

## Machon Trip 2012

The trip was a big challenge of the summer. Rami had negotiated for an extra half day after Kishroniya (to leave Wed evening and return Friday afternoon), and we began by working with that time frame. The initial plan was to go to Cape Cod. However, for the two and a half days, the buses were well over our entire budget. (\$4970) We tried to cut the trip to only Thursday morning through Friday afternoon with the itinerary below. The buses were still over our budget, but we were able to get an extra \$500 to make it work.

Thursday, August 9

**6:15- Wake up**

**6:45-T'filot**

**7:15- Breakfast**

**8:00- Leave camp**

**11:00- Welcome Tekes/chill/lunch at beach/showers**

Nausset Beach

**3:30- Volunteering**<http://capecodvolunteers.org/volunteer/>

**6:00- Dinner**

**7:00- Playoff Baseball game- free**

<b>Notes</b>
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Orleans Field □ 84 Massachusetts 28 □ Orleans, MA 02653 □ □ Harwich Field □ 105 Oak St □ Harwich, MA 02645
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**9:00- Back at Cantor's house**

<b>Notes</b>
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Beach time? Make it earlier to do some programming on beach? Leave baseball game early?
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**8:00- Wake up and pack up**

**8:40-T'filot**

**9:15-Breakfast**

**9:45- Depart Cantor's**

**10:30-Mini Golf!**

**Pirate's Cove**

728 Main Street  
South Yarmouth MA 02664  
508-394-6200 or  
508-394-5252  
fax 508 394 7575

**12:15- Depart from Mini Golf**

Group rate of \$6 per person for a total of \$462.

**3:30- Arrive at camp**

The itinerary was workable, and we were excited to move forward, when in succession, our application to the beach was denied (we needed to submit paperwork for a group rate). [Something to consider for the future is how to get lifeguard coverage- that was part of the problem.] The next day, the volunteer org pulled out. We were going to be split between two locations, both involving some cleaning and preservation work, and one of the sites could not accomodate our group. We decided with only two set activities (and the baseball game location wouldn't be known until the day before), that we had to go with Plan B.

We had thrown around the possibility of Boston before when things seemed shaky with Cape Cod, and the Vaad was able to quickly draft up an itinerary. They did an extraordinary job putting together the trip. We utilized all of our contacts in the area, including camp people.

We ended up with the following itinerary:

**Thursday, August 9**

7:15- tefilot

8:00- aruchat boker and picking up packout

8:35- load buses

9:00- Depart camp

10:30- Arrive at Walden Pond

12:15- Depart Walden Pond for AMC 5 Chestnut Hill

1:30/2:30- See Batman or Ice Age

4:30- Depart AMC 5 for Kehillath Israel

4:45- Arrive at KI and drop off stuff

5:30- Flashmob outside KI

5:45-7:15- Free time in Coolidge Corner

7:15- Return to KI for dinner

8:30- Peulat Erev: Guess the Tzevet Member Stories

9:15- Chofesh in the shul (attempted to stream Olympics coverage but it didn't work)

Laila tov eventually

## **Friday, August 10**

6:40- Kima

7:00- Minyan with KI

7:45- Aruchat Boker

8:15- Clean up and final packing up

8:45- Load buses

9:00- Depart KI for Fenway Park

9:30- Tour of Fenway

10:45- Depart Fenway for Boston Common

11:00- Scavenger Hunt of Boston Common

12:15- Depart Boston for Camp

2:00- Return to Camp

### **Schedule in detail:**

Walden Pond- they were happy to accommodate us. Because we booked only 3 days in advance, we were not able to swim there. They fill up quickly and only have so much lifeguard coverage. In the future, advance booking should enable swimming. Campers knew this and spend the time relaxing in the shade, eating lunch, playing frisbee, and hiking around the area. It was a nice space and a nice, chill way to start out the trip.

