

# Elections Packet

## 5779–5780

2019-2020

For Candidates Running for  
NFTY-GER Regional Board

### Candidate Checklist:

- ❖ Candidate Information Form
- ❖ Candidate Contract, Candidate's
- ❖ Signature, Parent/Guardian Certification
- ❖ Rabbinic Certification
- ❖ Regional Board Certification
- ❖ Regional President Certification
- ❖ Regional Director Certification
- ❖ Brit K'hilah – NFTY Code of Conduct
- ❖ Letter of Intent
- ❖ 75 Word Bio
- ❖ Digital photo of yourself

The deadline for all above items is

February 21, 2019

All items must be EMAILED in the same email by this date for your candidacy to be accepted.

Dear NFTY-GER Regional Board Candidate and Families,

This letter is designed to describe the benefits and responsibilities of a position on the NFTY Garden Empire Region Regional Board. Each Board member plays a very important role in the operation and future of our region and I want to take the time to explain the full nature of this position. Please read this packet in its entirety before making the commitment to run for regional office.

Serving on Regional Board is a very rewarding and educational experience! Regional Board alumni walk away with a broad array of skills and enjoy major accomplishments throughout the year as they lead their region to do great things. The new NFTY GER Senior Regional Director will be working closely with the Board to provide support and guidance and help the officers work together as a team. It is a wonderful opportunity to enhance leadership, time management, and communication skills as well as experiencing NFTY at a completely different level. I commend everyone who is taking the challenge to run for a Regional Board position!

Making the decision to run for regional office is easy for some and requires a great deal of consideration for others. **Regional Board is not for everyone.** It demands a great deal of time, prioritization, and sacrifices. Some students find it difficult to keep up with sports, theatre, or other extracurricular activities while serving in a regional position and, in fact, most will give up at least one of their commitments. It is very important to me, and the region, that you fully understand the scope of responsibilities before you run for office. It is understood that family and school are always your first priorities. By running for the Garden Empire Regional Board, you are making a commitment that NFTY will be your primary extra-curricular activity (above all other activities). Failure to attend events, participate in Board meetings, and/or neglecting your responsibilities may be grounds for impeachment. If there is a conflict or an issue arises, I expect Board members to discuss them with me as soon as possible so we can work through them together.

Regional Board members commit to participate in the following:

- All regional events, occasionally arriving early to day-long events
- One day-long Regional Board meeting every month and a few shorter video conference calls in between, especially if serving as an Event Coordinator
- Time outside of Board meetings working on programming, recruitment, and event preparation with regional clergy and youth professionals
- Old Board New Board Location TBD (**May 3-5, 2019**)
- Mechina at KUTZ Camp in Warwick, NY – (**July 21-25, 2019**)
- Executive Board Weekend Location TBD (**Tentatively August 23-25, 2019**)

There are some commitments NFTY will expect of your family, as well. I will ask that one or both of your parents attend an online discussion regarding the commitment you are making by running for Regional Board. There will be two options for this discussion on **Friday, February 8th at 1pm or Monday, February 11th at 7:30pm**. Please [register](#) for the call you prefer to be on. I will send video conference information the day of.

Once the Board has been elected, we will pick the dates and times of our monthly meetings. Board members will be expected to host one of these meetings in their home or at their temple. The final calendar for the 2019-2020 school year will be finalized in collaboration with the elected board and the new Senior Regional Director in late spring . We will ask each Board member and parent sign a copy of the calendar acknowledging the commitment to be physically present at these meeting and events. We recognize that without a fully set calendar, there may be other commitments you already have that cannot be moved. We only ask that these dates are made clear during the process of finalizing the calendar for the 2019-2020 school year.

