

# Eighth Grade Mitzvah Project

## *Overview*

The Eighth Grade Mitzvah Project program is a mentorship opportunity for 8th grade students who wish to continue their Jewish journey beyond b'nei mitzvah. Building on the foundation of the friendships that began in Sinai School, students who have completed their bar/bat mitzvah are invited to embark on their own Mitzvah Project that can include anything from serving as a teaching assistant, to helping design the Temple's outdoor sanctuary, to directing their own Purimshpiel, to heading up a food drive campaign with a friend at the shul...the sky is the limit! Once students decide what they want to do, they will pair up with a mentor at the temple who can guide the students' independent learning and help them give back to the community in meaningful ways.

## *Requirements*

Eighth Grade Mitzvah students meet as a large group two Sundays a month for 2-3 hours at a time - once for a social outing (rollerskating, go-karts, slime lab, bowling, the mall, etc.) and once for a "planning Sunday" to plan their next social outing, listen to guest speakers, and check-in with the director about their Mitzvah Project progress. Additionally, students will plan and host a Shabbat dinner once a month that rotates between eighth grade family homes and is open to students and families who are available. Planning for this monthly meal will also take place on the "planning Sunday" at Temple Sinai and will involve communication with parents who are hosting or helping with these dinners.

For their individual Mitzvah Projects, each student's time requirements will follow the needs of their family's schedule and the schedule of the student's mentor at the temple. As a general guideline, 8th graders are expected to help out in the temple during the school year at least once a month outside of the two large-group Sundays to complete their Mitzvah Project. Once paired up with a mentor, students and families will need to coordinate with the mentor to establish a regular schedule and line of communication.

## *Preparation*

Before applying for the Eight Grade Mitzvah program, students and parents should read over the Mitzvah Project Ideas document and fill out the Mitzvah Project Survey before meeting with Director Josie about their placement in a mentorship.

## *Cost*

The Eighth Grade Mitzvah program costs \$350 for members and \$700 for non-members for the entire school year (two semesters). Scholarships are available upon request. Costs do not include outings that exceed \$15 per student or the cost of Shabbat dinners, though Jewish Nevada and PJ Library funding are available for offsetting these costs for families.

# *Mitzvah Project Ideas*

Head up a food drive at the Temple  
Be a teaching assistant for younger Sinai School grades  
Help design and raise money for the outdoor ampitheatre or mikvah  
Help set up and teach Torah for Tots  
Run a babysitting service for temple children  
Learn to be a Hebrew tutor  
Help out with temple maintenance  
Run the Tefillah service  
Direct part of the Purimschpiel  
Help plan other Temple events  
Serve as a youth bereavement volunteer  
Put on a Temple bake sale fundraiser  
Work with a mentor to start a havruta project  
Be the youth representative for library committee events  
Help out with Oneg preparation  
Serve as the youth liaison for the Board of Directors  
Plan lock-ins with a mentor  
Help design temple materials for the high holy days  
Make Passover delivery boxes for those in need  
Be an event planner apprentice for the temple's biggest events  
Serve on the landscaping committee to help the shul look beautiful  
Set up a "thank you" committee  
Learn to operate and be responsive to attendees for the livestream

## Mitzvah Project Survey

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Age \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in doing a Mitzvah Project next year because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Projects I might be interested in include: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I have a someone in mind at the temple for a mentor:

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, write the name of the person you would like to be your mentor:

\_\_\_\_\_

I am available to meet twice a month on Sundays and separately with my mentor at the shul:

☐ Yes

☐ No

My parent is available to be a driver for outings:

☐ Yes

☐ No

My family is interested in hosting a Shabbat dinner:

☐ Yes

☐ No

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_