



FIGHT GENOCIDE
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jww.org

Fall 2021

AN ADVOCATE'S GUIDE TO MITZVAH PROJECTS



Advocating means talking about and trying to convince someone about something that is important to you. **Tzedakah** is the practice of giving charity. A **Mitzvah** is a commandment, often to do good deeds. **Your Mitzvah Project combines all three.**

This Guide explains why including a Mitzvah Project will add additional meaning to your bar or bat mitzvah experience and how Jewish World Watch can help you make doing your project fun, interesting and enjoyable.

What should my Project be about?

Your **Mitzvah Project** is a way to express your Jewish values and make a real difference in the lives of others. Start by thinking about what is wrong with the world and how you could fix it.



*If you see what needs to be repaired
and how to repair it,
then you have found a piece of the world
that G-d has left for you to complete.*

– Menachem Mendel Schneerson

Next ...

Think about what you are good at and what you like to do. Consider how much time and resources you have to devote to your project, what obstacles you might face, and who can help you. With these things in mind, you can set your goals and figure out what is practical for you to get done in the time you have.

The last step is to find a link between the problem you have identified and the education, advocacy and relief work that JWW addresses. Call us! JWW staff can help you review your project ideas or brainstorm with you to come up with a project idea that fits you.



Mitzvah Project hints

Create a fundraiser around something you already do

Do you play a sport, exercise on a regular basis love to read? You can ask your friends and relatives to donate to JWW every time you score, reach a new weight training goal, complete a book or get a good grade on a test.



Pair your JWW concern with a local issue

Homelessness, food insecurity, senseless violence, and the need for education are all problems that affect our local community and also places like Sudan, Congo, Bangladesh and China. Passionate about education? Combine tutoring at a local school with JWW's work in the DRC and in the Rohingya refugee camps. **Want to help with hunger? Support JWW's Seeds of Survival empowerment project.**



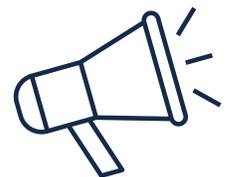
SEEDS OF SURVIVAL

CULTIVATING COMMUNITIES OF INDEPENDENCE



Make your own Genocide Awareness Day

Be a JWW anti-genocide advocate. Give a speech at your school and get your friends to sign a petition in support of legislation to help genocide survivors. Ask everyone you know with a social media account to post, tweet or update their status with information about a crisis or a link to an action that JWW supports. We can point you in the right direction.



Highlight your Mitzvah Project at your service and celebration

Here are some ways to highlight your Mitzvah Project:

Invitations

Include a JWW postcard about current genocide-related legislation that we support and ask your guests to sign and return the card with their RSVP.



Make a Bar/Bat Mitzvah website

Ask us to add a page on the jww.org website for information and pictures about your project and a donation link.



Talk about your mitzvah project as part of your Bar/Bat Mitzvah speech

The drash (lesson) that you give at your service is your opportunity to share the link between your Torah portion and JWW's advocacy and relief efforts. We can help you connect the dots!



Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.

– The Talmud

You don't have to do all of this alone

Join forces

Do a joint project with another B'nai Mitzvah student. People need to hear a message multiple times for it to take hold. Think about how powerful it would be for members of your synagogue to hear about JWW's mission several times at different services.



Use a Mitzvah Mentor

It is often easier to complete a task when you work with someone who has already been through it. JWW can pair you with a "Mitzvah Mentor," trained students who have had their B'nai Mitzvah and who can be a guide, an extra pair of hands, or a source of good ideas.



Ask us for help

Don't need a mentor, but just want some advice? No problem. We would love to spend a little time with you in person, if possible, or on the phone, Zoom or by email to talk about picking a project and seeing it through to its amazing conclusion.



Call us at 818.501.1836 or email us at info@jww.org

*You stand alone while we, your parents,
are seated in the congregation.*

*You stand on your own two feet to lead
the congregation, to sing, to pray, to study.*

*They and we listen to you carefully,
They and we hear your words, your commentary.
My son, my daughter, your voice is heard,*

Your wisdom addresses all of us.

– Rabbi Harold M. Schulweis (z"l)

More about Jewish World Watch



Our Work Jewish World Watch exists to create a better-informed and involved community through local education, advocacy for concrete policy changes and empowerment projects that support survivor communities to regain dignity and create local change.

Our Vision We envision a future without genocide and mass atrocities; a world that does not stand idly by while civilian populations are being attacked simply because of who they are.

To learn more, visit jww.org/mitzvah

