



Camp Israel

2006



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Camp Israel/ Camp Eretz

Draft



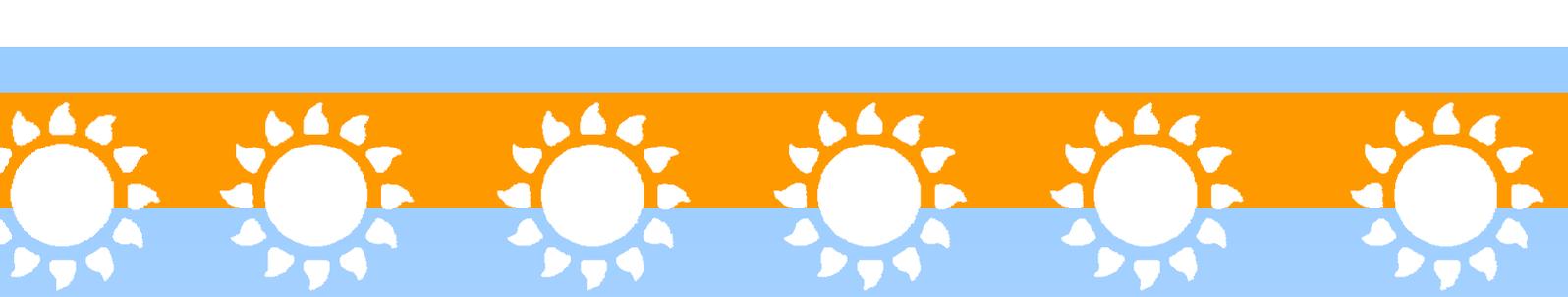
ISRAELⁱⁿDC

An Initiative of

*The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington & The Jewish Agency for Israel's
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 הסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל
Jewish Agency for Israel

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Israel. In Real Life.



Day 10

2006 JCC

Background:

It's 2006. Soon Israel will be 60 years old. There are close to 7 million people in Israel today. Jews are still making Aliya to Israel at an average of about 30-50 thousand a year. In about 15 years, most of the Jews in the world will be living in Israel. For the first time, after 2000 years, Israel will become again the center of the Jewish world. The Zionist dream is coming true in our generation (not sure about that, as is it greatly due to the Holocaust. Also - the dwindling of Jewish communities due to assimilation).

Today Israel is facing a new challenge regarding its relations with Jews all around the world, especially in North America. The big challenge of the 21st century is in the field of Jewish identity. With high numbers of intermarriage, with the majority of Jewish kids raised around the world with very poor Jewish education, with growing numbers of unaffiliated Jews, the Jews in Israel are worried about the destiny of the Jewish communities all around the world.

The Jewish Agency sends the Shlichim to try and build as many bridges as possible between the Jewish communities around the world and the Jews living in Israel. This camp is an example of a program that strives to make the connection.

On the last day of camp, as we reach 2006, back in our homes in America, here are the things to remember:

- Israel is the homeland of all the Jews in the world- meaning it's our homeland too. We can decide anytime in our life that we want to make Aliya and automatically we'll be eligible to receive Israeli citizenship.
- Israel is a great place to visit, to do a Bar-Mitzva celebration or just to have a family vacation. While you are having fun and enjoying the great weather and sights, you can go through the history of our forefathers and mothers, and visit all the places where history took place in the stories we met during camp.
- Israel is a great place to spend a longer time in your life. A semester or a year in one of the excellent Israeli universities is highly valued by universities all over the world. Israel has professional, as well as personal opportunities for high school graduates, college students and graduates.
- The connection with Israel is a lifelong inspiring Journey. We just finished taking the first step. Have a great journey!!!!



9:00 - 9:15

Campers arrive

9:15 - 10:15

Spices for Shabbat on the map of Israel
A game for last day of camp:

On the big map of Israel, place about 15 jars, in each a different spice. (Mint leaves, cinnamon sticks etc). Every camper gets a small bag. Prepare a list of easy questions about Israel. The first camper is asked a question. If the camper answers correctly can go to one of the jars and smell it. If the smell is good can take a piece into the bag. Now it's the next camper's turn. If a camper does not answer correctly the question moves to the next camper. When each camper has 3-4 spices you can tie the bags and they can be Israeli Havdallah bags.

Make frames- [Must take a group picture and make copies for all prior... ?](#)

Ball of Yarn – Attached

Box of Gifts -[Only](#)

Video of children-[Only](#)



Farewell activities:

1. Have everyone stand in a circle. One of the counselors holds a ball of yarn and ties the edge on his/her wrist. Then the counselor throws the ball to a camper and says the name of the camper followed by "I learned a lot about you in the last two weeks. I learned that you can...., that you have the courage to face hard situations like....., that you know how to even if...." And so on. The camper ties the yarn around his/her wrist and then throws the ball to another camper and says the same type of things to the following camper. When everyone has received their piece of yarn and tied it to their hands, creating a web, the counselors pass with scissors and cut the edges of the yarn so that the net falls on the floor and each camper gets to keep the piece of yarn tied to his/her hand.

Counselors, these are the last moments of camp and we want to frame our educational work in these important moments. Before you cut the net, ask the kids to reflect on how they feel when they are standing there all tied to each other. They will probably use words like "connection, together, community, family" and so on. Go back to all that we have done in the last 10 days/ 75 years. What made the miracle of the State of Israel possible? It was the connection between the people, the strength that comes from a community, from the feeling that my people are my family and I'm willing to do everything for my family's success.

Suggest that the kids close their eyes and try to catch a snapshot of this net and "save" it in their "hard disks" because this is what Israel and Israel camp are all about – connections, responsibility for my community, working together, creating a big Jewish family.

2. My personal achievements exercise.
Put a plate of Israeli chocolates on the floor. Ask each camper to get up in his/her turn, take an Israeli chocolate and say why he/she deserves this chocolate. Ask them to say what they have learned about themselves. Things they never thought they could do, challenges they are proud they faced successfully and so on. If it's hard for them, you can be the first to begin.