



Candle Lighting / Honor Ceremony Packet

At Party Excitement, we know that the honor ceremony, which is usually in the form of a candle lighting, can be one of the most difficult pieces of the puzzle to figure out for your upcoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah. With this in mind, we want to make this as easy as possible for you and your family, so we have put together this packet to guide you through the process.

Table of Contents

Helpful Hints (Page 2)

Sample Script (Page 4)

Suggested Order (Page 7)

Ways to Shorten Your Ceremony (Page 8)

Song Selections Format Sheet (Page 9)

Music Selections (Page 11)

Helpful Hints

General

There is no “right or wrong” way of doing the candle lighting – there is only too long! Please keep it short and sweet.

Start by making an initial list of honorees. Try not to forget anyone who you feel must light a candle. Please remember that is fine to group people together.

You can have any number of candles/honorees. Most of the time it is 13 or 14, but with a smaller crowd, you may want to have less. We don't recommend having more than 14.

Be careful that you don't offend any of your guests. If you were asked to light a candle at someone else's Bar/Bat Mitzvah, proper etiquette is to reciprocate and have them light a candle at your Mitzvah.

If concerned about having some of your guests feel “left out” because they did not receive an honor, then consider having an “everyone candle.” This is typically the last candle and we have provided a great example of what to write which can be found in the “Sample Candle Lighting” below for candle number 14.

To Rhyme or Not to Rhyme

The candle lighting doesn't need to be done in a “poem” format. If anything, it's easier and faster to keep it to a couple of sentences that don't rhyme.

In Memory

If you are doing a candle in memory, we recommend that it is done as the first candle. It is most respectful to begin in memory and then pick things up from there.

We recommend that no music is played for a candle in memory.

The Script

With all the important things going on as you plan a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, one important thing is to type up what the guest of honor is going to say, just like a script.

As soon as your script is completed, so that you don't forget to bring your script with you, we then strongly recommend the "3 Copy System."

The 3 Copy System

1st Copy is your main copy that you plan on having with you on the day of the party

2nd Copy is placed in the vehicle you'll be driving that day

3rd Copy is e-mailed to the MC of your event (Please send to us no later than 2 weeks before the date of the party). You can email it to info@partyexcitement.com.

Table Setup

We recommend that you ask whoever is in charge of providing tables have one round table on wheels designated for just the candle lighting supplies. This could include the cake, candle holders, copy of the script, lighter, and/or any other necessary items.

Candles

If the caterer will be supplying the candles, tell him/her how many you will need. We always recommend having at least 15, but just in case it is always good to have extras!

We suggest having the number of groups, plus 1 to light and 2 as extra. Example 13 groups = 16 Candles

If you are looking to purchase candles, please refer to the links in the Supplies section of the Candle Lighting Section at our website www.partyexcitement.com

Have the Caterer or MC place the candles in the cake just prior to the ceremony beginning to avoid having a big mess if things melt.

Music Choice

Even though all genres and speeds of music are listed in the pages to follow for music choices, we STRONGLY recommend that you choose upbeat music whenever possible to keep your audience paying attention.



THIS IS ONLY A SAMPLE



The sample script below was created as a reference as you work on your own script.

Please note that the beginning text is numbered and bold, and the candle number is mentioned at the end. This will help remember where we left off as the group is called up and where to begin with the next candle.



1 Grandma and Grandpa: Every summer, I go to visits my grandparents on Cape Cod. We have fun playing Scatergories and charades and just relaxing. When I go to Cape Cod I know that I will always have a good time. I would like to call up Grandma and Grandpa to light candle #2

Song: You Make Me Feel So Young by Frank Sinatra

2 Sue and Al: My other grandparents Sue and Al just moved into a new home. They host great family get-togethers every year. We have a great time playing cards and hanging out. They always make me feel welcome when I visit. I would like to call up Sue and Al to light candle #3.

Song: In The Mood by Glenn Miller

3 Matt and Janine: My uncle Matt and aunt Janine are two great people. When I see them I always have a good time. Because of them, my card playing skills are much better than they were. I would like to call up uncle Matt and aunt Janine to light candle #5.

