

Honors & Roles

There are many ways to honor people who have been important in your child's life during their B'nai Mitzvah. In order to help your family share this important simcha (joyous celebration) with family and closest friends, you may ask people to accept honors during the service. Some honors are spoken; some involve specific liturgical tasks that require formal Jewish status and basic Hebrew literacy. **Each person should receive no more than one honor. You are under no obligation to fill all of the honors listed below.** Family members or guests are welcome to lead parts of the service or to read from the Torah **with the prior approval of the Rabbi.**

List of Honors:

These honors are available to people who are Jewish:

Hagbah (lifting and displaying the scroll when the reading is completed)
Gelilah (unwrapping Torah)
Opening the Ark (to take Torah out)
Carrying Torah before the reading
Carrying Torah after the reading
Gelilah (wrapping Torah)
Hagbah (lifting Torah)
Opening Ark (to put Torah away)

These honors are available to people of all faiths:

Read Prayer for Peace p. 178
Read Prayer for our Country p. 177

Aliyot (blessings during the Torah reading):

People receiving these honors must be Jewish. Two spouses or partners may be called for the same aliyah, and interfaith partners are welcome to accompany their Jewish partner. Parents of the B'nai Mitzvah may be called together (usually for the 7th aliyah) or separately. If one parent is not Jewish, the aliyah will be done together.

These honors require chanting blessings in Hebrew. Please make sure that people given these honors can chant the blessings competently, using Hebrew characters or transliteration. Please

remember to assign an aliyah to the previous b'nai mitzvah student. Please remember to leave two aliyot available for synagogue needs. That means, in addition to the b'nai mitzvah and the parents, each family is free to assign 4 aliyot.

If you have questions about how to assign these honors, please contact Rabbi David.

Interfaith Families

We have many intermarried and blended families who belong to our community, and are proud to celebrate every family's path toward Jewish belonging. As you think of who to invite for honors, please know that Rabbi David is eager to help you include your whole family. While most of the Torah honors are reserved for people who are Jewish, we also have meaningful roles available for people of all backgrounds including reading the Prayer for Peace and the Prayer for Our Country..

Honors Worksheet

Please ask the B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator to send you a link to the Honors Worksheet google doc so you can fill in all the names and share it with the Gabbai and Rabbi.