

## TEMPLE SHALOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE

### **“If It’s On Shabbat – IT COUNTS!”**

#### **Kindergarten Through Fifth Grade**

To enhance understanding and comfort with Jewish liturgy, we strongly encourage students (Kindergarten through Fifth Grade) to strive for a level of service attendance with their families. Students may count only Shabbat services (including Holy Day Services and Festival Services that occur on Shabbat – TOT SHABBAT IS EXCLUDED) toward their totals. Students and their families who reach these goals will be honored at the end of the school year. The recognition levels are:

<b>Five (5) Worship Services:</b>	Ice Cream Sundae Oneg
<b>Ten (10) Worship Services:</b>	Same as above and recognized in the Temple Newsletter or Mitt’n Drinen
<b>Fifteen (15) Worship Services:</b>	Same as above and awarded a certificate of recognition at a special Shabbat service.
<b>Twenty (20) Worship Services:</b>	Same as above and receive a special gift from the Rabbi
<b>Twenty-Five Plus (25+) Services:</b>	Same as above and honored on a special plaque, “Member of Rabbi’s Roll”

We anticipate that your child may be invited to services at synagogues other than Temple Shalom; however, they **will not count** towards his/her attendance levels. This is the best possible way for students and families to internalize the order, purpose, and spirit of our Temple Shalom Worship Services. This also fosters the feeling of community within all of us. The Rabbi, Cantor or the guest service leader will sign attendance cards following the service. Each student is responsible for signing in following each service.

#### **Sixth & Seventh Grade**

**Bar/Bat Mitzvah students are expected to attend eighteen (18) services** – six (6) Shabbat Morning Services and twelve (12) other Shabbat services (including High Holy Day Services and Festival Services that occur on Shabbat - TOT SHABBAT IS EXCLUDED) during the Sixth and Seventh Grade years prior to their ceremony. We anticipate that your child may be invited to services at synagogues other than Temple Shalom; however, they **will not count** towards his/her attendance requirement. This is the best possible way for students to internalize the order, purpose, and spirit of the Shabbat service. This also fosters the feeling of community within the child. The Rabbi, Cantor or the guest service leader will sign attendance cards following the service. Each student is responsible for signing in following each service.

**Each student must complete nine (9) services which includes four (4) Shabbat morning services before their b’nai mitzvah lessons can begin.** B’nai Mitzvah lessons will not be started until a student has met the required service attendance.

We must emphasize how important it is that you not merely drop off your child for services, but that you attend with him/her. If this is to be a meaningful experience for both the student and parent(s), it must be accomplished together as a family. This is a marvelous opportunity to model Shabbat behavior, if you have not done so before. It will help your child learn what it means to become a ritually responsible adult, and will make the weekend of the ceremony more comfortable for both you and your child.

**Students who will be having a Fall Bar or Bat Mitzvah in their Seventh Grade year are strongly encouraged to complete as many of their service requirements as possible during the Sixth Grade.**

During the 6<sup>th</sup> grade year, students must complete the required nine (9) worship services before becoming eligible to qualify for Levels of Recognition. During the 7<sup>th</sup> grade year, students must complete eighteen (18) worship services before becoming eligible to qualify for Levels of Recognition. Upon completion of those requirements, students may achieve the following:

**Completion of Required Sixth & Seventh Grade Requirements as listed above plus:**

- Five (5) Worship Services:** Ice Cream Sundae Oneg
- Ten (10) Worship Services:** Same as above and recognized in the Temple Newsletter or Mitt'n Drinen
- Fifteen (15) Worship Services:** Same as above and awarded a certificate of recognition at a special Shabbat service.
- Twenty (20) Worship Services:** Same as above and receive a special gift from the Rabbi
- Twenty-Five Plus (25+) Services:** Same as above and honored on a special plaque, "Member of Rabbi's Roll"

**8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Grades**

Students in grades 8-10 are required to earn worship and/or community service credits each year. Students who attend at least five (5) worship services will receive the four (4) credits required for the year. Upon completion of those requirements, students may achieve the following:

**Completion of five (5) worship services plus:**

- Five (5) Worship Services:** Ice Cream Sundae Oneg
- Ten (10) Worship Services:** Same as above and recognized in the Temple Newsletter or Mitt'n Drinen
- Fifteen (15) Worship Services:** Same as above and awarded a certificate of recognition at a special Shabbat service.
- Twenty (20) Worship Services:** Same as above and receive a special gift from the Rabbi
- Twenty-Five Plus (25+) Services:** Same as above and honored on a special plaque, "Member of Rabbi's Roll"

**PLEASE NOTE THAT WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE COUNTS FOR THE CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR'S REQUIREMENTS UNTIL THE LAST SATURDAY IN MAY. BEGINNING THE FIRST WEEKEND IN JUNE, ATTENDANCE COUNTS TOWARD THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR.**