

# Jewish Games and Other Fun Stuff

And What Makes a Jewish Unit Jewish  
Adam Selsley, Twin Rivers Jewish  
Committee on Scouting

# Today's Agenda

- Introductions
- What do you want to take from this session?
- What makes a Jewish Unit Jewish?
- Pack and Den Meeting Ideas
- Planning a Meeting
- Q/A

# Introductions

- Please take a moment to tell us a little about yourself
  - Your name
  - Council
  - Unit
  - Position (if any)
  - One key thing you would like to learn in this session

# What Makes a Jewish Unit Jewish

- Characteristics that make a Jewish Unit Jewish
  - Kosher
  - Shomer Shabbat
  - Jewish Programming

# Jewish Experiential Learning

- Many kids only see Judaism through their religious school classrooms
  - See little fun in being Jewish—told what to do and when
  - Depending on background, may make it difficult for the child to connect with their Jewishness
- Scouting excels in experiential learning
  - Scouting is all about doing
- Tying together Scouting and Jewish Learning is easy and fun

# Pack Planning Ideas

- Use Jewish holidays and ideals to plan monthly themes
  - Holiday Specific
    - Rosh Hashanah
      - Kick-off program (new year)
      - Make Shofarot (Chabad)
      - Make and decorate honey cups
      - Go apple picking
    - Chanukah
      - Help throw a Chanukah party a Jewish Home for the Aged
      - Make bees wax candles
      - Re-enact the Chanukah story
      - Make Chanukah cards for military personnel overseas (work with local JWV)
      - Game of dreidel (sometimes fun is just fun!)

# Pack Planning Ideas

- Use Jewish holidays and ideals to plan monthly themes
  - Tikkum Olam
    - Martin Luther King Day—civil rights
      - Have speaker on Jews in the Civil Rights Movement at Pack Meeting
    - Tu B'Shevat (both holiday and Tikkum Olam)
      - Torah Flora and Fauna Hike
      - Learn about Leave No Trace
        - Visit local preserve and learn about what they are trying to save

# Den Planning Ideas

- Monthly themes for the pack can be passed to the dens to help guide their activities
  - Webelos
    - Showman
      - Make puppets for each of the characters in the Megillah
      - Let them put on a Purim Spiel at the pack meeting
        - Also let's younger scouts to make noise at the appropriate times
    - Craftsman
      - Make Chanukiahs (can also be done with younger scouts as well)
      - Make Mezzuzot

# Den Planning Ideas

- Monthly themes for the pack can be passed to the dens to help guide their activities
  - Bear
    - Take care of the planet
      - Hold a clean-up day at the local Hebrew Day School or a local Synagogue
    - What's cooking
      - Make Hamatashen for the den and/or the entire pack
      - Hold a Log B'Omer cookout

# Den Planning Ideas

- Monthly themes for the pack can be passed to the dens to help guide their activities
  - Wolf
    - Your Living World
      - Hold a clean-up day at the local Hebrew Day School or a local Synagogue
    - Cooking and Eating
      - Help a parent plan and make a Pesach Seder meal

# Den Planning Ideas

- Monthly themes for the pack can be passed to the dens to help guide their activities
  - Tiger
    - Let's Go Outdoors
      - Torah Flora and Fauna Hike
    - Making my Family Special
      - Visit a local Jewish history museum for the Go-see-it

# Other Ideas and Resources

- Connect with local Hebrew Day Schools
  - May have activity ideas that can be adapted for your use
- Religious emblem workshops
  - Maccabee and Aleph fulfill requirements for a number of ranks

# Your Turn!

- Choose a meeting type
  - Den or Pack Meeting
- Determine your theme
- Plan out the activities you would do

# Key Points

- Scouting and Jewish experiential learning go hand in hand
- It's all in the plan!
  - Pack and Den planning is a must in order to include Scout advancement with the proper Jewish activities
- Remember it is all in the experience
  - Undercover “Jewishness”
- **KEEP IT SIMPLE! MAKE IT FUN!**
  - If you do not think it is simple and fun, the kids will not either

**Thank You!**

Questions?