

Chalympics are Back!!!

CHALYMPICS

5786 —— 2025

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8 DAYS

7 EVENTS

BONUS CHALLENGES

CHALYMPICS 5786

CHALYMPICS ARE BACK!!!

What are the Chalympics?

The CHALYMPICS is an 8 day long, 7 event series we partake in every year of Chanukah (we take a break Friday night for Shabbos!).

Every night, after we light the menorah, instead of opening presents, we set up a game, using inexpensive materials that are easily purchased or that are already lying around the house, and all the kids compete.

Like the real Olympics, we start off with a torch lighting ceremony ([CLICK HERE](#) to see how to DIY your own CHALYMPIC torches!), the winners stand on appropriate leveled chairs and receive their award at the end of each night, and of course we end the games with another torch lighting ceremony.

Through out the 8 days, we keep track of the winners on a giant score card and at the end of the CHALYMPICS there is a final champion who wins the ultimate prize...BRAGGING RIGHTS!



Onto the final and most vital piece of all this:

The events and their rules



These are the 7 events my children will be competing in this year. If some of these games are not suitable for your children, you can watch our videos from years past for some other ideas. You can also come up with your own games that are more appropriate for your family!

A few things to know:

- 1 All games are based on 5 contestants. Adjust accordingly.
- 2 Games are chosen specifically to avoid judges having to “choose” winners. This keeps emotions a little more at bay. We find that having to choose, who built the “best” menorah can cause more problems than ‘who replicated the menorah the fastest or who got the most blind tastes correct’. If you do choose to incorporate your own games into the CHALYMPICS (which I do highly suggest because no one knows your family better than you!), I would suggest you keep this aspect of the games in mind.

NEW THIS YEAR

BONUS CHALLENGES

Due to having a wider age range of children competing in this years **CHALYMPICS** we have added a **BONUS CHALLENGE ELEMENT**.

Players ages 9 and up will be required to do a few minor extra steps in certain challenges to level the playing field.

Now, let the games begin!!!

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Opening Ceremonies *

+ Live Memory

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- The homemade torches
- 12 sets of identical shekel store prizes. (2 key chains, 2 silly patty's...)
- 24 aluminum 9x13 pans (or any size, you just want to make sure that the prizes fit fully underneath them)

For the opening ceremony, play **Olympic music**, and have the contestants line up in age order.

Light the oldest ones torch and then he lights the persons next to him.

Continue until all torches are lit and then take a ceremonious walk around the living room.

HOW TO PLAY

- 1 Send the children out of the room
- 2 Arrange the prizes on a large space on the floor, separating identical prizes, in a grid like pattern.
- 3 Cover each prize with an aluminum pan.
- 4 Call the children back into the room.
- 5 Now play memory....
- 6 Give each a child a chance to uncover two prizes. If the prizes are not the same, replace the pan over the prize and it is the next Childs turn.
- 7 When someone uncovers identical prizes they keep it.
- 8 Play until all prizes have been accounted for.
- 9 We like to end this game with a prize swap. No one can keep two prizes and they must trade. Sometimes they need our help to facilitate this but usually it goes smoothly since they are all equally small, 1 shekel prizes!

(Blow out torches and save for closing ceremony)



EVENT 1

SUNDAY NIGHT,
25 KISLEV/ DEC 14

Teen Chalympic Challenge *

BONUS CHALLENGES

HOW TO PLAY

- 1 Instead of using tins and shekel toys we are upping the ante with **60 pieces** of colored construction paper.
- 2 Each paper will be cut into a **6cm X 14cm** rectangle.
- 3 Fold the rectangle in half
- 4 Inside of half the rectangles place some sort of coupon (get out of making your bed for a week, choose dinner 3 x over the next 2 weeks, get out of a task and pass to someone else, this coupon entitles you to a fresh batch of hot, homemade popcorn at a moments notice...that sort of thing,) and in a few of them a small number value (1 shekel, 5 shekels..).
- 5 Staple the rectangle closed so that no one can peek.
- 6 Any cards that are the same color will need a small symbol on the outside to create pairs of two's for the matching game. So two red cards will have a star on the outside, 2 will have a heart, 2 will be blank, 2 will have smiley face...)
- 7 You can reuse symbols on different colored cards.
- 8 Arrange the cards symbol side down on a large table and play the game!
- 9 **The person with the most matches wins.**



Chopped

That's right, we swapped the mice en place for chopped this year! Since we did a team Mise en place last year by pairing each little girl with an older child we figured its time to let them cook for themselves!

