



What is a Be Mitzvah?

A Be Mitzvah is the name of the ceremony in which a Jewish student becomes an adult in the eyes of the Jewish community. It can also refer to the person being celebrated. The title Bar (son), Bat (daughter) or Be (gender neutral) or B'Nai (plural) Mitzvah (commandment) is bestowed upon the student along with accompanying privileges and responsibilities. Mitzvot teach us to sanctify life. They foster selflessness and self-esteem. They can bring families closer to each other, the Jewish people, all people, and to God. Preparing for a Be Mitzvah is the perfect opportunity to bring mitzvot into our lives.

At Temple Ohev Shalom, the student leads much of the Shabbat service, shares their Torah and Haftorah portions, as well as their reflections on its meaning and life application. Some of the service will be chanted, some will be read, in both the Hebrew and English languages. This sacred rite of passage is the first opportunity the student has to take on an adult role in the Temple and the Jewish community, not a culmination.

Another aspect of the Be Mitzvah is the personal mitzvah project undertaken by the student. With guidance from our Rabbi, we hope that this mitzvah becomes a regular undertaking that the Be Mitzvah continues, well into adulthood and beyond.

In our congregation the Be Mitzvah is a seminal and transitional event in Jewish growth, but only the beginning of their religious education. We strongly encourage all of our Be Mitzvot to continue their participation in Confirmation classes at the Temple, in Jewish youth group events, and community-wide opportunities for Jewish learning and gathering.

The Rabbi, principal, teachers, tutors and lay leaders are ready to guide your student and family through the process of becoming a Be-Mitzvah. Let's get started.