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## Service Grant Application Packet Introduction

**BEN & BERNICE FITERMAN BAR/BAT MITZVAH TRAINING PROGRAM**

***MISSION STATEMENT***

***The Beth El Service Grant program provides financial, service-earned grants for Beth El youth to participate in Jewish summer camps and Israel programs, with the goal of building Jewish identity and engagement.***

***SERVICE GRANT STATEMENT OF PURPOSE***

***Jewish summer camp and Israel programs are some of the best ways to build Jewish identity and engage Jewish youth. Beth El supports our youth with service grants, enabling and encouraging them to participate in these programs. This incentive has an added benefit of engaged youth in synagogue life, Shabbat experiences and learning opportunities.***

***The Beth El Service Grant Program awards funds to Beth El member youth for providing volunteer service to the synagogue in an approved weekly program after completion of their B'nai Mitzvah. Most participants teach in the Fiterman Bar/Bat Mitzvah Training Program. Other approved weekly Shabbat programs include Rimonim participants, Shabbat babysitters, Shabbat Young Children’s Program assistants and Shorashim assistants. In addition, the Sunday morning Torah Plus program is an approved weekly program for tutors and assistants.***

***The service grant award must be used by youth for a Jewish residential camp or Jewish travel experience. Because Beth El Synagogue is a member of the Conservative Movement, these programs must have substantial Jewish content that includes education or study, celebration of Shabbat and observance of kashrut.***

Dear Grant Applicants (& Parents of Applicants):

Thank you for your service to Beth El Synagogue! Please read through the application information completely, paying special attention to the Grant Application Instructions.

You will find the following documents (page numbers listed):

1. Service Grant Application Packet Introduction
2. Service Grant Application Packet Instructions
3. Service Grant Policy
4. Service Grant Timeline
5. Alternative Service Options & Verification Form
6. Service Grant Application Form
7. Service Grant Application Form (Continued)
8. Scholarship Activity Reference Form #1

**All application & reference forms MUST be returned by JANUARY 31 to the Beth El Service Grant Committee, 5225 Barry Street W. Minneapolis, MN 55416. If you return via e-mail, please save all of the forms with the student’s name (last name, first name, file name), and send to** **jblustin@bethelsynagogue.org****.**

**Beth El Synagogue Service Grant**

**Application Packet Instructions**

Instructions for completing grant forms:

**1. Service Grant Application Form**

* Must be completed by ***ALL*** applicants, signed by parent or guardian & returned to the Synagogue Office.
* Remember to answer the short essay questions listed on the form.
* Application must be filled out *completely* or it cannot be considered.
* If you choose to return via e-mail, please save all of the forms with the student’s name (last name, first name, file name), and send to jblustin@bethelsynagogue.org

**2. Service Grant Activity Reference Form #1**

* Must be completed for ***ALL*** applicants. It should be requested that Beth El Education Director Mary Baumgarten complete Service Grant Activity Form #1.

**3. Supplementary Aid Application Information**

* For those requesting additional need-based financial aid above the Service Grant amount:
	+ Use the Common App. by going to the following link: <https://jewishminneapolis.org/campscholarships>
* Additional need-based summer program grant funds may be available from other organizations (i.e. The Israel Programs Center, the camp/program your child will attend, Jewish Family & Children’s Service).

**All application & reference forms MUST be returned by JANUARY 31**

**All grant funds are allocated at the winter meeting of the Scholarship Committee. *Late or incomplete applications cannot be considered.***

Thank you for your cooperation! Please contact Service Grant Committee Co-chairs with any questions or concerns.

*L’Shalom*,

Elise Lieberthal Riva Kupritz

Service Grant Committee Co-chair Service Grant Committee Co-chair

(763) 458-4600 (763) 377-5503

elieberthal@gmail.com rkupritz@outsourcemktng.com

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**Service Grant Policy**

**This policy applies to TaRBuT teachers, Rimonim participants, Shabbat babysitters and Shabbat Young Children’s Program assistants, Sunday Torah Plus Program tutors and assistants, Shorashim assistants and any others who have elected to work for Service Grants in an APPROVED WEEKLY PROGRAM. These are not need-based grants.**

**In order to qualify for Service Grants, the following requirements must be met:**

1. Grant recipients must be working in and regularly attending a Beth El Synagogue weekly program approved by Education Director, Mary Baumgarten.
* The program year is based on at least 27 sessions of service.
* Grant recipients are allowed 3 absences without penalty. More than 10 absences during the year will disqualify a recipient from receiving grant money therefore, it is not permitted to perform more than 7 alternative service sessions.
* Following the 3rd absence, each subsequent absence will result in a deduction of 1/27 of the full grant amount.
* Recipients may provide approved, alternative volunteer service to Beth El Synagogue to make up for absences that would result in a deduction from their full grant award.
* It is the recipient's responsibility to arrange to provide alternative service and to submit verification of the alternative service to Education Director, Mary Baumgarten.

**Other important Service Grant policy information:**

1. **Service Grants are not need-based.**
2. 7th grade Rimonim participants whose *B'nai Mitzvah* occur before December 1 may apply for Service Grants.
3. Recipients serving both in Rimonim/TaRBuT AND in Sunday B’nai Mitzvah Programs qualify for additional Service Grant funds.
4. The service grant reward must be used for a Jewish residential camp or Jewish travel experience. Because Beth El synagogue is a member of the Conservative Judaism movement, these programs must have substantial Jewish content, including education or study, celebration of Shabbat and observance of *kashrut*.
5. **All applications must be completed and returned to the Beth El Synagogue Office by January 31. All grant funds are allocated at the winter meeting of the Service Grant Committee. *Late or incomplete applications cannot be considered.***
6. Grant checks are mailed directly to the camp or program the recipient will attend. Payments cannot be made directly to individual families.

