

JRC B'nai Mitzvah Timeline

Two years in advance

Dates are usually assigned approximately two years in advance. You will be contacted by our volunteer b'nai mitzvah coordinator who will work with you to select a date.

Once your child's date is assigned, join the b'nai mitzvah havurah by signing up for their yahoo email list-serve. Send an email to JRC-BM-havurah-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

One year in advance

Decide where you plan to hold your simcha and book the room. If you want to have your simcha at JRC, call the office to reserve the space. Once you have your room booked, you can contact caterers, DJs, etc. While we do not endorse any particular caterer, we do have, available upon request, a list of caterers that are frequently used here at JRC.

The b'nai mitzvah fees will be billed one year in advance. Payments can be spread out over time and can be included with your dues.

Eight months in advance

Contact the office to schedule a family meeting with the rabbi. This meeting is designed to give families the opportunity to meet personally with the rabbi, to learn more about the B'nai mitzvah process at JRC, and to ask specific questions pertaining to the service.

Cantor Howard will assign a tutor and prepare a packet of information. If you have any concerns about your child's preparedness, contact the cantor.

Six months in advance

Tutoring begins! Plan for weekly half hour tutoring sessions. If your child will be away during part of this time, or if you feel that your child needs additional tutoring, arrangements can be made to adjust the schedule. Parents are responsible for the costs of additional tutoring.

Four months in advance

A *D'var Torah* (a teaching based on the weekly Torah portion) is an integral aspect of Jewish worship services. At JRC it is customary for the student to compose and deliver a D'var Torah him/herself. Preparation for the D'var Torah begins approximately four months before the service. The B'nai mitzvah student will be paired with a volunteer D'var Torah mentor who will give guidance on how to compose a D'var Torah.

Two weeks in advance

If you are holding your simcha at JRC, check in with the executive director with the details, i.e. how many people you expect, the name of the caterer, the room set up, etc. All of your vendors are required to submit a certificate of insurance naming JRC as additional insured.

The week before

On the Tuesday immediately prior to the service, families meet with the Rabbi and Cantor for a "walk-through." Families are asked to allow approximately 1-¼ hours for this meeting. The student will need to bring a copy of his/her Torah and Haftarah portions, the D'var Torah, his/her siddur (prayer book) and tallit. During the rehearsal, the Rabbi will also review final aspects of the service, including readings and honors.

We recommend that families hold a photography session before the rehearsal but please check with the JRC office first.

Check with the office about dropping of supplies, or decorations the week before.

The big day!

The clergy will arrive in the sanctuary at 9:30 am and the service begins promptly at 10:00 am. Photographers are not permitted in the sanctuary before or during the service on Shabbat. Family photos may be taken immediately following the service.