

Temple Adas Shalom Announces Teen Mentorship Corps (TMC)

The Religious Practices Committee and Rabbi Gila are excited to announce a new and exciting community endeavor: Teen Mentors for our B'nai Mitzvah students.

We are so proud of our teens who have become B'nai Mitzvah. Through our excellent Religious School education, adult tutoring, and trimitzvahlon, our teens have learned the skills of worship leadership for Shabbat services, chanting the Torah and Haftarah with the traditional trope melody, composing original interpretations of Torah lessons, and fulfilling mitzvot of service to the congregation, the community, and the larger Jewish world. Sixteen of our youth have already expressed an interest in participating!

As part of our new Teen Mentorship Corps, our older teens will have the opportunity to help train upcoming B'nai Mitzvah candidates. These mentoring relationships will build personal and community bonds between our young people and their families, strengthening our congregation and the Jewish people. It will also provide an opportunity for those who participate to maintain or improve their skills, which could lead to tutoring opportunities in their future. Finally, the Teen Mentoring program will help reduced the cost of tutoring for families, as the Teen Mentor rate is significantly lower than that of Adult Tutors.

Working under the supervision of our Adult Tutors, Teen Mentors will meet with the B'nai Mitzvah candidates on a regular basis, typically alternating with the Adult Tutor. A contract has been developed that describes the Teen Mentor's role, compensation, and ensures that transportation is available. The Adult Tutor, Teen Mentor, Mentor's parents/guardians, B'nai Mitzvah candidate, and B'nai Mitzvah parents/guardians all sign the contract. Teen Mentors will be compensated at a graduated rate as they gain experience, beginning at \$15 for per hour for their first student.

Teen Mentors will commit to

1. Enrollment in TAS religious school or post Confirmation.
2. An interview by the Rabbi to assess competence and maturity.
3. Providing regular (typically biweekly) lessons and assisting with completion of the service template for one student under the supervision of an Adult Tutor.
4. Friday evening and/or Saturday morning mentoring with the student.
5. Occasional group tutoring training sessions, e.g. Trope Trainer
6. At least one of the following:
 - Trimitzvahlon Redux (advanced version of Trimitzvahlon)
 - Teen Ambassadors program (to be announced soon)
 - Reading Torah or conducting services at least 3 times per year

We hope that the B'nai Mitzvah families will welcome the participation of our Teen Mentors in the service and celebration of the B'nai Mitzvah.

Please contact Rabbi Gila Ruskin Rabbi@templeadasshalom.org for further information.