



URJ OLIN-SANG-RUBY UNION INSTITUTE

Whether it's your campers first summer away from home, or their tenth, packing them is an important way to make sure they hit the ground running. We've gathered some tips and tricks from our staff and parents which will help make sure unpacking goes smoothly!

- 1. Label your child's things ...** with the full name, not just initials. Initials are fine if they lose something in the cabin or tent, but most kids lose things all over camp and full names helps make sure that your children's belongings get back to them! *Note: Some parents have said they don't bother labeling socks or underwear as they don't care if they ever get them back.*
- 1. Duffel or suitcase?** Use whatever you have – there is no need to go out and buy new luggage. Remember that your child won't be keeping the luggage in the cabin or tent, it will go into storage until the end of the session. So, please don't send a trunk, or something similar, intending for it to be used to store things. If you do need to purchase something new, we suggest a duffel. Please limit packing to two duffels or suitcases and a backpack. Everything on the packing list should fit into two good size bags.
- 2. Wheels or no wheels?** It's up to you. Luggage is delivered to the area outside of cabins/tents and our counselors will help campers get it into their bunk. So, wheels aren't necessary, and they could get damaged over the rough terrain.
- 3. Use plastic storage bags or bins for packing.** This helps keep things organized. Some parents pack all of one item in a bag (all socks, all underwear, all t-shirts). Others say their kids do better if they put a complete outfit together (underwear, socks, t-shirt, shorts).
- 4. Use a storage bin for stationery, books, booklight, etc.** Get a small box to hold these kinds of items. And keep in mind that the bunkmate will probably have the same idea, so the bin shouldn't be too big. *Note: If your child will be living in tents (Tzofim or Moshavah), plastic bags and storage bins are important for keeping things dry.*
- 5. Sew irreplaceable items (blanket, stuffed animal) inside the sleeping bag.** We usually say don't bring expensive items or something that can't be replaced. But we understand that some kids can't sleep without their favorite blanket or stuffed animal. Stitching it inside the sleeping bag or onto the blanket (just a few stitches will do) will help keep it safe.
- 6. Include a list of everything your child is bringing to camp.** With a list, your child can check to make sure they unpacked everything and have a handy list when they pack to go home. Send a couple copies of the list: one to stay in the storage bin with stationary, etc., and one to put at the bottom of the duffel/suitcase so it is still there at the end of the session when it is time to pack.
- 7. Have your camper help you pack.** By helping you pack they will know what they are bringing and how it is organized.
- 8. Pre-address envelopes.** Many parents send their campers to camp with pre-addressed and pre-stamped envelopes. This makes it easy for campers to remember who to write and takes the guess work out of writing to all family and friends
- 9. Don't worry.** Camp has everything your camper may need if they forget or lose something.