

Guidelines for Behavior in the Sanctuary

Please share with your guests these basic rules of decorum (especially appropriate for teens who are not familiar with Jewish practice or may not be aware of Ohr HaTorah's guidelines).

Appropriate Attire

1. All males are required to wear kippot inside the sanctuary during services.
2. Males and females should refrain from wearing jeans and sandals.
3. Females should refrain from wearing low cut tops and short skirts; if a low cut top is worn a sweater, coat, or shawl should be worn over it during the service.

Respect the Service

While it is impossible to fully delineate all appropriate and inappropriate behaviors, we simply ask our guests to respect these general guidelines.

1. Remain at one's seat during the service, standing and sitting with the congregation at the appropriate times.
2. Pay attention to the service and participate as one is able.
3. Behave in a polite and respectful manner for as long as the service lasts.
4. Listen carefully whenever the Rabbi and the Bar/Bat Mitzvah speak.
5. Throw candy at the Bar/Bat Mitzvah in the appropriate manner.
 - a. Candy is thrown after the Bar/Bat Mitzvah finishes chanting from the Torah to remind the student of the sweetness of the Torah.
 - b. Candy is not meant as sustenance for the guests.
 - c. Candy is to be thrown gently at the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, not aimed directly or hurled harshly towards him/her.
 - d. The Rabbi will shield the Bar/Bat Mitzvah and himself with his tallit (prayer shawl). When the Rabbi's tallit is lowered, that is the signal for guests to cease throwing candy.

To facilitate respectful behavior, we ask that guests:

1. Use the restroom and take a drink before entering the sanctuary, so one does not need to leave or reenter during the service.
2. Refrain from chewing gum or eating food in the sanctuary.
3. Refrain from inappropriate behavior during the service, such as
 - a. Talking or whispering.
 - b. Engaging in horseplay.
 - c. Mutilating service books or booklets.
 - d. Doodling or drawing on the service books or booklets.
 - e. Combing hair or putting on make-up.

Note: Infractions of these policies and any disrespectful behaviors not mentioned above may make it necessary for the Rabbi to stop the service until decorum at your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah can be re-established.