Song: What I Like about you by the Romantics

4 My uncle Steve and aunt Monique have busy lives in New York but always take time to come and see us when they are up in Boston. It is always good to see them. My uncle Bruce is a kind guy. I love visiting his home in Maryland and sharing thanksgivings with him and his family. I am glad that he could come. I would like to call up my uncle Steve and aunt Monique and uncle Bruce to light candle #6

Song: New York, New York by Frank Sinatra

5 Unfortunately some of my aunts and uncles could not make it. I love them too and I would like to light candle #7 in honor of my aunt K.C. and uncle Creighton, aunt Ally and uncle Roger, and aunt Lori.

Song: L.O.V.E. by Nat King Cole

6 Next is my uncle Joe uncle Murray and aunt Dolly. I know that they traveled from New Hampshire and New York State to be here for my bar mitzvah and I really appreciate them coming. I would like to call up uncle Joe, uncle Murray, and aunt Dolly to light candle #8

Song: New York State of Mind by Billy Joel

7 Now come my Dad's cousins Mike, Roz, Pam and Steve. They were an important part of my dad's life when he was growing up and it's important to me that they're here today. I would like to call up Mike, Roz, Pam and Steve to light candle #9

Song: We are Family by Sister Sledge

8 My dad's other cousins are Dan, Faith, David and Katrine. Dan and Faith are expert scuba divers and invite us to their great apple fest every year. David and Katrine jet-set between New York and France, and I'm really glad they were in the country and able to be here today. I would like to call up Dan, Faith, David, and Katrine to light candle #10.

Song: Leaving on a Jet Plane by John Denver

9 My mom's cousins Fred, Marilyn, Sally and George always make a big effort to come to our family celebrations. They're a lot of fun and it's always more special when they're here. I would like to call up Fred, Marilyn, Sally and George to light candle #11

Song: Celebration by Kool and the Gang

10 My cousins range from 8 months old all the way to 23. When I am around any one of them, I can count on having a good time. I would like to call up all the cousins that are here to light candle #12

Song: Hot, Hot, Hot by Buster Poindexter

11 Candle for my friends. Some of you I see every day, some I only see once in awhile, but you're all the best. I would like to ask all my friends to light candle #13

Song: My best Friend by Queen

12 Matt and Kate: I know that I can always count on my brother and sister Kate and Matt. They are always there for me when I need them. We have a lot of fun and when I am sad they always cheer me up. I would like to call up Kate and Matt to light candle #4.

Song: Party Rock Anthem by LMFAO

13 Parents: My parents have always been there for me when I needed them they have helped and supported me and taught me great things. I would like to call up my biggest role models: my parents to light candle #1

Song: Dynamite by Taio Cruz

14. The "Everyone Candle": Although I would have loved to have everyone in the room come up to light a candle, if we did that – we'd be doing this candle lighting all night! So instead, I'd like to light this candle in honor of everyone in the room. Thank you SO much for coming to Bar Mitzvah! Now let's party!

Song: I Gotta Feeling by Black Eyed Peas

Candle Lighting Order

Note: The following is the order most people follow for the candle lighting ceremony. Of course it is up to you, and there is no wrong way:

Welcome: Thanking everyone for being with you.

Memorial candle: In memory of a loved one or group of loved ones.

Grandparents

Aunts & Uncles: With their kids, unless there is a really close cousin relationship and your child wants them to have their own candle(s).

Older Relatives

Younger Relatives

Friends of Parents

Friends of Guest of Honor

Siblings

Parents

Good Luck candle (Optional)

Everyone Candle: This is a nice gesture is to have the Guest of Honor light a candle for everyone who has joined you for the celebration that you could not call up. *(Please see example under the "Candle Lighting Sample – Candle #14)*

Ways to shorten the ceremony

- ✓ Don't separate school and home friends from camp friends, do one "friends" candle. It is fine if the guest of honor has one or two best friends to give them their own candle.

