

# Purpose of Torah Corps

Torah Corps is an intensive program of communal study, integrated into lifelong Jewish study preparing students for *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah*, as well as planting firm roots for healthy Jewish lives.

# Goals of Torah Corps

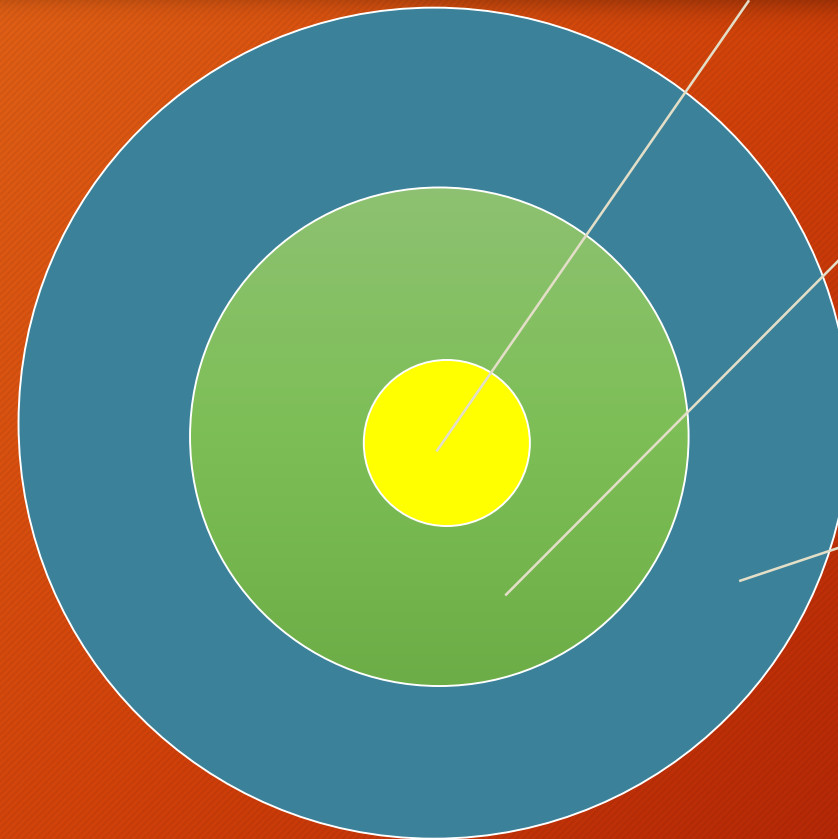
- ❖ Elevated preparation
- ❖ Taking responsibility for one's self and work
- ❖ Working with peers and teachers
- ❖ Shared objectives of group
- ❖ Creating Community

# Torah Corps provides:

## Important Jewish life skills and opportunities

- Importance of community and shared experience - consistency within the same group.
- Instruction in Torah cantillation (chanting) system, to facilitate learning with varied tools and pathways
- Jewish ritual skills - Using a *chumash* (Torah with Hebrew & English), wearing a *tallit* (prayer shawl), using a *yad* (pointer), prayer choreography
- Deciphering meanings of Torah text – Jewish study is a prism for living
- Communal exploration of *Mitzvah* work

# The Jewish Bullseye for student success



## Students-

- Practice!
- Come to class!

## Parents-

- Create opportunities
- Curiosity, not nagging!

## Clergy/temple -

- Provide exciting and supportive learning

# Timeline for Torah Corps

There is a lot of time and effort to devote to this process!

Orientation, prayer assessment and review, and Trope lessons - 1st 2 months  
[Prayer review continues throughout]

*Mitzvah* conversations - begin usually after 1<sup>st</sup> month

Learning Torah Portion - beginning 3<sup>rd</sup> month

Six-month Check-  
in Meeting with  
Cantor Caro

Review Haftarah Blessings

Haftarah Portion - by 3 months out

Meetings with  
Rabbi Holzman or  
Rabbi Wainer

*D'var Torah*

*D'var Mitzvah*

Torah Corps begins one year prior to *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*

# Torah Corps Class Design

- Peer-based *chevruta*- style learning environment
  - Group of 12-15 students study together in supportive community, preparing for *Bar* or *Bat Mitzvah*.
- Cantor/Rabbis/Youth Educator are Mentors and teachers
- *Madrachim* help to facilitate and support one-on-one learning and guide peer-*chevruta*
- Encompassing multiple modes of learning
- Torah Corps lasts approximately one year.
  - One-hour sessions, choice of time based on availability.
    - Sunday 8:30-9:30
    - Sunday 12:00-1:00
    - Tuesday 4:45-5:45
  - NOTE: Summer (June-August) are Tuesdays: 5:00-6:00, 6:00-7:00 or 7:00-8:00 p.m., based on availability.

# Torah Corps Class Content

- 1<sup>st</sup> 2 months, during individual work time:
  - Month 1: Orientation and Prayer assessment and practice
  - Month 2: Introduction to Torah Cantillation (trope)
- Ongoing Practice of individual assignments
- Sharing with each other messages from the meanings of their Torah portions
- Service leading practice
- Discussion and framing of *Mitzvah* work
- Discussions around developing Jewish identity
- Monitoring of student progress
  - Occasional Individual sessions with Cantor as needed and determined by Cantor.
- Weekly, individual assignments are given

# Torah Corps Materials

Attendance in Group/class time as well as practice and preparation are keys to your success

- Prayer recordings – download from our website, <http://www.nvhcreston.org/learn/bnai-mitzvah/torah-corps>
- *Parashah* Torah and Haftarah study booklet
- Listening device and earphones for class
- recordings of prayers, Torah and Haftarah verses (downloaded on listening device)
- *Siddur*



# Logistics

## Study Guidelines

- Weekly assignments are written in each student's book - *you can find it each week.*
- Expectation of daily study time
- Build this time and this journey into your family

## Communication

- Monthly newsletter
- Website - links, handbook
- Coffee with The Cantor!
  - Sundays, 10:45-11:15 a.m. – 9/22, 11/10, 12/15, 1/26, 3/15, 4/26
- Parent support/learning classes
  - Clergy – Sunday mornings: values, prayer and family connections
  - Judith Naiman – B'nai Mitzvah Parent's Class –
    - Sundays: 9/26, 10/6, 10/20, 10/27, 11/10

# Success is.....

- Success is measured by student experience rather than by outcome.
- Success is interdependent between student efforts at home, which are then supported in class.
- Best success is positive Jewish identity, growing up healthy.

מזל טוב!!

*Mazal Tov* on this wonderful experience  
and moment  
in the life of your child and your family!