

MITZVAHNOMICS

Keeping Track of Your Costs

No matter what kind of celebration you plan for your child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah, there are many costs involved. First, you need to decide what kind of party to have and what extras to include. Do you want to spend more money on the entertainment or the food? Do you want to hire a magician or have the kids make flip books? What other events will you host? We've provided a list of all of the potential costs. Check off those that pertain to your party and how much you want to budget for each. Planning ahead and keeping track of your expenses will help you develop a realistic picture of the total costs.

FOR THE SYNAGOGUE

- Synagogue Fees** Ask what costs are associated with the Bar/Bat Mitzvah service. \$ _____
- Programs** Some families choose to print a program or brochure to explain the service rituals and who is participating. \$ _____
- Kippot** See if your synagogue allows personalized kippot before ordering. \$ _____
- Flowers** Do you need to provide flowers for the bimah? \$ _____
- Tallit** Are you purchasing a new tallit for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah child or using one from a family member? \$ _____
- Kiddush** If you plan to host a buffet or luncheon following services, ask your synagogue what costs are involved (food, staff, flowers, linens, etc.) If there is another celebrant, see if you can share the costs. \$ _____

PRINTING NEEDS

- Invitations** These can range from expensive custom invites to do-it-yourself homemade ones. \$ _____
- Thank You Notes** \$ _____
- Save the Date Cards** \$ _____
- Table Place Seating Cards** \$ _____
- Calligraphy** If you decide to hire someone to hand write your place cards and/or envelopes. \$ _____
- Postage** Make sure to weigh an envelope with all enclosures to determine the final cost. For an extra fee, you can order customized stamps through many websites including www.razzle.com and www.stamps.com. \$ _____

LOOKING GOOD

- Clothes for synagogue and party for your child and other family members** \$ _____
- Hair and makeup** \$ _____

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FOR THE GUESTS

- **Transportation** Will you transport out-of-town guests from the hotel to the synagogue and to the party if it is off site? You may also need transportation for children attending without parents. \$ _____
- **Additional Meals** Are you having out-of-town guests for Friday night dinner and/or Sunday brunch? \$ _____
- **Welcom Gifts for Hotel Guests** \$ _____

FOR THE CELEBRATION

- **Party Planner** (if you choose to use one) \$ _____
- **Venue** \$ _____
- **Caterer** Food may be included in the total rate, but can be additional. \$ _____
- **Band or DJ** Keep in mind you will be charged extra for dancers and motivators and be sure to factor in feeding the extra staff. \$ _____
- **Entertainment** This varies widely depending on the type and quantity of activities you bring in. \$ _____
- **Flowers/Décor/Lighting** \$ _____
- **Centerpieces** \$ _____
- **Sign-in** \$ _____
- **Montage Specialist** You can hire a specialist or ask your DJ/Entertainment company if they can put together a creative montage of photos and videos. \$ _____
- **Photographer/Videographer** \$ _____
- **Custom Cake** \$ _____
- **Party Favors** \$ _____
- **Giveaways** Some DJs supply giveaways they hand out on the dance floor; others may ask you to supply your own or you may want to supplement their offerings. Ask what's included in their fee. \$ _____
- **Socks** Sounds odd, but trust us, girls will often take off their shoes for dancing and will want to don socks for sliding around the floor. \$ _____
- **Exit Treats** Many parties include candy bars, coffee trucks and other fun food as guests exit the party. \$ _____
- **Tips** There may be some staff you would like to tip afterwards. \$ _____