- ✓ Do not try to rhyme or say the names of the kids for the guest of honor's "friends" candle. Just say, "All of my friends" when you invite them up.

- ✓ Unless one family of your adult friends is very special to you, group more than one family together. You can bring up five or six couples at the same time. Just use their names in the poem or speech. It is fun - everyone laughs at these huge groups.

- ✓ Don't give every single out-of-town guest a candle. You can combine that to 1 "Out of Town" candle.

- ✓ Do not make each poem 10 lines long. Try to keep each poem to a maximum of 4 lines/sentences.

- ✓ It's unnecessary to give everyone you ever met in your life his or her own candle.

Song for Each Candle Suggestions

Memorial Candle

We strongly feel that candles in memory shouldn't have music played, but if looking for a song anyway we suggest:

I will Remember You - Sarah McLaughlin
Can't Smile without you – Barry Manilow
Somewhere over the Rainbow – Israel Kamakawiwo'ole
Somewhere Out There - James Ingram
One Sweet Day - Boys II Men
Memory (From Cats) – Barbara Streisand
Tears in Heaven – Eric Clapton
Candle in the Wind – Elton John
My Heart Will Go On – Celine Dion
You Raise Me Up – Josh Groban

Songs for Grandparents

All You Need is Love – Beatles	Stand By Me - Ben E. King
At Last – Etta James	Sunrise, Sunset – Fiddler on the Roof
Because You Loved Me- Celine Dion	That's Amore - Dean Martin
Beyond the Sea – Bobby Darrin	The Way You Look Tonight - Frank Sinatra
Can't Help Falling in Love – Elvis	Through The Years - Kenny Rogers
Can You Feel The Love Tonight- Elton John	To Life – Fiddler On The Roof
Celebration - Kool & The Gang	Tradition - Fiddler On The Roof
Forever Young- Rod Stewart	Twist and Shout – Beatles
Have I Told You Lately? - Van Morrison	Unchained Melody - Righteous Brothers
I Got You Babe- Sonny & Cher	Unforgettable - Nat & Natalie Cole
I Just Called to Say I Love You – Stevie Wonder	We Are Family - Sister Sledge
I Think I Love You – Partridge Family	What A Wonderful World - Louis Armstrong
In The Mood - Glenn Miller Orchestra	Wind beneath My Wings - Bette Midler
It Had To Be You – Harry Connick Jr.	You Are the Sunshine Of My Life - Stevie Wonder
L-O-V-E – Nat King Cole	You Light Up My Life - Debbie Boone
Simon Tov/Mazel Tov	Young at Heart – Frank Sinatra

Songs for Guest of Honor / “Everyone” Candle

Born this Way – Lady Gaga
Celebration - Kool & The Gang
Club Can’t Handle Me – Flo Rida
Dynamite – Taio Cruz
Eye Of The Tiger- Survivor
Fire Burning – Sean Kingston
Get The Party Started - Pink
Good Feeling – Flo Rida
I Gotta Feeling – Black Eyed Peas
My Wish – Rascal Flatts
Party Rock Anthem - LMFAO
Pump it – Black Eyed Peas
Rock & Roll Part 2 - Gary Glitter
Rock this Party – Bob Sinclair
Sexy and I Know it - LMFAO
Tik Tok – Kesha
We Like to Party – Vengaboys
We Found Love – Rihanna
What Makes you Beautiful – One Direction
Yeah 3X – Chris Brown

