



Hey all,

We've had a busy week at camp! From saying goodbye to our Taste of Tavor friends to going on Tiyul, there's been plenty of excitement, emotion, and anticipation for all of the fun things we still have to come!

A bit on Tiyul, our two-day camping trip that each shichvah embarks on every session: This year, the Amelimot went camping at Fort Custer, while Chotrimot ventured to the Indiana Dunes State Park, and Garinimot went out to Pinckney, MI. If you want to hear more about the specific tiyulim that your kid went on, you should check out the tiyul writeup later on in the newsletter!

However, I want to talk about Tiyul more as a thing that we do. Tiyul means camping trip, every kid has a different association with it. For some, it means a chance to connect with nature, or to be with friends, to enjoy the outdoors and tell stories. For others, it means mosquito bites, long hikes, sleeping in a cramped tent, and constantly expecting it to rain. Growing up, I very vocally fell into the latter category. I really didn't look forward to tiyul and fought a battle with myself to try to enjoy it. That was a sentiment that I carried with me onto tiyul with the chotrimot this week, though obviously my role as a mashatz (unit head) meant that I would be positive. It wasn't until the night of the tiyul, when an old friend pointed out to me that tiyul wasn't about being perfect, and that it was about figuring out how to do something hard, that I really understood the magic of tiyul. By the end of the trip, this was a sentiment that I was able to pass on to my chanichimot. You may not enjoy it, but you can and should be so proud of yourself for doing it. Tiyul, like so much else at camp, is an opportunity to learn about yourself and grow. Where tiyul differs from the other ways that that happens at camp is that in nature, we are often with ourselves more than we are at camp. We can judge and reflect and grow faster, that made this tiyul feel different. I no longer thought of the hardships as annoyances and was able to appreciate my surroundings in a way that I hadn't before. The amazing thing about nature is that you can appreciate it at any time, and there is almost always something new to appreciate. I hope to have imparted that wisdom onto my chanichimot, so that they may spend the next few years enjoying tiyul in a way that I didn't when I was their age.

After Tiyl, the chanichimot returned to camp and had a tochnit erev making different kinds of Jewish desserts ranging from Colombian sufganyiot to Ashkenazi cookies! While tasting the delicious treats, the chanichimot had the opportunity to explore some questions related to Jewish foods! I'll say shabbat shalom and leave you with some of the highlights and questions that we didn't know the answers to! Bonus points to any families that can answer them!

Sincerely,

Nathan

Questions: Where in the world did sufganyiot originate from? Why do some people put raisins in their kugel and others don't? Why do so many Jewish delicacies contain meat? What are the most popular hamentaschen fillings in different regions?

What is my kid talking about now?

Tiyl: Camping trip

chadar ochel: dining room