



## Be Mitzvah FAQ's

### **When are Mitzvah Services Scheduled?**

Saturday Mornings at 10:30am

**How long is the service?** Typically, about 90 minutes (or ending around noon).

### **What is the cost/fee for Be Mitzvah and what does it include?**

There is a \$700 Be Mitzvah Preparation Fee, which includes the Be Mitzvah specific teaching and planning that will take place with the Rabbi and a Be Mitzvah tutor so that the Be Mitzvah student is well prepared for their service. Use of the Temple's Main Sanctuary is included in the Be Mitzvah Preparation Fee as well.

### **What should be in my child's speech?**

During meetings with the Rabbi, your child will prepare a D'var Torah (a piece of wisdom/insight about what the Torah portion means to them) that makes the Torah text relevant in our 21st century lives. (guidelines to follow)

### **How do I rent the temple's facilities?**

If you would like to use the Temple's other facilities, such as the Social Hall (below the Main Sanctuary), the Kitchen or the Lehrman Chapel, you need to contact the office to reserve these spaces. Please see our Facilities Contract for details on our policies and fees.

### **Is there a list of resources that the Temple already has prepared that will help me get started?**

Yes! Our staff and families have put together this spreadsheet (it has multiple tabs) -

[Resources for Be Mitzvah](#)

**Does the temple have a preferred caterer?** We do not. Please note that any caterer brought in must be bonded and insured.

**Does the temple have a preferred photographer/videographer?** We have a long-standing relationship with temple member and photographer *Sheryl Z. Photography*, and are happy to connect you with them, but anyone can be contracted.

**When can the photographer shoot?** Please note that only professional photography is permitted during the service. Individuals are not to use their phones to photograph or record the service. Photography during the service is allowed with the Rabbi's prior approval. Photos may begin at 9:30 in the sanctuary and must end by 10:15. Temple Ohev Sholom livestreams services and posts recordings of the services on the YouTube channel. If you want to hire a videographer you may do so, but all videography must be shot from the balcony.

### **Must we provide kippot/yarmulkes? Must my child wear a Tallit (prayer shawl)?**

Kippots are optional at Ohev. As a family, you can decide if you want to provide them. Tallits are also optional. You can decide what will be meaningful for your Be Mitzvah and for your family.

**Do we need to order flowers for the Bimah?**

You are welcome to use the existing silk flowers that are already present (at no cost). If you would like to personalize the flowers, any florist can be used. Fran Casher typically orders flowers for events at the temple and is happy to help, if you'd like.

**Will our Be Mitzvah be featured in the monthly bulletin?**

Cindy Lynch [cindylynch@ohevsholom.org](mailto:cindylynch@ohevsholom.org) leads the Bulletin Committee and gathers content at least 3 weeks in advance of the first of the month when the Be Mitzvah will take place.

**What is the role of parents on Friday night?**

Parents will stand with the Be Mitzvah on the Bima for the candle lighting. They will light the candles and recite the kiddush. The Rabbi may offer other pieces of the service for the student to lead.

**What are we asked to do for the Friday Night Oneg Shabbat?**

Families are asked to sponsor the Oneg on the Friday night before the Be Mitzvah. Doreen Evrard, organizes all of our Onegs and so she knows well what works best and how many people to plan for. You may want to cook something special, feature some of your student's favorite foods, or just ask Doreen to shop for you. Doreen will reach out, to walk you through the process.

**What is the role of parents at the Saturday service?**

During the service parents will be called up for an aliyah. At the beginning of the Torah service parents will be called to say some words to their child and participate in blessing their child.

**What is an aliyah?** The word "aliyah" means to "go up." It refers specifically to being called to the Torah to recite two blessings, one before and one after your child's reading of the Torah.

**Is a non-Jewish parent limited in their participation at the Be Mitzvah service?**

Parents of a Be-Mitvah, whether Jewish or not, are important and are invited to participate in all aspects of the service.

**Are siblings able to be involved in the service?**

Absolutely!

**Are family and friends involved in the service in any way besides aliyot during the Torah service?**

Other honors for family/friends can include selected readings, opening and closing the Ark and carrying, holding, or dressing the Torah.

**How can my child give Tzedakah?**

Tzedakah is the Jewish way of thanking God for our blessings. It is customary for a Be Mitzvah to give a portion of their gifts to any of the following temple funds:

- *Temple Fund*
- *Religious Education Fund*
- *Youth Activity Fund/ Sisterhood Zaritzky Youth Fund/Robert Woldorf Youth Fund*
- *Rabbi's Discretionary Fund*
- *Brenner Sacred Music Fund*
- *Alexander White Children's Library Fund/Mildred and Irving Hand Library Fund/Prayer Book Fund*
- *Sisterhood Altar Flower Fund*
- *Diana Sauerteig Beautification Fund*
- *Steven Harpster Tikkun Olam Fund*
- *Sisterhood Friedman Emergency Fund*