

10 Important Things to Know About *Sukkot*

1. *Sukkot* Celebrates the Harvest

Only five days after Yom Kippur is the holiday of *Sukkot*, the harvest festival. Historically, we link *Sukkot* with the way in which our ancestors traveled through the wilderness, and later gathered their grain at the harvest as they brought their offerings to the Temple. Today, we can fill a *sukkah* with pumpkins, gourds, apples and other fruits/vegetables that symbolize our autumn harvest.

2. It's fun to build a *sukkah*

While it may seem like an overwhelming task, building a *sukkah* can actually be a fun project for the whole family! Make sure you have the space and find ways for everyone to get involved. Check out a ready-made *sukkah* that you can order online and isare quick and easy to put together (try www.sukkot.com).



3. It's also fun to decorate a *sukkah*

The *sukkah* is an ideal place to proudly display your child's artwork and projects. Add some lights! Some families create a theme for their decorations. Make paper chains and string cranberries or popcorn.



4. It's a *mitzvah* to eat in the *sukkah*

A *sukkah* is a wonderful place for your family to “camp out” or take a vacation right in your own backyard. Try to eat in the *sukkah* as often as you can. If you don't have a *sukkah* at your home, check with a local synagogue--many welcome guests to bring meals to a community *sukkah*.

5. Some people even sleep in a *sukkah*

Bedtime rituals such as storytelling and singing can be moved outside along with sleeping bags--and lots of warm PJ layers! Even if you don't sleep there, cuddle up and read a PJ Library book and look up through the roof of the *sukkah* to see the stars.

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6. Welcome guests to the *sukkah*

If you build a *sukkah*, invite family and friends (old and new) into your *sukkah* for a meal or snack. Or you can be a guest--check out our jkidphilly.org calendar for community *sukkah* events.

7. Shake the *lulav* and *etrog*

On *Sukkot* we have a special ritual of shaking three species of plant (myrtle, willow, palm) and citron (a kind of lemon), known together as the *lulav* and *etrog*. You can purchase your own *lulav* and *etrog* for your home or take your kids to shake them at a community *sukkah* event.



8. Focus on joy

Sukkot is also known as “z’man simhatenu”, the time of our joy! Whether or not you build a *sukkah*, focus on happiness in your family--play games, eat yummy food and enjoy each other’s company. It is a great *mitzvah* to be happy!

9. Remember those who need food and shelter

Sukkot is also a good time to have children think about the blessing of having a permanent home and to think about those that do not. Families can discuss actions they can take to help out at local food banks, shelters and soup kitchens.

Cook delicious harvest recipes

Apples, pumpkins and squash--oh my! Bring your kids into the kitchen to make a yummy seasonal treat--make a double batch to share with family, friends, or people in need of food. Visit our jkidphilly [pinterest](https://www.pinterest.com/jkidphilly) page for some great kid-friendly *Sukkot* recipes! www.pinterest.com/jkidphilly



...for families just like yours!