

“The future will belong to the nature-smart—those individuals, families, businesses, and political leaders who develop a deeper understanding of the transformative power of the natural world ...”—Richard Louv

Dear Parents,

We have some exciting news share! Several months ago, we applied for a grant and Temple Beth Emeth’s project was selected as one of only 34 proposals in the metro NY area to be funded by the Jewish Education Project. The Jewish Education Project is the only organization that works across the NY Jewish community across denominations and institutional settings, to help educators like you develop new, innovative ways to engage and educate Jewish kids, teens and families.

Grant checks will be sent out June 2019 after the completion of your post-project survey and receipt of your completed budget.

That project: *Nature by the Numbers: Growing “Nature Smart” Jewish kids* was created to encourage TBE’s Hebrew school students and their families to connect to the Earth, Judaism and each other in an essential way.

Ten years ago, Richard Louv wrote his groundbreaking international bestseller “Last Child in the Woods.” His was the first book to bring together a new and growing body of research indicating that direct exposure to nature is essential for healthy childhood development and for the physical and emotional health of children and adults.

In just one short year, Louv’s book had spurred a national dialogue among educators, health professionals, parents, developers and conservationists and inspired legislators to launch the No Child Left Inside initiative.

Jewish children, like most, spend too much time indoors watching television, playing video games and sitting in front of a computer screen. There’s precious little time for watching the clouds while stretched out in the grass or digging in the dirt. But Jewish kids are unique: They are part of a tradition that connects them to the natural world in an essential way. Our Torah is full of stories connecting the Jewish people to the four basic elements: Earth, Air, Fire and Water. We retell those stories every year. Moses and the burning bush, Noah and the ark, the parting of the Red Sea... the list seems endless. We celebrate three pilgrimage festivals and Tu B’ Shevat (the new year for

trees). Jews even refer to the Torah as a “Tree of Life,” connecting trees to the highest Jewish values.

We hope that this project give our students an environmental education that will foster their spiritual and personal development. With that goal in mind, we have planned five experiences that will help our families explore the natural world by stepping outside the doors of our synagogue.

With your support, we can give our students an environmental education that will foster their spiritual and personal development. We hope that your family will join us as we step outside the doors of our synagogue to spend time in the “wild,” learn about the environment, share Torah stories and embrace Jewish values.

We look forward to sharing these adventures with you!

Harriet Willing and Leslie Millrod



Welcome to

TBE GOES YAROK! (Green)

Who is being invited to participate?

TBE's Hebrew school families.

What's required?

- Every TBE Hebrew School family that opts in must register and participate in as a student/parent team.
- Teams are expected to attend all five activities.
- Team members must wear their t-shirt they receive at the outings so that we can identify our group members at all times.
- Teams will be asked to record their experiences and documents their participation in their journal.
- Adult team members are expected to *actively* participate in all five activities and supervise their child at all times. You are solely responsible for your team!
- Students may not participate in an activity without their team mate.

What will it cost to participate?

Families are being asked to contribute \$36 per student.

What's included?

Participants will have the opportunity to participate in five unique activities. Teams will receive: 2 t-shirts, a journal and free admission to five activities: Rock Painting; Beach and Wilderness walks; Planetarium show and our grand finale...Rope climbing and zip lining!

What's not included?

Transportation to the activities, snacks and drinks and any incidental expenses.

What about siblings, friends or other adults?

Family members may join us for the nature walks at no cost. Family members (ages of 7+) may accompany us on the Planetarium and Adventure activities at their own expense and only by prior arrangement. Please be aware that only a limited number of additional attendees may be accommodated.

How are we going to make this happen?

While your student's participation is completely optional, we budgeted for 20 family teams with the hope that all of TBE's Hebrew school students will participate.

The \$2000 grant will cover 42% of the projected budget. We have reached out to TBE's Men's Club, Sisterhood and several individuals to ask for their support. We have also planned a fundraiser on Sunday, March 30 at 5 pm that will be open to the entire TBE community. (see attached flyer) and have our fingers crossed that everyone will join us that evening.

We are donating our time to organize and run the fundraiser and activities so the budget does not include any salaries. 100% of the proceeds from the grant, fundraiser, donations and your contributions toward the purchase of t-shirts, basic supplies and admission fees.

A registration form is attached and it must be completed and returned with a \$36 check by _____.

The activities are scheduled for *:

Tuesday, March 26th (during class time): **Kindness Rocks Project** tm

Sunday, March 30 at 5pm: **Create A Seder Plate and Breakfast for Dinner**

Fundraiser

Saturday, April 6 at 8pm: **Star Gazing at the Vanderbilt Museum**
(optional pizza meetup at 6:30pm)

Sunday, April 14 at 2pm: **Blessings Walk at the Quogue Wildlife Refuge**

Saturday, May 18 at 5pm: **Shabbat at the Shore beach walk in Belle Terre** (followed by the Congregational Kumzitz)

Saturday, June 1 at 2pm: **Climbing the "Tree of Life" at Long Island Adventure Park** (rope course and zip lines)

* All dates are tentative until we have our registration process completed and offsite arrangements are confirmed.

TBE GOES YAROK!

Registration form

Student: _____
DOB: _____
Parent: _____
cell phone: _____
home phone: _____

I hereby give my consent for _____

(student name)

to participate in all project activities. I understand that I am responsible for my child's health and safety all times and that Temple Beth Emeth's representatives assume no responsibility for my child.

I give consent for TBE's representatives to photograph and/or film my family at these activities. Those images may be reproduced in in-house publications, displays and grant purposes.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

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check attached

check deposited

application received: _____

confirmation sent: _____