

### 3. פעולות ארב

*Welcome to Camp:* campers went through fun activities of different things they had to look forward to over the summer. Role play some CIT scenarios, build a shelter from the "rain" (water balloons lobbed by staff) for etgar, lead shira under pressure, etc. The program was fun and a nice way to get everyone pumped for the summer.

(more from week one?)

*Etgar prep program:* pretty standard; goals for etgar, fears for etgar, ideas of games/things to do. Also we did a little learning and I told a story to help connect brachot (our take home) to etgar and gave campers some brachot that might be relevant for etgar (for thunder, for natural beauty, for natural phenomenae, etc)

*Etgar (3 nights)*

*Etgar de-brief:* Done in shkia groups we shared some stories from etgar, brachot used, etc.

*Peulat Gender:* Campers split up by gender, boys do a combination of exercises (nothing too difficult but enough to get everyone sweating and breathing hard. Make sure to be clear that the point is not to see who can do more but that everyone pushes their body and feels aware of their own body), dancing (along the same lines of feeling aware of their bodies do some basic dance moves and some prancing and leaping this is good for comedy as well as bonding) and a sharing discussion of what it means to be strong, what makes us strong, what makes us happy, etc. (we stood in a big circle and did fill in the blank style questions) Very powerful and very good.

*Camp-Wide peulah:* Went well, got kids involved. It could have been better at getting more campers in the eidah into it, but this is also a job for the staff.

*Bracha Bingo Bee:* Run by Zoe Fox. Campers all got a bingo card with pictures on it, pictures of different foods, the Torah, a sunrise, a tree, etc. Then Zoe read brachot out loud and if you had the corresponding picture you crossed it off (asher yatzar and a picture of a bathroom, for example). Great idea, I wasn't there for the program I heard that it went ok but not great because the other staff members ruined it.

*Rick Recht Concert:* everyone had a decent enough time, some of the Nivonemers verged on disrespectful. This would have been much more successful if campers knew the full story behind Rick's coming.

*CIT peulat erev prep:* CITs split up by eidah and worked with one or two staff members to come up with a peulat tzrif and a peulat erev that each group of CITs in that eidah would run k'tzrif. Also the respective rashei eidot for each eidah came to speak with their CITs which was incredibly helpful.

*Running Peulat erev for CITs:* went incredibly well, staff had done a good enough job to really prep the kids well and everything went smashingly.

*Play prep:* both of these went well enough though they could have been more focused. There were a lot of kids just standing around and a lot of kids super stressed. FUTURE

RECCOMENDATION: Have the play rehearsal stuff totally blocked out with who is doing what when for both staff and campers. This could even be done before the summer, but something needs to be more organized otherwise the two days leading up to the play (even if you begin practicing well in advance) are pretty miserable. **ALSO BEGIN REHEARSAL WELL IN ADVANCE!!!**

*Play Prep*

*Niv Play:* Went very well and kids got lots and lots of positive feedback which was great. I don't know how necessary the cast party thing afterwards is though. I think could easily be pushed to the following day and as it stands it just keeps everyone up super late.

*Matt Bar and Ori Salzberg concert:* What else can I say other than I love Matt Bar and Ori Salzberg. The show was amazing, the kids had a lot of fun and also learned/tackled tough topics. The only drawback of the show was that everyone loved them so much that they went long (they also got there late because of double-booking) and so it was the third night in a row that the kids were up super late and everyone was getting a little cranky and tired.

*Abiyoyo:* During the beginning of staff appreciation after banquet I told the story of Abiyoyo and had campers act out different parts. It was fun though not the most educational program ever done.

*Shkia groups to clip-board ceremony:* Shkia groups were something that was done somewhat often (though not as much as I would have liked) through the summer. Kids were in groups with one person from each tent and they did some processing and brachot stuff throughout the summer (see take-home write up). This activity involved shkia groups which flowed into a trust walk to machaneh gimmel where clip-boards were waiting and a clip-board ceremony ensued. It was overall pretty good, though a certain staff member not knowing everyone's names cut out one of the better parts, that's the way it goes.

