



BAck to the BAasics

Opening Day Snif Peula 5778-9

Welcome to the Opening Day Snif 5778-9 Packet!

The topic we chose for the first peula of the year is: **BA**ck to the **BA**sics. We felt that the first sniff of the year should introduce our chanichim to the main aspects of Bnei Akiva's ideology. The three components we chose to focus on are, **Torah**: The importance of Torah and Mitzvot. **Avodah**: Our commitment to actively supporting the Jewish people. And **Eretz Yisrael**: Connection and love for the Medinat Yisrael.

Within this packet you will find a variety of materials to use for your peula. This includes: a **skit, tochen, games** and **discussion points**. Here we will briefly explain the purpose of each of these materials:

Skit: An new idea that we would like to implement for the year is a skit with consistent characters. Kids really like watching skits and can remember the names and personalities of consistent characters. This isn't necessarily appropriate or feasible for every age group/snif but if you think this is something that can work- do it! The best way to do this is to have **passionate** and dramatically talented (doesn't have to be Broadway level!) madrichim act in them. You should not stick exactly to the script! Add in your own jokes and ideas that your sniff will love! Characters to stay consistent throughout the year are Tzion/Tziona, the Bnei Akivanik and a Z, the time wizard.

Tochen: Every part of the peula includes the educational information that we would like our chanichim to learn and understand. This information should not be read off the page, but rather it should be learned through the games and discussion.

Games: Games are an integral part of our belief in experiential education. We believe that sniff is a place for children to learn and grow, but not like they do in school. We incorporate games to get the chanichim interested and involved and help them retain the information we're teaching them in a fun way. What games do your chanichim like? Try to see how you can relate them to our tochen!

Discussion Points: Often people find it difficult to relay information without just reading it off a page. We don't want to make our chanichim memorize information, for that reason we try to encourage them to think of these ideas naturally and come to understand them on their own through a discussion. Use these questions and points to help draw ideas out from the chanichim. We included discussion points for both younger and older chanichim. While not every topic is appropriate for young kids, we believe that those that are can all be brought down to a kid's level. When preparing a peula, try to think to yourself, "How can I help my chanichim understand this idea?". Sometimes, it's by making it relate to their own lives, breaking it down in to smaller parts, or asking them where they have learned about this concept before.

This packet provides you with most of the tools to prepare a peula but its missing one thing... **YOU!** If you follow this packet exactly, it will not be a successful peula. Make sure you decide what works best for your sniff. Add your own ideas, games, jokes, songs, and stories and most importantly- **PASSION!**

Wishing you a Shana Tova and a fun and education year at sniff!
Bivrakat Chevrei Torah v'Avodah,

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Skit

Tzion/a: Opening day sniff! Yes!!! I've been waiting all summer for this day. I'm so happy to be back at sniff with my friends and madrichim.

Z walks in

Tzion/a: Hey... umm... are you... new?

Z: Kind of, my name is Zman The Time Wizard, but my friends call me Z-MAN! (looks cool, points fingers out like guns), Well... I guess they really just call me Z. Nice to meet you.

Tziona: Nice to meet you, Z, I'm Tzion/a. So what does that mean that you're a time wizard? Do you have a time machine?

Z: Pffff! I don't need a time machine! I can travel through time with just a snap of the fingers. (Or clap of the hands if madrichim can't snap :))

Tziona: Wow! That's so cool! Could you show me?

Z: Sure! Where do you want to go?

Tziona: Well...it's the first sniff and I have a confession... *whispers* I don't really know that much about Bnei Akiva... * Can you take me to someone who teach me about it?

Z: I think I know just the guy. I'll take you but first we need to do the time wizard chant. (Get all the chanichim to do it with you) It goes like this... uka chaki uka chaki uka chaki and.... SNAP!

Tziona and TW spin around

Z: Here we are.

Tziona: *Looks around*... Where is here exactly?

Z: We're in Eretz Yisrael almost 2000 years ago. And look! There's my good friend Rabbi Akiva right over there next to the well.

Rabbi Akiva is dressed as a farmer/worker, jeans, tee shirt something like that

Tziona: That can't be rabbi Akiva! Rabbi Akiva is a huge rabbi. Why does he look like a farmer?

Z: Just watch...

