

Congregation Or Ami Mitzvah Project Planning Guide



אור עמי

Congregation
Or Ami

LIGHT OF MY PEOPLE

PART ONE: CHOOSING MY MITZVAH PROJECT

1. I already have a good idea for my Mitzvah Project (skip to PART TWO).
2. I have a bunch of ideas, but need some help choosing the best Mitzvah Project for me. I will read through Questions Alef through Dalet below to help me focus my ideas.

QUESTION ALEF: *WHOM do you want to help? (Circle all that interest you)*

- ✧ Animals
- ✧ Children
- ✧ Elderly People
- ✧ Environment
- ✧ Foster Kids
- ✧ Health
- ✧ Homeless People
- ✧ Hungry People
- ✧ Oceans
- ✧ Refugees & War-torn People
- ✧ Schools
- ✧ Special Needs People
- ✧ _____ (someone else)

QUESTION BET: *WHERE in the world do you want to make a difference? (Circle all that interest you)*

- ✧ In my school
- ✧ In my neighborhood or city (local)
- ✧ In my state (regional)
- ✧ In my country (national)
- ✧ In another country (international)
- ✧ _____ (somewhere else)

QUESTION GIMMEL: WHAT do you want to do? (Circle all that interest you)

- ✧ Become an expert on a problem in the world and teach about it to others
- ✧ Advocate for specific legislation or change in the world by organizing a campaign to inspire others to write letters and make phone calls in favor of a “cause”
- ✧ Organize a “Drive” by collecting items from my friends & community to donate to an organization that needs the items (books, sports uniforms, school supplies, blanket & towels for animal shelters, food, etc.)
- ✧ Organize a Clean-Up Day for a local beach, creek, park, etc.
- ✧ Volunteer my time helping out at an organization I already know about
- ✧ Find an organization whose mission I believe in and volunteer my time there
- ✧ Challenge myself to do something spectacular in an area I already love in order to raise awareness/funds to help solve a problem in the world (Read-a-thon, Swim-a-thon, Jog-a-thon, Pray-a-thon, Sing-a-thon, Soccer-a-thon, etc.) ***See Note Below.**
- ✧ Organize others to participate in a challenge to raise awareness/funds to help solve a problem in the world (Read-a-thon, Swim-a-thon, Jog-a-thon, Pray-a-thon, Sing-a-thon, Soccer-a-thon, etc.). ***See Note Below.**

****Please note:** Students participating in fundraising efforts need to do so IN ADDITION TO completing at least 10 hours of hands-on service. The idea behind this is that the gift of our time and effort matters just as much as (or more than) gifts of money, and our rabbis want to instill in our students that most of the world's problems cannot be solved with a check. That said, many problems can be alleviated by funding, and if a student wants to pursue a project that includes fundraising, this needs to be done in addition to 10 hours of raising awareness and helping in other ways.*

✧ _____ (something else)

QUESTION DALET: HOW MUCH TIME will you spend and WHEN will you spend it?

- ✧ About 10 hours (the minimum required amount)
- ✧ More than 10 hours, probably more like _____
- ✧ I would like to concentrate my time in the period from _____ to _____
- ✧ I would like to spread out my time over several months, from _____ to _____

*Once you have thought through your answers to these questions and completed Part One of this form, please contact Mitzvah Project Coordinator, Cathie Rutkin, for assistance in finding a project or organization that fits your interests and time. **Cathie can be reached at 805-358-0608 or crutkin@gmail.com.***

Congregation Or Ami **Mitzvah Project Planning Form**

PART TWO: DESIGNING MY MITZVAH PROJECT

Think about what your GOAL is for your Mitzvah Project. How can YOU help heal the world? Try to focus on something realistically achievable, yet something that is also meaningful to you.

Example of a GOAL: In order to achieve my Mitzvah Project's Goal of feeding hungry people in my community, I will coordinate a canned food drive at my school.

Breaking a goal down into smaller **OBJECTIVES** helps clarify the steps you will need to take in order to achieve your goal. Try to break your Mitzvah Project down into 3 – 5 objectives, or steps that you will take. Try to make your objectives clearly defined, realistic, and related to your overall goal. Your objectives should also explain what you will do, when you will do it, and what your expected/hoped for outcome will be.

Example of OBJECTIVES that provide small steps to meet this Goal:

Objective #1: By the end of March, I will talk with my teachers and school staff about the best way to spread the word about my project to my classmates, and then I will create flyers and reminders for my school.

Objective #2: By the end of March, I will talk to local newspaper like the Acorn about running an article telling my community about my food drive.

Objective #3: By the end of April, I will set the dates for a week-long food drive at my school to try to collect 25 bags of canned food.

Objective #4: By the beginning of May, I will deliver the food to the SOVA Food Pantry.

Objective #5: By the end of May, I will spend at least one afternoon distributing food to hungry people.

Mitzvah Project Design Worksheet

1. **Title** of My Mitzvah Project: _____

2. **Name of the Organization** my Mitzvah Project will benefit:

3. **My Goals** for my Mitzvah Project (how I hope my project will help heal the world):

4. **My Objectives** for my Mitzvah Project (the steps I will take to achieve my goals):

Objective #1 _____

Objective #2 _____

Objective #3 _____

Objective #4 _____

Objective #5 _____

Once you have completed Part Two, please contact Mitzvah Project Coordinator, Cathie Rutkin, for approval of your Mitzvah Project. Cathie is also available to help you if you need help thinking through this step. Cathie can be reached at 805-358-0608 or crutkin@gmail.com.