

Option 2: An Approved Mitzvah Project

In recent years, many synagogues and families have begun asking Bar or Bat Mitzvah candidates to do tzedakah/social action projects as part of their preparations. This requirement emphasizes the ideas that the mitzvot (commandments) to which they will be obligated involve not only Jewish ritual, but also social action. If your child is looking for a meaningful mitzvah project to celebrate becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, encourage them to think about what they feel passionate about and what they love. They may work individually or in small groups. A simple collection of items will not suffice as an entire mitzvah project, but is welcome as part of the overall goal.

Simply follow these simple steps:

- Make an individual appointment with Morah Melissa or Morah Arleen to discuss or develop an idea. Parents are welcome, but we are happy to work with your child to develop an idea and a passion for a cause. If working in a small group, all participants must attend.
- Complete a mitzvah project proposal form (one for each participant-included in this booklet). Parents must sign the form. Seek approval of the idea through Morah Melissa or Morah Arleen.
- At the midway mark of your project, please pick up a mid-project evaluation form from Brenda and complete it to provide an update to Morah Melissa or Morah Arleen.
- Mitzvah Project must be completed by the end of the seventh grade Mechinah year, although our hope is that each child will continue to follow their passionate commitment to their mitzvah. At the completion, please draft a summary for inclusion in the materials distributed at your Bar or Bat Mitzvah. Morah Melissa and Morah Arleen are always available for individual meetings throughout the process. We will provide ideas, encouragement and support.
- Complete 2 hours working at the Purim Carnival and 1 hour at Mitzvah Morning. Looking for ideas, we suggest: http://www.areyvut.org/project_ideas/ or visit us to review our resource materials .