Along with these commitments, there are financial responsibilities of being part of Regional Board. Some of these include:

- As part of Regional Board, **you are expected to attend every regional event**. Some positions, such as Membership VP and Recruitment VP's, also require that you attend temple youth group events in your designated area.
- Each Board member is expected to register on time. **Regional Board members are eligible for a 20% discount to every overnight NFTY-GER event, provided they register during the Early Bird registration period and meet all deadlines along the way**. Missed deadlines for programs or late registration will mean paying full price for an event!
- As a Regional Board member, you are required to attend **Mechina** (The North American Leadership Institute) which is held at KUTZ Camp in Warwick, NY. The second North American Board meeting (which you will be strongly encouraged – but not required – to attend) will be held during Veida in February. NFTY-GER does its best to help subsidize these events, but there are program costs for the Board members to attend.
- You will be traveling quite a bit for Regional Board meetings and congregational visits if your position is a membership-related position.
- Regional Board members may be asked to pay for supplies or other expenses up front and get reimbursed later. These purchases must be pre-approved in writing and the receipt must be saved. Reimbursement request forms will be provided and checks should be received within 3-4 weeks of their submission.

There are many steps to complete before you run for Regional Board. The candidacy process requires that each candidate meet with their Rabbi and TYG advisor. These mentors will discuss what is required of you as a Regional Board member and help you decide if this position is right for you. They will need to support your candidacy and you will need to submit a document which they sign off on your candidacy. Contacting the current regional president and officer currently holding the position for which you'd like to run is another part of the process. Completion of every part of the process is an eligibility requirement for becoming a candidate.

In running for NFTY GER's Regional Board, you are publicly declaring that you satisfy the functional qualifications of your position. You are accepting the responsibilities that come with being a role model selected by your peers. This commitment can be challenging for some, requiring adherence to the NFTY Brit Kehillah (Code of Conduct) at all times during, and outside of, events. The purpose of the Brit Kehillah is to uphold the Kehillah Kedosha (Holy Community) that NFTY is committed to and you, as a Regional Board member, are responsible for maintaining an environment of holiness and kavod (respect). We are taught in the Babylonian

Talmud that, **“It is not the position that honors the person, but rather the person that honors the position” (Taanit 21b)**. Considering this statement, I ask that you be prepared to act in a way that brings honor and respect to your position on Regional Board throughout the year. Realize that your actions, even outside of events and on social media, are subject to the Brit Kehillah. If a Board member is found in violation of the Brit Kehillah, they will face consequences which may include suspension or removal from office. While we can discuss the practical implications of your conduct outside of NFTY-related activities, please understand that, at the very least, engaging in any illegal activity during your term in office is a violation of this contract.

I want to congratulate you for considering running for a position on Board. It is your passion and commitment that will take our region to new levels. Thank you for your dedication up until this point and I am excited to continue getting to know you. Remember, if you love NFTY enough to run for Regional Board, you love NFTY enough to stay active if you are not elected. If you or your parents have any questions regarding positions on the Regional Board, please feel free to call me at 212-650-4038 or email me at [nftyger@urj.org](mailto:nftyger@urj.org).

B’Hatzlacha!

Abbye Fogel  
NFTY GER Interim Regional Director of Youth Engagement

Thank you for your interest in running for the 2019-2020 NFTY-GER Regional Board.

Dear NFTYite: When deciding to run for the NFTY-GER Regional Board, it is important that you fully understand all the duties and obligations associated with the ten Regional Board positions and the elections process. Being a part of Regional Board requires a large amount of time, dedication, flexibility, and commitment. Please read through this packet of information with your parent/guardian, your clergy, and your temple's Youth Professional. We require you that you speak with the current NFTY-GER Regional President, the current member of the Regional Board for the position you seek, including any potential drop-downs, and that you and your parents speak with the NFTY-GER Regional Director of Youth Engagement. These conversations **must happen** between now and when applications are due. We also encourage you to reach out to the rest of the Board and the NFTY-GER Regional Director to help answer any questions you or your parent/guardian might have.

This packet includes:

**General expectations of NFTY-GER Board Members**

- 2019 NFTY-GER Board Elections Procedures
- NFTY-GER Election Guidelines
- Information from the NFTY-GER Constitution pertaining to the election process and job descriptions
- NFTY's Brit Kehillah—Code of Conduct
- 2019-2020 Regional Board Contact Information
- Rabbinic Certification
- Parent/Guardian Certification
- Regional Board Counterpart Certification
- Regional Board President Certification
- Regional Director Certification
- Candidate Contract

In order to officially run for NFTY-GER Regional Board, you will need to submit these forms, in one complete email, **no later than February 21st** to [nftyger@urj.org](mailto:nftyger@urj.org).

