

# Student B Mitzvah B'rit -- Covenant for B Mitzvah

*The B Mitzvah ceremony is an opportunity for a young person to delve deeply into Torah, Jewish liturgy, and Jewish thought. The big day brings enormous joy to a family both because of its importance in a family's Jewish heritage and history, and because it represents many hours, weeks, and months of concerted effort. The ceremony is the culmination of a preparation process in which the student has taken on increased responsibility for their learning, and the beginning of them becoming a contributing member of the Jewish community on a higher level.*

*The young person becoming a B Mitzvah needs to put great effort into their preparation, their family needs to put great effort into supporting them in that preparation, and their community needs to put great effort into providing them with the resources they need along the way. Hill Havurah is committed to helping every young person reach this goal in a way that is appropriate for them, taking into account their abilities, talents, and background.*

*Because a B Mitzvah requires this level of individual and communal engagement to be successful, it is helpful to establish some basic expectations -- for the student, for their family, and for the entire community -- as guidelines. As we mutually agree to these guidelines, we are entering into a b'rit -- a covenant -- together for the duration of the journey.*

## EXPECTATIONS FOR THE STUDENT

- Take on increasing responsibility for the preparation and learning involved throughout the B Mitzvah process.
- In the **two years** before B'Mitzvah, students must attend a total of 6 services:
  - **2 or more Friday night services**
  - **4 or more Shabbat morning services, (includes the volunteer requirement below).** At least one of which should be Hill Havurah B'Mitzvah.
  - **Volunteer at 3 or more services/B'Mitzvah to help with set up/clean up.**

**To Volunteer:** Please sign up to volunteer set up and clean up help at a service via [Hillhavurah's calendar](#).

**To Track Attendance:** Students must send an email *within a week after the service* to the [B Mitzvah coordinator](#) (with parents CC'd) describing 3 things they remember from the service. Extra credit for greeting Rabbi Hannah and asking her for the "code" for that service. Be sure to include the "code" in the email.

- Study. Spend at least two hours per week practicing, and not all on the same day each week. We say "at least" because during certain times in the preparation process, students will need to spend twice that amount of time or more. A student should never have to "cram" at the end of the process but instead feel well prepared weeks before.
- Be Prepared. Come to each tutoring session ready to focus and learn with all relevant documents open and homework completed.

- Ask their tutor and Rabbi Hannah questions when they aren't sure what to do or if they're on the right track.
- Remember that you can do this, and you're not alone!

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE FAMILY

- Support and encourage the student in scheduling sessions with their tutor and Rabbi Hannah.
- Support and encourage the student in doing the necessary work at home.
- Provide student with an appropriate environment to practice at home, and with the required technology (e.g., PocketTorah application, recordings on webpage, internet access and speakers, Google Docs for writing assignments).
- Support student in attending the required number of Shabbat services in the two years leading up to the B Mitzvah
- Encourage the student to ask their tutor and Rabbi Hannah questions when they aren't sure what to do or if they're on the right track.

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE RABBI AND TUTOR:

- Rabbi Hannah will ensure that the student and family are familiar with the B Mitzvah preparation process and understand the components of the service.
- Rabbi Hannah will meet with student ~every 6 weeks to supplement understanding of Torah and Haftarah portions and prayers, discuss Judaism, and help the student prepare their d'var torah (speech).
- Rabbi Hannah will work with the Tutor to make sure they are providing necessary support on a regular basis to the student.
- The Tutor will meet with the student for up to 30 hours during the year of preparation to ensure the student is making sufficient progress towards learning prayers and chanting Torah and Haftarah portions.
- Rabbi Hannah and the Tutor will modify their approaches to the student depending on the student's individual strengths, weaknesses, and needs.
- Rabbi Hannah and the Tutor will respond promptly to family communications and concerns.

B Mitzvah Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Family Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_