



## Sinai Temple Bar/Bat Mitzvah Agreement

Name of Bar/Bat Mitzvah Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Bar/Bat Mitzvah: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Welcome to the Sinai Temple Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah is a milestone experience in the life of the child and the family. At Sinai Temple, we want to do everything possible to make this experience meaningful and fulfilling. Our program allows each child to work to his or her maximum ability provided the student and parents commit to our program and take responsibility by participating with us in the process. The purpose of this letter is to clearly communicate the responsibilities and expectations of the student, parents, instructor and Sinai Temple. We look forward to working with your child and getting to know your entire family.

### **Student's Responsibilities**

1. The student shall attend all scheduled lessons.
2. The student shall bring Bar/Bat Mitzvah materials to each appointment.
3. Bar Mitzvah students shall wear kippot during their appointments.
4. The student shall study 20-30 minutes daily and work ahead whenever possible.
5. With assistance, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah shall prepare a D'var Torah (Speech), not longer than 350 words, which shall be completed a minimum of one month prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah.
6. The student shall finish learning everything for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Service at least one month in advance. The last month is for the purpose of review, rehearsing, and building confidence.
7. The student will attend with his/her parents a minimum of eight Shabbat services in the service in which their bar/bat mitzvah will be held.

### **Parents' Responsibilities**

1. Parents will ensure that their child arrives to all Bar/Bat Mitzvah appointments on time.
2. Parents agree to make sure their child is studying 20-30 minutes every day.
3. In the event an appointment needs to be cancelled, parents shall call our Bar/Bat Mitzvah Coordinator not less than 24 hours before the scheduled lesson.
4. If your child is sick, we would appreciate you arranging to have their appointment over the phone. Children with the sniffles or sore throats will be turned away.
5. We encourage parents to attend their child's appointments. It is mandatory that parent(s) attend a minimum of one out of every four Bar/Bat Mitzvah appointments.
6. In the event that a parent is unable to attend the lesson, please check the website [www.mitzvahtools.com](http://www.mitzvahtools.com). You will receive a username and password and can monitor your child's progress.
7. Parents agree to submit the Honors and Aliyot List, Guest List, student photo, and Pew Bulletin article according to the timelines laid out in the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Handbook.

8. Parents will attend with their child a minimum of eight Shabbat services in the service in which their Bar/Bat mitzvah will be held.
9. Parents agree to ensure their child is appropriately dressed at their bar/bat mitzvah.  
For girls – Dresses or skirts must be no shorter than 2 inches above the knee when standing. If your daughter's skirt is too short, she will have to wear a longer wrap-around skirt on top of it.
10. Please be aware that students work at different paces. If your student has a partner, there will be some parts of the service they chant together. It is possible that your child may work ahead and chant parts of the service without his/her partner and vice versa. It is our goal that all of our students work to their maximum ability.
11. Parents agree to fulfilling the Eligibility Requirements of Sinai Temple. Failure to fulfill the synagogue's policy shall result in an immediate cancellation of the scheduled date of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

### **Parents of Religious School Students**

1. Mentoring may not take time during religious school hours. All students are expected to attend religious school for the duration of the school day.
2. Parents must keep their child enrolled in Religious School a total of 5 years including and throughout the year of their Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

### **Instructor's Responsibilities**

1. The instructor shall begin and end each lesson on time.
2. The instructor shall not permit interruptions during the lesson.
3. The instructor shall enter assignments and feedback into Mitzvah Tools so that parents can be continually updated on their child's progress.

### **Expectations and Opportunities**

1. Every Bar/Bat Mitzvah learns the Torah and Haftorah blessings, haftorah, maftir, Kiddush and Aleinu.
2. Additional parts of the service (Torah Readings, Shacharit, etc.) may be assigned when the previous assignments are completed.
3. The student will only lead what he/she is completely prepared to lead. Lack of preparation could mean limiting the participation of the Bar/Bat mitzvah.
4. The parents, B'nai Mitzvah and Instructor need to communicate expectations and progress throughout the preparation process.

**The expectations and responsibilities set forth above are to ensure the success of each Bar/Bat Mitzvah child. By signing below, we commit to making this rite of passage as meaningful and rewarding as possible. Mazel Tov on your upcoming simcha!**

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_