

Honors Submission Instructions

Mazal Tov on your upcoming Simcha! One of the very special aspects of the B'nai Mitzvah experience is the chance to honor loved ones with roles to participate in the service. This document describes the Honors and what needs to be submitted ONE MONTH before your B'nai Mitzvah date.

There are three categories of Honors: A) **Active Honors**, B) **Aliyot** and C) **Reading Honors**.

A. **Active Honors:**

1. Opening the Ark

This can be done by up to 4 people. At a single B'nai Mitzvah, the family can designate people to open the ark at the beginning of the Torah service.

At a double B'nai mitzvah service one family will open the ark at the beginning of the Torah service, and the other family will have the honor at the conclusion. Ark Openers may belong to a different religion.

2. Hagbah is the act of lifting and displaying the Torah. Gelila is the act of dressing the Torah after it is lifted. At a single celebration both honors can be assigned by the family. At a double, one Family A will have Gelila and Family B will have Hagbah. Only one person may be designated for either of these honors. Please consult with Hazzan Goldsmith if you are designating someone for this honor who has not done it before. Hagbah and Gelila Honorees must be Jewish, and the Hagbah honoree needs to be able to lift the Torah up.

B. **Aliyot** refer to coming up to the Torah and chanting the blessings before and after a Torah reading. A maximum of FOUR people are allowed to participate in each Aliyah. At least one person must be Jewish. One of the aliyot is reserved for the parents of the child. If necessary, two aliyot may be taken for parents.

You can find text, recordings to practice with, and a transliterated version at these links:
<https://www.adasisrael.org/bnai-prayers-blessings>,
<https://images.shulcloud.com/609/uploads/Brachot%20for%20aliyah%20in%20Hebrew%20english%20and%20transliterated.pdf>

Aliyot are the ONLY honors which require Hebrew names be submitted for all Jewish participants. The Hebrew name takes the form (Hebrew given names) ben/bat/mibeit (Hebrew given names of parents).

The number of aliyot is dependent on the type of service you are celebrating:

- A **Single, Shabbat Morning** B'nai Mitzvah family will have FIVE aliyot to distribute, and ONE Aliyah for the student. Two aliyot are reserved for other Congregational celebrations.
- A **Double, Shabbat Morning** Each family (two families celebrating at the same service) will have THREE aliyot to distribute, and ONE Aliyah for the student. No aliyot are reserved for the congregation.
- A **Twin/Sibling Shabbat Morning** service (One family celebrating two children on the same day) will have FIVE aliyot to distribute, and TWO aliyot for the students. One Aliyah is reserved for a Congregational celebration.
- A **Mincha – Saturday afternoon** service has TWO aliyot for the family to distribute and ONE Aliyah for the student.
- A **Rosh Chodesh morning** service has THREE aliyot for the family to distribute and ONE Aliyah for the student.
- A **Monday/Thursday morning** service has TWO aliyot for the family to distribute and ONE Aliyah for the student.

C. **Reading Honors** refer to the Prayer for the Country and the Prayer for Israel.

- The Prayer for the Country may be read by up to TWO people, of any religion, and is assigned to Family B in a double. You can find the text [here](#).
- The Prayer for Israel may be read by up to TWO people of any religion, and assigned to Family A in a double. It is preferable to read it in Hebrew, but can be read in English. You can find the text [here](#) in both Hebrew, and in English.
- These honors may also be distributed at Mincha, Rosh Chodesh and Weekday services.

Shabbat Morning Summary – Honors in blue need Hebrew names

Honor	Single	Double – Families are designated A or B
Open Ark	Yes	Family B
Carry Torah	Bnai Mitzvah	B'nai Mitzvah Student B
Aliyah 1	Congregation	Family A
Aliyah 2	Congregation	Family A
Aliyah 3	Yes	Family A Parents
Aliyah 4	Yes	Bnai Mitzvah A
Aliyah 5	Yes	Family B
Aliyah 6	Yes	Family B
Aliyah 7	Parents	Family B parents
Maftir Aliyah	Bnai Mitzvah student	Bnai Mitzvah B
Hagba	Yes	Family B
Gelila	Yes	Family A
Prayer for Country	Yes	Family A
Prayer for Israel	Yes	Family B
Carry Torah	Congregation	B'nai Mitzvah Student A
Open Ark	Congregation	Family A