

Kemp Mill Synagogue Youth Leaders Program

The Board of Directors of Kemp Mill Synagogue, through the leadership of the Vice President of Youth Activities and the Youth Committee, seeks young adults, ages 13-18, who enjoy working with younger kids and seek leadership positions at the shul, as part of Shabbat youth activities.

The parts of the KMS youth Shabbat program needing Youth Leaders are the following:

Tot Shabbat (2-3 year olds)

Our Tot Shabbat Program for 2-3 year olds aims to give toddlers a wonderful and exciting Shabbat experience. This interactive program includes tefilot, songs, stories, dancing and movement, all in an environment that fosters learning and fun. Parent participation is only necessary if the child is not familiar/comfortable with "drop-off" situations.

Youth Leader Responsibilities

- Set-up and clean-up of the room
- Generally lead children and co-leaders in the program each week
- Know the songs and routines and be comfortable enough to lead everyone in the room (children, parents and co-leaders) in singing
- Pick out 1-2 stories for the program each week
- Get and serve snack, lead brachot over the snacks

Shabbat Club 4N-K

KMS's 4 year old nursery kids and kindergarteners are at a great age. These kids are ready to daven, review parsha and have fun on Shabbat mornings. The Shabbat Club will allow these curious youngsters to feel like the big kids that they are, but also keep in mind that games and activities are important too. Highlights will include parsha charades, Israeli flags and prize tickets.

Youth Leader Responsibilities for Shabbat Club

- Set-up and Clean-up of the room
- Lead the kids in modified davening and singing
- Giving out prize tickets/ envelopes
- Prepare Parsha/ Chag games and songs
- Lead general/ hebrew games (ex. Shimon Says, Kar v' Cham, Jumping in and out game, Tzadick, Rasha, Beioni Thumbs Up/ Down game)
- Reading of stories
- Get and serve snack/ Brachot

The Aleph-Bets (1st-2nd graders)

The Aleph-Bets begin with Tefilla. Children can volunteer to lead different parts and choose the tune. In addition to the morning Brachot, Ashrai and Shema, Shabbat morning service includes taking out the Torah from the Aron (which the children also decorated themselves), and saying MiShebeirach prayers for Israel, peace, soldiers, and those who are sick. After the ending tefillot and songs, the children gather for Parsha time and snack. The Parsha is experienced through discussions, stories, skits, games, and—our group specialty—building awesome models with blocks and Legos. Most weeks, the children have time for free-play, in the play-ground on nice days, or with toys in the room.

Youth Leader Responsibilities for Aleph-Bets

- Set-up and helping kids get their siddurim/seats
- Leading the kids in davening and singing
- Handing out “gems” to children who are participating nicely
- Engaging the children in Parsha discussion
- Leading Parsha activity, story or games
- Getting and serving snack
- Leading clean up

Junior Congregation (3rd-5th graders)

Our Juniors will be starting davening promptly at 9:45 led by a chosen chazzan or chazanit for the week. After the davening, there will be parsha discussion and games. Weather permitting and for those who are interested, there will be a short supervised “Shabbasdik play time outside. If kids want to stay inside, there will be supervised play available as well. Children will be earning davening tickets which they can redeem for prizes. Each shabbat program will end with a Kiddush treat. There will also be a monthly guest presenter and a special Kiddush on Shabbat Mevarchim Hachodesh.

Youth Leader Responsibilities for Junior Congregation

- Set-up and Clean-up of the room
- Set example during davening
- Leading Parsha activity, story or games
- Give brief d'var torah on occasion
- Select and direct group games
- Monitor kids open play time
- Get and serve snack
- give out tickets for attendance and game winners
- monitor behavior as necessary

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The Youth Leadership program is a leadership opportunity for kids in junior and high school to have a leadership position within the shul and provide a needed service to parents. Applicants should have a strong interest in being with kids. While Youth Leaders are expected to lead the groups to which they are assigned they will be provided training and support by our Youth Director, as well as parent volunteers.

General Expectations

- Great attitude and energy
- 9:30AM to 11:30AM every Shabbat (plus certain chaggim)
- 90%+ attendance rate, Leaders must be responsible and let the Youth Director and/or VP Youth know a week in advance to assist with finding a replacement for that Shabbat.
- Participation in training sessions
- For some groups, spending limited time during the week to prepare
- Regular communication with Youth Director about group issues
- Commitment to the program from end of August to the following middle of June

Youth Leaders are not expected to:

- Manage parent "issues". (Bring issues to the attention of the Youth Director)

Compensation/Benefits

Information will be forthcoming regarding payment versus community service hours.

Candidates selected to be Youth Leaders and who complete their commitment can request and receive letters of recommendation from the President of the Shul and/or the Vice President-Youth for job opportunities (e.g., camp counselor) or other purposes.