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Youth Professionals are an essential part of running a smooth and effective regional event. As a Temple Youth Professional and/or Chaperone, you know your kids and they know and trust you. As a Jewish role model, your contribution to NFTY is invaluable. NFTY Garden Empire Region values the opportunity for Youth Professional & chaperones to use their knowledge and experience to enhance the quality of programming and social experience for the participants at regional events.

To ensure the health and safety of our participants at NFTY-GER events, it is required to have a ratio of 1 adult to every 10 participants at each regional event. This is in accordance to Union for Reform Judaism policy, as well as American Camp Association policy. As we are required to maintain this ratio, we ask that each congregation sending FOUR or more participants to an event, send its advisor or a chaperone. All chaperones must be 21 years or older. We will allow a 20 year old to chaperone for your congregation as long as approval is granted by the NFTY-GER Regional Director ahead of time.

If your congregation sends 4-17 members, you provide 1 chaperone.

If your congregation sends 18-27 members, you provide 2 chaperones.

If your congregation sends 28-36 members, you provide 3 chaperones.

Our ratio must be maintained at all times. Before you leave the premises of an event, please check-in with the Regional Director to ensure that you are not essential to maintaining the ratio. Please remember to check back in upon your arrival.

As a chaperone, your role includes:

- Completing a URJ background check and registering no later than 2 weeks before an event (registration can be found on the [Events Calendar](#) and on [The Tent](#))
- Promoting the health and safety of participants
- Supervising appropriate behavior of participants, at all times and especially during free time
- Upholding the *Brit Kehillah* (Code of Conduct), this includes not drinking alcohol during the event on or off-site
- Supporting teens by joining discussion groups, chugim, and participating in programming/t'fillot

As a chaperone, you will enjoy:

- Celebrating Shabbat with Jewish teens from your congregation and others
- Networking and professional development opportunities
- Delicious meals provided by the hosting camp or congregation
- Housing in camp lodging for overnight events
- Kvelling over the accomplishments of your teens

You may choose one of two options listed below to adhere to this policy. If you can only participate in part of the weekend, you will need to find another adult to chaperone your teens or submit a check for GER to find coverage. NFTY-GER Regional Director will contact every congregation sending teens to the event to advise them on how many adult chaperones are necessary to attend the event from their congregation.

**OPTION #1:**

We invite all professionals, rabbis, and chaperones to attend NFTY-GER events FREE OF CHARGE!

**OPTION #2:**

If you do not have an advisor or chaperone to send with your FOUR or more participants, we can provide a chaperone at a cost of \$100 per weekend. NFTY-GER pays \$150-200 per staff member for every event. We are asking your congregation to pay \$100; GER will subsidize the balance. Please make this check payable to URJ NFTY-GER and send the check with the event name in the memo line to 11 New England Ave, 15D, Summit, NJ, 07901 no later than one week before the regional event.

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## **BUS POLICY**

NFTY-GER is happy to provide buses to our overnight events that originate from 3-4 congregations in strategic locations around the region. It is necessary to have at least 1 adult riding the bus from each drop-off/pick up location for buses that seat up to 30 passengers, and at least 2 for buses that seat 55 passengers. A representative from the congregation must be present at the time of each pick up to ensure there are restroom facilities available and proper supervision (Parents are also asked to stay with their teens until the bus departs). In order to maintain these guidelines and ratios, NFTY-GER may call upon advisors to ride the bus. If an advisor or chaperone is not available to ride the bus, the bus stop may be cancelled, leaving participants to find their own transportation to the event.

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NFTY-GER appreciates your involvement in our program and looks forward to partnering with you to strengthen youth engagement in our region. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please feel free to contact Melo Taylor, NFTY-GER Director of Youth Engagement, at 212-650-4107 or [mtaylor@urj.org](mailto:mtaylor@urj.org).