

B'nai Mitzvah Honors Instructions

Kabbalat Shabbat Services on Friday night:

Candle-lighting:

Arrive at services a few minutes before they begin. Candle-lighters will be called up for their honor right after an opening song. Honorees ascend the bima stairs to stand at the table with the candles. Decide ahead of time the person that will use the matches to light the candles. Once they are both lit, the B'nai Mitzvah will lead the Hebrew prayer, with others joining in if they know it. Once the prayer is finished, everyone goes back to their seats, except the B'nai Mitzvah, who will next lead the Friday night Kiddish at the *amud*, lectern. After Kiddish, the B'nai Mitzvah will rejoin their family at their seat in the congregation.

Shabbat Morning Services on Saturday:

The B'nai Mitzvah family should arrive at Har HaShem at 9:30am. Use this time to make sure all is set: prayerbook, tallit, programs, etc. and to connect with Holli for final directions and needs (use the bathroom the final time!). At 9:55am, parents and the B'nai Mitzvah go to the clergy offices for a spiritual check-in before services. We will go to the sanctuary together for services to begin at 10:15am.

Ushers:

Arrive by 9:50am and stay at the doors until about 10:25am. You should actively usher guests into the sanctuary so they are seated by 10:10am. As they enter, give people a program, prayerbook, Torah commentary, and offer a kippah and tallit for those who choose to wear them. Family, and those with honors, sit in the first two rows or so (often on a specific side) and unaccompanied young teens should be seated in the front few rows together.

Hushers:

Sit with the young teens and help them behave appropriately...perhaps a "shush" or two during services...

Services begin at 10:15am.

Tallit Presentation:

After an opening song/prayer and a warm welcome, the rabbi will call up the tallit presenters by name. You should already have the tallit out of the bag as you come to the right side of the lectern to face the B'nai Mitzvah student. The presenters may share some words about the tallit or the Jewish significance of this moment (Our suggested words that can be supplemented and used if you like:

“As you wrap yourself in the tallit, may you have many more opportunities to create your own sacred space as a holy person. May the fringes always remind you to perform the Mitzvot of our Creator. May God continue to bless you as YOU are a blessing to us.”)

After speaking, hold the tallit up, with the *atarah*, neckpiece design, often with the prayer on it, facing the B'nai Mitzvah. They will take it from you and recite the blessing, kiss it, and put on the tallit. Then, they will lead Shehechyanu, while you still stand next to them. After that prayer, it is a time for hugs and kisses! Then, tallit presenters return to their seats.

If Parents Choose to Stand With Their Child As They Receive the Torah:

After silent prayer and singing Oseh Shalom, we continue on page 362 for the Torah service. After Holli sings the first paragraph on that page, the rabbi will say, “Please Rise”. At that cue, parents ascend the bima stairs and join their child on the bima, near the stairs, facing the ark. Stay there until it is time for the *hakafah*, Torah processional, where you will assist and join your child in descending the stairs (1,2,3!) and walking around the sanctuary with the Torah. After the processional, parents return to their seats.

Open and Close Ark doors/Open and Close Ark curtain (first group):

After silent prayer and singing Oseh Shalom, we continue on page 362 for the Torah service. After Holli sings the first paragraph on that page, the rabbi will say, “Please Rise”. At that cue, ascend the bima stairs and stand at the ark. The rabbi will assist you in opening the ark and the curtain. Once all is open, stand at either side of the doors. When it is time to close the ark and the curtain, the rabbi will again instruct you. When all is closed, return to your seats.

Undressing the Torah:

Follow the Torah processional when it goes down the center aisle. Once the rabbi takes the Torah from the B'nai Mitzvah, you begin to undress it. The rabbi will show you where to put the items, on a chair or a table. The order to remove from the Torah: The *rimonim*, bells on top, the *yad*, pointer (needs to go on the lectern), the breastplate, the mantle (also needed on the lectern) and then the belt. Once you are finished, return to your seat.

Aliyot:

People with an *aliyah* will be called up by their English and Hebrew names. You will need to either be wearing a tallit or holding a prayerbook. It is preferred that you be wearing a tallit, if you are comfortable doing so. Come to the left side of the lectern. Each person will touch the torah (we will show you where) with their *tzitzit*, the knots of the tallit, or their prayerbook, and then kiss the fringes or book. The group then chants the introductory blessing of the aliyah. The words are on the lectern for you, in Hebrew and transliteration. Please practice ahead of time. After the Torah chanter finishes, each person repeats the touch and kiss actions. Then, you chant the blessing after the reading of the Torah. You proceed to the other side of the lectern, standing there for another aliyah, until you are replaced by the next aliyah and you return to your seats.

To practice:

<https://www.harhashem.org/hebrew-and-bnai-mitzvah-resources.html>

Hagbah, G'lilah, and Sitting with Torah:

After we have finished chanting from the Torah, the rabbi will call up the people with these three honors.

The Hagbah person, preferably wearing a tallit if you are comfortable doing so, opens the Torah to three columns, ideally, pulls it down halfway off the lectern, pushes the Torah down and lifts it up (arm and knee strength!). You turn around to show the Torah to the congregation. Then, roll it back together and go to a chair on the side that the rabbi has lead you to. Please watch the instructional video ahead of time. The Hagbah person holds the Torah while it is being dressed. Once the rabbi takes the Torah from you, return to your seat.

The G'lilah person/people then dress the Torah. Where the scrolls roll together decides the front and determines what direction the dressings should face. The order: the belt, the mantle, the breastplate, the *yad*, the *rimonim* on top. Once it is dressed, return to your seat.

The person who will sit with the Torah has been waiting and watching the above actions, and, is also wearing a tallit, if possible. When the Torah is dressed, the rabbi will ask you to sit down and he will hand the Torah to you. You will remain seated, holding the Torah upright in your lap, for about 10 minutes. Then, when the rabbi takes it from you, return to your seat.

Parent Blessing:

After your child chants the Haftarah, you will be called up to share your blessing.

Open and Close Ark doors and Open Curtain (second group):

We will all rise and say the prayers on page 376. Come close and be ready at this time. After the prayer for our country and for Israel, the rabbi will ask us to turn back to page 374. You then ascend the bima stairs and follow instructions to open the ark and curtain. Once the Torah is inside, close the ark doors. Then, return to your seat.