

The B'nei Mitzvah Honors

You may assign anyone you wish to each honor and assign multiple honors to the same person. We understand that every family's composition is unique, and know it is important for every family member to feel welcome and included. You are welcome to assign honors to friends and family friends as well, our suggestions are not requirements at all.

Tallit Presentation: Present a tallit (prayer shawl) to the b'nei mitzvah, who then recites the tallit blessing. Typically assigned to grandparents.

Opening the Ark: Open the ark doors for clergy to remove the Torah. Typically assigned to siblings and cousins. *No Jewish knowledge or experience is necessary for this role, and non-Jewish family may participate fully.*

Torah Processional: Accompany the b'nei mitzvah as they walk around the Sanctuary holding the Torah. Typically assigned to siblings, cousins, and friends. *No Jewish knowledge or experience is necessary for this role and non-Jewish family members may participate fully.*

Aliyot: Chant blessings before and after the b'nei mitzvah reads verses of Torah. Each family is given three aliyot total; most b'nei mitzvah students chant all three aliyot themselves (usually 10-15 verses total).

- The aliyot honors are typically assigned as follows:
 - The first aliyah is assigned to grandparents, aunts, and uncles.
 - The second is assigned to parents and siblings.
 - The third is always reserved for the b'nei mitzvah child.

Jewish and non-Jewish family members can participate fully in the honor of receiving an aliyah. We ask that one member of each aliyah grouping be Jewish and above the age of 13. Non-Jewish family members (and Jewish family members who are less comfortable chanting in Hebrew) are welcome to:

- *Join their Jewish family members in chanting the blessing in Hebrew*
- *Read the English blessing in Mishkan Tefilah opposite the Hebrew blessings on that page. The language does not assume the reader is Jewish and it can be followed by the chanting of the Hebrew blessings.*
- *Stand with their Jewish family members and participate with their presence but not the words of the blessings.*

G'lilah: "Dressing" or preparing the Torah to be returned to the ark. Typically assigned to siblings, aunts, and uncles. *While Jewish knowledge or experience is not necessary, Jewish loved ones tend to be more comfortable with this role.*