

Machon Trip

We went to Boston for our trip. (I learned from last year to pick the location and stick with it, and to go into the summer with plenty of ideas for what to do.) Solomon largely supervised. It was a great trip. We did a lot each day, yet didn't feel like we were rushing to go anywhere. Chanichim got a chance to absorb most of the experiences at their own paces, and found it to be a great bonding time as well. There were some challenges in planning Friday's activity (partially having to do with Solomon/va'ad conflict), but we were able to pull it together in the end.

We stayed at the Boston Synagogue which was ideal for a number of reasons:

- They were located in the heart of downtown Boston, which meant that we could walk to many of our locations. We didn't need the bus at all on Thursday of the trip.
- They let us use their kitchen. This saved us a lot of money as we were able to bring food from camp and store and prep things there.
- They had a good space for us. Their sanctuary/social hall was divided by partitions. We were all in the same space which was easy to monitor. Because we were in a sanctuary, everyone was more respectful of the space. Also, it was carpeted. Much better than a hard floor.
- They were nice. They were so accommodating, and kept offering to help in any way possible. They let us use their office computer/wifi, and checked in often. Someone even came and met us during tefilot on Thursday morning to give us a history of the synagogue and the Boston Jewish community.
- In conclusion, use them again, form a relationship with them. Obviously we can benefit from them, but I also think they can benefit from having a relationship with Camp Ramah as well.

Schedule

Wednesday, July 31st

- 4:15 -- Leave Camp Ramah in New England, heading east towards Boston
- 6:30 -- Arrive at Boston Synagogue (counselor arrives ahead of time to pick up keys, parking ticket), unload buses
 - Address: 55 Martha Rd, Boston, MA 02114
 - Phone:(617) 523-0453
- 6:45-7:00 -- Walk to Hatch Shell
- 7:00 -- Arrive at Hatch Shell, enjoy free concert and eat dinner on grass
(Salsa music, lots of fun!)
- 9:00 -- Leave Hatch Shell
- 9:20 -- Arrive at Boston Synagogue, begin getting ready for bed
- 10:30 -- Lights out

Thursday, August 1st

7:20 -- Kima

7:40 -- T'filot

8:15 -- Talk from Michael Weingarten on history of Boston Synagogue

8:45 - Breakfast

10:00 -- Walk to AMC Loews on Tremont St

Address: 175 Tremont St, Boston, MA 02111

Phone:(617) 423-5801

11 and 12:15pm -- Begin movie choices

(Monster's U, Despicable Me 2)

Those in the 12:15 movie relaxed on the Boston Common before their movie, and those in the 11:00 movie relaxed on the Boston Common after their movie

2:30 -- Lunch on Boston Common

3:00 -- Walk to New England Aquarium

3:30-5:30 -- Aquarium

Address: 1 Central Wharf, Boston, MA 02110

Phone: (617) 973-5200

6:10 -- Relax at, then dinner by Rings' Fountain

6:40 -- Walk/Travel to Institute of Contemporary Art

Address: 100 Northern Ave, Boston, MA 02210

Phone: (617) 478-3100

7:00 and 7:30 -- Staggered entrance to ICA

8:30 -- Leave and walk to Quincy Market for light show/free time

8:50 -- Arrive at Quincy Market

9:30 -- Walk back to Synagogue

9:50 -- Bedtime process at Synagogue

Friday, August 2nd

7:40 -- Kima

8:30 -- T'filot, then Breakfast

10:15 -- Depart Boston Synagogue

10:30-11:45 -- Free time/Scavenger hunt at Quincy Market

12:00 -- Leave Quincy Market for Camp

1:30 -- Arrive at Camp

Due to unforeseen traffic, arrival at camp was 2 hours later than expected

Budget

1. We began the summer with an edah budget of \$5,000

2. The busses cost \$237.00. We used two school busses on Wednesday to go to Boston, and two on Friday to bring us back to camp. [Note: it saved us a ton of money on transportation to a)use school buses and b) not use buses at all on the middle day of the trip]

3. The Aquarium visit cost \$789.00

4. The total movie cost was \$51.77; much of the cost was supplemented by the free movie passes that Machon 2012 received from last years' trip to Boston

5. Spending money: \$15 for 63 campers = \$945

6. Check to Boston Synagogue = \$118
7. Petty cash = \$250, ~\$14 was returned
8. TOTAL: \$2,376.77

Evaluation

1. The trip was overall successful. In order to cut down the cost for busses, we walked all over Boston from location to location. There was some worry that the amount of walking would irritate the chanichim, but we were able to break up the walks and in the end there was little to no complaining. One chanicha was injured, and she took cabs for a couple of the longer walks. Aside from the Aquarium (and a bit at the movies), everything we did in Boston was free (this allowed us to splurge on a fun experience like the Aquarium). The chanichim could not stop raving about the trip and felt like they were able to do so much in only a short amount of time. During the trip it was necessary to change the itinerary on the fly (eating dinner right next to the Aquarium by Rings' Fountain instead of walking back to the Boston Synagogue); and the changed schedule ended up being a better use of our time than originally planned.

& It was helpful to start planning for the trip before the summer started. Solomon researched cheap/free things to do in Boston a month in advance, and the trip va'ad was able to use one of those ideas for the final itinerary (the ICA visit). Having something in mind early helped structure the rest of the trip around it, and it provided a way to keep thinking about the trip in the earlier part of the summer instead of waiting until last minute. The tzevet was great- able to be flexible, to roll with the punches, and keep the chanichim on board. We had a ton of fun bonding together at the synagogue at night.