Rabbi Akiva: WOW this is so weird. I just found a rock and it has perfect hole carved into it. It looks like the water has been dripping on the rock for so long, that it made a hole. You know, I'm a farmer and I've never learned Torah, I don't even know the aleph bet. But if something so soft like water go through this rock, I'm sure that Torah can get into my heart! It's time for me to start learning Torah! I heard that there's a kindergarten nearby. It's going to be a little embarrassing because I'm already 40 years old but I really want to start learning!

Tziona: Wow! I really didn't know that Rabbi Akiva wasn't always a rabbi and started off as just a farmer.

Z: People will surprise ya!

Tziona: But you said he would tell me about what Bnei Akiva is all about! And look now he's running to go to start Kindergarten!

Z: He is a pretty fast runner. Hmm... Maybe let's take try to visit Rabbi Akiva again, but a little later in his life. Come chant with me! Uka chaki uka chaki uka chaki and.... SNAP!

Spin around

Tziona: So where are we now?

Z: This is a few years after Rabbi Akiva has already become a talmid chacham and famous Rabbi, and we're still in Israel. But things aren't doing so great around here.

Tziona: Why not?

Z: Its the Romans... they're trying to take over the whole Land of Israel.

Tziona: Well that doesn't sound good.

Z: Yeah... but its ok because there is this guy named Bar Kochva whos like a really cool army dude and hes getting Jews together to fight against the Romans. *Fist pump in the air* Oh look theres the army over there! And just the man we're looking for- Rabbi Akiva!

Tziona: Why is he there with the army? Shouldn't he be in the Beit Midrash learning Torah and grow a beard and whatever else rabbis are supposed to do?

Z: Why don't you ask him yourself?

Tziona to RA: *flustered* Oh um, hi your majesty, I mean, um Rabbi Akiva, sorry... I'm just a huge fan.

RA: Haha nice to meet you.

Tziona: I was just wondering... I know you're like this huge rabbi, so why are you carrying all of these weapons and sweating away when you can be in the learning Torah?

RA: That is a great question, young lady/man. I see why you're confused, a rabbi looks kind of out of place in this army camp. But you've heard of our General Bar Kochva right? He is trying to defend the Land of Israel from the Romans and I think thats really important because I care so much about this land and about the Jews living here. So I come to hold Bar Kochva's weapons for him to try and do my part to help.

Tziona: That's pretty cool. Thanks for explaining,

RA: No problem, well it looks like the army is about to head out, I gotta run!

Tziona: Bye!

Tziona to Z: Well that was cool, but I really just don't think I'm getting it yet. What does Rabbi Akiva have to do with Bnei Akiva?

Z: Just think about it for a sec.

Tziona: *thinking out loud and confused* Bnei Akiva... Rabbi Akiva... Bnei Akiva... Rabbi Akiva... Bnei Akiva... Rabbi Akiva...

Z: Still not getting it huh? BNEI AKIVA! LIKE THE CHILDREN OF AKIVA

Tziona: Huh?

Z: AKIVA... AS IN RABBI AKIVA!

Tziona: OHHH...

Z: We're named after Rabbi Akiva because we care about the same things he did. Our three big things we love are are Torah, Avodah, and Eretz Yisrael.

Tziona: Oh just like Rabbi Akiva! He loved Torah and even worked hard, he did Avodah, to protect Israel that he loved so much.

Z: Exaaaaaaaaactly.

Tziona: I think I got it now! Thank you Z! I can't wait for snif now!

Z: No problem bud, any time. *points fingers like a gun* Get it?? Time! Oh I crack myself up. Well I hope everyone else here gets the chance to experience Torah, Avodah, and Eretz Yisrael at snif. See ya soon!
(Uka chaki uka chaki uka chaki and.... SNAP!)

Station: Torah

Idea: in Bnei Akiva we put a strong emphasis on Torah learning and Torah observance because it helps us connect to Hashem, because all of the Torah comes from Hashem!

Tochen: The first two perakim of Pirkei Avot describe how the Torah was passed down from Hashem to Moshe to Yehoshua to the Zekeinim to the Neviim to the Anshei Kenneset HaGedola and then to the Tannaim.

