

Instructions for Ark Openings

To assist the individuals you have chosen for this honor, please distribute these instructions to them. All participants are also welcome to attend any of the student's weekly bimah sessions with the Cantor, the final Thursday rehearsal, or to remain after the Friday evening service in order to review their parts.

First Ark Opening

1. The Rabbi will instruct the congregation to turn to page 139 to begin the Torah service. Shortly thereafter, he will call the names of the individuals who will participate in the first ark opening.
2. Please proceed to the *bimah* and walk directly to the ark, with one participant on each side of the door. **Do not open the doors, but instead wait for your cue.**
3. At the appropriate point, the Rabbi or Cantor will motion for you to open the ark doors.
4. **After the Torah is removed from the ark, the doors will continue to remain open until the Rabbi or Cantor indicates that you should close the ark doors.** While doing so, please make sure that the doors meet in the middle of the opening, and that there are no gaps in the center or at either end.
5. As soon as you have closed the ark doors, you may return to your seats.

Second Ark Opening

1. At the completion of the singing of *Ashrei* on pages 151 and 152, the Rabbi will call the names of the individuals who will participate in the second ark opening.
2. As soon as he does so, please proceed to the *bimah* and walk directly to the ark, with one participant on each side of the door.
3. **Once all participants have reached their positions, immediately open the doors together, but then continue to remain at your places at the ark.**
4. While you remain at the ark, the procession of the Torah through the congregation will occur, eventually returning the Torah back to the *bimah* and into the ark.
5. **After the Torah is returned to the ark, the doors continue to remain open until the Rabbi or Cantor indicates that you should close the ark doors.** While doing so, please make sure that the doors meet in the middle of the opening, and that there are no gaps in the center or at either end.
6. As soon as you have closed the ark doors, you may return to your seats in the congregation.