

NFTY - STR

President Network Packet



By: Ryan Marcus

NFTY-STR President 2018-2019

The Best Year of Your Life

Mazel Tov and welcome to the President Network! I truly could not be prouder of each and every one of you for being elected or appointed to take on this role. When I say this is going to be one of the best roller coaster rides of your life, I am not exaggerating. You will learn a great deal about yourself, your board members, NFTY-STR, and so much more throughout your term as the President of your TYG. **You will grow** as a leader, a NFTYite, and most importantly, as an individual. You will be able to **challenge yourself** to accomplish things you would have never thought were possible. And overall, you will have a fulfilling experience of **making an impact** within your youth group, and within NFTY-STR.

Additionally, you will find our network to be an amazing support system full of people who completely understand the experience you will have and the thoughts that will go through your head. Me, along with all of your counterparts that make up the President Network will **ALWAYS** be here for you. We are just a call, text, Facebook message or shout away. You have this unique group of people to bounce ideas off of, share thoughts with, and rant with. Never be afraid to reach out if your board is having an off day or you just want to talk about life.

I have been where you have been, and felt what you have felt. Holding the position of President within your youth group is both a **rewarding and exciting** experience, but it is up to you to make the most of the time you have in this role. With the **tools** you are given, and the **passion** you have, I have no doubt you will do an amazing job this year and I cannot wait to see all you accomplish. I am so excited to work with you this year and get to know you and your TYG.

Insane amounts of love,

And always remember, **#preznetbestnet**

Ryan Marcus

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Everything You Never Wanted to Know (About Me!)

Name: Ryan Marcus

Hometown: Boca Raton, FL

Birthday: August 12, 2001

Temple Youth Group: BOFTY

School: Spanish River High School

Favorite colors: Light pink and yellow

Favorite foods & drinks: Sushi (Mexican Roll), bagels, anything with cheese, fruit, hot coffee, water (I know... I'm boring)

Favorite artists: Khalid, Kodakid, Jon Bellion, Chance the Rapper, Seafret, Twenty One Pilots, Amber Run

Favorite TV shows: The Vampire Diaries, The Office, Lie to Me, Shameless, Quantico, New Girl, One Tree Hill, Freaks and Geeks

How I spend my free time: SRHS Dance Team, Student Government, DECA, taking buzzfeed quizzes, watching vine compilations, laughing at lame jokes and memes, and of course, the NFTY

Do Life With Me (social medias)

Instagram @ryanimarcus

Snapchat itsryanmarcusss

Facebook Ryan Marcus

Twitter @rryanmarcus

Spotify ryanimarcus

Vinerip

Call me, beep me: (561) 325-4246

Email: rryanmarcus@gmail.com or str-president@nfty.org (starting June 1st)

Who Even Are You?

Name:

TYG & Hometown:

Grade:

Phone number:

Email:

Social Medias (Instagram, Snapchat, etc.)

Favorite leadership quality:

Bad habit:

Accomplishment you're most proud of:

Weaknesses? How can you improve upon this?

What do you wish to get out of this weekend?

Live in the Lingo

- URJ** Union for Reform Judaism, the organization NFTY is a part of
- NFTY** North American Federation of Temple Youth, STR is one of the 19 regions that make up the movement
- STR** Southern Tropical Region (YAY go us!!!!)
- REGBO** Regional Board
- NAB** North American Board (like the Regional Board, but for all of NFTY)
- TYG** Temple Youth Group
- PVP** Programming Vice President
- SAVP** Social Action Vice President
- RCVP** Religious & Cultural Vice President
- CVP** Communications Vice President
- MVP** Membership Vice President
- FVP** Financial Vice President (some youth groups have this board position)
- PL** Program Leader, the person or people who write a program for an event and roam while it is carried out to make sure all is going smoothly
- GL** Group Leader, the people who run individual groups within a program
- PP** Participant, the people who take part in programs
- LLTI** Liz Leadership Training Institute (where you are right now)
- ASEFAH** Meetings held with the regional and general board at both Winter Regional and Spring Kallah where information such as legislation, board reports and TYG reports are presented
- LEGISLATION** Opportunity for teens to create and submit an idea that will impact our region, that is presented at and voted on during Asefah
- AMENDMENT** Making a change to something in the constitution that already exists, they are voted on at Asefah and require a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority to pass and then must be ratified at the following Asefah session
- RESOLUTION** A statement on NFTY-STR's opinion about a certain topic that is presented at Asefah and required a 50% + 1 majority to pass
- KUTZ** URJ teen leadership summer camp in Warwick, NY
- NETZER OLAMI** Global reform Jewish teen movement NFTY is a part of

What's the Vibe?

