

YOM MEYUCHADIM

During Kayitz 2007, Ilanot had 3 Yom Meyuchadim...

Yom Israel Trail

For this Yom, the kids were told that they were immigrants all making the journey to Eretz Yisrael. Each camper was put into a "family" from a different country: Ethiopia, Russia, Argentina, Poland, etc. They were given a family tree (some kids were 7, some were 67!) and a new name. During the morning, they got oriented with their families, packed their suitcases, and collected money through a game of Gold Rush. In the afternoon, they journeyed to Israel (aka Machene Dalet) through a series of obstacles (weather, guards, robbers, etc.) and composed family songs. After, there was a slip n' slide on the map of Israel to symbolize the entry into Israel.

This program was really educational, and the kids really liked it too! It was well organized and thought out.

PROS: Judaic content, creative ideas, individual special-ness for kids, good use of Hebrew

CONS: Too much running around on a hot day, not enough "just fun" time for kids

Yom Where in the Tanach is Carmen Sandiego?

This Yom was centered around the fact that Carmen Sandiego had stolen lots of important items from the Tanach – Unicorn horns from Noah, the apple from Gan Eden, Sampson's hair, etc. For each thing stolen, there was an activity (capture the horns, apples to apples, wig making) and this took up the morning. In the afternoon, there was a scavenger hunt to find the leaven in the bread from Pesach that had kids running all around camp looking for clues. After, there was a chase for Carmen herself and then a plea for mercy by Carmen.

This program was good, but not as good as the other Yomim (in my opinion.) It was a hot day, and lots of kids got really hot and tired during the scavenger hunt. It also didn't seem as planned/organized as Israel Trail.

PROS: Judaic content, fun activities, chasing Rachel

CONS: Not as organized, too much physical activity, and Carmen Sandiego is a bit before the campers' time...

Yom Alice in Wonderland

This Yom was introduced as Yom Dictionary, but the kids soon figured out what it really was when the White Rabbit (Dan Kieval) ran in and they chased him through the Looking Glass (a dressed-up Shabbat gate). After, they were introduced to the counselors (each one was dressed up as a character), split up into groups by character, and participated in a backwards relay. After, there was a song and dance competition that let the groups bond and do something silly for the King and Queen of Hearts and then did a Red Light Green Light game with the King and Queen. The last activity of the morning was a Slip n' Slide that cooled the kids off. After lunch they were shrunk with a Drink Me potion (Tang!!!) and then they did stations: a Humpty Dumpty egg drop, giant croquet, freeze dance, and painting pictionary. After, there was a funny skit by the counselors that showed Alice's trial, and then they watched the movie.