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- If you can let your players use your kitchen all you need is to set them up a station with a cutting board, knife and basic utensils
- My kitchen is not big enough for everyone to cook in so I will set up 4 stations on my dining room table.

Each station will have:

- Gas burner • 1 small pan • 1 small pot
- 1 cutting board • 1 knife • 1 peeler • 1 spatula
- 1 wooden cooking spoon
- 6 soup spoons for tasting • 1 small bowl with salt
- 1 small bowl with pepper • a few sets of gloves
- 1 mystery basket

HOW TO PLAY

Teams dishes will be given to the judges blindly and will be judged on 3 factors:

Presentation - up to **10 points**

Use of secret ingredients - up to **10 points**

Flavor- up to **20 points**

In the mystery basket:

- Roasted chicken breast • Ghojunag • Green apple

I will set up a make shift pantry with the following items:

- Spices, sauces and marinades, oils, vinegars and produce (onions, tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini, leek...)

- For this competition I will put my children into teams pairing a smaller child with an older child.
- Each team will be stationed at a burner around the table.
- We will give the players 45 minutes to create their dishes.



Winning

The team with the most points will be the winner.

Musical Dreidel Says

A Chanukah twist on Simon Says + Musical Chairs

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- 1 long table
- Dreidels (one fewer than the number of players)
- Music (optional but highly recommended for the vibes!)
- 1 “Simon” (the caller)

GAMEPLAY

1 Simon calls out actions like:

“Simon says touch your nose.”

“Simon says touch your head.”

“Simon says wiggle your fingers.”

“Touch your knees.”

If Simon doesn’t say “Simon says,” anyone who moves is OUT.

2 Players follow along, getting into the groove and the rhythm...

SET UP

- Have everyone stand around the long table.
- Place dreidels down the center of the table... one less than the number of players.

Example: 10 players → 9 dreidels.
Start the music to set the mood

HOW TO PLAY

Choose one person to be Simon. They’re in charge of calling out commands. Everyone else listens carefully and follows instructions ONLY if Simon says “Simon says...” first.

3 Then comes the twist:

At any moment, Simon can shout:

“SIMON SAYS GRAB A DREIDEL!”

Everyone must race to grab one of the dreidels from the table.

Whoever doesn’t get a dreidel is OUT.

Winning

The game continues with fewer and fewer players (remove one dreidel each round), until only one player remains. That player is the Dreidel Says Champion.



Live Mastermind

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- 1 large cardboard box, remove top so it's a 3 sided box (Alternatively you can use a kitchen stool and cover one side with paper so that contestants can't see)
- 6-10 different items that you have 2 of (can be 2 bottles of water, 2 cans of coke, 2 bottles of ketchup, 2 of the same color magna tile)

OBJECT OF THE GAME

To guess the order of items behind the box with out seeing them!



HOW TO PLAY

- 1 Place box or stool on a table. Turn the box so that like a stool there is a flat surface in the top and the opening is facing you.
- 2 Place 1 of each item in a straight line in the box.
- 3 Have players stand behind the box where the box is closed so that they can not see the order of the items.
- 4 Give players the pair of each item you placed in side.
- 5 Each player goes up to the box and places all the items on the top flat surface.
- 6 Once he finishes you tell him if he placed any in the correct space, and if so how many. Thats it.
- 7 They must try again by moving bottles around until they come up with the correct order.
- 8 Each move counts as a turn.

Winning

The player to complete the task in the least amounts of tons is the winner!



