

**One Happy Camper – Community Partners**

**Peer Sharing Program Form**

Partner Name: **Krieger Schechter Day School, Beth Tfiloh Dahan Community Day School & “local area” day and overnight camps**

Name of Program or Event: **“Why Jewish Camp?” Panel Discussion and Program**

Date of Program or Event: **January 15th**

Target Audience: **Prospective camp parents and their children**

Number of Attendees: **50**

Goal/Objective of Program or Event: **The goal of this event was to encourage camp-aged children and their parents to learn about the benefits of Jewish camp from our local day and overnight camp directors. It was important that camp directors remained as neutral as possible so parents and their children could grasp the benefits of Jewish camp in general – not at a particular camp.**

Event Location (type of venue): **Synagogue**

Summary of Program or Event:

**The Associated’s Center for Jewish Camping brought together parents and their children for a FREE program called “Why Jewish Camp?” In collaboration with both a conservative and modern-orthodox synagogue, we offered a free pizza dinner, indoor camp activities for children, panel discussion for parents, and a dessert reception/camp fair. I work with a Professional Advisory Committee of Camp Directors, so I was fortunate that seven different directors from a variety of day and overnight camps agreed to participate on the panel and speak to parents about the transformative experience Jewish camp provides for children. While parents were listening to the panel discussion, I had our teen camp ambassadors and other camp staff leading activities for prospective campers (gaga, arts & crafts, song sessions, etc.). Afterwards, parents and children met in the lobby of one of the synagogue for a dessert reception and camp information fair. I’ve attached the flier and questions that our moderator asked the panel as well as pictures so you can gain a better sense of the event.**

Did this program/event proceed as planned? Why or why not?

**Yes – the program took place as planned, though we were hoping we would have closer to 100 attendees, and unfortunately we only had 50. We imagine this was due to the location and timing of the event (see below).**

How would you improve this program, what would you do differently next time?

**Tips (although every community is different, here is what we learned in Baltimore):**

**1.       Your moderator should be someone who can manage the panel (especially if someone is talking too much), but also provide some comic relief to make the panel fun.**

**3.       When we do this event again, we will plan to host it at a neutral location – JCC, hotel ballroom, Federation, etc. We wanted to draw new families and likely “new” families wouldn’t have felt comfortable coming into a conservative synagogue for this event.**

**4.       We planned this program on a weeknight – thinking we would draw families after religious school, but in the future will likely host this program on a Sunday afternoon/early evening.**

How did the program help children and/or families experience and/or connect with camp?

**We felt this program very much helped children and their families connect with the local area camp directors and staff who participated in the panel and kids program. We briefed the directors ahead of time about the importance of ALL Jewish Camps…although they could draw from experiences that take place at their particular camp, we didn’t want one director monopolizing the panel about stories from their particular camp. Fortunately, they were terrific and their passion and love of camp was definitely reflected in their presentation. After the panel and kids program, we invited all of the families to join the camps for a dessert reception in the lobby of the synagogue. As you can see below, camps had the opportunity to “show off” their camp by setting up an informational table and providing information to prospective families.**



