

To help you prepare for your Retreat weekend here are some important details:

Plan to arrive between 4:00pm and 7:00pm on Friday. Traffic from the Chicago area to Oconomowoc can be heavier than usual on a Friday afternoon/evening, so plan on over two hours to drive there. It's best to beat the Friday rush if possible. Directions to OSRUI can be found at <https://osrui.org/about/directions-to-camp/>. Your GPS may take you another route. It's ok, there is more than one way to get there. If you have transportation difficulties and need a ride please let us know as soon as possible so we can possibly assist with arrangements.

There will be signs and people helping direct you to camp from the main road. When you arrive at the main gate be sure to stop. Someone will be there to let you know where you will check in for the weekend. Proceed with your bags and all your kids bags to your assigned building. The Rosh Bayit will have check in materials and further instructions at your assigned building.

The retreat begins with a Family Shabbat Dinner at 7 pm in the Dining Hall. Please try to arrive with enough time to unpack before dinner. Dinner (and all meals) will conclude with a song session that is fun for all! Immediately after singing Friday we will have services. ***All children should remain with their parents until the conclusion of services.*** Children staying in the cabins will be dismissed to go with their counselors at the end of services.

If you are delayed past 7 pm, please come directly to the dining hall for dinner. We will have your check in packets there.

OSRUI provides adults with linens, pillows, and towels. Please bring your own toiletries. We highly recommend flashlights for adults who may need to walk between buildings at night. We also plan on having transportation between buildings for anyone who has difficulty walking, or walking at night.

Children age 6 and older may sleep in the cabins with counselors. If your child is not ready to sleep in the cabins, he or she will sleep with you - if your child wishes to start out sleeping in one location, but you think he or she may wish to relocate during the weekend, please let us know. ***All children, whether sleeping in the cabins or with parents, will need to bring their own sleeping bags, pillows, and towels.*** It may also be useful to bring a baby monitor for small children who sleep in the Lodge (babysitters will be available).

The dress code at camp is **casual, casual, casual**, all weekend long. Wisconsin weather can be variable, and although we hope for sunshine and warm temperatures, please be prepared with enough warm clothing for you and your children, and maybe some rain coats, just in case. Some folks in prior years were glad to have warm slippers along, as well as OSRUI asks for a no wet/dirty shoe policy on the carpet. Most people take their shoes off while inside.

The food at camp is served buffet style, and is kosher. If anyone has food allergies, is vegetarian, or has other dietary needs there will be special meals prepared for you. The kitchen is "tree nut/peanut free" and they can accommodate any special dietary needs. (If you have not yet indicated this on your registration form contact Jennifer Snyder or Susan Braverman.) Also note, especially for families with young children, **the dining hall is open ALL weekend** and there is always food available if your children can't wait for mealtimes. Feel free to help yourself to fruit, dry cereal, bread, jelly, nut/non-nut butters and milk if you need it.

The team of counselors and baby sitters will take great care of the children during the adult activities. All counseling staff are trained camp counselors over the age of 18. Babysitters are high school students and will always have a minimum of one adult on hand for supervision at all times. Snacks will be provided during the day. Young children will be put down for naps. If you are bringing young children please bring some toys/movies for them. Baby monitors are helpful too.

Between programs and in the evenings after programming the adults will have some time for socializing and noshing. We also provide snacks for the children and ingredients to make s'mores at our Saturday night campfire. Everyone will be asked to bring something. Remember all facilities at OSRUI are kosher, so try to bring items which are flaisch or dairy. Most attendees also bring wine, beer or another adult beverage to share after programs. There are kitchens with refrigerators in all the buildings so you can store your treats.

Retreat weekend will end before lunch on Sunday. There will be programs Sunday morning. After programs, we ask that everyone pack up their rooms, put dirty linens in the provided hampers, throw away all garbage and take home any leftover snacks or drinks they brought. We need to leave the buildings the way we found them. Kids staying in the cabins will be ready for pick up after the adult program ends, around 11am.

If you did not pay in full when you registered you will need to pay the balance on your retreat account before the retreat. If you need special arrangements, please contact Rabbi Cosnowsky.

The weekend will be full of fun, learning, music, fresh air, and laughter. Have a safe drive up to camp - looking forward to seeing you there!

If you have specific questions or concerns email one of the following people.

Questions on registration, special accommodations or meals.

Jennifer Snyder jeffiner31@gmail.com Susan Braverman snbraverman27@gmail.com

Questions on payments

Michele Miller cec.bookkeeper@congetzchaim.org

Questions on programs

Paul Heinz paulheinz6@gmail.com

Other general questions

Karen Butterfield Karen.butterfield@att.net