best interest of our campers.** Here's why:

- The volume of packages that arrives at camp each day creates a community of "have and have-nots" and undermines our efforts to create a Jewish community in which each camper feels that he or she is valued and treated equally.
- Some campers don't receive any packages, which leads to feelings of sadness and jealousy; others receive so many packages they literally cannot manage all of the "stuff" in their cabins and cannot fit it in their luggage on the way home.
- Our staff spends hours organizing and sorting hundreds of packages daily, giving them less time to spend with campers.
- Empty packages produce a tremendous amount of waste, only a small percentage of which is recyclable. As stewards of the earth, practicing the Jewish value of *shmirat ha'adamah*, guardians of the planet, we must do better.
- Campers sacrifice much of their free time in the afternoon standing in line to retrieve packages from the mailroom.
- With the current load of packages, UPS and Fed Ex trucks drive in and out of camp several times a day, forcing campers from the roads.
- Sadly, many parents do not respect our no-food policy, and others forget to share that policy with extended family members. The food, candy and gum that arrives in these packages (hidden or otherwise) must be taken away, disappointing the camper.
- Parents have told us that it is expensive and burdensome to fill and mail packages, and that they often feel pressure to do so.
- Many Jewish overnight camps which have instituted similar no-package policies report that the burden it lifted from parents, campers, and camp staff has been positively received.

This new policy puts us in line with the policies of many other camps. We hope you agree that this is a positive change, and we are grateful for your cooperation. Thank you in advance for doing your part to ensure that Camp Newman lives according to our values and principles.