



a great place for kids to grow.

calendar for week 8

	SUN	13
not color war	MON	14
	TUE	15
	WED	16
	THU	17
festivus maximus closing day, summer:2017	FRI	18
	SAT	19

calendar for august

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# BETH TFILOH CAMPS

## BLUE TEAM WINS AGAIN!!!

from the assistant directors, ryan and melissa

Color War. The week unlike every other camp week. We went through great lengths to make the true dates of color war a complete surprise. We were asked many times, "Why wouldn't you tell us when Color War was going to be?" The answer is simple: Camp is about fun. Color War is about expecting the unexpected. Imagine the looks on all of our incredible campers' faces each time we had a "fake break" throughout the summer! Making Color War a true surprise contributed to what we think was one of the best Color Wars ever!

All around camp this week we heard the cheers and chants from the Red, Yellow, Green, and Blue teams. The competition was fierce and the scores were tight. This year the theme was Sesame Street, so just about every camper here could completely relate and get in on the fun. When it came time to judge the finale, one team came away with a clear victory: The Blue Team! Congratulations to them for an incredible finish. All of the team generals and campers really outdid themselves this summer. We both had a VERY difficult time judging the competition.

Today we welcomed the Israel Scout Friendship Caravan to camp. It has been a couple years since they

performed for our campers, and boy did everyone love the show. Many of the Unit Heads have written about this show in their articles.

It is hard to believe we are entering the final week of camp. It seems like just yesterday we were welcoming all of your campers' smiling faces for the first time. With camp coming to a close, if there are any unlabeled lost or found items you've not received back, please do come during camp hours to take a look. All of the unclaimed items are donated as soon as the buses pull out of camp next Friday. Also, there is information on the back page of this newsletter about the camp office hours following the close of camp.

We are the BEST. CAMP. EVER. And we became the best because of you, our parents who trust us with their most precious items: their children. Your feedback is how we get even better. Please, please do call us to share your thoughts and concerns. Ask anyone! We really do answer the phones... a live voice and all! We love to hear your feedback and thank you for choosing us for your summer home.

## there's no place like camp... for the holidays

Each team in Color War (Maccabiah) this past week was assigned a Jewish holiday. The campers had a chance to learn about their holiday, and the holiday was incorporated into their songs and banners. Here, we will give you a brief description of each of the four holidays that were chosen.

Sukkot is a weeklong holiday during which Jews eat meals and sometimes even live in huts known as Sukkot. A sukkah is a temporary structure that has at least two and a half walls and a partial roof made of bamboo or other material that grows from the ground. When sitting in a sukkah, one must be able to see the stars and feel the rain. This is a festive holiday, reminding us of the huts the Jews lived in while traveling in the desert.

Tu B'shvat (the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shvat) is the New Year of trees. Many people have the custom

to eat fruit on this day and to plant trees. Other people eat from the seven species that are found in Israel - wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and dates.

Purim is a very fun, joyous holiday that celebrates the victory of the Jews over the evil Haman, who wanted to kill all of the Jews. There are four mitzvot (commandments) of the day - eating a festive meal, listening to the Megillah (the story of the holiday), giving gifts to the poor, and exchanging baskets of food. There is also a custom to dress up in costumes and eat hamantaschen (triangular filled cookies). Shavuot is a two day holiday that celebrates the Jews receiving the Torah (the five books of Moses). People have a custom to eat dairy and fill their homes and synagogues with flowers and greenery. Shavuot means weeks in Hebrew, and is the completion of counting seven weeks from the holiday of Passover.

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[aleph@btcamps.org](mailto:aleph@btcamps.org)

**jessica layman and stacy lunenfeld | unit aleph**

We had a awesome week 7 at camp. All the kids had a great time cheering on our color teams! Each day we participated in special activities during Athletics to help earn points for our team! We ran through a challenging obstacle course, participated in lots of fun relay races, and played a giant game of messy backyard. In Arts and Crafts we designed medals using watercolor pencils, which are so cool. The campers colored with the pencils and then used paint brushes to paint water on top. They loved seeing the pencil turn out to look like painted water colors.

Monday was a rainy day, but that didn't dampen our spirit. We had the most fun dance party in the Ulam listening to all of our favorite songs. The rest of the week we were blessed with beautiful weather that we all enjoyed. Our swim skills continue to get stronger each week and each camper has made so much progress.

On Thursday we really liked watching the older kids perform their songs, cheers, marches and banners for color war. There was so much spirit and our campers really felt a part of their teams. Many of them are looking forward to next year when they get to participate more in color war.

On Friday, we watched the Tzofim, Israeli Scouts, perform songs and dances. We loved clapping along and even dancing along with them. After we enjoyed Shabbat with our friends in Unit Bet.

Believe it or not, next week is our last week of camp. We have had such an amazing summer getting to know each other and spending time together. We are looking forward to seeing all of our campers for a fun filled eighth week of camp. Shabbat Shalom! Jessica and Stacy

[bet@btcamps.org](mailto:bet@btcamps.org)

**rivka bresler | unit bet**

Unit Bet had such a great time this past week at Color War! All four teams worked hard during the week to earn points for their color, and everyone showed off their Color War spirit. The campers showed wonderful sportsmanship throughout the week, cheering on their own team and the other teams as well.

