

B'nei Mitzvah Guidelines and Procedures

Qualifications for B Mitzvah:

- A. All candidates must be enrolled and participate in both the Hebrew and Religious School Programs of Congregation Beth Am during their B'nei Mitzvah year. Students are expected to finish the Religious School program even though their B'nei Mitzvah date may occur earlier in the year.
- B. In general, the B'nei Mitzvah ceremony will occur no earlier than 3 months before the child's thirteenth birthday.
- C. All students will have completed a minimum of three years of Hebrew and Religious studies to be eligible for B'nei Mitzvah.

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- D. Tutoring: B'nei Mitzvah tutoring will begin 6 months before the B'nei Mitzvah service date. The cost of the regular tutoring program is part of the B'nei Mitzvah fee. If the B'nei Mitzvah student requires additional tutoring, the student's family will assume responsibility for paying the tutor directly.
- E. Rehearsals: Each B'nei Mitzvah will have two rehearsals at Beth Am. The first rehearsal will be with the B'nei Mitzvah tutor, the second and final rehearsal will be the week of the student's service and is led by Rabbi Bellows. The student and their parent(s) and siblings, if appropriate, will attend the final rehearsal. The first rehearsal is scheduled directly with the Beth Am tutor, and the final rehearsal is scheduled directly with Rabbi Bellows. The final rehearsal will be approximately an hour and a half and takes place at Beth Am, regardless of the service location
- F. In general, the B'nei Mitzvah student is responsible for the following components of the B'nei Mitzvah*:
 - 1. Chanting the blessings before and after the reading of Torah
 - 2. Chanting 12 verses of Torah
 - 3. Chanting blessings before and after the Haftarah
 - 4. Chanting 3 verses of Haftarah
 - 5. Leading worship
 - 6. Preparing and delivering a D'var Torah (speech about the Torah portion)

**These are general guidelines, and we recognize that each student is different. Please be in touch with Rabbi Bellows (Rabbibellows@betham.org) if you would like to talk about your child's service particulars and responsibilities.*
- G. Service Attendance Requirement: The B'nei Mitzvah student, together with a parent, will attend 11 Beth Am Shabbat services within the year prior to their B'nei Mitzvah service. Three of the Shabbat services must be Beth Am B. Mitzvah services. We will email you a list of Beth Am B. Mitzvah dates, times, and locations so that your child may attend.

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- H. The B'nei Mitzvah student is required to complete three mitzvah projects by the date of their B'nei Mitzvah and turn in both the "Breet Sheet" and the "I Did It!" form to Rabbi Bellows.
- I. B'nei Mitzvah Fee: The B'nei Mitzvah fee must be paid in full by June 30th of the fiscal year preceding the B'nei Mitzvah service. The B'nei Mitzvah family must be members in good standing and all fees paid, as well as any outstanding pledge balance, must be paid no later than three weeks before the B. Mitzvah Service. We are always available to discuss individual circumstances and requests.
- J. Helping Families and Security: Professional security at each service is required. Beth Am will arrange for security to be on site.
- K. Photography and Videography: B. Mitzvah pictures at Beth Am should be scheduled with Carol Yesnick, cyesnick@betham.org. If your photographer/videographer has never worked at Beth Am, please have them call the office. Otherwise, we are likely to have their signed policy on file. It is our preference to have all B. Mitzvah pictures at Beth Am, in our sanctuary.
- M. Additional Material: Additional information is on our website (www.betham.org) under the B'nei Mitzvah tab. If you cannot find what you are looking for, please reach out to Carol Yesnick. (cyesnick@betham.org) or 847-383-5017.