

Temple Beth Tikvah Bar/Bat Mitzvah Guidelines

A Bar or Bat Mitzvah is an important event in the life of a young man or woman. It is a public affirmation of loyalty to Judaism and to the Jewish People. Accordingly, becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah is both a joyous and serious event in the life of an adolescent and his/her family and is, therefore, subject to well-defined religious and educational standards.

A. Who May Become Bar/Bat Mitzvah?

Any child born of a Jewish parent, or parent being able to show proof of conversion to the Jewish faith in accordance with the standards of Reform Judaism, will be eligible to become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah upon meeting the following requirements and upon performing mitzvot that show a commitment to a positive exclusive Jewish identity.

1. The child's family must be a member in good standing of Temple Beth Tikvah who is current in payment of their membership contribution, subject to the usual considerations of financial need.
2. The minimum age of the student will be 12 for girls and 13 for boys and the education requirement will be the satisfactory completion of the 7th grade level at Sunday School. Students whose Bar/Bat Mitzvah occur during the 7th grade are expected to complete the religious school year. Children who will become Bar/Bat Mitzvah at Temple Beth Tikvah (TBT) are required to begin Hebrew school by the third grade. Families of children who, for one reason or another, do not meet the educational requirements by the time of Bar/Bat Mitzvah age must meet with the Religious Education Director and the Rabbi to discuss ways in which the deficiency can be rectified. All of these factors will be considered in scheduling the ceremony. Progress will be monitored by the Hebrew school teacher together with the Rabbi. If it is determined that the student will not be ready by the designated date the Rabbi, President, and Religious Education Director will consult with the family to reschedule the Bar/Bat mitzvah service in order to allow for more preparation.
3. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah child **accompanied by an adult** must have attended a minimum of eight (8) Friday night, Saturday morning, or holiday services at the Congregation during the twelve-month period prior to the ceremony. It is the responsibility of the family to make sure that such attendance is recorded and verified by a designee using the tracking sheet provided by the education and/or ritual committee. There will be no reconstructing of attendance after the fact.
4. The student shall complete a community mitzvah project within Temple Beth Tikvah or the community at large that has been previously discussed and approved by the Rabbi. This project will be completed over a period of 9 to 12 months leading up to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony and discussed in the student's Bar/Bat Mitzvah speech. At least eight (8) hours will be devoted to such project.

5. Special arrangements will be made by the Rabbi and Religious Education Director in conjunction with parents, for any child with a learning disability or other difficulties.

B. Instruction

Regular attendance at Sunday/Hebrew School and services should prepare students for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Approximately one year prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah date, the student will begin individual instruction with a B'nai Mitzvah tutor.

C. The Service

The first step is for the family to meet with the Rabbi 15 to 18 months in advance to discuss all aspects of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah including choosing the date, the Torah portion and beginning preparation.

Because the service is a public celebration, not a private one, a Bar/Bat mitzvah will be scheduled to take place at the Congregation's regular Shabbat morning service and the service will be open to all members of the Congregation.

Family members and friends are welcome to participate in the service. Please discuss all participation with the Rabbi, including that of non-Jews.

In keeping with the Shabbat observance, no flash photography is permitted during the service.

D. Friday Oneg Shabbat and Saturday Kiddush

It is customary for the family of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah to sponsor the Friday night Oneg Shabbat and the Saturday morning Kiddush. The Saturday morning Kiddush consists of wine/grape juice and challah for the entire congregation.

E. Acknowledgement

The child's parent(s) and the child hereby acknowledge and accept these guidelines.

Parent(s) Signature

Date

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Signature

Temple Beth Tikvah Bar/Bat Mitzvah Fee Structure and Financial Obligations

1. Parents or grandparents of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah must be members in good standing of Temple Beth Tikvah. All financial obligations to TBT must be paid in full 90 days prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Questions on this matter should be directed to the TBT treasurer.
2. Each Temple Beth Tikvah member family planning a Bar/Bat Mitzvah is assessed a fee of \$1,000. The fee is due when the event date is agreed upon and entered on the Temple Beth Tikvah Master Calendar. This fee covers tutoring, rabbinic services, and administrative services, including music coordination.
3. Private tutoring usually begins 9 to 12 months before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah and continues weekly up until one month prior to the event. It is assumed that prior to the commencement of tutoring the child has been enrolled in Hebrew school for several years and has basic Hebrew reading ability. If additional tutoring is deemed necessary, then additional tutoring costs are the responsibility of the family.
4. The last month before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, the Rabbi will schedule weekly rehearsals with the student. The Rabbi will check in periodically with the tutor and is available to the families throughout the process. The Rabbi also helps the student with his/her D'var Torah.
5. Music Coordination concerns the music for the Saturday morning service. This includes interfacing with the Rabbi, family, and family's selected musicians; quality control making sure that musicians know the appropriate music and that the repertoire works with our service; and coordinating rehearsals.
6. **Temple Beth Tikvah Covers the Following Costs:**
 - a. Rental of the First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary for Saturday Service
 - b. Rental of the First Presbyterian Church Lobby area for a simple Kiddush following the service
 - c. Custodian for setup prior and cleanup after the Service
 - d. Sound technician for Saturday Service
 - e. Torah Portion Booklet

7. Family Financial Obligations

- a. The family is responsible for all music arrangements and costs including: hiring and paying the musicians directly, travel and lodging if needed, and working out all arrangements with the Music Coordinator. Most musicians will require a deposit with the balance due in full the day of the event. If the family wants to hire the musicians who normally participate in Temple Beth Tikvah's erev Shabbat services, the music coordinator can make contact and secure dates on behalf of the family. However, the family is still responsible for contracts and payment.

- b. If a family chooses to have the event at a different location than the First Presbyterian Church sanctuary, then the family is responsible for all rental costs and related fees for that venue, including sound.
- c. The family is responsible for preparing a simple Kiddush following the Saturday Service. At the minimum wine and challah. The family is also responsible for the Friday night Oneg. Often friends of the family can assist in handling the Kiddush and Oneg.
- d. Any luncheon, party or other event associated with the Bar/Bat Mitzvah is the responsibility of the family.

If necessary, special financial arrangements can be made by contacting the Temple Beth Tikvah treasurer at TBTtreasurer@gmail.com .

I agree to the above Temple Beth Tikvah Bar/Bat Mitzvah Fee Structure and Financial Obligations.

Parent(s)

Date