



Ohr HaTorah Bar Mitzvah Policy Guide

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We are so excited about your upcoming Bar Mitzvah and look forward to celebrating together! This guide is meant to clearly convey the shul policies regarding celebrating a Bar Mitzvah at Ohr HaTorah.

Leining:

There is no expectation that a Bar Mitzvah bachur must lein nor that he lein the entire parsha. The Rav is available to help tailor your son's participation in a way that highlights his own personal strengths.

If your son does decide to lein, please arrange a meeting with the Rav at least three months in advance so that the Rav can review the leining quality with your son. The Rav reserves the right to make a decision on whether the bachur knows the parsha well enough to lein. This meeting is also an opportune time for the Rav to have some quality time with your son and to help him prepare for this momentous occasion.

Whomever tutors your son in leining should also teach the basic halachos of krias haTorah with your son, what to do if he makes a mistake, and when Hashem's name is involved. The Rav will also review these halachos with your son prior to the Bar Mitzvah.

Parents should meet or contact the Rav at least one month before the Bar Mitzvah to review their expectations of the Bar Mitzvah. If there are any important guests or dignitaries that will be in attendance, the Rav should be made aware so that they can be greeted and honored properly.

D'var Torah:

There is no expectation that the Bar Mitzvah bachur must give a D'var Torah.

Should he choose to speak, he can give a D'var Torah before Mussaf, and the Rav will speak after him. The Bar Mitzvah bachur is the only person permitted to give a D'var Torah during davening. The bachur's D'var Torah should be submitted to the Rav in advance, preferably via email, with enough time to make any edits. Please keep the D'var Torah to 5-7 minutes in length and limit any thank you or personal comments as these are better expressed during the seudos.

Aliyos and Kibbudim:

The Bar Mitzvah family is entitled to all available aliyos after other kibbudim are given out. These may include yahrtzeits, shabbos sponsor, aufruf, baby naming, father of a new baby boy, chassan etc.

Please fill out the attached Aliyah request form with whom you would like to honor with aliyos and kibbudim and the order of priority. Please submit this form as soon as you are able.

A Bar Mitzvah family can suggest baalei tefilah, but it ultimately remains at the discretion of the gabbai. If the Bar Mitzvah bachur wants to daven Mussaf, he must practice and be comfortable with the nusach in advance.

Candy Throwing:

If it's your custom to throw candy, please discuss the exact method and type of bags and candies with the gabbaim prior to purchasing anything.

Kiddush:

The family is expected to sponsor the shul Kiddush in honor of the Simcha. The level of Kiddush is at the discretion of the family.

Rentals for Seudos:

If you would like to rent the shul for family seudos or parties, please contact the shul office as soon as you have a date to confirm details and availability. Significant coordination is required between shul staff and your caterer and advance noticed is required. Please see the rental document on the shul website for more specific details and requirements for renting the shul.