



Minyan Na'aleh

Frequently Asked Questions about the Rocky Mountain Shavuaton

What is Minyan Na'aleh?

Minyan Na'aleh is a small, informal and inviting minyan based in Denver, Colorado. We started in September of 2004 and currently meet monthly for Kabbalat Shabbat services and pot luck dinners. Learn more on our website at www.naalehdenver.org.

What is a Tikkun Leyl Shavuot?

It is tradition to stay up all night on the first night of Shavuot studying Jewish texts in celebration of the receiving of the Torah. Our Tikkun will feature a series of 30-60 minute mini-sessions interspersed with schmoozing and snack breaks to keep us all awake. Each mini-session will be taught by a different member of our community and will explore eclectic and interesting topics.

What if I can't stay up all night?

No worries, most of us don't anyway! While we hope to see you throughout the weekend, this is a no-pressure Shavuaton. Participate in as many of the spectacular activities as you'd like!

What are the accommodations like?

We will be staying in three adjacent reunion cabins at the beautiful YMCA of the Rockies, a 860 acre retreat with spectacular views of the Continental Divide, at the edge of Rocky Mountain National Park. Each room has a queen-size bed and at least one twin bed and a private bathroom. Rooms are equipped hotel-style, with fresh linens, towels and soap. We expect to provide couples and families with their own rooms. If you are single, we will likely give you a roommate. Please indicate any roommate preferences on your registration form.

What will the weather be like?

While we'll hope for gorgeous late-spring weather, the weather in the Rocky Mountains is unpredictable. Late May in Estes Park typically has warm, sunny days (in the 60s and 70s) and cooler nights (in the 30s and 40s). Of course, in the Rockies it can rain, hail or even snow (two years ago, it snowed 6 inches)! Rest assured, the soaring peaks are beautiful in any weather! In the event of inclement weather, our toasty lodges will be warm and comfy!

What will the davening be like?

It will be soulful and stirring, highly participatory, with lots of great singing! From a halachic perspective, we will have separate seating for men and women with a low and unobtrusive mechitza, or barrier, between the two sections. Men will lead parts of the davening that traditionally require a minyan, or quorum, such as shacharit and mussaf. Men and women will participate equally in all other parts, including torah reading, aliyot and hallel.

I live in Denver. Can I get a ride to the Shavuaton?

We will do our best to match up people for carpools. Please indicate in your registration form if you need a ride or have room in your car to drive others.

I do not live in Denver. How do I get to the Shavuaton?

Estes Park is about 1 hour and 45 minutes from Denver International Airport (DIA). All major carriers serve DIA, which is a hub for United Airlines and Frontier Airlines. There are also sometimes cheap flights available on JetBlue (from New York/JFK and Boston) and on Southwest (from California, Baltimore/Washington, Chicago and other places). Please let us know your arrival times. We will do our best to coordinate rides from DIA to Estes Park.

When should I plan to arrive?

Please try to arrive by 6:15 pm on Thursday. Registration will open at 5:00 pm on Thursday and services will begin at 7:00 pm. Candle lighting on Thursday night is at 8:00 pm. Of course, there will still be plenty of food if you have to arrive late.

When should I plan to leave?

The Shavuaton will officially end on Sunday morning after Shavuot, although some may choose to depart late Saturday night after Shavuot.

What will my children do during the Shavuaton?

We will have babysitting for as much of the Shavuaton as possible and we will be in touch with parents to determine needs and times. New this year, we are working to organize educational and entertaining programming for our school-age children. If you would like to participate in that process, please contact us at naaleh@gmail.com.

What other activities should I expect over the weekend?

It wouldn't be a Na'aleh event without uplifting singing, davening, learning and eating. In addition to the holiday meals, we'll have a special oneg with refreshments for body and soul. The Lodge is located adjacent to Rocky Mountain National Park, so there will be plenty of hiking. There will be many opportunities for meditative walks around the breathtaking grounds or a nap beneath the snow-capped peaks.

If I cancel, can I get my money back?

We can refund 50% of your registration fee until May 14th. Unfortunately, we cannot give refunds after that date.

I would like to lead davening but I don't know how. Can somebody teach me?

Absolutely! Please let us know what you want to learn and we will set you up with somebody who can teach you!

Of course, if you have any additional questions, please do email us at naaleh@gmail.com and a Shavuaton organizer will get back to as soon as possible!

See you in the mountains!!