



Gesher Gan Internship

(Now Providing College Credit)

June 11 - August 7, 2024

We are delighted to invite you to apply for the Gesher Gan 2024 program. Gesher Gan is open to entering 12th graders. It is a challenging eight-and-a-half week leadership program that offers participants the opportunity to develop skills as interns at Gan Alonim Day Camp.

Prior Alonim experience is helpful but not necessary, and we welcome applications from a variety of individuals. The Gesher Gan program, a day camp internship experience and college credit course, may not be the right experience for everyone, some applicants may not be accepted into the program. If you or your parents/guardians are not prepared to accept the possibility that you may not be selected for this program, please do not apply.

Gesher Gan is not just “another year at camp.” Gesher Gan requires a great amount of commitment from participants. It is animated by the philosophy of learning through experience. Participants spend weekdays with campers, receiving ongoing practical training and guidance.

New in Summer 2024: Alonim is in the process of certifying the Gesher Gan Program as a college-level course for academic credit through American Jewish University. Gesher Gan Participants will participate in the typical routines of the day camp day, high-level leadership and camper-care training, and engage with academic material on experiential learning/education, child development and discipline, and incorporating Judaism into education. Participants will receive approximately 4-6 college credits for completion of the program. We hope this new opportunity for college course credit will enhance the Gesher Gan Program and further enrich our participants' experience.

All Gesher Gan Interns will be guided and supported by the Gan Alonim Day Camp Administration, as well as by experienced staff members serving as Gesher Gan Mentors. Participants focusing in specialty areas will also work closely with the Alonim staff members who head up those areas for camp. All Gesher Gan Interns will have time regularly set aside for training, collaborating, program development and execution, and reflecting. Just as the Camp Alonim staff is “One Staff,” with people performing a variety of roles that each require caring for kids and leading activities, all Gesher Gan Interns will work together as one Gesher cohort to help create the Gan Alonim Day Camp experience.

All Gesher Gan Interns live together in a separate area of camp. In the evenings and on weekends, the group enjoys recreational activities, cultural programs, and leadership training. In past summers, approximately once every other week, all Gesher Gan Interns traveled together out of camp for outings. We will continue to work innovatively to create memorable experiences for Gesher Gan participants. Shabbat is spent with the Alonim community in a shared experience of joyous celebration, rest, and renewal.

Gesher Gan Interns typically receive one day off each week, except for the first week (orientation) and the last week of the summer. For time off, Gesher Gan Interns leave camp Saturday night shortly after Havdalah and return Sunday evening after dinner. When interns are able to leave camp for designated time off, we recognize that making arrangements for these times can create anxiety for some Gesher Gan Interns whose families do not live locally. For 2024, we will solicit volunteer host families and make that information available to all Gesher Gan Interns prior to the summer. Although it

is the responsibility of each Geshher Gan Intern (not Camp Alonim) to make their own time-off arrangements in consultation with their own parents/guardians, we will also check in with each Geshher Gan Intern each week regarding the status of their plans for the upcoming weekend, and the Geshher Gan Mentors will be present when each Geshher Gan Intern signs out each Saturday evening. We are fortunate that an increasing number of families from other geographic areas are choosing Camp Alonim as their “home away from home,” and we are committed to doing our part to support all Alonimers.

In order to support the programmatic expansion of Geshher Gan, the administration of the college level course credits, ongoing activities, and leadership training throughout the summer, there will be a \$1,395 fee to participate in Geshher Gan. Room, board, programming, and supplies including the end-of-summer t-shirt are provided. Upon successful completion of the program, Geshher Gan Interns receive 300 hours of community service credit and approximately 4-6 units of college-level course credits.

Geshher Gan Interns are expected to participate for the entire length of the program. The only exception is for individuals whose academic schedules overlap with the program dates -- if this applies to you, you must inform us when you apply. Other than that, requests to miss part of the program are evaluated on a case-by-case basis and are usually not granted. Any such requests must be made *at the time of application to the program* by emailing jraizman@aju.edu.

We hope you will consider applying for Geshher Gan 2024. To apply, [click here](https://campalonim.wufoo.com/forms/gesher-gan-2024-application/) or go to <https://campalonim.wufoo.com/forms/gesher-gan-2024-application/>

Applications must be submitted online by the end of the day on Sunday, February 11, 2024 to be considered. After we receive your application, you will be instructed on how to set up an online Zoom Conference interview. Decisions regarding the Geshher Gan program will be emailed to applicants around the end of March.

Finally, please keep in mind that Geshher Gan is a very specific program: a day camp internship experience. Your participation or lack thereof in Geshher Gan will have no bearing on either your existing connection with your Alonim community or your future ability to be considered for jobs at camp. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Jacob at 877-2-ALONIM (877-225-6646) or jraizman@aju.edu.

L'shalom,

Aaron Goldberg
Camp Director

Karen Garelik
Associate Director

Jacob Martinez Raizman
Assistant Director

Sasha Dominguez
Assistant Director