(Assess yourself)

On this page you will answer a series of questions regarding the current state of your TYG, the leadership experience you have, and the relationships you hope to make, as well as things you are currently comfortable with and worried about doing. Please try to answer these questions as honestly as possible, as I will not be able to assist you if you do not help me to see the full picture. Lots of love!

I have held a position on my TYG board prior to this year

Yes No

(If yes, please write the position you held)

TYG member count

1-5

6-10

11-20

21-30

40+

I have a youth advisor

Yes No

I am comfortable leading a board meeting

Strongly agree Somewhat agree I mean, I guess.. What even is that????

I am able to work with others and listen to their opinions and ideas

Strongly agree

Some of the time

It's a work in progress

Gonna live and die

NFTY

BBYO

USY

NCSY

#goals

Personal goals

(good 'ole life stuff)

Board goals

(what do you hope to accomplish as a team?)

TYG goals

(how do you wish to make an impact and better your TYG?)

How do you plan on implementing each of these goals?

Is there anything that could possibly get in the way of you reaching these goals? If so, how can you overcome it?

So You Think You Can President

The role of the president is not cut-and-dry like many of the other board positions. You will be juggling many different jobs and have **many different responsibilities**, but once you figure out how you want to lead, everything will fall into place. At times you will have an abundance of tasks you need to complete and board members you need to assist, but that's why I'm here! I want to help you be the best president you can be and **grow** in ways you would have never thought were possible.

Also remember, in every youth group the experience had by the president will differ. Some will act as a liaison between teens and their temple and will be asked to attend temple meetings, while others will not work closely with temple staff and operate on a separate playing field altogether.



Despite our differences, we all have the same overarching goals—to better our youth groups and **lead** the people we love.

Additionally, this position is special because you will need to wear many **different hats** and carry out jobs that board members are sometimes not able to accomplish.

We are all **role models** and holding this position means we have people looking up to us, people cheering us on, and people who support us. We are all in this together, so let's make our term the best term.

President-ing

The Who: Obviously, 'the who' is you. You were either elected or appointed President of your youth group for the 2018-2019 year (yay!!!!). But remember, you are not just simply *a President*. You are simultaneously a PVP and an SAVP and an RCVP and a CVP and an MVP all at once. You must be knowledgeable about each position and know the responsibilities of the VP's on your board so you are able to help them as much as possible, and pick up any slack if a board member is not able to meet a deadline.

The What: Think about it, *what is a President?* What are your roles? Your responsibilities? What makes this position so unique and fulfilling? On a more basic level, you are running your youth group, making sure your board is functioning properly, and making sure everyone is having a good time when they come to your events. But along with those broader ideas, as President, you are tasked with the responsibilities to make everyone feel welcomed and involved, to empower your members and allow them to take on leadership roles, to maintain strong relationships with your adult counterparts and networks, and so much more that you will find out over the course of your (amazing) term.

The When: Your term as president of your youth group is one-year long. It will begin on June 1st and it will end the following year (on June 1st). This does not mean you cannot begin working on things such as event ideas and board bonding, and I even encourage you to start thinking about how you can make your year as great as possible, but technically speaking, June 1st is your big day.

The Where: There are 2 main places you will carry out your role as president. The first being within your TYG, and the second within the region. Your responsibility to your TYG will include things such as running board meetings, delegating jobs to your Vice Presidents, and making sure everything is running smoothly. In terms of your relationship to NFTY-STR as a president, you will be a **voting delegate during both Asefah and elections sessions**. As voting delegate you are responsible for casting the vote that your TYG has decided on about either a piece of legislation or a candidate for regional board. However, having this responsibility does not mean you have all of the power. Your vote does not represent you as a person, but your youth group as a whole, so you must respect the conclusion your TYG comes to, even if it does not reflect how you feel.

The Why: Unfortunately, I cannot tell you why you chose to run for president. I can tell you I ran because of my passion for this movement and love for all of you. I wanted to make my time in NFTY count and really try to make a difference in our region and get to know our members on a different level. Take a moment to think about why you ran and why you wanted this position within your TYG. You can write it down or think about it in your head, but it is very important to know why you are doing this in order to be successful.

