

ISRAEL FAMILY JOURNEY

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Ceremony on Masada

Preparation:

The Bar/ Bat Mitzvah child will meet with one of the *madrichim* (counselors) during the days before the ceremony to:

- Review the weekly Torah portion and what can be learned from it.
- Learn how to read the brachot (prayers) – in Hebrew or English transliteration -- for an aliyah (Torah readings).
- If appropriate and desired, practice reading from the actual Torah portion of the week – in Hebrew or English transliteration
- Write a short speech for the ceremony – including something meaningful about the Torah portion and something about their relationship/commitment to the Jewish community and to tikun olam (repairing the world)

The Ceremony:

The ceremony will take place on Masada in the morning and will start with an explanation about the meaning of the ceremony and Masada's significance.

Each of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah participants will put on a *tallit* (traditional prayer shawl) say the blessing for wearing the *talit* and then read the *alyah bracha*.

Then the Bar/Bat Mitzvah participant or the *madrich* will read a section from a printed copy of the Torah portion.

The parents will say the "*Baruch Sheptarano*" prayer in Hebrew or English transliteration, and then everyone will shout *mazal tov*!

At the end of the last Torah reading the audience will throw candies on the Bar/Bat Mitzvah participants.

Then each Bar/Bat Mitzvah participant will give their short speech, receive a certificate, and the ceremony will end dancing the *horah* as a group!