The **Torah SheBichtav**, the written Torah, is the 5 books of Chumash which Hashem told Moshe to write down, basically a Sefer Torah. Then there is the **Torah SheBeal Peh**, the Spoken Torah. Torah SheBeal Peh are laws that explanations and laws that the Rabbis learned and passed down. Examples of laws in the Spoken Torah are: Hashem told us to live in Sukkot during the holiday of Sukkot, but doesn't explain in the Written Torah exactly how a Sukkah needs to look, so the Spoken Torah explains. Examples of new laws that the Rabbis added are reading Megilla on Purim or lighting the Menorah on Chanukah. These are events that happened after Moshe's time but the rabbis chose to celebrate and created holidays.

Discussion Points for Younger Chanichim:

- Start off this section explaining to the chanichim what the Torah SheBichtav and Torah SheBeal Peh are.
- Tell the chanichim that we have two types of Torahs
- Ask them if they know what they are, or what they're called, do they know what they are?
- What is the point of the Torah?
- What is your favorite Torah story? Mitzvah?
- Why are you proud to be a Jew and keep the Torah?
 - We can connect to Hashem, Hashem can explain to us how to live

Discussion Points for Older Chanichim:

- Similar to above and can add...
- Why do you think Torah is a value of Bnei Akiva?
 - Hashem gave us the Torah as a gift to connect to Him and teach us how to live.
- Bnei Akiva is unique because we are RELIGIOUS Zionists. There are many Zionists who support Israel and do not make Torah and mitzvot a priority. We believe that they are dependent on each other.

Game: Mesorah-phone

Tell the Chanichim that they have the job of passing down the Torah. The games Telephone and Broken Telephone represent two types of transmission (passing down), Telephone represents the type that we got exactly from Hashem and hasn't changed, and Broken Telephone represents how the Rabbis explain and add to the Torah. Play each version and have them say what they said out loud at the end! Show them how even if there are new things added, it all originally comes from Hashem! (And if they mess up, especially the Telephone game, make sure to explain that when our Rabbis passed down the Torah, they didn't make mistakes!)

- Play both versions- **Written Torah-phone:** Hashem (the first person) will say something and everyone has to try and pass down the same phrase.
- **Spoken Torah-phone,** the first person (Hashem) will say a phrase and each person either says something related to the previous phrase.
 - Ex: Hashem says, "Rosh HaShana" then Moshe can say "Shofar" then Yehoshua can say "Ram"...
 - Harder option: Each person has to repeat what was said and also add to the phrase each time.
 - Ex: "During the holiday of sukkot... you have to build a sukkah... with four walls... and schach on top... and have your meals there..."

Props: Have the chanichim wear name tags of the people in the Shalshet HaMesorah, the chain of passing down the Torah, while playing the game.



Hashem at Har Sinai



Moshe



Yehoshua



The 70 Zekenim



The Neviim (Prophets)



Anshei Keneset HaGedola



Shimon HaTzadik



Antigonus from Socho



**Yose ben Yoezer from
Tsreida & Yose ben
Yochanan from Jerusalem**



**Yehoshua ben Perachiah
and Nitai from Arbel**



**Yehuda ben Tabai and
Shimon ben Shetach**



Shemayah and Avtalyon



Hillel and Shammai



**Rabban Yochanan Ben
Zakkai**

Station: Avodah

Idea: One of the core values of Bnei Akiva is Avodah, work. Avodah, is actively working to support the Jewish people and Medinat Yisrael. In the early years of Medinat Yisrael this was primarily agricultural work, planting and building up the land. Now, many people associate Avodah with the Army or service to better the State of Israel.

Tochen: Explain to the chanichim what Avodah is. Tell them that in the early days of the state there were people called Chalutzim/Pioneers who went to Israel to build up the land. They believed that if they really wanted to start a state, you had to WORK for it! They went, often as teenagers leaving their families, to open fields without houses or streets. They planted field and trees and built houses and roads.

Discussion points for Younger Chanichim:

- What is work?
 - Some kids might think you are talking about a job, try to get them to understand why jobs are called “work”, it’s because you have to do stuff, work on what you’re doing there.
- Can you give an example of something that takes hard work or effort?
- When is a time you worked really hard for something?
 - Could be sports, or working on homework
- Transition to explain the idea of the Chalutzim and that they worked really hard to make the State of Israel a place where Jews could live
- Tell them that Israel was very empty (no trees, streets, stores). Ask them what they think the Chalutzim needed to do.

