

Ryan Tolces – Membership Vice President

What goals do you have as Membership VP for the 2018 – 19 year?

There are many things I would like to accomplish during this coming year. But, my biggest goal will be to keep NFTY-STR members engaged in between kallot. Doing this will help members feel and show that NFTY-STR is more of a community than just three or four events a year. This will be done by strengthening TYG relations within the sub-region and encouraging them to have sub-regional events. Having these TYGs collaborate with one another and plan sub-regional events throughout the year will keep people engaged and active within the NFTY-STR community throughout the year. In addition, another goal I have for the coming year is letting NFTY-STR members be aware of upcoming events with more notice, and have registration for events open earlier. I feel if the dates for the events and registration sign-up come out earlier, people will have a greater chance of coming because of no conflicts on their schedules yet. So, they would be able to make the commitment to NFTY-STR events earlier.

Why have you chosen to run for Membership VP?

Throughout my years here in NFTY-STR, I have come to realize that our region is pretty awesome. Seeing the number bonds that form between people in just one weekend, when somebody comes to their first event not even knowing one person, and then saying goodbye while hugging twenty people before they leave. The powerful programs that make us think about our past or what could happen in the future, and how we care about changing our region and community. When I see these things, it makes me want to give back to NFTY-STR and I feel that running for Membership Vice President is a perfect way to do so. NFTY-STR is not just a place, it's home, my second home. A home where we can express ourselves through ideas and experiences to one another. I am not doing this to put on some resume, I am doing this because I have the enthusiasm and passion to do this, and carry out this position in the best possible way.

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List what experiences make you qualified to fulfill this position

Along with showing eagerness to fulfill the position of Membership Vice President, I also acquire experiences that I believe help with my qualifications towards this position. These experiences include:

BOFTY Board - For two years I have been on BOFTY Board. I have served as the 9th grade representative, which was also responsible for being the liaison for the Junior Youth Group. And currently the MVP, who leads BOFTY in mixers and provides the grade representatives with tips and materials to gain membership from each grade level.

Summer Camp Counselor - This past summer I was an Arts & Crafts counselor for Pine Tree Camps at Lynn University. I was in charge of leading groups in the crafts and keeping the group on task while maintaining a clean and organized work environment throughout the summer.

United States Soccer Referee - I have been an official soccer referee for two years. To get this opportunity, I had to have gone through many hours of online, and in class training followed by an examination. One of the responsibilities of a referee is to be confident in decisions and be prepared for any negativity.

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

NFTY is a time where you can be yourself, where you can make new friends, and where you can spend the next four years of your life right. You do this by participating in entertaining services, fun mixers, and exciting programs that make you think outside the box of interesting topics. I have made so many new friends from all over the state and even around the country. You will learn new and innovative ways on how to give back to the community. NFTY is a place where you will come in and leave with a different perspective of so many new and different topics, new and strong bonds with people, and a stomach full of delicious food!