

C. PEULAT EREV

What follows is a list of some of the Peulat Erev done in Bogrim this summer. Though many of these programs were enjoyable and the campers had a good time, they do not reflect a large amount of effort or creativity. For future summers, I think it would be valuable to brainstorm at the beginning of the summer the types of programs that are recycled and limit the amount of them that can be run every week. This would be one way to challenge counselors to plan new programs that are out of the box, meaningful and unlike anything these campers have participated in before.

1. **Singled Out-** faux dating game. One boy and one girl are chosen from the edah (in secret.) They have already answered a number of questions about their likes and dislikes and what they would prefer in a dating scenario (ie- Shabbat-o-gram or flower on Shabbat). The edah is then split into boys and girls. The questions are then asked to the boys and girls as an elimination game. The last 3-4 campers to match up with the chosen campers' answers will enter the lightening round. A question is asked and each of the 3-4 remaining campers answers their ideal date (or ideal day or shabbos) and the chosen boy and girl chooses which answer they liked the best. The two couples are then put back to back and revealed to one another.
2. **Human Foosball-** Benches are set up in the ohel in rows of all lengths. At the end of each side of the chadar are tables as goalposts. The campers sit on the benches- every other camper facing different directions. The goal of the game was to get the two plastic bouncy balls underneath the tables as goals. The kids can only use their legs and arms but they may not stand up off the benches or catch the ball.
3. **Water Game-** Counselors hold water in their mouths and campers are given different challenges to try to make their counselors spit the water out.
4. **Torah Skits -** Bogrim Presents: The Triple T-s* of 2008
Your challenge – Create the best enactment of this week's Torah portion that has ever been seen! You may use the unprecedented and unfathomably awesome sedra scenes script, but, in addition, you must incorporate one line of Torah and an added bit of creativity. In other words, acting is not enough; you must include another form of live art expression (examples include: dance, song, mime, gymnastics etc...). Lastly, you must include a commercial break from your corporate sponsor (extra points for somehow connecting your corporation's business or product to the Torah portion).

Your Tools – A sedra scenes script (modify at will)
 A glorious copy of this week's parsha
 Your endless, unbounded creativity

Your Time Frame – The Best Twenty Five Minutes of your lives!!!!
 (which begin right now!) To prepare
 At 9:20, we will come together to perform our Masterpieces

**Tantalizing Torah Tales (in other words, the best thing to hit Palmer in years!)*

5. **Sing Down**
6. **So You Think You Can Dance** – Each bunk was given time to put together a dance in which each camper participated and had an opportunity to yell out his or her name to the entire edah.

7. **Circle Game with Machon** – Bogrim campers and Machon Campers were given an opportunity share information and talk about all the reasons why they love camp. The best questions were the ones that enabled Machon campers to share why it is valuable to stay full summer at camp in order to encourage Bogrimers to do so in future summers.
8. **Bench Painting**
9. **Dance Parties**
10. **Whose Line is it Anyway** – Improv games
11. **Teva Program** – Tzevet Teva joined our edah to teach about recycling, composting and all things environment. We sang songs together and created recycling boxes for each bunk.
12. **Capture the counselor**
13. **Induction into Bogrim Secret Society (Notorious Bogrim Yeladim G'nuvim)** – Four challenges were created that each group had to complete on a rotation that all centered on respect of each other and of community and a commitment to the wellbeing of our edah all summer long. This would have been a great program to do the first night of camp but timing and then weather prohibited us from doing so. If done right, it could be a great way to keep campers unified all summer long. New challenges could be presented and it could an interesting alternative way to really engage campers in the edah.
14. **Person to Person**- campers are given a partner and a set of questions that they need to answer together. For some campers, this is a great program that gives them a cool opportunity to get to know someone that they don't know that well. For campers that don't take it seriously, it has the potential to be a waste of time.

Many nights there were no peulot erev because of other things happening in camp. It is still important to plan Peulot erev for almost every night because there will be times when camp wide programs end early and it is not worthwhile to give 14 year olds too much late night free time. When great programs are planned, the campers won't notice that they are not being given as much free time.

Though these kids love having a good time and fooling around, they are mature enough and eager to participate in programs that challenge them to think and grow. Often a mistake was made when counselors believed that this time should only be used for fun and education and meaning could not be incorporated. There is a common misconception that these things cannot coexist or they are mutually exclusive. This is not the case and these campers could benefit from an introduction to the mature world that they are endeavoring to become a part of. One huge topic not touched upon formally by the edah as a whole was the experience of entering high school. This could have been a great subject to program around (in both a fun, meaningful and challenging way). There was talk of running a Yom High School, but because second session had no Yamei Meyuchad, the desire to translate that theme into some great Peulot Erev never materialized. Other themes to consider could be:

- developing a more informed and enlightened relationship with Israeli history, culture, politics and life
- creating a committed relationship with the environment along the lines of Jewish values
- challenging the stereotypes that blanket our generation's relationship with the rest of the world
- fostering a more defined understanding of American politics and how the government affects our lives (great for this summer with the upcoming elections...would need a different format for future summers)

In future summers, brainstorming these themes early will be a valuable way to plan both for Peulot Erev and Yamei Meyuchadim.