

TAWONGA B'NAI MITZVAH PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

as of Oct 5, 2019

History & Numbers

In 2019-2020 we will...

- Enroll the 4th cohort of TBM
- Have 130 students enrolled total

Big Picture:

- **2 year experience: 6th and 7th grade** (*enroll in December when child is in 5th grade*)
- The programmatic year goes from **late September - early May**
- Families can enroll in one of two regions:
 - East Bay
 - San Francisco: we recommend Peninsula and Marin families enroll in SF

ELEMENTS OF THE TAWONGA B'NAI MITZVAH PROGRAM

Classes (kitot)

- Once per month, from October - April (7 classes total)
- Each class is 3 hours
- Locations:
 - East Bay: kitot are *generally* at Urban Adamah in Berkeley
 - SF: kitot are *generally* at the Jewish Community High School (JCHS) in SF
- 2 field trips per year. Example: community service day
- Curriculum
 - Year 1: Jewish blessings and values
 - Year 2: Torah interpretation and personal growth

Weekend Retreats

- Two retreats per year, in the Fall and Spring
- Friday 5pm - Sunday 11am
- Only for students but parents are invited Sunday from 9 - 11am
- Location: NatureBridge site (outdoor school) in the Marin Headlands
- Main Goals:
 - Build community and connect to nature
 - Immersive camp Shabbat experience: Friday & Saturday camp style services + learning
 - Have fun! Unplug! Enjoy Shabbat!

Family Engagement

Sample Kita Outline

Hour 1 - All Together

- Warm up/welcome
- All together activity/learning/games
- Blessings and spiritual connection (different every time and creative!)

Snack and Break Time

Hour 2 - Divided into 2 Classes

- Lessons + Learning

Snack and Break Time

Hour 3 - Electives

- 2 activities with the same learning outcomes but different learning styles.
- *Closing all together*

- **New Family Orientation in September:** families (parents and students) can start building community, learn all about the program in more depth and begin the journey!
- **Havdalah Picnic** in a park on a Saturday, 4 - 5:30pm
- **Shabbat Potluck** in a participant's home on a Friday night, 6 - 8pm
- **Nature Day** in a park with a guided nature walk and learning 11 - 1pm on a Sunday

Mitzvah Project

- During the first year we invite a panel of past students and organizations and provide resources for kids to think about what kind of mitzvah project they want to do.
- Framing and support in brainstorming is done in class/retreats. Carry out of mitzvah project is done by the student
- The mitzvah project should add up to 30 hours worth of planning and work

Parent Learning

- 2 parent learning sessions per year, on the Sunday morning of reach retreat
- 3 online learning sessions per year via Zoom
- Self directed learning/curated bibliography and resources/lending library

Mentorship + Simcha Support

- We train mentors from the child's life to help them write their d'var Torah (teaching from a text of Torah) for their simcha. Mentors can be family members (aunts, uncles, cousins, older siblings, parents), camp counselors, school or music teachers, coaches, etc...
- If the family can't find a mentor, we can provide one from our Tawonga community
- We support the visioning process for the simcha, including individual family sessions
- We offer materials/judaica for the simcha: prayer books, Torah, kippot, etc...
- We connect families to service leaders in our community, such as Rabbis, directors, educators, etc.... as well as song leaders - we also support and train service leaders from the family's community, i.e. a family member/friend
- Because this is a "choose your own adventure" process, all hired service leaders/song leaders/tutors/venues etc... are at full cost to the family

SAMPLE WEEKEND RETREAT OVERVIEW	
<i>Timing and programming subject to change</i>	
FRIDAY	
5 - 6:10pm	Welcome activities, Put Away Bags, Meet Your Havurah
6:10 - 7pm	Dinner
7 - 8:15pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Prep and Services
8:15 - 8:45pm	Evening Activity
8:45 - 9:30pm	Bedtime Rituals & Lila Tov!
Saturday	
7:30 - 7:55am	Wake Up & Get Ready for the Day
8 - 8:45am	Breakfast
9 - 10:15am	Shabbat Torah Service
10:15 - 11:30	Shabbat Floats (Free choice activities)
11:30 - 12:30	Cohort Projects
12:30 - 1:15pm	Lunch
1:15 - 2:00	Menucha (rest time)
2 - 4pm	Shabbat Programming
4 - 6pm	Electives
6 - 6:45pm	Dinner
7 - 7:30pm	Talent Show Prep
7:30 - 8:15pm	Campfire/Talent Show
8:15 - 8:45pm	S'mores & Music & Havdalah
8:45 - 9:30pm	Bedtime Rituals & Lila Tov!
Sunday	
7:30 - 7:55am	Wake Up, & Get Ready for the day
8 - 8:45am	Breakfast
9 - 10:30am	Separate Student and Parent programming
10:30 - 11am	Closing Circles

A Notes About Hebrew: We do not teach Hebrew in our program. We have a number of tutors we connect kids with if they want to read Hebrew.