- (1) Candidate Information Form
- (2) Candidate Contract, Candidate's Signature, Parental Certification
- (3) Rabbinic Certification
- (4) TYG Advisor Certification
- (5) Regional Board Certification
- (6) Regional President Certification
- (7) Regional Director Certification
- (8) Brit Kehillah – NFTY Code of Conduct
- (9) Letter of Intent
  - (a) Letters should be one page double sided for Presidential candidates and one page single sided for the Vice Presidential candidates.
- (10) Brief Bio
- (11) Digital photo of yourself

All candidates must have declared their candidacy by this time, and no elections materials will be accepted after this date. It is required that you, your parent/guardian, your congregational

Rabbi, and your temple's Youth Professional sign these forms, which will be in effect throughout your term, if elected. Your signature on the contract states that you understand the level of integrity expected with the role of being a Regional Officer and that you are willing to meet these expectations. The week following your submission date, you will be sent an e-mail confirmation that your Candidacy Packet was received and is complete as well as a packet with guidelines for candidates, including more election information regarding speeches and the Meet the Candidates session, and the list of candidates.

Again, thank you so much for your interest in helping ensure the future of NFTY-GER. Please feel free to be in touch with questions or concerns you may have about running for Regional Board.

L'shalom,  
Sarah Friedman  
President 5778-5779  
[ger-president@nfty.org](mailto:ger-president@nfty.org)  
(908)307-2868

Abbye Fogel  
Interim Regional Director of Youth Engagement  
[nftyger@urj.org](mailto:nftyger@urj.org)  
(212) 650-4038

## **General Expectations of NFTY Regional Board Members**

**“It is not the position that honors the person,  
but rather the person that honors the position” -Taanit 21b**

Being elected to NFTY-GER Regional Board is an incredible opportunity. If elected, you will have a powerful influence on the lives of hundreds of Reform Jewish teenagers. As a leader of NFTY-GER, you will set the examples for fellow NFTYites through your involvement as well as your conduct. Not only do you represent the teens of our region, but you also represent over 50 TYG's across NFTY-GER, including the one from which you began your journey of leadership in NFTY. It is also important to remember that each of the board members is responsible not only for his or her particular job description, but also must strive to work as a team throughout their term. It is impossible to accomplish anything alone.

**The following are the general expectations for all NFTY Board Members:**

**Role Model** – Recognize that the members of NFTY look to you to set an example. Be aware of your behavior and attitude at all times, even when you are not actively leading. Lead by example, even more so when it comes to issues outlined in the NFTY Brit Kehillah.

**Approachability** – Board Members need to be approachable at all times. NFTYites should know how to reach you. At regional events, it is easy to spend your “down” time with participants from your home TYG or other members of the Regional Board, but it is important to remember that you now represent all of NFTY-GER, and everyone should have access to you. There are always new people to meet and to get to know.

**Attendance** – As a role model, you should be attending all NFTY-GER events and NFTY North American events (when applicable). School will always be your first priority, but you should know up front about the travel requirements. By running for Regional Board, you are making a commitment that NFTY-GER will be your primary extra-curricular activity.

## Events for all Board Members

**\*This is a tentative calendar. A final calendar will be sent out before the end of the year\***

Event	Dates	Where
New Board/Old Board	May 3rd-5th, 2019	Location TBD
NFTY Mechina	July 21st-25th, 2019	URJ Kutz Camp, Warwick, NY
Executive Board Weekend	End of August	Location TBD
Leadership Training Event	Early September 2019	Location TBD
Northern Subregion Opening Event	Mid October, 2019	Location TBD
Central Subregion Opening Event	Mid October, 2019	Location TBD
Southern Subregion Opening Event	Mid October, 2019	Location TBD
Fall Kallah	Early November, 2019	Location TBD
Taste of NFTY	December 6-8, 2019	URJ Camp Harlam, Kunkletown, PA
Winter Kallah/Elections	January 17th-20th, 2020	URJ Camp Harlam, Kunkletown, PA
Veida	February 14th-17th, 2020 (Not Required)	Location TBD
Pop Up Opportunities	March, 2020	Location TBD
Spring Kallah	April 24th-26th, 2020	URJ Camp Harlam, Kunkletown, PA
New Board/Old Board	May, 2020	Location TBD
Summer Send Off Event	Late May or Early June, 2020	Location TBD

