



CORNERSTONE 2016 RESOURCE

Inclusion and Disabilities: Sukkah Building, *FJC Knowledge Center Resource*

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| AUTHOR: | Ariella Rosen |
| SUMMARY: | An activity involving different ways of making spaces accessible and inclusive, using the Sukkah as a framework. - <i>Submitted by Ariella Rosen</i> |
| TOPICS: | Community Building, Group Dynamics, Holidays and Celebrations, Inclusion-Special Needs, Jewish Text, Jewish Values |
| LEARNING OBJECTIVE: | Participants will practice and internalize methods for making physical spaces and communities accepting and embracing of everyone. |
| AUDIENCE: | This session is best done in a group that is of medium size- around 20-30 people, but can be implemented for groups that are slightly larger or smaller. This session would benefit staff, but would also work well with campers of all ages. |
| LENGTH: | 30-60 Minutes |
| APPENDIXES: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ariella ST3 Handout 2 ● Ariella ST3 Handout 3 |
| MATERIALS: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Multiple copies of Handout 2 (per number of groups) ● 1 copy Handout 3 ● approx. 50 feet of sturdy string ● blankets ● pillows ● cardboard boxes of various sizes ● blank white paper ● assorted markers ● glue sticks ● assorted construction paper and tissue paper ● 30 pieces of tissue paper ● 50 pieces of construction paper ● scissors ● rolls of blue painters tape |
| SETTING: | N/A |

Session Description:

Sukkah-Building 101 (25 minutes)

- Explain to participants: They will now engage in the age-old Jewish tradition of building a Sukkah. A Sukkah is a temporary hut that the ancient Israelites built to dwell in when managing their harvests out in the fields. Many Jews today build Sukkot during the holiday of Sukkot, and eat and dwell in them throughout the week.
- This challenge will include two components: actual Sukkah construction and development of an activity to take place within the Sukkah.
- Each group will strive to make their Sukkah as accessible and welcoming as possible, using the guidelines and materials they are handed.
- The activity should take the form of an icebreaker. The activity you plan should meet the goal of



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welcoming in anyone who enters your Sukkah.

- Participants will have 20 minutes to complete both tasks, following the guidelines they are given to the best of their abilities.
- Divide participants into groups of 6-8, and give each group a copy of the Sukkah-building guidelines. In addition, hand each participant a strip of paper which indicates ways in which they are to behave throughout the activity. (The list can be found in Handout 2.) Participants should display this behavior for the duration of this activity.

Welcoming in Ushpizin (20 min)

- Once groups have completed building their Sukkot, explain:
 - There is a tradition during the holiday of Sukkot, of ushpizin (write on flipchart paper), of guests that each night come to visit the Sukkah. Traditionally they are biblical characters, but some also like to imagine other famous figures from history or from your family ancestry who come to pay a visit. Today, you are each others' ushpizin.
- Participants will have two rounds of visiting, each round lasting about 5 minutes. Each group should choose around 2 people who will stay behind to host in their Sukkah (this includes facilitating the icebreaker). If they would like, each group should choose 2 others who will take over as hosts for the second round.
- After both rounds of visiting, invite everyone back into one large group.
- Ask participants to share:
 - An example they saw of good inclusive practices from another group
 - An example of how inclusion could be improved, with a suggestion of how to do so.

Additional Notes for Bringing it Back to Camp:

This activity can be done at the beginning of camp with a bunk or division to explore how to best form community that is welcoming of all. This can be used as sensitivity training for staff, both those who will work with campers with disabilities and those who will not. The concept of "welcoming" can also be applied to other Jewish figures such as welcoming in Elijah, the Jewish value of welcoming in the stranger, the story of Abraham who welcomed in the 3 messengers in the Torah, etc.

APPENDIXES:

ARIELLA ST3 HANDOUT 2

ARIELLA ST3 HANDOUT 3