

Temple Aliyah: B'nai Mitzvah Covenant

One of the central tenets of the Jewish tradition is to be mindful of our relationships. The ancient rabbis taught about two important types of connection: the relationship between each person and God (*Bein Adam LaMakom*), and each individual's relationship with others (*Bein Adam L'Chaveiro*). To these, Rabbi Robert Gordis, of blessed memory, added an important third: the relationship we have with ourselves (*Bein Adam L'Atzmo*).

All of these relationships come into play as a child becomes a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. As children transition into adulthood, they begin to take responsibility for their actions as well as these relationships. Through their religious school or day school education and their Bar/Bat Mitzvah training at Temple Aliyah, our students will learn to cultivate and appreciate their unique relationship with God, the Jewish people, and the rest of humanity.

In an effort to show that _____ (child's name) understands the importance of both these relationships and their responsibilities as a B. Mitzvah candidate, we enter our child into the following covenant in preparation for their ceremony on _____ (ceremony date):

- _____
Parent Initial Here
- 1) **Service Attendance.** In an effort to develop an adult relationship with God and with others in my community, **I pledge to have my child attend at least six (6) Shabbat services during my tutoring period with at least one of their parents/guardians** (the tutoring period begins approximately eight months prior to the ceremony). Specifically, we will attend at least (2) Friday evening services, and four (4) Saturday morning or afternoon services.

Parent Initial Here

 - 2) **School Attendance.** Our child will take seriously the commandment of *Talmud Torah* (religious study) by attending at least one of the following programs: Temple Aliyah's SCJLL, Jewish Day School, Hebrew High, or another program from other an approved religious institution. **Minimally, they will complete the 7th Grade year, and if their B. Mitzvah date falls after the 7th Grade year, they will continue their Jewish education until the B. Mitzvah date.** We will strongly encourage them to embrace *Talmud Torah* as part of a lifelong journey and to continue their Jewish learning after B. mitzvah.

Parent Initial Here

 - 3) **Synagogue Membership.** Because becoming a B. Mitzvah is best expressed in the context of a *kehillah kedoshah* – a sacred community, we commit to being members of Temple Aliyah for the duration of our child's training and education (and hopefully for many years afterward).

We understand that these three components are the core of the covenant that we make with Temple Aliyah. By fulfilling these responsibilities, we will be able to celebrate our simcha in the Temple Aliyah community on the day we selected. If for any reason we are unable to fulfill our commitments, we pledge to reach out to the synagogue staff to let them know our concerns and to make all efforts to find a workable solution. If no resolution can be made, we will relinquish our claim to the date and the event.

Student

Parent/Guardian #1

Parent/Guardian #2