If elected, you are committed to one in person board meeting per month. Locations for meetings are determined after the Board is elected. This year, dates will also be determined after the board is elected in collaboration with the new Senior Regional Director.

If you're considering running for the Regional Recruitment Vice President, plan to be available to support sub-regional and pop-up events as well.

# NFTY Regional Board Election Procedures

## Campaigning

- As per the NFTY Constitution, there is no campaigning allowed.

## Getting to Know the Candidates

- Each candidate will have a short bio (75 words or less) and photo on the NFTY-GER website.
- NFTY-GER Members will have the opportunity to learn more about the candidates in a Meet the Candidates forum. The design of this forum will be available for candidates' information one week prior to elections.
- Each candidate is allowed to create a position paper that can be distributed during the "Meet the Candidates" session. This can be no longer than one page, single-sided.

## Speeches

- All candidates running for the same position will be asked to wait in a different room (The Holding Tank) during the speeches of the other candidates.
- Candidates will be called in one at a time to deliver their speech.
  - Speeches are delivered in gavel order starting with the President and are given in reverse alphabetical order by the candidate's last name
- The Vice-Presidential candidates' speeches may be no longer than **2.5 minutes**. The Presidential candidates' speeches may be no longer than **4 minutes**.
- Once all of the speeches have been delivered for a specific position, the candidates will be asked to join the rest of the participants before we move on to the next position (if applicable).
- There will be no applause during and/or after speeches – only silent cheers. Please help us create a fair elections environment by sharing this request with your friends and TYGs.

## Elections

- Elections will proceed in gavel order.
- All candidates running for the same position will be asked to vote (if they are delegates) after the speeches have been delivered. A ballot will be brought to them.
- Delegates will mark their votes on an official ballot, fold it, and hand it in to the staff member assigned to collecting the ballots. The official ballot will include an option for each candidate and an abstention option. The NFTY-GER Constitution requires a simple majority to elect. Please familiarize yourself with election procedures outlined in the NFTY-GER Constitution and the outcomes of each option. The NFTY-GER Constitution can be found on the NFTY-GER website under Resources.
- Ballots will be counted by the current NFTY-GER President and the NFTY-GER Interim Regional Director.
- The candidates will be informed of the outcome before it is announced to the General Board.

# **NFTY GER REGIONAL BOARD ELECTION GUIDELINES**

Each of the following guidelines is subject to the discretion of the current NFTY-GER Regional Board. We offer these guidelines to provide candidates with a clear understanding of what is and is not permissible. If you have a question about the appropriateness of any of your actions or materials – i.e., a potentially “gray area” – please consult the NFTY-GER President without delay.

## **Things a Candidate Cannot Do (At Risk of Disqualification)**

- Distribute material to any NFTYite that discusses the voting procedure in attempt to sway/affect that person's vote. (Thus, material may educate about the candidate's platform, but may not say, for example, “vote for me,” “I am the best candidate”)
- Distribute or share inappropriate or negative material about any candidates
- Contact – including by means of telephone, e-mail, text messaging, IM, Facebook etc. – delegates or other NFTYites (including other candidates) to initiate conversation about the election and its process.
- Distribute material outside of the event during which elections are held (e.g., e-mail delegates, post material pertaining to the election on listservs, blogs, social networking sites, snail mail material, etc.)
- Distribute material that is not paper-based/written. Platform papers are allowed, but pins and other promotional material are not. The material is meant to educate, not advertise. The ONLY permissible material to be handed out is the platform paper, which may be distributed during Meet the Candidates.
- Use any Regional Networks as a forum for campaigning in any way.
- Contact delegates from other regions in an effort to block vote. You represent the constituents of your TYG. At NFTY GER elections, all participants hear speeches, and all participants are involved with their TYG caucus. Your votes should be reflective of what your TYG wants.