Songs for Other Relatives

1, 2, 3, 4 - Plain White T’s	Hot, Hot, Hot- Buster Poindexter
Adams Family Theme	I’m So Excited – Pointer Sisters
Austin Power Theme	It’s A Family Affair- Sly & The Family Stones
Barbie Girl	Land of 1000 Dances- Wilson Picket
Can You Feel the Love Tonight - Elton John	Let The Good Times Roll- The Cars
Celebration - Kool & the Gang	Love Will Keep Us Together- Captain & Tennille
Crazy Frog	Rock and Roll All Night – Kiss
Good Times- Chic	Simply the Best – Tina Turner
Ease on Down the Road – The Wiz	Stand By Me - Ben E. King
Family Affair – Sly and the Family Stone	Still the One- Orleans
Hakuna Matada	Unforgettable - Nat & Natalie Cole
Happy Together- The Turtles	We Are Family - Sister Sledge
Have I Told You Lately? - Van Morrison	What a Wonderful World - Louis Armstrong
Have I Told You Lately? – Rod Stewart	Wind beneath My Wings - Bette Midler
Hot Stuff- Donna Summer	

Songs for Friends

ABC – Jackson 5
Born To Be Wild - Steppenwolf
Boys Are Back In Town- Thin Lizzy
Celebration - Kool & The Gang
Count On Me- Whitney Houston
Friends TV Theme Song – Rembrandts
Friends – Bette Midler
Friends in Low Places – Garth Brooks
Girls – Beastie Boys
Girls Just Wanna Have Fun - Cyndi Lauper
Graduation – Vitamin C
Hot Hot Hot - Buster Poindexter
I Feel Good - James Brown
If My Friends Could See Me Now – Various
I’ll Be There- Mariah Carey
I’ll be there for You (Friends Theme) – Rembrandts
Lean on Me - Bill Withers
Lean On Me- Club Nouvaeu
Mr. Roger’s Neighborhood Theme
Never Had a Friend Like Me – Aladdin
Oh Pretty Woman - Roy Orbison or Van Halen
Respect - Aretha Franklin
Rock & Roll Part 2 - Gary Glitter
Rocky Theme - Soundtrack
Stand By Me - Ben E. King
That's What Friends Are For
Through The Years - Kenny Rogers
Time Of My Life - Bill Medley
Unforgettable - Nat & Natalie Cole
Thank You For Being A Friend - "Golden Girls" TV Show
That's What Friends Are For - Dionne Warwick
We Are the Champions - Queen
We are Young – Fun.
We Go Together – “Grease” Soundtrack
We Will Rock You - Queen
What About Your Friends- TLC
What I Like About You - Romantics
Who Let The Dogs Out - Baha Men
Wild Thing - Troggs
With A Little Help From My Friends – Beatles
With A Little Help From My Friends – Joe Cocker
You’re a True Friend – Hannah Montana
You’re My Best Friend- Queen
You've Got A Friend - James Taylor

Songs for Brothers

All-star – Smash Mouth
Anything You Can Do, I Can Do Better
Bad Boys – Inner Circle
Bad To The Bone- George Thorogood
Born To Be Wild - Steppenwolf
Celebration - Kool & The Gang
Eye of the Tiger – Survivor
Get Ready for This – 2 Unlimited
Have I Told You Lately I Love You - Van Morrison
He Ain't Heavy He's My Brother - Neil Diamond
Hot Hot Hot - Buster Poindexter
I Feel Good - James Brown
I’m Too Sexy- Right Said Fred
Just Can’t Wait To Be King- “Lion King”
Just the Two of Us – Bill Withers
Let’s Hear It For The Boy- Denise Williams
Macho Man - Village People
Mission Impossible – Soundtrack
Oh Yeah – Yello
Pretty Fly For A White Guy – The Offspring
Rock & Roll Part 2 - Gary Glitter
Rocky Theme
Sharp Dressed Man – ZZ Top
Soul Man- Blues Brothers
Stand By Me - Ben E. King
Thank You For Being A Friend - "Golden Girls" TV Show
That's What Friends Are For - Dionne Warwick
The Boys are Back in Town – Thin Lizzy
Unforgettable - Nat & Natalie Cole
We Are Family - Sister Sledge
We Are The Champions - Queen
We Go Together - Grease Soundtrack
We Will Rock You - Queen
Whatta Man- Salt-n-Peppa
What I Like About You - Romantics
Wild Thing - Troggs

