

Kol Hadash Humanistic Congregation: Things to Do Before Your Confirmation

Some years ago, Lenore Skenazy in the *Jewish Daily Forward* compiled a list of 50 Jewish Things to Do Before You're 12. She later created another list for Jewish teenagers. We hope that your family will try to do as many items on the list as you can. Feel free to share with your Sunday School class as you do them. What a great topic of conversation for a family holiday party!

1. Find out if you were named after someone and why.
2. Volunteer in your community (*tikkun olam*)
3. Dress up for Purim.
4. Learn how to blow a shofar.
5. Make cookies, and bring them to a Jewish retirement home; talk to the people at the home.
6. Go to a rally for a good cause. (Jews have a history of standing up for what's right.)
7. Go into the voting booth with a voter. (Learn how democracy has helped Jews historically.)
8. Dance the hora (or watch someone dance on YouTube)
9. Find the afikomen at the Passover Seder.
10. Play Gaga! (A soccer-dodge ball mash-up from Israel).
11. Eat in a sukkah.
12. Listen to Israeli pop music. Then listen to Arabic pop music (experience Middle East beyond politics).
13. Go to Kol Hadash service with someone who loves you.
14. Learn some Hebrew. (Even "Sheket!" [quiet] counts.)
15. Learn some Yiddish (even curses!) or Ladino.
16. Visit a Jewish museum or synagogue in town or on vacation.
17. Earn some money, and give it to charity. (*tzedakah*)
18. Eat a matzo ball.
19. Create a work of art with Jewish motifs – look online for inspiration and examples
20. Cook for a Jewish holiday with a relative. Ask them to tell you a story about when they were young while cooking.
21. Ask the Four Questions at your Passover seder. Then ask a fifth: "Who's Bitter Herb?" (Or make up some another Seder tradition — then keep it.)
22. Light Hanukkah candles.
23. Play Dreidel; win gelt.
24. Light Shabbat candles, and have a good meal.
25. Invite a non-Jewish friend over for a Jewish holiday. Then visit their house for one of their holidays.
26. Read a Bible story.
27. Find out what Jewish year it is. What Jewish year were you born?
28. Read a Jewish storybook.
29. Try falafel (or other Israeli food).
30. Make a family tree or timeline.
31. Have a dinner debate about some burning social issue.
32. Do something nice for your parents. Honor thy father and mother! (Where does that come from?)
33. Read!
34. Attend a B Mitzvah service — before your own.
35. See "Fiddler on the Roof."
36. Look at a Torah scroll up close.
37. Read Emma Lazarus's poem on the Statue of Liberty.
38. Make a menorah out of stuff around the house.
39. Listen to a Jewish-themed podcast (or connect with other Jewish social media)
40. Attend a baby-naming ceremony.
41. Visit <https://www.keshetonline.org/> and learn about LGBTQ inclusion in Jewish life
42. Sit down with an old photo album & an old relative. Point & ask, "Who's this?" over & over. Label pictures.
43. Blast a klezmer song.
44. Grow your own parsley for a Passover seder (you can plant it on Tu B'Shevat!).
45. Give blood. You can do this starting at age 16 with parent permission. Talmud says that "whoever saves a life, it is considered as if he saved an entire world."
46. Read the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20. Discuss.
47. Explain why there is an orange to the Seder plate.
48. Learn to sing "Hatikvah" [Israeli anthem] from memory.
49. Watch an Israeli movie or TV Show with subtitles.
50. Look up the towns your relatives came from.
51. Read one of the books you received for your confirmation or B Mitzvah.
52. Attend a Jewish youth activity like the HuJews Teen Conclave or Taam Yisrael trip or summer camp.
53. Ask big questions like, "What does it mean to be a Jew?" and, "How does one live a Jewish life?"
54. Pay a shiva call.
55. Apologize to someone before Yom Kippur.
56. Find out the history of a Jewish object in your home.
57. Contact elected officials to advocate for an important cause.
58. Spend 20 minutes listening to Jewish music.
59. Follow a traditional Jewish dietary law (e.g. fast for Yom Kippur, keep kosher for a week, keep Passover for the whole eight days, go to kosher restaurant).
60. Add your own idea _____