

1. What goals do you have as Membership VP for the 2017-2018 year?

As a membership VP there are several aspects that are critical to growing our region. It isn't always about new members, it can also be achieved by increasing member participation. If elected as the Membership VP for the 2017-2018 year, my goals are not limited to but include, further providing opportunities for the NFTY community to be inclusive, more emphasis being placed on NFTY 678, and my main goal is to make NFTY a name that is known everywhere. I heard about NFTY through word of mouth and I became curious of what the acronym stood for as I didn't belong to a Temple up until last year. The moment I first felt a part of NFTY I fell in love and haven't been able to leave. My goal is to create this experience for others looking for a way to find other Jewish teens just like them. NFTY 678 is a way that brings the NFTY experience to Jewish youth in grades 6-8. I believe that putting a larger emphasis on this will increase the number of middle schoolers looking to continue their NFTY career through high school. As a result, the amount of participants entering NFTY in their freshman year would skyrocket. Inclusion is something that is held dearly in the hearts of our kehilah kedosha. Inclusion can range from LGBTQ+ to those with special needs and beyond. I believe more attention should be placed on how to include rather than who needs to be included.

2. Why have you chosen to run for Membership VP?

I have chosen to run for Membership VP because I enjoy seeing and taking part in branching out to meet new people. I have a personality that evokes a friendly welcoming feeling and I am a very social person who can get along with everyone. I have picked this position because of how I was introduced to NFTY and I want to increase the level of NFTY involvement and gather people who are unaware of NFTY and inform them of this unique, life-changing community.

3. List what experiences make you qualified to fulfill this position.

I have been on my TYG board for two years. I am currently PVP and was previously the 10th grade representative. At school, I am currently the treasurer of my class and an active member of my school's SGA. My experience as a member of my youth group board has taught me how to mix my responsibilities and Judaism, as they both hold deep places in my heart.

4. How would you explain to an 8th grader why they should join NFTY?

There is no other place as inclusive, exciting, and memorable as NFTY. NFTY is what it is because of the meshed personalities of people from all over. When you walk into an event, no matter what congregation, hotel, or region, everything just clicks and you feel like you belong. It also provides an opportunity to practice and connect to Judaism in your own way with people just like you. The experiences you will have in NFTY are unique and life-changing. NFTY has three large regional events each year and on top of that there are smaller events within different parts of the region. The moment you arrive at an event it's constant fun. You see friends that you've made at past events and take part in mixers, programs and Shabbat services. Every NFTY member attending hangs out together and builds those close personal connections that you'll be talking about after high school and even in college. At the end of these events you can really see the relationships that are made with one another. NFTY is an amazing place that words can't describe and one that can't compare to any other high school experience.