What's your **Why?**

Meetings, Meetings, Meetings

Board Meetings

Board meetings are essential in order to make your youth group is operating smoothly, and to check up on your fellow board members to make sure they are working hard and carrying out the tasks that fall under their position. Creating an agenda beforehand is essential and it will allow you to be as productive as possible because you will be able to go into the meeting knowing what has to be accomplished. To ensure that everyone at your meetings are on the same page, I recommend you print an agenda for each person attending.

SAMPLE BOARD MEETING AGENDA:

- I. Call To Order (*President begins the meeting*)
- II. Opening quote or D'var Torah (*RVCP will read their prepared message to begin the meeting*)
- III. Announcements
 - A. *President/advisor can make general statements regarding proper behavior during meetings*
 - B. *Anything that can simply be stated and requires no further discussion can be brought up here*
- IV. Board Reports (*Each board member will explain what they have been working on lately to update everyone*)
- V. Old Business
 - A. *Congratulate board members on a job well done with past events/tasks completed*
 - B. *Bring up any topics you spoke about regarding events, programs, etc. during a prior meeting that you feel needs further discussion*
- VI. New Business
 - A. *Discuss future events and programs*
 - B. *Bring up new information regarding your TYG, members, etc.*
 - C. *Plan future events, vote on program topics/ideas*
- VII. Closing prayer or quote (*RCVP will bring the meeting to a close with a quote relevant to the time of year/the board*)
- VIII. Adjournment - President

Board Bonds

Building strong bonds and connections with your board is one of the most important aspects of your position. These bonds can be created through special team-building activities such as escape rooms or through a simple afternoon getting frozen yogurt and talking about life. Any time you all can take to get to know each other before you begins your terms will be helpful to **familiarize yourselves with each other** and **learn more about your board**.

It is your job to reach out to a board member if they are not completing their assigned tasks and/or not carrying out their job properly. Because of this, having both **personal and working relationships** with fellow board members is **imperative**. However, this can sometimes make your job harder, as you may have to correct a friend and explain to them that they need to step up their game. Just **always remember**, everyone on your board is a person, and people can have off-days, or even weeks, so before you give them your critique, make sure they are okay on a personal level.

Most importantly, make sure you are constantly communicating. This **constant flow of communication** can be achieved through the creation of a Facebook group, GroupMe, or group text and it will allow you to send messages and relay information even if you are not at a meeting. These chats will also be helpful for board members who may have a conflict and are not able to attend a meeting, because your CVP can send the minutes to bring everyone up to speed.



Position by Position

PVP: Your PVP is your best friend and your go-to. The two of you will work together 24/7 to plan programs, dinners and any other event your TYG chooses to put on. As programs play such a large role in all we do, this is the first person you will turn to when you need something to spice up an event.

SAVP: You two will work together on events such as your Camp Jenny fundraiser and any other programs/events you want to do to give back to your local community

FVP: If you are a TYG with this position there is so much you can do to work with your FVP. In addition to them working closely with your SAVP, the two of you can collaborate on potential fundraisers such as restaurant nights and grade competitions like penny wars

RCVP: You both will work together on any TYG-led services as well as all religious aspects of programs and events (such as Havdalah services, chocolate seders, etc.)

CVP: Your CVP will be in charge of promoting events and getting the word out, so you will work with them to update them on events that are coming up. It may also be helpful to both of you if you create a shared google doc for your board meeting minutes so you can both work together during your meetings to make sure everything is recorded properly

MVP: You and your MVP will work together on finding unique and innovative ways to reach new members and get them to attend events and join your TYG

GRADE REPS AND ETC: If you are a TYG with these positions, it may be beneficial for you to delegate the responsibilities of keeping Grade Reps on task to your MVP. While it is still your job to make sure they are succeeding, the work they are doing is similar to that of an MVP because they are trying to recruit members in their grade level, so giving your MVP that job will be an advantage for everyone involved

*****ALWAYS REMEMBER**, you are a member of your TYG **before** you are a board member. It is very important to keep this in mind, and make sure your fellow board members are aware of this too, because you do not want other members of your TYG to feel left out or inferior. Always try to keep the idea of being open and approachable in mind and do not form any sort of “board clique” as it may leave members feeling uncomfortable, out-of-the-know, and unwelcomed, and that is **NOT** what we want.***

Two Peas in a Pod

(You and your advisor)

To state it simply, your youth advisor/director/adult will be your **best friend**. You will share everything with them, they will be your shoulder to lean on, the macaroni to your cheese, the dora to your boots, the mario to your luigi (you get the point). They are here because **they care about you** and your TYG and they want to be in the know, so constant communication is key. Also remember- in order to be successful as a President and as a youth group, you must work together with your advisor, trust them, and do not be afraid to approach them with any ideas or questions you may have!