*Trip*

*Trip*

*Camp-wide concert:* Not super successful mostly because kids were exhausted from trip. Also the event may not have been a success perhaps because the staff was particularly awful during this event and also because it was the second concert and some of my campers were being "too cool for school".

*Yehuda:* I was not present for this event but I heard that it was great. I do not know what he did.

*Program by Abby Eisenberg from JTS about Jewish College choices:* Not the most successful program. Not at all due to lack of ability on the leader's end but due to the general stressed nature of the eidah because of outside factors. Also many kids showed incredible amounts of resistance and freaking out at being asked to discuss college stuff. It was a good program and probably a necessary one. HOWEVER, in the future we really need to lead up to college programming in a better way and more gradually.

*Eidah Talent show:* Very fun, good combo of fun and good.

### *CIT planning*

*Yom Sport prep:* This went well on the kids' end because they cared so much about it. We needed the staff to be more into it and better about keeping the kids on target and moving them along in the planning process. Some staff members were great about this, not all.

*Eichah and Tisha B'av peulah:* It was discussion groups with Machon that were somewhat thrown together last minute. Overall the discussions went well but were not as good as they could have been.

*CIT peulat erev:* another success

*Breakout:* considering the day that preceded it, breakout went great. We broke out A-side and then B-side both were trust walks c'tzriff to the middle of their respective migrashim, once out there the kids were asked to remove their blindfolds whereupon screaming and whistles ensued. On A-side the kids were then broken into teams and sent to team meetings, on B-side only Machon was sent to team meetings. B-side went fine. On A-side it was a little sloppy splitting the kids up into teams and getting them to the right place. An idea could be to put blindfolds on the kids of their team color (would have to do this without giving away that it is color war but on A-side this shouldn't be a big problem).

*Yom Sport closing ceremonies/clean-up:* Went really well. Most of the score tallying was done before hand but there was still a lag. Basically to make this better two things need to happen: A staff member should be helping the kids or make sure that the scoring system is such that it can be done quickly. ALSO there should be a few "time filling" acts planed before hand and ready to go (dances from the play, songs, skits, fire-eating, whatever)

*Camp-Wide peulah:* Very fun. Kids respected the A-siders and got into it when the B-siders went. Staff did an alright job of keeping Nivonemers into it. Fun time

*Reverse Talent Show:* Really fun program. Kids are sent to their tents where they receive a talent that they are going to perform as a tent (dramatic performance, songs, dances to funny songs, fashion show, stomp style performance, etc.) with, of course, the different choices given to maximize stepping out of comfort zones and hilarity. The tents then perform their talents and receive prizes, accolades, bad jokes from staff, etc.

### *Shkia Groups*

*Last Night of Camp program:* This was a huge success and had basically two goals: Ensure a meaningful end of their camp experience in which they would have plenty of time to process and share with a myriad of their peers. ALSO the goal was to keep them in programming for as long as possible to ensure their safety and inability to make stupid choices. The basic program

builds in size so we began after all of the cleaning and dance stuff (we actually let the kids go to the dance before they were done packing because we figured that the dance wasn't really an incentive to pack and clean plus the later we ended up starting the programming the better. That being said, we should have done a better job getting the kids to pack during Thursday and Friday). After the cleaning and dancing and packing we began with peulot ohel for about an hour or so (everyone wanted more time, it was planned for an hour and most took an hour and a half) they went very well. Then we moved to a peulat gender that was pretty awful (at least on the guys end) with the activity being stupid/harmful (not even worth explaining) and then a discussion that was basically the male counselors spouting crap to the kids that made it clear they didn't really know or care who the kids were (I had to step in and save it a bit by including the kids and speaking some nice words, which is not so much saying I am good but that the program was really bad) This was much the same with the girls peulah. After the peulot gender we moved to a peulat eidah where we watched an eidah slide-show, gave anyone that wanted to a chance to speak to the eidah and did a big eidah wide sharing circle (we gave each kid a piece of paper with some aspect of the summer on it and then they said a few words about that activity or event and what it meant to them and how it related to the whole summer). At this point it was about 6:30am so we went back to the kfar for free time until the busses left.