EVENT 4

WEDNESDAY NIGHT,
28 KISLEV / DEC 17

Live Mastermind

BONUS CHALLENGES

TEAM CHALLENGE OPTION:

- You can have players line up in a single file line.
- Each player takes one turn and goes to the back of the line. This encourages all the players to listen while others are taking their turn.
- When one player finally gets it, he wins, but really its a win for everyone!

TEEN CHALLENGE OPTION:



- To make it harder for the older kids you can add more items to the box.
- If you want to make it really hard, you can add a few items to their pile that are not in the box together with all the other items!
- For example, you set up 6 items in the box but you give them 8 items!



Balloon Cup Pass

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- 1 balloon per player
- 1 row of plastic cups per player (about 6-10 cups)
- A long table
- A timer (optional if you want a timed round)

OPTIONAL RULES

Race Mode: First to finish wins.

Relay Mode: Teams of 2-4 take turns moving one cup each

Speed Round: 60 seconds to move as many cups as possible.

HOW TO PLAY

1 Set Up

Line up a row of cups in front of each player, spaced out in a straight line. Place an empty space at the far end where the stacked cups will go.

2 Start Position

Each player stands behind their row of cups with their balloon deflated in hand.

3 Blow Up the Balloon INSIDE the Cup

On GO, each player puts the balloon into the first cup, keeping the opening of the balloon around the rim. They blow into the balloon while it's inside the cup, causing the expanding balloon to grip the cup.

4 Move the Cup

While holding the balloon inflated (don't let the air out!), players lift the cup using only the balloon and move it to the far end of the table.

5 Release the Cup Into a Stack

Still holding the balloon tight, carefully deflate it just enough for the cup to slide off. Place that cup onto a growing stack at the end of the table.

6 Repeat

Return to the next cup.

Insert the balloon → inflate → lift → carry → stack.

Continue until all cups are stacked at the end.



Winning

First player to successfully move and stack ALL their cups wins!

Shake It Off

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- A big stack of Post-it notes (or any sticky squares), if playing with everyone at once make sure you have multiple colors of sticky notes
- A timer
- All players standing in an open space

HOW TO PLAY

1 Stick 'Em On!

Each player gets covered in Post-it notes, 1 color per person...arms, legs, chest, back, everywhere. Make sure everyone has the same amount to keep it fair.

2 Set the Timer

Choose a round length: 20-30 seconds is perfect.

3 TURN UP THE MUSIC AND SHAKE!

When the timer starts, everyone shakes at the same time jumping, wiggling, spinning, dancing... ANY movement is allowed except using your hands, or brushing up against walls or furniture to pull Post its off.



4 Time's Up!

When the timer ends, freeze!

5 Count What's Left

Each person counts how many Post its are still stuck to them. The player with the fewest remaining wins the round.

Winning

You can play a few rounds and keep track of how many are left on each person after each round and then add the scores at the end. The person with the lowest amount at the end (meaning they shook off the most), is there winner!

The Blind Taste Test

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- Blindfold, or scarf
- A cookie sheet (to contain any spills)
- A 20 different foods that can fit into small bowls or cups
- 20 small bowls or cups
- A kitchen towel

OBJECT OF THE GAME

To identify as many foods as possible by simply tasting them while blindfolded.



EXAMPLES OF TASTERS

Ketchup, Mayo, Honey, Croutons, Salt, Chopped hard boiled egg, Chocolate chips, Captain crunch, Cut up string cheese, Butter, Cucumbers, Red sufganiya jelly, Lemon wedges, Pickles, Plain yogurt, Franks hot sauce, Soda, Peanut butter, Craisins, Pesto, Salad dressing...

HOW TO PLAY

- 1 Send the kids out of the kitchen.
- 2 Place the cups on the cookie sheet and fill each one with as different edible product. (can be food, drink, snack, condiment, spice...)
- 3 Place a kitchen towel over the filled bowls so that no one can see what's underneath.
- 4 Call each child one at a time into the kitchen.
- 5 Cover their eyes with the blind and remove the kitchen towel.
- 6 Help them guide their hand into each bowl one at a time.
- 7 They must taste each item and identify it.
- 8 Only first answers are accepted to remind them to take their time.



Winning

The child that guesses the most right is the winner.



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