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**BEN & BERNICE FITERMAN BAR/BAT MITZVAH TRAINING PROGRAM**

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TEL 952.873.7300

5225 BARRY STREET WEST, ST. LOUIS PARK, MN 55416-1901

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**Service Grant Timeline**

**Please read the Beth El Synagogue Service GRANT Policy sheet for gRANT eligibility requirements and other important information.**

**September:**

* Contracts must be signed and returned to Beth El Education Director, Mary Baumgarten.
* Alternative Service can be earned in many ways. See list of opportunities on pg. 5.
Please contact Mary Baumgarten with questions.

**November:**

* If you have several absences, check with Mary Baumgarten regarding Alternative Service options.

**December/January:**

* Service Grant Packets are emailed out.
* Complete the Service Grant Application Form.
* Give the Grant Activity Reference Form #1 to Education Director, Mary Baumgarten, for completion.
* If applying for Supplementary Aid (aid above the Service Grant amount) complete the Common App at <https://jewishminneapolis.org/campscholarships>.

**January:**

* **ALL Scholarship forms are due in the Synagogue Office by January 31** for those applying to a summer program or to a program in Israel any time within the next 12 months.

**February:**

* If you have several absences, check with Mary Baumgarten regarding Alternative Service options.

**February/March:**

* Service Grant Committee meets to allocate grant funds.

**April:**

* Grant award letters are mailed to recipients. Letters will include number of absences as well as contract and testing information.
* Recipients must write thank-you letters to the "Education Endowment Fund Committee" at Beth El.
* All Alternative Service must be completed by May 1 and verification forms must be filed with Mary Baumgarten. **For those with more than 3 absences and no Alternative Service, grant amounts will be reduced on a prorated basis.**

**May:**

* Beth El mails the scholarship checks directly to the camp or program the recipient will attend. Payments cannot be made directly to individual families.

**BEN & BERNICE FITERMAN BAR/BAT MITZVAH TRAINING PROGRAM**

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SERVICE GRANT

Alternative Service Options

* Ensuring a minyan at Beth El’s daily minyan
* Reading Torah on non-TaRBuT days
* Baking hamentashen at Beth El
* Assisting at Sunday breakfasts at Beth El
* Shalom Beth El – greeting people at a Beth El service
* Helping to prepare the Beth El Sukkah
* Helping with lulav and etrog assembly at Beth El
* Assisting with High Holiday Children’s Programs at Beth El
* Assisting in Shorashim
* Gemilat Chesed opportunities
* Tutoring younger students (not on Shabbat)

**Any other alternative service options must be pre-approved by the Education Director.**

**VERIFICATION FORM FOR ALTERNATE VOLUNTEER SERVICES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of grant candidate** |  |
| **Program year** |  |  | **Date** |  |
| **Service performed** |  |
|  |
|  |
|  |  |
| **Number of hours** |  |  |
|  |  |
| **Supervisor** |  |
|  | **Signature** |
| **B’nai Mitzvah****Program Director** |  |
|  | **Signature** |

**BETH EL SYNAGOGUE SERVICE GRANT APPLICATION**

**COMPLETED APPLICATION DUE IN SYNAGOGUE OFFICE BY 1/31**

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|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Date |       |  |
| Name |       | Phone |       |
| Parent(s) Name(s) |       |
| Parent(s) Email(s) |       |
| Address |       |
| Current grade in school |       | Age |       | Name of School |       | Date of birth |       |
| Camp and/or program |       | Dates attending |       |
| Cost |       | Camp/program office phone number |       |
| **Mailing address of camp/program (your grant will not be processed without this information):** |
|       |
|  |
|  |  |  |
| 7th Graders:  | Date of *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* |       |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| SYNAGOGUE SERVICE(TaRBuT, Rimonim, SHAAR, Babysitting, Sunday Torah Plus Program, etc.) |
| Year | Program | Role/Position |
|       |       |       |
|       |       |       |
|       |       |       |
|  |  |  |  |
| In addition to Saturday Morning Synagogue Service, do you also teach/tutor in the Sunday Torah Plus |
| Program or *Haftarah* Programs?  |       |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Applicant |       | Parent/Guardian |       |
|  | SIGNATURE |  | SIGNATURE |

***To complete this form, the student and parent/guardian must type their initials in the appropriate signature line.***

***By returning this form via the student’s or parent/guardian’s e-mail, you agree to the terms of the application.***

**IMPORTANT (Next page 🡪)**

|  |
| --- |
| *WRITE AT LEAST ONE PARAGRAPH ANSWERING THESE QUESTIONS*  |
| *1. What educational goals do you have for your summer experience?*1. *How will this program make you a better teacher or leader?*
2. *What do you hope to contribute to your summer program?*
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|       |

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**SERVICE GRANT ACTIVITY REFERENCE FORM #1**

**To be completed by Beth El Education Director based on service to the synagogue**

**(*all information will be kept confidential*)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Student’s Name:** |  |
| **\*Program attending:** |  |

**Does applicant attend synagogue on Shabbat?** [ ]  **Regularly** [ ]  **Seldom**

**In what capacity does the applicant serve?**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Excellent | Good | Average | Poor | NoKnowledge | Comment |
| Knowledge/Skill | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |       |
| Preparedness | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |       |
| Reliability | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |       |
| Rapport with students | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |       |

**Additional comments:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date |       | Signature |       |