Songs for Sisters

Anything You Can Do, I Can Do Better
Barbie Girl – Aqua
Born To Be Wild - Steppenwolf
Brown Eyed Girl - Van Morrison
Celebration - Kool & The Gang
Dancing Queen - Abba
Do Wah Diddy ("There She Goes...") -
Manford Mann
Foxy Lady - Jimi Hendrix
Girls Just Wanna Have Fun - Cyndi Lauper
Have I Told You Lately I Love You - Van
Morrison
Hey, Soul Sister
Hot Hot Hot - Buster Poindexter
I Feel Good - James Brown
I'm Every Woman- Whitney Houston
I Saw Her Standing There- The Beatles
Isn't She Lovely - Stevie Wonder
Just A Girl - No Doubt
Ladies Night – Kool and the Gang
Material Girl – Madonna
Miss America Theme Song
Mission Impossible - Soundtrack

More Than A Woman- Bee Gees
My Girl- The Temptations
Oh Pretty Woman - Roy Orbison
Pretty Woman- Roy Orbison
Respect - Aretha Franklin
Rock & Roll Part 2 - Gary Glitter
She Drives Me Crazy- Fine Young Cannibals
Stand By Me - Ben E. King
Supermodel – Ru Paul
Thank You For Being A Friend - "Golden
Girls" TV Show
That's What Friends Are For - Dionne
Warwick
Unforgettable - Nat & Natalie Cole
Uptown Girl - Billy Joel
We Are Family - Sister Sledge
We Are The Champions - Queen
We Go Together - Grease Soundtrack
We Will Rock You - Queen
What I Like About You - Romantics
Where You Lead- Carol King
Wild Thing - Troggs

Songs for Parents

Ain't No Mountain High Enough- Supremes
Always on my Mind – Willie Nelson
Beautiful Life – Ace of Base
Because You Loved Me – Celine Dion
Can You Feel The Love Tonight - Elton John
Can't Help Falling in Love – Elvis
Celebration - Kool & The Gang
Everlasting Love- Gloria Estefan
Family Affair - Sly & The Family Stone
Get on Your Feet – Gloria Estefan
Greatest Love Of All- Whitney Houston
Have I Told You Lately I Love You - Van Morrison
Heaven Must Have Sent You- Bonnie Pointer
Hero – Enrique Iglesias
Hero – Mariah Carey
How Sweet it is – James Taylor
I Feel Good - James Brown
I Got You Babe – Sonny & Cher
I'll Be There – Jackson 5
I'll Stand By You- Pretenders
I Will Always Love You - Whitney Houston
Love and Marriage – Frank Sinatra

My First, My Last, My Everything – Barry White
Odd Couple Theme
Rock & Roll Part 2 - Gary Glitter
Stand By Me - Ben E. King
Sunrise Sunset - Fiddler On The Roof
Teach Your Children- Crosby, Stills, Nash, & Young
This Is The Time- Billy Joel
Through The Years - Kenny Rogers
Time Of My Life - Bill Medley
Together Forever- Rick Astley
Tradition - Fiddler On The Roof
Unchained Melody - Righteous Brothers
Unforgettable - Nat & Natalie Cole
We Are Family - Sister Sledge
We Are The Champions - Queen
We're Having A Party- Rod Stewart
What A Wonderful World - Louis Armstrong
When I'm 64 – Beatles
Wind Beneath My Wings - Bette Midler
You're The Inspiration – Chicago

Songs for People From Out of State

Alabama - Lynyrd Skynrd
Alabama: Sweet Home Alabama
America - Neil Diamond
Boston: "Cheers" TV Show
Boston: Dirty Water- Standells
Boston: Shipping up to Boston – Dropkick Murphies
California Dreaming - Mamas & Papas
California Girls - Beach Boys
California Girls- David Lee Roth
California Gurls – Katy Perry
California Love- Tupac
California: Hotel California – Eagles
Carolina In My Mind - James Taylor
Chicago Bulls Theme Song
Chicago, My Kind Of Town - Frank Sinatra
Cincinnati - "WKRP" TV Show
Detroit City – Bobby Bare
From a Distance – Bette Midler
Georgia On My Mind - Ray Charles
Georgia: Sweet Georgia Brown
Hawaii: "Hawaii Five Oh" TV Show
Hawaii: Tiny Bubbles - Don Ho

