



## PACKAGES

**We do not accept packages for campers at Goldman Union Camp Institute.** We believe this decision is truly in the best interests of our campers.

Here's why:

- The volume of packages that arrives at camp each day creates a community of "have and have nots," undermining our efforts to create a Jewish community in which each camper feels that they are 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 the "stuff" in their cabins.
- Packages sent through Amazon are not delivered by uniformed employees or in marked company cars, creating a security challenge. Amazon deliveries do not require a signature upon delivery making them very difficult to track. Delivery personnel will give packages to anyone they see, and the packages often do not make it to our office - therefore we cannot guarantee delivery.
- Our staff spends hours organizing, sorting and logging packages each day, giving them less time to spend with campers.
- Empty packages produce a tremendous amount of waste.
- Campers sacrifice valuable down time or free time retrieving packages.
- Sadly, many parents do not respect our no-food policy, and others forget to share that policy with extended family members. The food and candy 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.
- Other Jewish overnight camps which have instituted similar no-package policies report that the burden it lifted from parents, campers and staff has been positively received.



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As mentioned above, GUCI does not accept packages. This includes boxes or large mailing envelopes of any size. We will only accept up to a standard size #10 business envelope (4-1/8" x 9-1/2").

We understand that sometimes sending items to camp is necessary. If your camper has forgotten something (e.g., a teddy bear) or needs something new (e.g. more sunscreen or a toothbrush), you will still be able to send those types of items or we can purchase them for you.

Please contact the camp office to set this up and 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.

### **To send a pre-approved package, the process is as follows:**

1. Email ([guci@urj.org](mailto:guci@urj.org)) or call (317-873-3361) camp to alert us package is coming and let us know the content.
2. Address the package to Goldman Union Camp Institute.
3. Include a note inside the package with the name of the recipient.
4. Once the package arrives at camp, our office staff will open the package and confirm receipt.
5. The contents of the package will be delivered to the camper's cabin.