



Creating Inclusive Friendships

Philly Friendship Circle's MVP Program

Warm and **welcoming** entry program into our inclusive world; the perfect access point and meaningful **Bar/Bat Mitzvah program** (for 6th-7th graders). Each session is **5 weeks** long.

For more information, please contact Chava Tova Thum at outreach@phillyfriendship.com

- MVP is often the highlight of our week, even as staff members! MVP stands for "Mitzvah Volunteer Program" and is **inclusive** -- friends **with and without special needs** are warmly welcome to join. Think of the term "volunteer" as any friend who *volunteers* their **openness, warmth, time, and acceptance** to build real connections.
- For the **2023-2024** school year, we will hold **4 MVP sessions**. The **1st session** will begin on **Wednesday, October 11th!**
- Overall, MVPers will **meet 5 times -- once per week, for 5 weeks)** -- and attend **at least 3 Sunday Circles**. (The 1st and last gatherings of the session will be in-person at our office in Bala Cynwyd, while the "middle three" gatherings are via Zoom/virtual.)
- Simultaneously, **MVPers and their parents participate** in some of our much-loved friendship/community programs, like Sunday Circle. **This is central to the MVP experience; parental/familial involvement** enhances MVPers' interest, but also ensures that YOU get to know our mission firsthand and meet the many amazing people who make up our circle!
- Through activities, games, and multimedia presentations, "MVPers" learn about communication, human development, diagnoses, and much more.
 - We teach these subjects through **special needs advocacy, Jewish values, and current events**.
- Our dynamic and interactive approach opens doors to **meaningful discussion** and personal growth for participants.
- The program is not ONLY for those who have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah coming up; it is for anyone in the 12-14 age range who loves our mission and wants to learn (and practice) being an inclusive friend amongst like-minded young people.
- A \$180 refundable deposit is required before the start of the session (scholarships are available as needed.)

SESSION 1 - Wednesdays: 10/11, 10/18, 10/25, 11/1, 11/8 (PLUS Sunday Circle on 10/15, 10/22, 11/12)

SESSION 2 - Mondays: 11/20, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18 (PLUS Sunday Circle on 12/3, 12/10, 12/17)

SESSION 3 - Thursdays: 1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8, 2/15 (PLUS Sunday Circles on 1/21, 1/28, 2/4)

SESSION 4 - Wednesdays: 2/28, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27 (Plus Sunday Circles on 3/3, 3/10 and Zoo Trip on 3/17

OR Purim Celebration on 3/24)