

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

If I had to describe my experience in NFTY with only two words, I would use these: a story and a family. My personal Jewish story has helped me become the person I am today, and it has helped me find a family in NFTY. I plan to help members of our region to build their own stories and find their family. As the NFTY-STR MVP, I will work with the NFTY-STR Communications Vice President to help members create and publish their own stories for the region to see and be inspired by. Throughout the year, I will work to give a platform to members that want to share their stories, allowing them to record a video or write a brief piece that will be shared on the various STR social media accounts. Along with the personal contact I will use to recruit for events, this will encourage potential members that may slip through the cracks and need that extra push to join our community. Additionally, these stories can be broadcasted at NFTY 678 events to recruit middle school students to return to NFTY in high school. I will ask the Membership network to participate by helping choose people to share stories and potentially use this as a model in their own TYG's. Finally, I will make sure that the Membership network, along with all our current members, have the resources they need to help create an inclusive, engaged environment, giving all of NFTY-STR the chance to find the family they never knew they needed.

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

I have chosen to run for Membership Vice President because people can only see and be a part of the incredible NFTY-STR community once they're in the door, and, sometimes, that is the most difficult task. When I first joined NFTY-STR, I was a shy 8th grader, cowering in the shadow of something bigger than I thought I could ever be. However, in the past 3 years, I have fallen so deeply in love with NFTY that my only regret is not becoming more involved earlier. Meeting new people and creating that special bond with your new family is something that I am eternally grateful for, and I feel that it is my responsibility to pass this on to my peers. I want to push this community to further expand into a place where people can truly express themselves and explore new opportunities. I want to provide meaningful experiences like those I've been given. This

community truly means so much to me and I feel that it is my responsibility to help shape the environment that I want to leave for others.

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

BISY Member: Over the past 3 years, I have attended my congregation's upper school and I have been an active member in my temple youth group, BISY, getting involved with various events and activities that have helped me further explore my Jewish identity. I have used this opportunity to help write and group-lead programs for our members, as well as recruit for our events.

EMT Squad Leader: I am currently enrolled in the EMT program at West Boca High School, and I have been selected as EMT Squad Leader based off of my ability to take charge in situations and be a team player.

Clinical Squad Leader: As part of my medical program, I was elected by the medical board as Clinical Squad Leader, where I am responsible for creating and organizing programs to increase hospital participation, along with collaborating with and incorporating my shiftmates in the programs that I created.

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

I will use the same response here that I gave several weeks ago to my brother, an 8th grader, when he asked if he should register for Spring Kallah with me. "Luke, NFTY is not just about hanging out for a weekend, it's about finding that deeper connection with yourself, the people of your region, and the culture that brings you together, forming that everlasting bond with the most incredible community you'll ever meet. This is the place that brings the best out of me. I wish I could turn back the clock and participate in more events while I still had the time. Once you join this community, you'll never want to leave."