



# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

## DENVER AREA COUNCIL

### Jewish Committee on Scouting

Meeting Minutes

08/20/15

In attendance: Hyiam Reiffman, Mike Shapiro, Shawn Connelly, Dave Reynolds, Meyer Reynolds

#### Opening

Pledge of Allegiance

D'var Torah – Hyiam

This week's parsha deals of lot with laws of observance. One instructs that Levim shall have no land and the questions is why not? Most princes have land since it represents power. The story is a rich man takes his son on a trip without servants. One son knew how to cook, but was selfish and only cooked for himself. The father bought very large pans, which made this son have to cook for others since he could not cook meals just for himself in these pans. In the same way, this law made it so the Levim would have to share. In Scouting, you need to learn to share to succeed. Only by working together can the patrol and troop have a great experience.

Review last meeting minutes. – Accepted as written.

#### Old Business

Lone Tree Chabad update – The rabbi there is overwhelmed at the moment and has not been able to organize a unit, but would put the word out about the camporee. It was suggested we contact Mendel Popack and his group. Mike would be reaching out to Mendel with the invitation.

Eagle Projects – Meyer Reynolds presented his plan to gather teffilin, which are currently not kosher and revamp them to bring them back to kosher status. He is working with the Jewish Experience on getting them koshered and has submitted his Ner Tamid Award.

Council Camporee – Feedback from the Council Camporee Committee has been fantastic this time. They have kept our committee looped in from the beginning. We do need an aron (ark) for the Torah at the commissary/shul. The proposal was to use the money donated from Stuart Zipper's memorial to buy the materials to build the ark. There are examples of arks, which can disassemble to store flat.

Staff for the JCoS will be arriving Thursday. Most Scouts will arrive on Friday afternoon. Youth will be organizing the activities for Saturday. For guests, the costs will be \$35 for food in addition to the camporee cost.

We will be creating labels for the Siddurim indicating they are the property of council.

#### New Business

Membership Standards Change – The new membership standards now give the committee the opportunity to start units in the more liberal congregations such as Reform and Reconstructionists.

Stuart Zipper's Passing – His obituary specifically mentioned donation should go to Troop 1613 or Chabad. In his memory, the committee will be building the ark with a commemorative plaque for use by units and council. Thank you letters will be sent to all who contributed.

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Recruitment – With the passing of Stuart, we are one person down on the committee. It was recommended we reach out to Bryan Kopinski and Mendy Popack as good candidates for filling this vacancy.

Next Meeting – September 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

Closing (Scoutmasters Minute) – Mike

Jewish environmentalism. In this week's parsha, instructions are given to the army for the use of materials in time of battle. If a battering ram was to be used, it could not be built from fruit trees. The Torah states:

When you lay siege to a city for a long time, fighting against it to capture it, do not destroy its trees by putting an ax to them, because you can eat their fruit. Do not cut them down. Are the trees people, that you should besiege them? However, you may cut down trees that you know are not fruit trees and use them to build siege works until the city at war with you falls. (Deut. 20: 19-20)

As Scouts we have the same responsibility to make sure we do not needlessly destroy things around us. A Scout is Thrifty not only refers to monetary savings, but the saving of nature and the environment.

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