They may say no sometimes, and you may get frustrated because you think you had the best idea ever, but know they are not doing it to hurt you. There is a reason behind everything they do, and I'm sure if you just ask, you can see where they are coming from and realize they are not the "bad guys." Furthermore, **you can say no too**. You do not have to feel obligated to agree with every idea they have. While you two work together on everything, you are not the same people, and therefore you may have a difference of opinions. As long as you handle these situations in a **respectful manner** you can both **agree to disagree** and **find a common ground** that satisfies both of you.

So I Don't Have an Advisor... And I'm Kind of Freaking Out Right Now...

If you do not have an advisor you may be feeling slightly stressed out or uneasy, but there is **no need to hit the panic button**. Everything will be okay. You have a **countless amount of resources** you can use and people you can talk to. Your **clergy** and **temple staff/adults** are always here for you and I have no doubt they would be more than willing to help you organize an event or purchase materials for a program. **I will also ALWAYS be here for you** to help you with anything and everything you are going through. Additionally, feel free to reach out to Julie Marsh, or other advisors in the region for anything you may need.

Network Love

The bonds you will create over the course of this year with the people in your network will be some of the **most important and inspiring**. Aside from your predecessors, these are the only people who truly understand what you are going through, from struggles to accomplishments. They are here to support you, guide you, and work with you.

The Connections:

We will be creating a **network group chat**, either through GroupMe or Facebook Messenger as soon as possible so I have a way to relay information regarding NFTY-STR to you, and you can share information regarding your TYG with me and the rest of our network. I will also be setting up **monthly calls** with each of you as a way for you to bring me up to speed on what is currently happening within your TYG and to help you with any issues you may be having. Additionally, I hope to find a time for groups of us to get online and have network **Swap Shops** on zoom. These group calls will help to bring you all closer as a network after LLTI, and serve as a way for you to give and receive information such as board tips or event ideas with your peers.

Subregionals:

Due to the fact that we are one of the smaller regions of NFTY geographically (but large in terms of population!!!), **we do not have set subregions**.

Personally, I see this as a positive because it gives us the opportunity to see our NFTY-STR more frequently between our 4 regional events. There is a good chance you have at least one TYG in very close proximity to you and this will allow you to work together with another President and perhaps create a joint program or event. **When hosting a subregional**, you have a few options on how you extend an invitation/what TYGs you invite...

You can:

1. Partner up with one or two TYGs and hold an event together (ex. BOFTY-BISY hangout night at Chipotle)
2. Invite all TYGs in your school district (ex. BOFTY invites all TYGs in Palm Beach County to go on a mystery bus ride)
3. Invite every TYG in NFTY-STR (an AMAZING way to host a subregional because we love each other!!!!!!)

Leading the Way

In order to be the best you can be, and **make the most out of your term**, there are a few **leadership qualities and abilities** you must be aware of. You may not possess every single one of the traits on this list, and that is perfectly okay! **We are here to grow**, both as leaders and as individuals, and you can use this position to **further the leadership capabilities you already have, and attain new ones.**

Take a moment to think about these 13 leadership qualities. Why are they so important? What do they mean to you? How will they help you in being successful throughout your term?

Dependability	
Approachability	
Open-mindedness	
Passion	
Humility	
Time-management	
Honesty	
Ability to delegate	
Ability to empower	
Flexibility	
Organized	
Creativity	
Positivity	

Inform, Involve, Inspire

Inform

First and foremost, as a President, you must make sure everyone stays informed. Different people needed to be clued in on different things, but it is your job to make sure the message gets to them. For instance, when you have a TYG dinner and program, there are many people that need to be informed:

- Your board must know what program you plan on doing
- Your advisor must be aware of any materials you need to have for the program so they can purchase them
- Your members must know when the dinner is/what type of program they are participating in

Involve

Involving your board, as well as your members, in all decisions made and programs written is key. By allowing your general members to have a say in what goes on within your youth group, you are giving them a voice and empowering them as individuals. I cannot stress how important it is to give leadership opportunities to not only your board, but rising leaders within your TYG as well. Giving them a taste of what groupleading is like could be the difference between someone running for your board the following year, or sitting it out because they feel inexperienced.

