

## CORNERSTONE 2020 RESOURCE

### A Jewish Nature Hike and Appreciation *Specialty Track 3*

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<b>SUMMARY:</b>	<b>Title: A Jewish Nature Hike and Appreciation</b> - Submitted by Josh Lake
<b>TOPIC(S):</b>	Nature Hike
<b>LEARNING OBJECTIVE:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Experience a little radical amazement</li> <li>2. Showcase tools and games that can be used on the trail</li> <li>3. Inspire wonder</li> <li>4. Glimpse secrets of nature and how we might use them</li> </ol>
<b>AUDIENCE:</b>	Any age group, up to 20 people, outdoor setting, on trail
<b>TIMING:</b>	90 minutes
<b>APPENDICES:</b>	Heschel Quote, Dr. Janine Benyus quotes, Apple Tree's Discovery Story
<b>MATERIALS NEEDED:</b>	Nautilus Shell, apple, knife, oak gall, construction paper
<b>SET-UP DETAILS:</b>	Outdoors along the trail. Preferably a trail you are familiar with.

#### SESSION TIMELINE & OUTLINE:

- 10 minutes - Introduction
- 25 minutes- Start nature walk
- 15 minutes- Debris shelter for Barbie, along the trail
- 15 minutes- Camouflage: Play on trail in a SAFE area
- 10 minutes- Apple Trees Discovery
- (10 minutes)- Bringing it back to camp
- (5 minutes) - Wolf Howl!

## 10 minutes - Introduction

Hand out 2" squares of different colored construction paper. Instruct Fellows/campers that they need to find 3 things in nature that are the same color as the construction paper. They have to be natural. They need to write the answers on the paper. The person with the most unique color matches will get a prize. This goes along with *Poklach Ivrim*, getting people to look carefully (open their eyes) at the world around them.

Plant these quotes among Fellows. Have them read it out as a special news bulletin!

Have one of the fellows read quote:

"Our goal should be to live life in radical amazement...get up in the morning and look at the world in a way that takes nothing for granted. Everything is phenomenal; everything is incredible; never treat life casually. To be spiritual is to be amazed. -Abraham Joshua Heshel

"Learning about the natural world is one thing. Learning from the natural world is something else entirely."

Dr. Janine Benyus: Biomimicry's surprising lessons from nature's engineers (Ted Talk)

## Oak Gall and Torah

Here is a way that Jews have used bio mimicry. AMAZING!

This is what wasps have learned to do:

They have learned to genetically manipulate a tree to grow a house/nursery around their babies!

Jews have derived Torah from this amazing interaction! Torah is *Eitz Chaim He!*

Now that you know about the oak gall, what can we learn from the oak gall?

What does it mean in Jewish terms? Learning about Torah is one thing; learning from Torah is something completely different. Share logic from *Bal Tashchit*.

## Bal Tashchit

יט כי-תצור אֶל-עיר ימים רבים להלחם עליה לתפשה, לא-תשחית את-עצה לנדיח עליה גרזן--כי ממנו תאכל, ואתו לא תכרת: כי האדם עץ השדה, לבא מפניך במצור  
-Deuteronomy 20:19

**19** When thou shalt besiege a city a long time, in making war against it to take it, thou shalt not destroy the trees thereof by wielding an axe against them; for thou mayest eat of them, but thou shalt not cut them down; for is the tree of the field man, that it should be besieged of thee?

## 25 minutes- Start nature walk

Along trail Identify plants and animal tracks

White pine

Oak (*Alonim*)

Mullein

Etc.

(Learn 3-4 plants on camp. Get an ID book. Don't learn too much! Burn out!)

## 15 minutes

### Debris shelter for Barbie, along the trail

Debris shelters are one of the oldest types of shelters humans employ.

Build a debris shelter as an example. Place ridgepole on a tree. Put "ribs" off ridgepole to ground.

Cover with leaves. This could save you/or your camper's, lives. Story about Michigan students. Other

types of structures in Judaism (Chupa, Sukkah (one of the original Jewish Survival Shelters, Mishkan, etc.)

### 15 minutes- **Camouflage: Play on trail in a SAFE area**

One person yells, "CAMOUFLAGE" They close their eyes and count backwards from 15. (15, 14 13...). Everyone scatters and needs to camouflage (hide) themselves before the counter gets to 0. The counter opens her/his eyes and attempts to locate as many people as possible, but cannot move except on a pivot foot (like in basketball). Everyone needs to be able to see the counter with at least 1

eye. After 2 minutes, counter closes their eyes and counts down from 10 (10, 9, 8...). People need to move closer now, but be camouflaged before 0 is reached. Counter opens their eyes and tries to find people. After another 2 minutes counter screams, "THE CHASE IS ON!" Everyone else tries to tag the counter's hand. First person to tag the counter's hand wins game and gets to call camouflage next (they need to get permission for where and when to call it).

### 10 minutes- **Apple Trees Discovery**

Take an apple on the hike.  
Find a shady place to sit under a tree.  
Read "The Apple Trees Discovery" by Peninah Schram.  
At end, cut apple across midriff to expose the star.

### (10 minutes)- **Bringing it back to camp**

Hevruta up. Who, what, where, how at your camp. Design a program to take back to your camp.

### (5 minutes) - **Wolf How!**

The howl is our communal Amidah. It is better than any language because you can let your feelings come out and not be embarrassed because of the language. For feelings are meta linguistic!

*Lech lecha!*

Go forth and do good this summer!