Discussion points for Older Chanichim:

- Similar to the above questions and add..
- What is something you care about so much that you would work really hard for it?
 - A sports team, grades, playing an instrument
- Ask them what they think Avodah means- what does it mean to actively work on helping the State of Israel?
 - They might say army, try to encourage them to think of more ways
 - Introduce the Chalutzim- ask them if they could imagine leaving their homes to an empty land where they had to work all day in the field.

Activity: Planting “Trees”

(Materials: Spoons, Jelly Beans, Oreos, Pretzel Rods, Green Sour Sticks, Cups.)

Tell the chanichim that they are new chalutzim coming to Israel to build up the land. If possible, use props like hats or Tilboshets. Try to make this a simulation of working on a kibbutz, refer to their spoon as a shovel and the oreos as soil etc.

- Put down new soil: Have the chanichim crumble up oreos into their cups
- Plant seeds: use their shovel (spoon) to make a hole in the ground and drop in a jelly bean make sure they cover it
- Then they can see a tree grow, take a pretzel rod and wrap the top with a green sour stick and stick it in the “soil”

Additional Games: See, Run, Build or other Teamwork games.

Station: Eretz Yisrael

Idea: One of the things Bnei Akiva believes in is the importance of and love for Eretz Yisrael. Though Bnei Akiva encourages Aliyah, moving, to Israel, there are many things that people can do to show their love and support for Israel.

Discussion Points for Younger Chanichim:

- Have you been to Israel? Where is somewhere you've been to or learned about that you love?
- Why do you love Israel? Or why do you think Israel is important to us?
 - Hashem gave it to us as our land, it's holy, the Beit Hamikdash will be there, it's a home for all Jews
- What do you do to show you love or care about Israel? Or something your school/family does?

Discussion Points for Older Chanichim:

- Similar to above and can add...
- Do you think you need to make Aliyah to show that you love Israel?
- What are other ways you can show your love for Israel?

Game: Israel and Chutz LaAretz

In this version of "Coke and Pepsi" the chanichim will experience ways that they can connect to Israel. Split the chanichim into sides of the room, tell them that one is "Israel" and the other is "Chutz LaAretz." (If you have an Israeli and American flag, use them as props!) The rules follow the rules of Coke and Pepsi. A madrich calls the moves. If Israel is called, Chutz LaAretz side runs to Israel and vice versa. If a special move is called, they have to do the action for it. Explain the special moves when explaining the rules or add gradually.

VERY IMPORTANT: To get the chanichim to really internalize this idea- after a round or two, challenge them to think of their own "moves". Award prizes or points to most creative ideas. See what they can think of as ways to show how Israel is important to them. Examples can include: Marching in the Israel Day Parade, singing HaTikva, participating in a rally, writing to members of Congress, visiting Israel, buying Israeli products, learning Hebrew... the list goes on and on!

Here are some special moves, feel free to change up what exactly each move is, or add your own:

Aliyah: Chutz LaAretz side has to pretend to fly to Israel and Israel side has to cheer/clap

JNF: Both run to the middle, CL kneels pretending to plant a tree, while Israel stands with their arms up and standing on one foot (like Tree position in yoga) (Explain: The JNF is an organization, that has been around since before the State of Israel, that raises money to plant trees in Israel)

Tzedaka: Both run to the middle, Israel puts their hands up at a 90 degree angle (like a box) and CL pretends to put money in and everyone shouts "CHA-CHING"

Tefilla: Have them stay in their places and say (or sing, if you know the tune) Avinu SheBashamayim Tzur Yisrael V'Goalo, Barech et Medinat Yisrael, Reishit Tzemichat Geulateinu.

אֲבִינוּ שֶׁבַשְׁמַיִם, צוּר יִשְׂרָאֵל וְגוֹאֲלוֹ, בְּרַךְ אֶת מְדִינַת יִשְׂרָאֵל, רֵאשִׁית צְמִיחַת גְּאֻלַּתֵּנוּ.

Army: Have them meet in the middle and piggy back ride, army crawl, or leapfrog to Israel.