



# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

## DENVER AREA COUNCIL

### Jewish Committee on Scouting

Minutes

9/30/13

In attendance: Mike Shapiro, Hyiam Reiffman, Stuart Zipper, Shawn Connelly, Dave Reynolds, and Greg Ostravich.

#### Opening

Pledge of Allegiance

**Parshe Toldot** – Yitzhak and Rivke – twins in the womb; rumbling when she passed by a house of G-d or a house of idol worship. Yaakov was pushing around the house of G-d; Esau was pushing at the house of Idol Worship.

Scouting: All boys have potential; evil or good. We have to help them; give them the right framework to make those choices. So they make a true right decision.

AM (aleph mem) means Mother; with a different vowel it's IM (eem) or "if"; the mother has the power of the if – guide their child.

**September Meeting minutes** posted on the website.

Move to accept – accepted.

**Recognition for Jewish Eagle Scouts** – Shawn is working on a certificate.

**Kinnus** – January 12<sup>th</sup> – Tu Bishvat theme. Draft flyer submitted to Mike by Shawn.

May not plug in to Ekar farms because of the time of year; we'll plant parsley for the coming Passover. Stuart brought a Tu B'shvat Seder; we could do a part of that as an introduction to lunch/snack/meal. We're leaning towards something light; not a meal. Stuart will revise the Seder he has to be shorter and will deliver the program at the Kinnus event. Mike Shapiro will send some materials he has to Stuart so he can incorporate other materials. Stuart has an examination of the scout law in light of Torah and he may add that in as well.

Greg will let Ekar Farms know that we'll pass and just plant parsley; we'll try that again another time.

Shawn has put together a patch with a tree and the current year.

PVC game as an activity.

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List of activities and time frames –

- Check-in at 8:30 AM
- Program starts at 9:00 AM
- Flags
- Planting Parsley – (outside, weather permitting.) ; Kit if we're running low on time; otherwise we'll plant. 30 minutes; talk about the holiday of Tu b'svhat as well as Pesach during the planting.
- PVC marble game – (backup game?) 15-30 minutes?
- Tu b'shvat Seder – 45 minutes (fruits, nuts, and pomegranates)
- Workshops on the religious awards – 30 minutes for each?
- Closing Flags

Need to figure out the costs – items we'll need for the Seder are grape juice, fruits, nuts, and pomegranate. We'll maybe charge \$10 per registrant and have the council help. That's for any participant; regardless of age. We need to require an adult per Cub Scout; have the parent stay. One per 6 for cubs; Tigers the parents must stay.

For the flyer use Mike Shapiro's cell number.

Registration items:

- Name
- Address
- Phone Number
- E-mail Address
- Credit Card Number for payment
- Age
- Scout Type (Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos, Boy Scout, Venture)
- Unit Type
- Unit Number
- Religious Award (based on age?) and how far are they if they've started or are they just starting that award? Or have they completed the award? (Started, Not Started, Completed)
- Number of attendees per participant (Parent and Scout)

**Eagle Project for Jewish War Veterans Post** – Hyiam will see if his son, Gavriel Asher, is interested. He is and committed for May. Reminder: Greg needs to drop off some Eagle paperwork for Hyiam to see some examples.

**New National JCOS Chair** – Shawn and Mike have communicated to the new chair. Wants to be inclusive; we want to be sensitive to the Shomer Shabbos Jews' needs. Good experience working with him so far.

**Unit Status** – Technology upheaval over the summer; lists need to be re-created. Small numbers this year for both the Cub and Scout side. Concern about the troop numbers; 3 active, 5 on the roster. Two Webelos IIs, trying to cross them over into Boy Scouts. Trying to recruit internally; kids just not into Scouts. Four Tigers. Tigers, Bears, and Webelos IIs in the Pack. Of the Bears one is from outside the school; one is from inside the school.

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**New Contact for scouts** – Stuart hasn't been able to reach him.

**Religious Award for Messianic Jews** – let them go through their own religiously affiliated organization. Mike will pass on the name of the National Professional for the National Relationships Committee who is the advisor.

**2014 Scout Shabbat – Hyiam's** troop does something special on Shabbat or in preparation for Shabbat they wouldn't normally do. For example; helping out in the shul as an usher, helping mom with preparation, doing a D'var Torah. What did you plan on doing and what did you end up doing? The official date February 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

**New Business** –

- Popcorn discussion
- Chaplain's Aide training was a full course.
- Dave Reynolds received chaplain training. Meyer went with him and enjoyed it; reported back to his home unit.

**Next Meeting Date:** Would be on Thanksgiving; so we'll push it back the week before. The third Thursday is the 21<sup>st</sup>; we'll shoot for that date. We'll do 6:30 PM at DAT.

**Closing Scout Master's Minute** – based on Toldot.

While Esau is a man of violent nature; Jacob is the opposite. The story is about the boys pulling towards evil and good, even in the womb. They were programmed from day one. Each of us face different challenges; some born with an angry disposition; some are born lazy. We are all tested; we cannot compare or judge.

Esau's challenge was to harness his passion for positive change in the world. What of Jacob? His test was more subtle; the challenge was to push himself to his fullest potential. Greatness lies in how great you get; but in how far you come. The destination doesn't matter as much as the journey. Jacob's challenge wasn't to be righteous in a righteous home; but to strive for greater achievement. Set your sights high and wide. "I'll do my best."

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