JTree Mitzvah Project For Parents:
Planning a Bar or Bat Mitzvah for your child?

Looking for ways to make the Mitzvah experience meaningful and relevant to your child?

- Encourage your child to consider a JTree Mitzvah project!
- Partner with JTree and contribute to the fight against climate change.
- See family and friend donations ($1.00 = 1 tree sapling) make a difference to the future of our planet in the name of your child's Mitzvah!



What is a mitzvah project?

Our tradition teaches us that a young person celebrating a bar or bat mitzvah is ready to take on more responsibility. One of the first ways that a preteen can take on responsibility is to think about ways in which we all are responsible for one another, and for the society and world we live in.

- A **mitzvah project** teaches young people to embrace the experience of thinking of others beyond themselves, resulting in compassion and empathy for others that will make them feel great about themselves too!

Why is JTree a good choice for my child's mitzvah project?

Climate change affects us all, and it may seem to our children that it is too big a problem to address. The JTree project will teach your child that they can make a difference!

- $100 is the equivalent of planting 100 trees.
- $1000 is 1000 new trees!
- By raising and donating money to plant trees, your child will know that they have contributed to a better future for themselves and for the planet.

As stated in a 2021 Time Magazine article, *"Trees are our planet's natural air purifiers—the single most effective "device" we have to pull carbon out of the atmosphere. In the U.S., for example, forests capture and store almost 15 percent of our carbon dioxide emissions every year—equivalent to the annual emissions from 163 million cars."*

Join other Jewish youth in a 2022 – 2023: **Youth Taking Climate Action:**
Watch the video about teens like you in San Diego and Boulder that made JTree and climate action a part of their Mitzvah! Click here to watch the video
(If you are short on time, you can watch this shorter version of the video.)

Reactions

- Family members unable to travel for the Mitzvah appreciated making a donation to a meaningful cause, such as JTree.
- Parents' coworkers, specifically who were not Jewish and unsure about a Mitzvah gift, expressed gratitude for direction to plant trees. People love trees.
- Mitzvah youth and families have made their own contribution after the event.

How to help your child with a JTree Mitzvah project:

Recommendations to get started; adapt to make it work for your celebration.

- **Learn about climate change**, and why trees help fight climate change.
    - Hear from Jonathan Wittenberg, founder of JTree
    - Arbor Day Foundation: What is Climate Change?
    - Yes, We Can Grow 1 Trillion Trees to Help Fight Climate Change
- **Create a JTree fundraising page**
    - Personalize a donation page or link to the general JTree page
    - On the left side of the page, click JOIN TEAM. You'll be prompted to log in or create an account. Once you've set up a page, you'll be able to direct donors from your synagogue, organization, or community to your page and track donations there, all of which are part of the larger JTree effort.
- **Include a message about the project in your invitation**
    - Your child may write a short note to include that explains why planting trees is an important step in fighting climate change
    - Encourage guests to make a donation either in addition to, or in lieu of, another gift. Include the link to your child's fundraising page.
- **Make a personal donation**
    - Your child may donate a portion of any monetary gifts they receive. When they write a thank-you note for these gifts, they can include a sentence or two about how the gift makes a difference and how many trees will be planted because of the gift.
- **Take Local Action**
    - To make the project more concrete for your child, look for local opportunities to help **plant a tree with their own hands**.
        - Local parks sometimes have tree planting events.
        - Partner with your local JCC or congregation to plant a tree
        - Volunteer to plant and care for trees
        - Google "tree planting volunteer opportunities near me"
        - Plant a tree in your own backyard as a living reminder of the impact made by the mitzvah project

Thank you for helping Mitzvah youth take climate action!