

Leora - Trips Debrief - 2008

Ed, Ethan, Josh,

Attached I have debriefs from those Roshes who provided it for me about the trips. Ethan. W. and all the A-side Roshes gave me feedback and I spoke with Abbie briefly. I never heard from Jen or Ben, but I am sure you guys heard some feedback.

Between the Roshes and myself there are some suggestions with the write ups.

I think it is very beneficial for camp to pre-plan the trips; however I feel that there are some glitches that need to be worked out and discussed if it is going to be done again. The big questions that's needs to be looked at is why do we do the trips and what is the overall purpose. Here are a few other things that should be looked at:

1. The budget, especially for the New York trip, makes it to provide really fantastic programming since most of the money goes to transportation and meals. With the cost of gas the way it is, buses anywhere are very expensive and makes it so that a large portion of the budget is going to that.
2. I think that for all the trips, but particularly the Machon and Nivonim trip, the goals and purpose of the trip really needs to be looked and a possibly discussed and revised. Ex. Does Nivonim just go to New York because it is tradition or is there a reason behind the trip? (hope that makes sense)
3. I had a Machon trip planned, but then a family offered to provide us dinner in the Boston area and we took it up. We changed the trip because I was struggling to find a place for a meal in the Connecticut area that would be low or no cost and when the Rodgin/Manning family offered it we Jen and I decided to move the trip around. This just became really chaotic for me and Jen because it ended up being somewhat last minute. A similar situation happened with the Nivonim trip. It is so kind and generous that families offer their home to campers and staff, I just think those things also need to be pre-arranged and the plans already made should not be totally adjusted based on that.
4. The Roshes involvement in the trip planning was really interesting also. Some of the Roshes just let me do my job and plan the trip to the fullest and other, closer to last minute decided to become involved. With Magshimim, I had a trip planned and then it was decided they did not like it and did not want to partake in it. This was fine, (I did not take it personally) I just think that if someone pre-plans trips in the future, if the Roshes want to be involved they should be before the summer when arrangements are being made. I had e-mailed with all the Roshes before hand and everyone just was happy to let me plan a trip until closer to the date when they decided to become involved.

I think overall, it was a good start to the idea of pre-planning the trips. It was obviously not the ideal situation since I was not at camp, but I think if the planner of the trips is there, they would run very smoothly and there would be less confusion. If you guys do

Speak about the trips over the off year and need more information, please be in touch with me as I have many thoughts and suggestions to provide.

Nivonim New York Trip Debrief

1. Buses late, need to tell them 15 min earlier.
2. AJWS- worthwhile and good for campers, wish there was more time with her.
Great to do volunteer projects after tied everything together.
3. Volunteer Projects
Dorot: More hands on, more seniors to have conversations and personal interactions with.

Bingo: good went well, only lasted an hour,

Get waiver form for kids to do more hands on projects.

Picking up trash was worthwhile, have more education around it.

4. some programming for night at such as Hargot examples
5. Jewish Heritage Museum: good, heavy, worthwhile- do again. Staff has some supplement.
6. Ground Zero: Did not really work out. No Memorial anymore. It's okay to walk buy to see it.
7. Free time walk was good.
8. Subway stuff an issue.
9. Kosher Delight: good meal, good service, 8 bucks a kid good. Ethan went to Kosher Delight and got the vouchers before hand. Very helpful to have the vouchers ready before hand.
10. Comedy Show: Fun, Campers had fun, good service,
11. JTS: One tour guide need more, Staff supplemented. Pizza Lunch good.
12. Free time up at JTS nice.
13. Don't need that much time at the Levy's.

I heard good feedback form campers and staff. To volunteer in New York most organization require you to be 18 or over OR have a waiver signed by parents. I am not sure if this is something camp could do, but it would make the social action projects more meaningful and interactive.

Franklin Park Zoo

Full A-side Trip

It took us two-and-a-half hours to get there, mostly because the bus driver made a number of wrong turns -could probably get the same level of experience some place closer.

Have to do something else is the day beside's just the Zoo.

If we take younger kids out of camp, have to have planned bathroom stops, they need it.

We decided to show The Lion King during dinner and peulat erev last night - and I think that went over very well. And it was a nice connection to the rest of the day - we heard kids say "I saw that animal today!" as various animals came on the screen and that was cool :)

I think it was a nice day. In terms of repeating it for future years, - don't think this zoo was so spectacular that it is worth the travel time it took to get there (even if we hadn't made those numerous wrong turns

Many second campers saying how first session campers got to go to six flag and that it wasn't fair.

Suggestion:

I think that camp spent a lot of Money on Six flags, and I know that I tried to make second session's trips very low budget. I would say however, maybe second session we do *Yom Out of Camp In Camp*. I think that camp plans a really great day in camp that provides a combination of many fun activities that campers could partake in out of camp, Such as: Yom Foam, Bouncy bounces, a magician, clowns, indoor Laser Tag (they come to you) ect. Put the money into planning a really amazing day for the kids in camp will cost the same if not less and I think we could provide really fun activities and a variety of options.

Bogrim Trip:

They were supposed to go to the Israeli exhibit at the basketball hall of fame and to the Quabbin Reservoir where the staff were coming up with the programming. A few days before the trip, I was told they did not want to go to the hall of fame because they had been there before. Abbie took control and changed that part of their trip around. They had a nice morning at the reservoir doing some learning, playing games and hanging out.