

PRIOR TO GIVING OUT ANY HONORS TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS, THE HONORS MUST BE REVIEWED WITH THE COORDINATOR AND THE RABBI.

Guidelines for B'nai Mitzvah Service Honors:

Honors need to be reviewed with the B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator 8 weeks prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah and handed in to Rabbi Grossman 4 weeks prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

The honors you assign will mark a very special day for you, your student and your family. The guidelines below are designed to help ensure that your Bar/Bat Mitzvah is celebrated with sensitivity, sanctity and decorum. Please read these guidelines carefully and sign the bottom of this form to indicate that you have complied with these guidelines in assigning your honors. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator or Rabbi Grossman. We are here to help you during this special time. Your signature indicates that you understand these guidelines and that your assigned honors comply with them.

- a. Jewish and non-Jewish family members are provided opportunities to participate in the service marking your student's Bar/Bat Mitzvah service within the below outlined guidelines.
- b. There is no obligation to fill all the honors. The congregation will be happy to fill unassigned honors with congregants.
- c. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah family has the honor to assign three (3) Aliyot* in addition to the Maftir aliyah which the B'nai Mitzvah student receives. (*For the single Saturday morning B'nai Mitzvah. For other B'nai Mitzvah refer to the book.)
- d. Except as otherwise noted, you should assign honors only to individuals who are considered Jewish according to Conservative Jewish law, in that they were either born of a Jewish mother or were converted with immersion in a mikvah and for a male, brit milah, and do not profess another religion.
- e. Only a husband or wife currently married to each other or birth twins celebrating their B'nai Mitzvah may share an aliyah.
- f. Non-Jewish family members are invited to participate in the non-liturgical sections of the services, i.e., before the services begin during the tallit presentation and between the conclusion of the Torah service and the beginning of the Musaf service, when up to two (4) family members or friends may be honored with a special reading preceding the Rabbi's Charge to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Please list the individuals to be so honored under "21 Optional Reading" on your honors sheet. Interfaith parents can then offer an interfaith parent prayer preceded by personal comments.
- g. Any parent, family member or friend may present the tallit before the service starts and may say a few words. Those presenting a tallit to the student should be seated in their places before the student recites the blessings and puts on the tallit. Please specify who will be presenting the tallit and their relationship to the student.
- h. Jewish parents may choose to join the Torah procession. Please make sure to specify which parent(s), if any, are joining the Procession.
- i. You may choose to hold a reception line following services consisting of (at most) the parents, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, and siblings. (Officers and clergy are not to participate.) Please make sure to specify on your form, if you would like to avail yourself of this option.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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