



Business Office
301 City Avenue, Suite 110 | Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
Tel 610-668-0423

Resident Camp & Retreat Center
575 Smith Road | Kunkletown, PA 18058
Tel 570-629-1390

Camp Harlam – *Mitzvah* Projects

Congratulations! Preparing to become a *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah* is an exciting time in the life of a Jewish teen and should be an opportunity for your child to participate in many significant Jewish learning opportunities. Camp Harlam wants to honor this process by partnering with you, your child, your congregation and your community to help make the preparations fulfilling and meaningful for all of you.

***Bar* and *Bat Mitzvah* Project Ideas**

Many synagogues and families ask *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah* candidates to do *tzedakah* (social action) projects as part of their preparations. This requirement emphasizes the ideas that the *mitzvot* (commandments) to which they will be obligated involve not only Jewish ritual, but also real-life engagement and impact.

If your child is looking for a meaningful *mitzvah* project to celebrate becoming a *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah*, encourage them to think about what they feel passionate about and what they love. To that end, Camp Harlam is a nonprofit organization and would be honored to be a part of your child's *tzedakah* project. Developing a *Mitzvah* Project to benefit Camp Harlam can be an engaging way to connect this important life cycle event to a place that may have helped your child to discover and nurture their own Jewish identity.

When you make a gift to Camp Harlam...where does the money go?

If your child chooses to make Camp Harlam the recipient of their *mitzvah* project, the funds raised will go directly towards any number of programs or projects, including our scholarship program. Donations of all sizes are welcome. If your child feels passionate about a specific Camp Harlam program (music, art, sports, Israel, etc.) they can work with our staff and designate the funds, or collect items, to benefit a particular area of camp.

Project Ideas

When thinking about which type of project your child may want to do, think about their skills and interests. Ask yourself, "What do they love doing?" While your child can create any type of project that interests them, here are some ideas that have worked for other campers and *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* candidates:

Create Something Special for Sale

- Brainstorm fun hands-on projects, such as:
 - Design jewelry, tie-dye t-shirts, knit scarves, make picture frames or other creative or wearable art with a wide appeal.
- Make a list of the supplies you'll need.
- Keep expenses down by using household objects or shopping at a discount store.
- Ask your friends and family to help you collect supplies (egg cartons, milk jugs, paper towel rolls, items from stores) and/or help with the project's execution.
- Sell the finished products at an event, or through people you know



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- Send emails to people that will be invited or consider including a note in your *Bar/Bat mitzvah* invitation to sell items and encourage additional gifts in your honor to benefit capital, scholarship, Jewish life, or another one of camp's funds.

Organize an Exciting Community-Wide Event

- Plan and run a garage sale, bake sale, lemonade stand or car wash.
- Ask friends, family and neighbors to help plan, gather goods, bake and sell.
- Choose a high-traffic location that will get you noticed.
- Make signs and post on social media to promote the details.
- Partner with a retail store for a portion of sales and urge your friends and family to shop.
- Organize a walk-a-thon, jump rope or basketball free throw contest for scholarship
 - Develop a sponsorship form and ask friends and family to join you in asking others to participate, each getting sponsors to support you with dollars per mile, hours jumping or free throw shots made.
- Choose a date and location and follow the same promotional strategies to spread the word to everyone you know and the community.

Volunteer and Raise Funds for Scholarship Fund

- Conduct hands-on *mitzvah* work in your community (may or may not be related to Camp Harlam) and ask family/friends/Camp Harlam community to honor work with a donation to the Mitch Perlmeter Scholarship Fund.
- Create an insert for your *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* invitation and use social media to note your accomplishments and provide the link to the Camp Harlam page for donations in your honor.
- Decide on a percentage of the monetary gifts you receive to donate to camp and mention you'll donate a portion in your invitation, in email and on social media.
- Donate a portion of money earned babysitting, cutting lawns, cleaning out garages and more.
- Keep a *Tzedakah* Box at home and donate a portion of your allowance on *Shabbat*.
- Creating basic centerpieces and include a note on the tables that read, "In lieu of centerpieces, a generous donation was made in our guests' honor to Camp Harlam to support _____."

Additional way to generate funds or support camp:

- Ebay has initiated a new program called *Giving Works*, which allows you to sell items just as you would normally on eBay. You can designate some or all of the sale's proceeds to go to a charity.
- Buying items through our Amazon Wish List that can be used for our camp program.
- Utilize Camp Harlam's Amazon Smile page for your Amazon.com purchases, where a portion of your sale will benefit camp.

Common Questions

Q: *Will the donations that my child or guests make to Camp Harlam be tax-deductible?*

A: Yes. Camp Harlam is registered as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. All gifts are tax-deductible.

Q: *How much does my child need to raise?*



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A: Any amount of money can make a difference. In 2016 One Week at Camp Harlam cost \$1420; One Day at Camp Harlam cost \$208.

Q: *How should my child convey their mitzvah project to guests?*

A: You and your child should choose an approach that feels appropriate. You might consider enclosing it as an attachment with your invitation, or even printing it on the invitation itself. You can also include a card on the table near the centerpieces. Your child should feel proud to let people know what the project is, and where they would like donations to go.

Camp Harlam staff can help you create the perfect *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* project to suit your needs. Whether it's a bake sale designed to raise funds or awareness, or a direct solicitation, we will help you make your child's project meaningful and fun. We are here to help!

For more information or to customize your *mitzvah* project contact Rachel Steinberg, Development Director, at RSteinberg@URJ.org or 610-668-0423, ext. 1040.

Thank you for considering Camp Harlam as part of your special day. We truly appreciate your support and commitment to camp!