



# Song Leader Application 2020-2021

- It is the expectation of NFTY-STR, the Regional President and the Regional Advisor that the Regional Song leaders serve as role models for all the members of our NFTY-STR region.
- It is understood that you will work as part of a team; decisions will be made together, and options will always be discussed openly with the adult leadership of NFTY-STR.
- As a NFTY-STR Song leader, you will be held to a higher standard.

**This wonderful experience comes with a tremendous amount of responsibility. We ask that each Song leader will...**

- Be present at and participate in all Regional events fully.
- Be present at Pre-Winter Regional song leading workshops and prep beginning on December 25th at the Winter Regional location - there is no additional fee for this experience. While this is optional, we highly recommend it.
- Begin working on the song leading component for each regional event 4-6 weeks prior to the event.
- Participate in video/online practices prior to an event.

Please be prepared to keep an open line of communication with the other regional song leaders, the six Regional Board members, the Regional Advisor, and programming Advisors (Rabbis/Educators/Cantors who may be assigned to assist during events) on matters of programming and policy. It is also expected that you will uphold the Code of Conduct.

## ***HOW AND WHEN DO I AUDITION?***

***This is a 3-step process:***

**Step #1:** Please submit a video leading something liturgical from a service. This could either be in front of the camera OR live at a service experience. Please upload your video to YouTube or Vimeo and email the link to [nftystr@urj.org](mailto:nftystr@urj.org). Please choose from one of the following pieces:

### **Liturgy options:**

L'cha Dodi—include 2 verses (Rotenberg, Taubman, Kol Han'shama, other)  
Bar'chu (Nelson, Siegel, Aronson)  
V'ahavta (Chant)  
Mi Chamocha (Friedman, Nichols, Silverman)  
V'shamru—must include verses (Rothblum, any)  
Yismechu—must include verses (Any)  
Aleinu (Chant)

**Step #2:** Please complete this application (Application, personal statement and contract; 3 documents) & email it to [nftystr@urj.org](mailto:nftystr@urj.org) as a PDF file by **February 13<sup>th</sup>**.

**Step #3** At Spring Kallah you will be given 5 minutes to teach the audition committee your favorite piece of Jewish music. If you are teaching a piece with multiple verses it may not be necessary to teach them all. Applicants are free to choose the song they wish to teach. Applicants are encouraged to choose a song they can confidently and effectively teach. It is okay if the song you choose is one that is very familiar. The goal of your teach is for the panel to see your teaching and song leading ability, not your ability to find new music. All songs being taught must include some HEBREW text. Applicants should come prepared to give a translation of the Hebrew text in their song and make sure their pronunciation of the Hebrew is correct. **Applicants may not teach any original songs.**

**Steps 1 & 2 need to be complete in order to audition.  
Submission deadline for steps 1 and 2: Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> by 5:00 pm**

### ***ANYTHING ELSE?***

NFTY-STR Song leaders provide music and leadership at most Services, Siyuum, Song Sessions and in programming. The intention of the audition process is to identify the individuals who will form the strongest **song leading team** to serve the needs of the region. The audition process is not about identifying the most talented singers, guitar players or performers. Again, the individuals selected to be NFTY-STR Song leaders are agreeing to attend **all** regional events. Lastly, by agreeing to audition for Regional Song leader, you are committing to include some form of song leading practice into your summer plans (leading services at your temple, attending a song leading workshop, etc.) and consider attending URJ Kutz Camp.



# 2020-2021 SONG LEADER APPLICATION PART 1

(Please Print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ TYG \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell-Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Reference: \_\_\_\_\_ Reference Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Tell us a little bit about yourself: PLEASE PRINT!**

Can you read Hebrew?  Yes  No  
Have you previously song lead?  Yes  No  
If yes please tell us where and what your role is:

Have you ever lead a Service?  Yes  No  
If yes, please describe where and what your role was

Do you currently song lead on a regular basis?  Yes  No  
If yes, please describe where and what your role is:

Do you read sheet music?  Yes  No  
Have you taught music?  Yes  No  
Do you play an instrument?  Yes  No  
If yes, what do you play?

Are you comfortable leading in front of a large group?  Yes  No  
Are you able to gain control and keep control of a large group of people?  Yes  No  
If yes, what skills do you have to help you?

Are you willing to try new pieces of music?  Yes  No  
Have you ever worked on a song leading team?  Yes  No  
If yes, please describe the experience:

**Email this along with your personal statement to [nftystr@urj.org](mailto:nftystr@urj.org)**

**Steps 1 & 2 need to be complete in order to audition.  
Submission deadline for steps 1 and 2: February 13<sup>th</sup> by 5:00 pm**

# 2020-2021 SONG LEADER APPLICATION PART 2

## **NFTY-STR SONG LEADER CONTRACT AND PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

*(Please make sure that your statement is double spaced, size 12 font and a maximum of one side of a piece of paper. Please email this in .PDF form to [nftystr@urj.org](mailto:nftystr@urj.org) )*

Your personal statement should include but is not limited to the following. Please email both documents as PDF files to [NFTYSTR@urj.org](mailto:NFTYSTR@urj.org) with your name as the subject line.

- Your musical background and training*
- Your previous or current song leading experience*
- What you hope to bring to the region*
- Also please include any other commitments you will have over the upcoming year.***

# 2020-2021 SONG LEADER APPLICATION PART 3

By my signature below, I acknowledge I understand the requirements of the position I seek, and if selected, I will devote the time and energy necessary to fulfill my responsibilities.

Signature of Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

---

I approve of my teens application to serve as part of the NFTY-STR Song leading team for 2020-2021. I understand that there are both time and financial commitments involved, and I will do my best to enable my child to perform their duties should they be selected.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

---

We certify to the best of our knowledge, that this individual meets the requirements set forth to audition and serve as part of the NFTY-STR Song leading team in the NFTY-STR.

Signature of Clergy (Rabbi or Cantor): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please be sure to complete steps 1 & 2 by**

**February 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm**

**Please email your link, personal statement, application and contract in one email to [nftystr@urj.org](mailto:nftystr@urj.org)**