



# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

## DENVER AREA COUNCIL

Attendees: Greg Ostravich, Hyiam Reiffman, Dave Reynolds, Shawn Connelly, Chris Wiegand

Pledge of Allegiance

Dvar Torah - Parshat Beshalach

### Description

Beshalach in a Nutshell  
Exodus 13:17–17:16

This parsha talks about the children of Israel departing from Egypt, Pharaoh's forces chasing after them; the parting of the red Sea, and singing a song of praise and gratitude to Adonai for this miracle. It also talks about Moses bringing forth water by striking a rock which means he never went into Israel. It also talks about manna from heaven, which appeared each evening, and a double portion of Manna over Shabbat so no gathering was necessary. Also discussed the attack by the Amalekites who are defeated by Moses' prayers and an army raised by Joshua.

I picked the Exodus from Israel as my parsha item to discuss because of something that is so integral to scouts, it's our motto. Be Prepared.

In some of the commentary I looked at, it talked about Miriam knowing there would be cause for celebration because of Miracles by Adonai.

In Parshat Beshalach Miriam, the sister of Moses, leads the women of Israel in song after crossing the Sea of Reeds. As it says in the Torah, "Miriam, the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women came out after her with timbrels and with dances."

So Miriam was prepared to celebrate. I thought since we're told to "Be Prepared" in scouting it was fascinating that she was told to "Be Prepared" too.

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Review December meeting minutes.

Call with Ellen Marks - Western Region Chair for the National JCOS

- Shared some tools with Greg including guides
- NJCOS re-launched their website (<https://www.jewishscouting.org/>)
- Share our events and accomplishments
- Mission & Vision - Install values of Judaism as expressed in the oath and law
- Reset and refresh the committee
- How the Committee can use the JCOS pamphlet - Plan of action as the Committee Chair and Staff Advisor to implement
- Committee Checkup
- Western Region Kinus on the horizon
- Young Men need a religious award advisor – Debbie (in Highlands Ranch) has two boys. They are unaffiliated. Reform. Shawn will get Greg that information.

### Old Business

Unit status

T1613 – Hyiam e-mailed parents letting them know the plans for this summer. Need a new Scoutmaster; re-charter is coming up; may have to be in hiatus.

Shawn - Update?

Reactivation status - P1613 - any change – James Dockter can come out and talk with the boys and the parents. Shawn will get James contact info for Jenna.

Eagle Scout candidates – progress / status updates?

- Sam is in for February for Kinnus to complete some requirements.
- Mayer is still working on it; Dave is not here for an update. – Going slow with school a priority. Half-way through; just a couple merit badges left.

Programs – Next Kinus – Purim & Shooting @ PV, President's Day weekend

Open to all; but Cubbies need parents; siblings, boys or girls, are invited too.

Flyers a big hit – announcements at some round tables.

Updates:

Lodging –Ft. Laramie and Cook's Roost (Females in Cook's Roost, has a bathroom)  
Has a kitchen set-up too.

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Agenda – activities (Shooting sports, Hamentaschen, Religious Awards as discussed previously)

Food - Scouts will bring their own food; as discussed here's what we're doing:

Note: We may have allergy issues; need to figure that out.

Paper plates, bowls, Styrofoam cups

Dairy Patrol Box

Don't need the trailer; may leave that back.

Saturday

Cracker Barrel Saturday Night – Cheese and Crackers

Costco sells a nice cheese tray. Crackers, any hechscer.

Popcorn – Hyliam has an air popper

Chips Ahoy cookies w/Marshmallow Fluff for "S'mores"

Drinks: Water, Hot Chocolate

Bring a pot to boil water, hot water kettle (electric kettle)

Sunday

Breakfast – Cereal, Instant Oatmeal, "Quick" Grits (for Shawn & Greg), Milk  
Eggs from the Milk Carton

Lunch – Grilled Cheese, Tomato Soup; (Dairy Patrol Box for one frying pan; self-cleaning oven to Kasher a 2<sup>nd</sup> that Shawn's bringing); Also Bagels and Lox! (Costco Lox is a pretty good deal)

Dutch Oven Hamentaschen – Dough TBD, pie filling

Dinner – Walmart – Foulds Mac & Cheese; Salad (bag of salad); dressing (ranch)

Monday

Breakfast - Cereal, Instant Oatmeal, "Quick" Grits (for Shawn & Greg), Milk  
Bagels & Lox again.

Miscellaneous

Patches - Patch has hamantaschen on it; looks good

Note: Mayer cannot join us because he will be in Israel with a Scouting Troop. Boy Scout Troop 54 out of Brookline, MA.

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### Publicity

Website, January Round Tables - Worked well; got some responses. Also was announced at Arapahoe District Round Table.

### Religious awards

Greg reached out to Aaron Levin and Laverne about the upcoming Kinnus.

### JCOS membership – invite parent(s) working the P1613 initiative?

Just the one mom; Hyiam will ask her. Jenna wanted to come but could not.

JCOS Program @ Philmont in Summer 2018? - update / discussion - \$550 ; let Shawn know if it works to go. He may come too.

### TODO items from last meeting:

Greg – Purim activity for Kinnus - still outstanding

Shawn – Get the activity on the Kinnus newsletter - Did not mention specifics (but that's OK; URL on there)

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Shawn – Patch Design – Triangle Patch with Hamantaschen on it (DONE)  
Greg – Email John Dawson about getting the Kinnus on the schedule (DONE)  
Greg – Philmont follow-up; ask Dave Whitner about financial support. (DONE - Whitner said no.)  
Hyiam – Will ask Jenna about JCOS (DONE)  
Shawn – Will ask Michaela (a new Council Professional) (DONE – she had a talk tonight; will try in the future)  
Greg – Check with Aaron again on religious award; also the Kinnus weekend. (e-mail & cc: adult) (DONE)  
Mike – Will follow up with CJ and mention Kinnus (?) – Mike unavailable today.

New Business – Any?

Royd – WoodBadge for Observant Scouts? Monmouth in New Jersey does one every other year.

Mayer is getting the “Award of Merit” at the next Court of Honor.

Religious Award – last Fall Mike Shapiro received an award at the God & Country Breakfast. Somebody had gotten something similar from the Catholic Committee on Scouting and was bummed they missed. We want to recognize one youth and one adult from every faith represented.

TODO Items for this meeting:

- Greg – review materials from Ellen Marks
- Shawn will e-mail Lawrence Atlas; we had the wrong information to call him.
- Finish assignments for Kinnus
- Greg will complete the activities

Next Meeting? - February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 PM at DAT

Closing (Scoutmasters Minute) – Greg

This one isn't really tied to the parsha other than that there were probably starfish on the floor of the sea of reeds as the Israelites passed through the parted Red Sea on their way to safety. This is also the theme of Scott Johnson's Fall course. Tossing Back Starfish Minute Script: I was walking along an ocean beach one hot summer day. In the distance, I saw a man who was doing a strange dance, bending over again and again. As I got closer, I saw that he was picking up starfish that had washed up on the shore and was throwing them back. I asked him, "Why are you throwing those starfish into the sea?" He replied, "The tide is going out, the sun is

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hot, and if I don't, they will die here." I asked him why he was doing this since the beach was miles long and there were thousands of starfish and the few he threw back wouldn't make any difference. The man paused with a starfish in his hand. He looked at it, then looked out at the ocean. Then, he tossed the starfish out and said, 'Made a difference to that one.' You can't save the world, but you can help individuals wherever you are.

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