

Bat Mitzvah Guide

Chabad of Boca Raton – Central



Mazel tov on your daughter's forthcoming Bat Mitzvah, which you have chosen to celebrate at Chabad of Boca Raton. I am sure that you are eagerly looking forward to this important milestone in her life and in the life of your family. I hope and pray that you derive much Jewish pride, "Nachas" from your daughter.

Chabad of Boca Raton-Central offers a comprehensive Bat Mitzvah Program with multiple service options to choose from. At Chabad of Boca Raton, our primary goal is assisting families to live Jewish lives with pride, with knowledge and with enthusiasm. When your child reaches the age of Bat Mitzvah, we share with your family the privilege and responsibility of welcoming her into the adult Jewish community. In reaching this goal, we feel that family participation and support are integral to your child's success in this process. We therefore ask for family involvement throughout. Together, we hope to instill the meaning and significance of the occasion, to celebrate appropriately, and to honor your child's place among the Jewish people.

Age and Dates

Bat Mitzvah is the day on which a child becomes responsible for Mitzvot and accountable for both positive and negative behaviors under Jewish law. According to Jewish tradition, this takes place at age 12. This happens automatically on their Jewish birth date, regardless of the way the day is marked. The ceremony and celebration should take place as close to the Jewish birthday as possible. The Jewish calendar follows the lunar cycle and represents the years from creation. The secular calendar follows the solar cycle. Most often, the Jewish and secular birthdays end up being days or weeks apart. To determine your child's Jewish birthday, please consult with the Rabbi. We recommend scheduling Bat Mitzvahs at least 18 months prior to your child's 12th birthday. While planning and preparation takes about one year, it is important to get the date on the Chabad calendar to avoid any conflicts. To choose a date, set up an initial meeting with the Rabbi to determine your child's Jewish birthday. Your child's Bat Mitzvah must be in the year following that date, as close as possible to the date but not before it. A girl begins Bat Mitzvah preparation 1 year prior to her Bat Mitzvah. This includes a monthly lesson and activity with other Bat Mitzvah girls participating in the Bat Mitzvah Club for approximately one year prior. This will be supplemented by 6 - 8 private lessons in preparation for her Bat Mitzvah ceremony. The Bat Mitzvah celebration is, after all, a Jewish celebration. We therefore have some guidelines which have been implemented to uphold the proper spirit and character of a Bat Mitzvah.

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Bat Mitzvah Guidelines

In order to hold your child's ceremony and/or celebration at Chabad of Boca Raton, the following requirements must be met:

1. Your child must be born to a Jewish mother or converted in accordance with the guidelines set by the Offices of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel. If the mother or maternal grandmother converted to Judaism, please set up an appointment with the Rabbi to determine if the conversion process meets the above stated guidelines. According to the Talmud, solely the mother determines religious identity and an intermarried family where the father is not Jewish has no effect on the religious identity of the child.

2. We require active family participation in Jewish community experiences and synagogue services, beginning at least one year prior to the Bat Mitzvah. Active participation includes participation in holiday programs, parents' participation in adult education programs as well as periodically attending Shabbat morning services. This would show family participation and support to your daughter. It will also make your family and daughter familiar with Jewish community life.



3. Your child will need to attend the Bat Mitzvah Club designed especially for Bat Mitzvah girls who are approaching their special day. This course is a supplement to any Hebrew or Jewish Day School.

Bat Mitzvah Service Options:

There are different options of Bat Mitzvah Services which you may pick from for your Bar Mitzvah. Each has its own unique level of participation for the Bat Mitzvah girl as well as different requirements.



1. A Friday evening Shabbat ceremony: This service begins approximately 1 hour prior to sundown. It includes Shabbat candle lighting ceremony led by the Bat Mitzvah Girl interspersed with speeches, song and blessings. This ceremony is approximately 45 minutes. Photography, videography & microphones are welcome.

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Bat Mitzvah Service Options:

2. Havdalah Service: This service begins 1 hour after Shabbat is over. It includes the Havdalah service and Hebrew readings. The Bat Mitzvah girl would also share a speech accompanied by the Rabbi's speech, the parents blessing and/or speech and the throwing of candies are included in this service. This service is approximately 45 minutes. This service is only practical during the fall/winter months when EST is in effect and sundown is very early. Photography, videography & microphones are welcome.



On the day of her Bat Mitzvah, your daughter will be the center of attention and that is how it should be! She represents the new generation of American Jewry. Your hopes as parents, and ours as a community, are centered on your daughter.



We believe that no two children are the same and no two families are the same and we therefore strive to personalize this most meaningful life cycle event to make it most meaningful, enjoyable and inspiring for your family.

Our goal is to instill in each child the meaning and relevance behind what it is they are doing so the experience is meaningful and relevant to their lives in today's day and age.

The Bat Mitzvah is much more than a ceremony, it is about who we are. Our focus is on experiencing the joy and depth of being Jewish. Enjoy the whole experience and Keep stress to a minimum. It is not a contest

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