

What goals do you have as Social Action Vice President for the 2018-2019 year?

As your 2018-2019 NFTY STR Social Action Vice President, I have three overarching goals that are focused towards reinforcing and enhancing participants' relationship to social action. First, I want to strengthen the connection that NFTYites have to donating *tzedakah* at each event by expanding the ways in which we can give back to our community, while maintaining a high level of engagement. I aim to achieve this by collaborating with the CVP to create a "social action item" that will be sold at the shuk- the proceeds of which will go towards a local organization as an additional *tzedakah* gift. Next, I want to inspire greater subregional social action between nearby temple youth groups through the fostering of multiple TYG events. One way this could be done is by having the region sponsor social action events that many TYGs participate in on a regular basis, such as the LLS Light The Night walk. Lastly, I will strive to innovate the ways in which we conduct social action programming in order to create more of a tangible difference in our communities.

Why have you chosen to run for Social Action Vice President?

I believe my interest in social action was introduced years before coming into NFTY, yet would not exist without it. It began when I was a Hebrew School student, who always attended BOFTY's Camp Jenny fundraisers. The concept of Camp Jenny was instilled into my brain before I truly understood what it was. My interest then grew when I received my first piece of instruction from NFTY: to bring a pair of tube socks to my first Hatikvah Kallah as a *tzedakah* gift to give to the homeless. As my journey through NFTY continued, I found myself developing a stronger love for social action with each passing event. And it seems only fitting that the event that transformed my interest in social action into a passion for it is the event that peaked the interest to begin with: Camp Jenny. When I first volunteered at Camp Jenny, I felt a sense of inspiration and whole-heartedness that was years in the making. The reason I want to be your Social Action Vice President is because I want to kindle a similar passion for social action in future generations of NFTYites, and reciprocate the inspiration NFTY has given me.

List what experiences make you qualified to be Social Action Vice President.

I have had many experiences that have helped me develop as both a capable board member, as well as an effective Social Action Vice President. First and foremost, I have held the positions of Fundraising and Financial Vice President and Social Action Vice President for BOFTY. These experiences have allowed me to grow as a leader and a teammate by providing me with the opportunities to write, implement, and lead social action programs within my TYG. Additionally,

I attended NFTY Mechina this summer, where I was a member of the Environmentalism Incubator Track and was given the opportunity to network with other SAVPs to brainstorm ways NFTY could be more environmentally sustainable on a national, regional, and local level. I spent the previous summer at the URJ Kutz Camp as a participant of the Leadership Academy major, where I learned the leadership skills essential for a board to work effectively as one cohesive unit.

Outside of NFTY, I actively use the leadership skills I have established in my informal leadership roles in my school's Math Team, DECA chapter, and Environmental clubs.

What is your experience with Camp Jenny?

When I was a Hebrew school student, I attended my first Camp Jenny fundraisers. The concept of it seemed strange to me at first, but I remember hearing all of the BOFTYites recount their favorite memories with their campers, and I couldn't help but envision being in their position. This past May, I had the chance to do just that when I attended Camp Jenny for my first time as a Juniors unit counselor. However, words don't do justice to describe the place in my heart that I have for Camp Jenny. The feeling I had when I saw my campers in awe of their first fireworks show and in delight of their first Blizzards is indescribable. The joy you feel when you see how much your kids look up to you simply does not compare to the sadness you feel when they ask why they have to leave. And now, years after that first fundraiser, I can only reflect on Camp Jenny with a feeling of whole-heartedness. Camp Jenny is truly transformative, and, if elected, I would be honored to reciprocate my passion as one of its co-directors.

Name one Social Action initiative you would like to bring to NFTY and explain how you would implement it.

I believe the need for NFTY-STR to be environmentally sustainable is of paramount importance. How can we, as a community, preach environmental justice through programmatic discussion, yet not actively practice it ourselves? I will work to ensure that NFTY-STR regularly carries out environmental practices by focusing on the actions that individual participants can take. I will aim to reduce the amount of waste at each event by implementing simple practices to decrease the amount of printed materials and energy usage per participant. I would also like to have recycle bins at every event, write programs that focus on local and global environmental issues, and increase the amount of recycled materials used in regular programming. Lastly, our region can ask each attendee to recycle old books towards a used book drive as the kallah's *tzedakah* gift, as well as request that each person use a reusable water bottle throughout the weekend.