

What goals do you have as Membership VP for the 2020-2021 year?

There are several goals I would like to accomplish during the 2020-2021 year. My top priority is to further **strengthen the MVP network** and the work of those in the network. I would like to implement a “membership market” every other month in which the MVP network will have a collective call to share the innovative mixers they have created or the new and unique ways they have successfully obtained and maintained members. I will add ideas from the “membership market” to the existing mixer bank so MVPs across the region can have access to fun and new mixers. An additional main goal I have is to further **increase NFTY-STR member and TYG relations**. NFTYites go months without seeing each other in between kallot, and by working with TYGs to strengthen their sub-regions and plan sub-regional events, members will be engaged and active throughout the year. Another goal is to **include members in the writing of mixers**. Members will have the opportunity to have a voice in the creation of mixers that are done at events and strengthen their connection to the NFTY-STR community. Finally, **NFTY 678** is such an important part of our community and providing it with support and attention will ensure the future of our movement. Encouraging local MVPs, along with myself, to attend middle school events and work with JYGs will help middle schoolers to have a better understanding of NFTY and feel comfortable attending future events.

Why have you chosen to run for Membership VP?

Throughout my years here in NFTY-STR, this region has come to hold a special place in my heart. NFTY-STR is my home away from home. Seeing and having countless friendships develop in just one weekend is what makes me want to come back time and time again. I have a passion for this region and its members. I have a passion for seeing this community, this family, grow together and form unbreakable bonds. NFTY-STR has done so much for me, including giving me my best friends. I want to give back what I have received. Helping this region to strengthen as a community and be as inclusive as possible is why I am doing this. I feel that my creativity, enthusiasm, and passion will help me to carry out the responsibilities of this position in the best ways possible, providing TYGs with tools to boost membership and expand our welcoming and friendly environment.

List what experiences make you qualified to fulfill this position.

Along with my passionate activism in NFTY and eagerness to fulfill the position of Membership Vice President, I also possess other experiences and qualifications that have helped me to develop as a leader. I have been on **BOFTY board** for two years, serving as **MVP** for the 2018-2019 year, and then as **President** for the 2019-2020 year. As MVP, I led BOFTY mixers and provided help and support to the grade representatives. I also actively worked to increase BOFTY membership and attendance at events. This year as President, I have led the rest of the board members in making BOFTY as successful as possible in regard to our membership. This year BOFTY had the privilege of working along-side the NFTY-STR regional board in planning **Hatikvah Kallah**. Through this process, I was able to gain valuable insights about the duties and responsibilities of being on the regional board and planning kallot. In addition to my activism on the local and regional levels, I attended **NFTY Mechina** where I obtained various tools and techniques on how to engage members and encourage membership. I spent four amazing days connecting with NFTYites from across North America, making connections that I hope to foster in our regional community. Additionally, as a specialist at **Camp Jenny**, I helped to create a warm, inclusive, and engaging environment for the campers. I have also been very active in my high school's **Student Government Association** for the past three years, in which I have served as **Class President** all three years. I have attended various student leadership conferences at the district and state levels through SGA, and I am confident that I can apply many of the skills I've learned from them, especially in terms of personal connections, to NFTY-STR.

How would you explain to an 8<sup>th</sup> grader why they should join NFTY?

NFTY isn't just a "Jewish thing" that some people do on the weekends. It is a fun and amazing experience that just happens to incorporate some aspects of Judaism into it. When you come to a regional event, you don't have to worry about school or stress over what is happening at home, you get to be yourself and meet the most incredible people from all over the state with whom you will forge unforgettable friendships. By taking part in innovative mixers, interesting programs, two very engaging services, and a fantastic Saturday night social, you leave NFTY events with new perspectives on many new and different topics, new friends, and a family that will last a lifetime.