

## B'Mitzvah Parent Volunteer Policy

Our goal at Agudas Achim Congregation (AAC) is to create an experience for the b'mitzvah that is a spiritual and meaningful, connecting child and family to God, the Jewish people, and each other.

As a *kehilah kedoshah*, a congregation that holds community sacred, we do our utmost for each b'mitzvah and their family to feel at home at AAC and a part of the congregational family. That includes sharing in, and contributing to, the celebration of other b'mitzvah that take place at AAC, as well as being celebrated by our entire congregational family when it comes time to for their own simcha , joyous occasion.

In the 12-18 months before a child's b'mitzvah, usually during 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, each parent or caregiver is expected to volunteer in the AAC kitchen a **minimum of six times** at *kiddushim* honoring a b'mitzvah to help prepare, put out food and serve. As a community, one of our values is supporting and helping each other. Every family's volunteer hours are a vital contribution to the Agudas Achim community, support fellow celebrants, and benefits each family as well.

In general, the volunteer work that families do helps AAC keep the catering fees charged to celebrants as low as possible. Each parent or caregiver's volunteer time assisting with a **minimum of six times** at *kiddushim* over the course of a year (12 times volunteering at events or *kiddushim* for a household with two parents or caregivers) embodies these communal values of support and assisting each other. It also demonstrates these values in a tangible way to our members, as well as to the families and guests of our celebrants.

Being in the kitchen with other b'mitzvah families enables b'mitzvah parents to understand how a b'mitzvah works from behind the scenes, learn what other people do during their celebrations and explore the options in our catering kitchen. It is an opportunity to meet other families, share experiences, get to know our head of catering and learn much of what you need to know to make your family's b'mitzvah as smooth and wonderful an experience as possible.

Finally, AAC's culture of support and helping each other means that on the day of a child's b'mitzvah, each family can enjoy their child's b'mitzvah knowing that their kiddush will be set up and presented, ready for their guests and the wider AAC community to enjoy after the service, enabling parents to enjoy their child's weekend.

The Head of Catering will provide all b'mitzvah families with information on how to sign up for volunteer hours. Please contact the [Head of Catering](#) if you have questions about volunteering in the kitchen.

In exceptional circumstances, volunteer opportunities can be arranged for tasks other than working in the kitchen, if parents or caregivers are not able to volunteer a minimum of six Shabbat mornings during the 18 months before their child's b'mitzvah. Contact the [Executive Director](#) to discuss any need for alternative arrangements. If it is not possible to volunteer, families will be assessed accordingly.