

ANNUAL CHECKLIST FOR “POLICY FOR CELEBRATING BAR/BAT MITZVAH IN KOL HALEV” FOR 4TH, 5TH & 6TH GRADERS

The “Policy for Celebrating Bar/Bat Mitzvah in Kol HaLev” was written to allow for a range of options so that each child and his/her family can choose how to develop a sense of belonging and understanding of Reconstructionist Judaism and the Kol HaLev community that works best for them.

Parents of children in Grades 4-6: please complete this Checklist and send it to the Kol HaLev office. Be sure to keep a copy for yourself. *Please note: this checklist is to be filled out each year for 4th, 5th & 6th graders.*

Child’s Name _____ Grade _____
 Parent’s Names _____ Date _____

Every candidate for Bar/Bat Mitzvah must satisfy the following three requirements:

Goal 1: Being part of the Kol HaLev community. To satisfy this goal, each candidate for Bar/Bat Mitzvah must participate in **all** of the activities below:

- A. Rabbi Steve’s B’nai Mitzvah Family Cohort (which typically starts in January of the year prior to the planned Bar/Bat mitzvah ceremony). Please check your planned Cohort attendance: this year _____; next year _____; following year _____; *and*
- B. A minimum of 6 other Kol HaLev community events with his/her family in the two years prior to the ceremony (such as Intergenerational Programs or Youth Group activities). Please indicate the number planned for this year _____; *and*
- C. A minimum of 12 Shabbat morning services with his/her family per year or Hagiga sessions per year in the two years prior to the ceremony. Indicate the number planned for this year _____.

Goal 2: Receiving a foundation in Judaic and Hebrew education. To satisfy this goal, each candidate must participate in **one** of the following Judaic and Hebrew options. Please circle your selected option.

- A. A minimum of four years in Hagiga (Kol HaLev’s educational program) attending 75% or more of the sessions per year in the years immediately preceding Bar/Bat Mitzvah accompanied by three years of Hebrew with one or a combination of the following: Nesiya program, congregational school or one of the approved tutors; please specify:

- B. A minimum of three years at a congregational Hebrew and Judaic program, or the Ratner School’s Hebrew and Judaic elective track, in the years immediately preceding Bar/Bat Mitzvah (beginning in either third or fourth grade); *or*
- C. A minimum of two years at either Mandel, Schechter, Fuchs-Mizrachi, or a comparable Jewish day school in the years immediately preceding becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah.;

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Goal 3: *Participating in activities that develop one's Reconstructionist identity.* To satisfy this goal, each candidate must choose **one** of the following; please circle your selected option.

- A. A minimum of two years in Hagiga attending 75% or more of the sessions per year (can be concurrent with Goal 2 above) in the years immediately preceding Bar/Bat Mitzvah; *or*
- B. A minimum of two sessions at Camp Havaya; *or*
- C. An independent study project. The Bar/Bat mitzvah student will engage in a year-long independent study in Reconstructionist Judaism, ideally overseen and guided by a knowledgeable member of the Kol HaLev community. As part of this study, the student will complete a project that may take the form of a research paper, volunteer work, or any other challenge that includes a substantive Reconstructionist learning component. The student will be given the opportunity to share his/her experiences and discoveries with the broader KHL community. (Projects must be approved by the Rabbi, the Education Director, and chair of the Youth and Family Education committee.)

While attendance in Hagiga, Camp Havaya & No'ar Hadash are not mandatory, we feel they are the best ways to develop a positive Jewish, Reconstructionist identity. Therefore, all of our youth are strongly encouraged to attend these activities.

Every effort should be made to fulfill these standards; however, the Youth and Family Education Committee recognizes that there can be special circumstances that preclude their fulfillment. Any exceptions to these standards shall be made only upon approval of the Rabbi, Education Director, and chair of the Youth and Family Education committee.