## **Guidelines for Writing Letters of Intent**

Letters of Intent for candidates for President should be no longer than two sides of one page. Letters of Intent should be no longer than one side of one page for those running for all other positions. All letters should be created in Microsoft Word, and should have 1inch margins all around.

Your Letter of Intent should include a basic summary of what you intend to do in the upcoming year, how you intend to do it, and any other relevant information. In essence, you are submitting a condensed version of your platform. The Letters of Intent will be posted online for NFTY-GER after they are received so if there is any information you would like kept confidential until your speech, do not include it in your letter. Since your Letter of Intent will become public domain, please do not use any personal information such as personal e-mails, name of school, phone numbers, etc.

## **NFTY GER 5778-5779 Regional Board Contact Information**

### **President**

Sarah Friedman

[ger-president@nfty.org](mailto:ger-president@nfty.org)

### **Programming Vice President**

Ethan Jaffee

[ger-pvp@nfty.org](mailto:ger-pvp@nfty.org)

### **Social Action Vice President**

Barbara Taubes

[ger-savp@nfty.org](mailto:ger-savp@nfty.org)

### **Religious and Cultural Vice President**

Michael Einiger

[ger-rcvp@nfty.org](mailto:ger-rcvp@nfty.org)

### **Membership Vice President**

Zachary Lemberg

[ger-mvp@nfty.org](mailto:ger-mvp@nfty.org)

### **Recruitment Vice President**

Caroline McKinnon

[ger-rvp@nfty.org](mailto:ger-rvp@nfty.org)

### **Financial Vice President**

Amy Heimowitz

[ger-fvp@nfty.org](mailto:ger-fvp@nfty.org)

### **Communications Vice President**

Matthew Goralnick

[ger-cvp@nfty.org](mailto:ger-cvp@nfty.org)

### **NFTY-GER Interim Regional Director of Youth Engagement**

Abbye Fogel

[afogel@urj.org](mailto:afogel@urj.org)

# **NFTY-GER Constitution Pertaining to Elections & Job Descriptions**

## Article IV

### **Executive Board**

SECTION A: The organization shall be governed by the Executive Board, which shall consist of 10 NFTY-GER officers. The Executive Board shall be empowered to make decisions relating to the operations of NFTY-GER and to set policy for the Garden Empire Region. A quorum of officers at an Executive Board meeting shall consist of 7 of the Executive Board members.

SECTION B: The NFTY-GER Executive Board officers shall consist of a President, Programming Vice President, Social Action Vice President, Religious and Cultural Vice President, Membership Vice President, Northern Recruitment Vice President, Central Recruitment Vice President, Southern Recruitment Vice President, Financial Vice President, and Communications Vice President. Each officer shall receive one vote, except for the President, who shall only vote in the event of a tie.

SECTION C: The NFTY-GER Executive Board officers shall be elected for a term of one year, beginning at their installation which shall take place at the NFTY GER Gala.

SECTION D: The responsibilities of each Executive Board officer shall be as follows:

Subsection 1: All Executive Board officers shall:

1. Remain an active member of their respective TYG.
2. Attend all regional events and General Board meetings.
3. Serve as an active member in the creation and implementation of at least one regional event:
  - A. Supervise and/or assist in all program development.
  - B. Supervise and/or assist in all administrative responsibilities, including but not limited to registration procedures, travel and housing arrangements, and publicity.
4. Attend monthly Executive Board meetings.
5. Attend NFTY Mechina, the national leadership training institute for regional officers.
6. Attend the NFTY-GER Regional Executive Board Orientation.
7. Keep in close contact with the NFTY Board, chair people, and the regional advisor.
8. Encourage participation in NFTY programs, such as Tikkun Olam, NFTY competitions, NFTY Convention or North American Biennial Youth Track, and NFTY Summer Programs.
9. Submit resource information to the Regional Advisor to be posted on the Internet.
10. Attend all North American Board Meetings. (Four delegates)