On Monday, the unit participated in a game called Sesame and Me, in which teams needed to take pictures of themselves with their Sesame Street character at places all over camp. Campers also went on a wild scavenger hunt, collecting all sorts of items and trivia information from around camp, and needed to find specific staff members as part of a signature hunt. Tuesday began with a gold rush, where we heard the "udderly" true story about the gold for which we were searching. Later in the day, teams played a

big game of kickball, and the boys played soccer while the girls had a chance to show off their gaga skills. The day ended up with an awesome swim meet. On Wednesday, it was the boys' turn to play gaga, while the girls played an intense game of newcomb. Everyone had a great time playing lake games in the canoes. In the afternoon, the campers ran around camp finding puzzle pieces in a special puzzle game, and then participated in a track and field competition.

On Thursday morning, teams presented their banner and sang their song and cheer. We then participated in a tug-of-war competition to earn last-minute points. Everyone was a winner because everyone had a great time! I can't believe that there is only one week left of camp. Have a great weekend and I look forward to seeing everyone next week.

[gimmel@btcamps.org](mailto:gimmel@btcamps.org)

**cindy terodemos | unit gimmel**

What a fun Color War week in Gimmel!!!! Monday's rain did not stop the campers at all. I was so proud of all of the campers. They even went swimming in the rain and participated in all of the Color War activities.

The best part about Color War is that the campers get to interact with other campers that aren't in their bunks, which allows them to make new friends. Gimmel got to play nucomb, Ga Ga, hockey, and Simon Says with David.

The Gimmel campers competed against other Gimmel campers of different Color War colors in various races during track and field. They also got to compete in a paddle boat relay race at lake.

On Tuesday, they participated in 3 different fun scavenger hunts that were around camp. The campers enjoy this because they have to work as a group to decide where to go from a given clue. One of the scavenger hunts had the campers go around getting signatures from various staff.

On Friday, Color War ended with presentations from each color. The campers learned a cheer, a song, and a dance during the week at their team time. They then presented it in front of the whole camp. The presentations were all amazing.

Have a wonderful weekend!! Shabbat Shalom.

daled@btcamps.org  
hay@btcamps.org

## melyssa perman | daled and hay

This week was filled with amazing energy and competition! The 2017 Color War was a true success. Every team put forth their best effort and enjoyed every activity. A favorite was playing "Road Block"! Each of the teams were given a clue with two options from which to choose. With clue in hand the teams ran throughout the camp to find more and more information in order to find the name of a special street at BT Camps. "Sesame and Me" allowed the campers to complete a scavenger hunt that needed to include creative pictures which varied from making a human pyramid at the main office to creating the number 75 on the Ulam field.

Campers also enjoyed the athletic competitions which included Nucomb, a swim meet, and kickball. Every day each team not only showed their enthusiasm, but they always displayed great sportsmanship. Watching the

teams march in yesterday and seeing their banners was thrilling! One of my favorite parts of Color War is that the generals and counselors make sure to include every age group.

After the final presentation, we returned to our normal schedule and campers were able to go back to Nature, Ropes, Art & Crafts, and Lake. As the week ended, the Tzofim came to camp and we were able to enjoy their singing and dancing while learning so much about the life and culture in Israel.

Next week, our final week of camp, everyone is going to take full advantage of our time together.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Shabbat and a great weekend.



seniorcamp@btcamps.org

## doug kotula | senior camp

This week was the most colorful week of the summer because it was Color War! This year's theme, Sesame Street, found the Green team as Oscar the Grouch, the Red team as Elmo, the Blue team as Cookie Monster and the Yellow team as Big Bird. The official start of Color War began last Friday when a school bus was spotted coming up the path in time to interrupt the last few minutes of lunch. Suddenly, and with tons of enthusiasm, our eight generals burst out of the bus as the kids wildly fled on to the Ulam field. Screams, cheers, yells, whistles, and squeals because this was finally the official break-out. I had the honor of introducing the generals and after a few quick photos, things, sort of, settled down in anticipation of the week ahead.

Not even the rain could prevent the biggest twist in Color War history from happening. Just as each color settled in for team time, I, as one of the coordinators of this summer highlight, brought news to each team that their presence was needed immediately on the bank of the lake. It didn't take long for the teams to realize they were about to watch, for the very first time, their generals in action. Teams cheered their generals on as they competed in the Slip and Slide Mud Trivia Challenge. This was a great way to bring all four colors, not only together, but helped to build each team's moral. And right out of the playbook of CBS's Big Brother, everyone was prompted to "expect the unexpected," this year was a completion filled with more twists than a bag of pretzels. Bonus idols that were not only planted on staff members, but generals had no idea which were real and which were fake, banners that not only had to stand alone, but also come together as one in recognition of BT Camps' 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and some other wonderful surprises that made the week much more enjoyable.

