



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

DENVER AREA COUNCIL

Jewish Committee on Scouting

Minutes

11/21/2013

In attendance: Mike Shapiro (via Skype), Hyiam Reiffman, Stuart Zipper, Shawn Connelly.

Opening

Pledge of Allegiance

D'var Torah: Parshe Vayeshev – Joseph and his dreams in verse 5, Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. However, even if he had not told them of his dream, they still would have hated him. This is the exact opposite of a Scout being loyal. We need to take this lesson and hate less, be tolerant and always assume the best of people.

October Meeting minutes posted on the website.

Move to accept – accepted.

Recognition for Jewish Eagle Scouts – Certificate has been created. Shawn will get certificates printed for Zachery Ostravich and Geoffrey Markowitz.

Kinnus – January 12th – Tu Bishvat theme. Flyers were distributed at Roundtables and are now present in the Council Office at the Customer Service desk. Stuart is trimming down the Seder to the time frame we have.

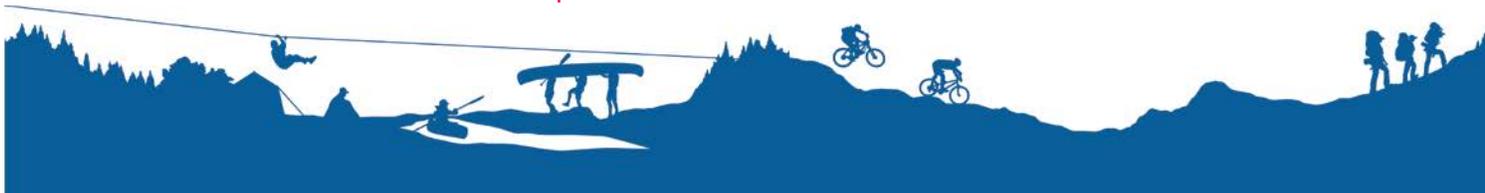
Religious awards sessions – need to verify the leaders who did the sessions in the past are doing them again this year.

Patch – Stuart will look for some clip art for the patch.

Eagle Project for Jewish War Veterans Post – Hyiam has not yet had contact with the JWV Post on the project and neither had Gavriel Asher. Hyiam will move forward on the project. Mike suggested the cemetery attendant would be another good contact point.

Unit Status – There are things in the works with both Pack and Troop 1613. Two Webelos II's are eleven years old and ready to go to Boy Scouts. Question was asked if the youth could earn their Arrow of Light and be registered as a Boy Scout. (Research after the meeting revealed this is not possible per Section 4.1.1.9 of the BSA Advancement Guide, www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf). Pack would then have a problem re-chartering since they would be a couple boys short. Hyiam does have a couple of other boys interested in Tigers, but they are not quite old enough yet.

Prepared. For Life.™





BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

DENVER AREA COUNCIL

New Business –

Committee Flag – The National JCoS has design a flag for the individual council committee's and was offering a half price introductory price for the initial order. We have ordered the flag and will wait to hear from National on delivery date. Committee should consider purchasing a flag pole with a Magen David finial.

2014 Scout Shabbat – patch design contest is going on now. Will want to promote at Kinnus as well.

Shofar Award – Committee should nominate someone for the award this year from our council. Mike will take lead on getting nomination submitted to Tina Myers. (Correction, submissions should go directly to P.R.A.Y. Publications, www.praypub.org)

Next Meeting Date: December 19th, 2013; 6:30 PM at Denver Academy of Torah.

Closing Scout Master's Minute – Life Is a Struggle

The Sages ask: Why did Jacob deserve that Joseph, his favorite son, get sold as a slave to Egypt?

They discover the answer in the name of this parsha, Vayeshev -- "and Jacob rested." Jacob had had a very tough life -- attacked by his brother in the womb; chased out of his father's home without a penny; tricked into marrying a woman he did not love; a father-in-law who wished to kill him; his daughter was raped; his sons murdered a whole city and were wanted men in Canaan; his beloved wife died giving birth. Now that's tough by any standard. And so, Vayeshev -- Jacob wanted a break, to relax and take it easy for a little while. Immediately, the Sages say, Joseph was snatched from him.

What's wrong with taking a break? Surely everyone needs a break now and then. Human beings can't function without some relaxation to ease the stress of life. Who would blame Jacob, after all he'd been through, for wanting to relax a little?

The answer lies in the purpose of a break. Is the break a means to an end, or is it an end unto itself? As winter vacation time rolls around, the question is very appropriate. Is a vacation a means, or is it an end? Is it a break from life, or is it life itself? I meet so many people for whom it is the latter. Life is just the interval one has to "put up with" in-between the vacations. That doesn't say much for life, does it? "I struggle hard during the year, so that once or twice a year I can escape from the struggle." Do we really want to struggle -- just to escape the struggle?!

The Sages say the opposite should be true. Life is about struggle. That's how we grow into better, bigger, more full and complete human beings. It is the struggle that we enjoy so much. Escaping that struggle is sometimes necessary. But only so we can return, rejuvenated, to that struggle. We don't live for our vacations. We take vacations so that when we return we can truly live!

Prepared. For Life.™

