

One program I would like to incorporate into a NFTY-MAR event would be a competitive event where the purpose is to have fun while encouraging gemilut chasadim. In the program, groups (Determined by board or split up by bunk) compete to complete as many acts of love and kindness as possible. These tasks would be spread out throughout the space, and would have different point values based on how difficult they are. Teams would have to figure out which ones to visit in which order to get the most "Tzedakah Points" marked on their scorecard, which they would be given at the start of the program. Youth professionals or participants (but probably youth professionals) would lead each station and read the groups their task, how many points they will be rewarded, and then mark their sheet after they complete the task. The tasks would not involve many materials, and would mainly entail the group members doing specific activities by themselves. The tasks would be silly and they wouldn't have to be very related to the act of love and kindness they're supposed to represent. Examples of some activities would be things like "You see a cat stuck in a tree, form a human pyramid to get it down. 1 pt" or maybe "you decide to save energy and bike to work instead of driving your car. Everyone do bicycle crunches for 30 seconds. 3 pts" or even "you see a kid crying at his own birthday party because he's scared of clowns. Put together a fun, 30 second song about clowns to lift his spirits. 5 pts". As I mentioned before, these activities are not very serious and are meant to encourage people to have fun. There would be many of these activities spread out around the camp/temple and groups would be sprinting around trying to get as many points as possible in the allotted time, which would likely be around 30-45 minutes. At the end the team with the most tzedakah points would be recognized as the "champions of kindness" or something cheesy like that and get some really lame prize (I think toilet paper would be funny because T.P. stands for both tzedakah points and toilet paper). If we wanted this program to be more serious for some reason, we could easily modify the tasks to be less silly and potentially have a reflection at the end about whether the program encouraged them to think harder about doing acts of kindness and being a genuinely helpful person. Overall I think a program like this would be a lot of fun for everyone, and it would be a great way to get people to work together and form friendships, and potentially think about becoming a nicer, better person.