Senior camp shined during their team sports, individual events, track and field events and their swim meet. Wednesday, however, it never fails to put a lump in my throat when I see how hard all of my kids push themselves through one

of their favorite competitions, BT Senior Camp Amazing Race. There's no agony of defeat during this camp-wide competition because all four teams experience the thrill of victory as they conclude in Camp Craft in time to watch their flame burn victoriously through the rope. All teams come together to cheer each other on to the bitter end. It is truly an emotional sight to see when all campus Senior campers are cheered on by younger observers as they climb the wall at ropes, paddle across the lake, glide down the water slide, swim the length of the pool, and shoot with steady hand at archery to get a bull's eye (or anywhere on the target) in order to advance their baton into their teammate's hand. We got to see how creative our generals really are Thursday morning when they presented their team's song, cheer, march and banner. Teams proved to be extremely imaginative as they incorporated the Sesame Street theme in to most of their presentations. Following lunch and several intense games of tug-of-war, David and Doug made the biggest, most important, most dramatic and nail-biting announcement of the summer, the color that was victorious and landed on top of the spirit stick. This year, like always, that honor went to the color who was truly most deserving to win.

On Friday we danced the afternoon away as we enjoyed the musical styling of the Israel Scout Friendship Caravan. Watching and listening to the Caravan is like attending a live concert version of GLEE! Their uplifting, motivational musical selections kept Senior Campers on their feet, dancing, enthusiastically, through their entire performance. Their performance was the best way to end the best week of the summer. Many thanks to everyone who assisted, without hesitation, with Color War 2017. And yes, I'm pretty certain of next year's theme, but for now, that information has been placed in a water tight container and is resting at the bottom of the lake. Until next week, I'm Doug, a tired Color War Coordinator and Senior Camp Unit Head wishing you a wonderful weekend.



**Phone** 410.517.3451  
**FAX** 410.517.3454  
**email** mail@btcamps.org  
**Taxpayer ID** 52-0592126  
**Director** David Schimmel

400 Delight Meadows Road  
 Reisterstown, Maryland 21136



**- variety show -**

Today campers participated or watched the annual Variety Show. This show will be posted online for all to view later in the summer.

**- bunk photos -**

All campers who were enrolled and present on Wednesday of week 5 had their bunk photos taken. These photos are available free to view in our gallery.

**- after summer ends -**

With week 8 quickly approaching, it's hard to believe summer:2017 is almost over! Immediately following the last bus dropping off the last camper on the last day of camp, the office will close for a week. When the office reopens, we will be available, but on a limited basis as the year-round staff will be out on the grounds frequently. We will check email, voicemail, and reply in a timely manner. Speaking of voicemail, our voicemail will be reactivated on TUESDAY, August 22.

jill@btcamps.org

**jill suffel | l.t. program**

The LT's were SO busy week 7 of the 75th summer at Beth Tfiloh Camps! With 70+ in our group this week, it has been so exciting to see them jump right in to color war, show their team spirit and participate in the day to day events here at camp! Whether with a bunk or at a specialty area, everyone is doing a great job and we see lots of smiles every day!

So far this summer, the LT's have visited Cascade Lake, Hershey Park and logged thousands and thousands of

steps walking around camp and up the hill! Over the course of the summer, 119 LT's have participated in our program! Each one has been an integral part of the team here at camp.

What a great bunch we have!! It is hard to believe that week 8 has arrived! We are looking forward to a fun filled last week at camp!

varsitysports@btcamps.org

**andy bloom | varsity sports**

This week Varsity Sports completed our second and final week of soccer. Monday, we spent the day playing soccer electives because of the weather. This gave us an opportunity to evaluate the campers skill levels while also developing those same skills. Tuesday the campers were placed onto "Superhero" squads and

began their regular season. Playoffs began Thursday with teams being ranked by their regular season success. Friday the championship was wrapped up with the winners receiving dog tags to commemorate their victory. Next week we wrap up 2017 with basketball and golf.

jvsports@btcamps.org

**dex miller | j.v. sports**

Welcome to week 7 of J.V. Sports. I'm pleased to announce that this week kicked off our annual Color War/Maccabiah! This summer featured exhilarating competition amongst the red, blue, green, and yellow teams. Also, this summer's theme is Sesame Street, where Elmo, Cookie Monster, Oscar, and Big Bird graced us with their presence all week long. This week was one of the most exciting weeks that we have had all summer.

On Monday, J.V. Sports had the opportunity to meet and greet with their fellow teammates for the first time. Our campers also competed against one another in tennis racquet baseball, gaga, archery and nucomb. Despite the persistent rain, our campers played hard and did not let the weather stop them one bit. On Tuesday, J.V. Sports spent the morning participating in

a swim meet and a soccer tournament. That afternoon, each team spent the rest of the day running in relay races and playing lake games. Wednesday highlights include exciting games of battle ball, football, and a track and field competition. Color War wrapped up on Thursday with each team presenting their cheer/march/song/and banner, a tug of war match, and a special presentation program.

Week 7 concluded with another game of battle ball, archery tag, and a fantastic Shabbat! All in all, this week was jammed packed full of exciting activities from Monday morning to Friday afternoon. This was by far a week that would be hard to forget. Stay tuned next week for our last newsletter of the summer, and updates about J.V. Sports!