Inspire

In the end, you are here to inspire. To inspire your board, your members, yourself, your community, and ultimately to inspire someone to take on the role you hold in the future. You want to inspire your PVP to come up with an out-of-the-box program, inspire your SAVP to set up a community service activity with a new organization, inspire your members to go out of their comfort zones and talk to people they wouldn't normally interact with, and inspire yourself to accomplish what you thought was impossible.

Fishbowl Fun

Welcome to the fishbowl, come on in and stay for a while!

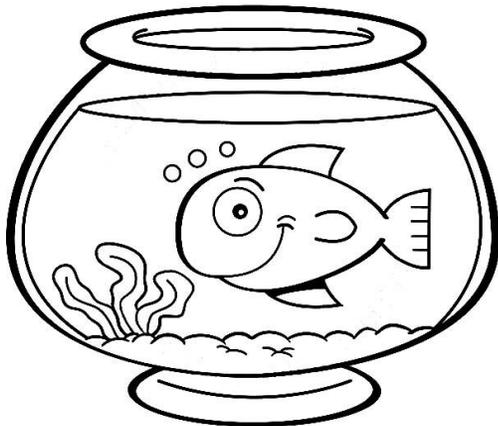
The idea behind the fishbowl is simple:

As president of your TYG you are seen as a leader, and you have people that look up to you. Whether you asked for it or not, all eyes are on you (like a fish in a fishbowl) and it is your job to **present yourself in a positive manner**. As a leader in your community, this can mean anything from keeping your social media accounts 'clean,' to not engaging in conversations about others when they are not present, to putting on a happy face even when you are stressed out so people do not see you as a mean, unapproachable person. The fact of

the matter is, people talk and others listen.

Words spread like wildfire, if one person says something negative about you or how you present yourself, everyone will believe it to be true. **The good thing is, you are in control.**

People will see you as who you truly are if you present yourself in the right way.



Think about it this way:

You are running an event and it is not going as planned, so you are ranting to your PVP about all of the things that are going wrong.

You are so wrapped up in the problem you

are having that you do not take into account how upset you look and how many people are around you. A member of your TYG sees you ranting to your PVP and thinks you are yelling at them, **a misconception**. Even though you are not yelling at your PVP, this member now has a negative view of you because they took what was happening out of context. Remember, it is not this member's fault as they are just trying to make sense of what they saw and this situation is what makes the most sense to them due to your body language and facial expressions. **You do not want anyone to see you in a bad light for any reason**, and even though you didn't actually do what people think you did, it is out there for people to hear. This is why you must try your hardest to always **put your best foot forward** and don't give anyone a reason to take something you say the wrong way.

Wrapping It Up

WOW!!!!!! A lot of information to take in, right? By this point, I'm sure you're feeling a combination of overwhelmed, excited and nervous... but that is TOTALLY OKAY!! Just remember- you have a countless amount of people who are rooting for you to succeed. Not only do you a board full of people who love and support you, but you also have an amazing network (!!!!!!) who will be here for you no matter what. As long as you remember to go through your term with **the reason you ran and what you hope to accomplish** in mind, I have no doubt you will do an amazing job.

Additionally, there are a few **resources** that I wanted to give you incase you ever need some extra inspiration. **I AM ALWAYS JUST A TEXT AWAY** and I cannot stress that enough!!!! I want to be here for each and everyone one of you throughout your entire term!! XOXO

NFTY-STR Regional Director: jmarsh@urj.org

After June 1, 2018 feel free to contact any regional board member:

NFTY-STR PVP: str-pvp@nfty.org

NFTY-STR SAVP: str-savp@nfty.org

NFTY-STR RCVP: str-rcvp@nfty.org

NFTY-STR CVP: str-cvp@nfty.org

NFTY-STR MVP: str-mvp@nfty.org

<http://www.nfty.org/index.cfm>

<http://southerntropical.nfty.org/>

<https://southerntropical.nfty.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/42/2015/07/NFTY-STR-Constitution.pdf>

I LOVE YOU ALL AND I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE ALL
OF THE AMAZING THINGS YOU ACCOMPLISH!

#PREZNETBESTNET