Kansas City - Wilbur Harrison
Kokomo – Beach Boys
Las Vegas: Viva Las Vegas – Elvis
Life is a Highway – Rascal Flatts
Miami - Will Smith
New York New York - Frank Sinatra
New York State Of Mind- Billy Joel
Ohio State University Football Song
On the Road Again – Willie Nelson
Pennsylvania 6-5000 - Glenn Miller
Pennsylvania Polka - Frankie Yankovic
Philadelphia - Bruce Springsteen
Philadelphia Freedom
San Francisco: I Left My Heart In San Francisco - Tony Bennett
San Fran: If You're Going To San Francisco
St. Louis Blues March- Glen Miller
Texas – Yellow Rose of Texas
Tennessee – Arrested Development
Thank G-d I'm a Country Boy
Washington DC - Hail To The Chief
Wild, Wild, West

Songs for Anyone & Everyone

ABC	I Just Called to Say I Love You	She's a Lady
Ain't No Mountain	I Like to Move it	Shipping up to Boston
Ain't Too Proud to Beg	I wanna Hold Your Hand	Shout
All You Need is Love	I'll Always Love You	Simply Irresistible
American Woman	I'll be there (Jackson 5)	Simpson's Theme
Austin Powers Theme	I'll be there (M. Carey)	Single Ladies
Bad Girls	I'm so excited	Soak Up the Sun
Bad to the Bone	I'm Too Sexy	Soul Man
Best of My Love	I'm Yours	Supermodel
Boogie Wonderland	Isn't She Lovely?	Stand by Me
Born this Way	It had to be you	Summertime Forever
Born to be Wild	Jump, Jive, & Wail	Sunrise, Sunset
Brick House	Just the Two of Us	Sunshine of my life
Brown Eyed Girl	Just the Way You Are	Sweet Caroline
Build Me up Buttercup	Land of 1000 Dances	Temperature
California Dreaming	Lean on Me (Withers)	That's the Way (I Like it)
California Girls	Lean on Me (C. Noveau)	The Gambler
Celebration	Leaving on a Jet Plane	The Way You Do the Things
Conga	Let's Dance	You Do
Dance to the Music	Let's get it Started	The Time (Dirty Bit)
Day-O	Let's Go Crazy	Theme from Rocky
Dirty Water	Let's hear it for the Boy	Through the Years
Do Wah Diddy	Life is A Highway	Tik Tok
Do You Think I'm Sexy	Living on a Prayer	Twist & Shout
Don't Go Breaking My Heart	Love Me Do	Unforgettable
DJ Got us Falling in Love	Love Shack	Uptown Girl
Don't Stop Believing	Mr. Saxobeat	Walking on Sunshine
Don't Worry, Be Happy	My Girl	We are Family
Dynamite	New York, New York	We Found Love
Ease on Down the Road	Ob La Di	We Go Together
Everlasting Love	Odd Couple Theme	We are the Champions
Everybody Dance Now	Oh What a Night	We will Rock You
Fire Burning	On the Road Again	We Like to Party
Firework	One More Time	We're having a Party
Forever Young	Party Rock Anthem	What I Like About You
Friends Theme	Party Time	What a Wonderful World
Fun, Fun, Fun	Peter Gunn Theme	What makes you Beautiful
Get Down Tonight	Play that Funky Music	When I'm 64
Get on Your Feet	Pretty Woman	Wild Thing
Girls Just Wanna Have Fun	Pump It!	Yakaty Yack
Give me Everything Tonight	Respect	Yeah!
Good Feeling	Rock and Roll All Night	You Shook Me All Night Long
Good Times	Satisfaction	Young at Heart
Hero	Saw Her Standing There	
Hot, Hot, Hot	Sexy and I Know it	
I Feel Good	Sharp Dressed Man	