AMC Chestnut Hill- We gave the campers choices between Batman and Ice Age, and the overwhelming majority chose Batman. We were able to get a group rate of over 25 people for that film. For 60 people at \$5 each, and 16 people at \$8 each, the total cost for the movie was \$428.

KI- we contact Rachel Silverman who was able to set us up with staying at the shul at no cost. (Our main contact was the office manager.) She was incredibly helpful in getting us set up and making sure we had everything we needed. The boys slept in the main social hall, and the girls in the hallway outside the chapel and in the nursery school. Girls staff slept in the corridors separating the two sections.

Flashmob- we taught the dance "Jungle" the night before the trip. Campers felt mixed- some were excited, some less so. Many were disappointed that they were not able to perform in a more public place. (The Atrium Mall had originally said yes and then turned us down.) Campers looked great though, as the video shows!

Coolidge Corner- we gave the campers clear boundaries of how far they could go, and told them where they could find good Kosher food. We made the kashrut and behavioral expectations clear and the campers were fantastic.

Hanging out at KI- we ended up having a very laid back evening as we transitioned between dinner, hanging out, peulat erev, and bed. We by chance ran into camp parents (the Cantors) and they gave us money to buy the campers a treat, so we brought them JP Licks ice cream as a pre-bedtime treat. We were disappointed not to be able to show them the Olympics (internet was too slow to load the videos), but campers had a lot of energy and had a good time hanging out. They made some messes in the bathrooms and sleeping areas, but did an INCREDIBLE job of

cleaning up after themselves and treating the shul respectfully overall.

Minyan: this ended up being one of the most meaningful parts of the trip. We had to scrap the community service component, because we could not find meaningful volunteer work in our time frame, but many saw the mitzvah of helping to make the minyan as their service. Campers were respectful and participated, and understood how much their presence brightened the morning of the regular minyan-goers. They also understood the importance of making a minyan for those saying kaddish. Rabbi Hamilton was really happy to have us.

Fenway: the Fenway tour was fun and engaging. The guide was clearly used to our demographic and kept the energy level high with constant stories and fun facts. Campers posed for pictures everywhere and had a great time. Cost: \$672.

Boston Common: the staff had written a fun scavenger hunt for the area, which we ended up scrapping when we arrived. The campers were craving more time to explore, so we did so in the intentionally divided groups with counselor supervision. Most groups ended up at Starbucks and Dunkin Donuts, but some relaxed on the Commons and explored the area as well. We ended the trip much like we started, with a fun, relaxing, chill activity.

Food: we got everything from the chadar: sandwiches and snacks for lunch, frozen pizzas for dinner with toppings, cold cereal and milk for breakfast. Dena drove separately and dropped the food off at the shul before meeting us at Walden Pond. Note: apparently, our contact at KI gave us permission to use the kitchen without checking with the rabbis on the kashrut standards. We were well within the standards, but it is unlikely that a future group would have the freedom to use the kitchens as we did.

Money: campers were each given \$10. This was not much for a 2 day trip, especially when they had the option to buy their own dinner. I would recommend \$20 of spending money for the Machon trip in the future.

Buses to Boston for the day and a half was \$2580. The only other costs were parking at Walden Pond (\$20), the movie (\$428), and Fenway (\$672). The total cost of the trip was \$3700, just under our total summer budget of \$4000. We had spent about that much thus far on programming, and were careful not to spend any more after the trip. Still, we were cutting it a bit close. Our trip, because it was a Thursday/Friday, was only a day and a half. I think ideally, it would have been nicer to have a 2 full days, but it would be important to keep the budget in mind. With a local trip and only needing the buses for a portion of each day, the trip already brought us to our limit. Unless busing costs go down, it will be challenging to run a Machon trip that is long and/or farther away in the future.

Overall, campers had a great time- they appreciated the laid back pace of the trip, yet still felt like we accomplished a lot. It was an important bonding experience for the edah as well. I would recommend having the trip at least a week earlier in the calendar in the future so that the connectedness of the edah could carry over through more of the summer.