Subsection 2: Specifically, the President shall:

1. Serve as Ex Officio of all committees.
2. Preside over all NFTY-GER General Board meetings, and monthly Executive Board meetings.
3. Oversee the planning and running of all NFTY-GER activities.
4. Serve as a member of the URJ Council Board and URJ Council Youth Committee.
5. Remain in close contact with the TYG Presidents to assist and guide them.
6. Offer constant support and guidance to Executive Board members and NFTY-GER Cabinet.
7. Remain in close contact with the NFTY-GER Regional Director.
8. Have thorough knowledge of parliamentary procedure.
9. Attend NFTY Board meetings as a voting delegate.
10. Oversee the Presidents network.

Subsection 3: Specifically, the Programming Vice President shall:

1. Reach out to all TYGs and assist in the development of strong local programming.
2. Oversee all regional programming.

3. Create and distribute information on the NFTY study themes and encourage the implementation on a local level.
4. Oversee the Program Coordinators.
5. Attend NFTY Board Meetings as a voting delegate.
6. Oversee the Programming Vice Presidents Network.

Subsection 4: Specifically, the Social Action Vice President shall:

1. Oversee Social Action programming at every event.
2. Submit an article on Social Action to the MaGERzine for every event.
3. Facilitate volunteerism and political action in the region.
4. Create and distribute information on the NFTY Action Theme and encourage their implementation on the local and regional level.
5. Oversee the creation and implementation of Social Action Programming at NFTY-GER Winter Kallah and encourage action on a local level.
6. Attend the NFTY Board Meetings as a voting delegate
7. Oversee the Social Acton Vice Presidents Network.

Subsection 5: Specifically, the Religious and Cultural Vice President shall:

1. Supervise the worship services at all NFTY-GER events and create and lead services when necessary.
2. Serve as a constant resource to all TYG Religious and Cultural Vice Presidents by keeping in close contact with them.
3. Assist in developing the Judaic content of all NFTY-GER programs and events.
4. Oversee the Song Leaders
5. Submit an article on Religion and Culture to the MaGERzine for every event.
6. Oversee the Regional Songleaders and the Technology Chair.
7. Attend the NFTY Board Meetings as a voting delegate.
8. Oversee the Religious and Cultural Vice Presidents Network.

Subsection 6: Specifically, the Membership Vice President shall:

1. Develop and maintain a New Member Packet to include information on NFTY-GER's events, traditions, and other pertinent information.
2. Establish contact with potential regional event attendees before regional events and oversee follow-up communication with all new members.
3. Identify trends in TYG membership.
4. Oversee the creation of social programming and mixers at regional events.
5. Oversee the Activities and Outreach Chair and the New Member Chair.
6. Oversee the Membership Vice Presidents Network.

Subsection 7: Specifically, the Sub-Regional Vice Presidents shall:

1. Maintain a roster of current NFTY-GER members.
2. Stay in close contact with TYGs in their respective sub-regions.
3. Serve as a liaison to TYGs with the goal of aiding them in their activities and facilitating communication between the TYGs and NFTY-GER. Liaison responsibilities include calling the officers of respective TYGs and visiting the youth groups.
4. Visit TYG's in need of membership outreach assistance.
5. Assist in NFTY 678 programming.
6. Assist in the planning of inter TYG sub-regional events and create NFTY Pop-up events in their sub-region.
7. Oversee the Sub-Regional Recruitment Chairs.

8. Organize and oversee a sub-regional project.

Subsection 8: Specifically, the Financial Vice President shall:

1. Design, order, and sell regional merchandise at regional and North American events.
2. Oversee the Finance/Fundraising/Treasure Network and serves as a resource.
3. Oversee the Merchandise and Store chairs, the Yearbook Business Chairs, and the Urban Mitzvah Corps Student Coordinator (s).
4. Oversee the planning, running, and collecting of items for the Urban Mitzvah Corps Auction.
5. Oversee at least one fundraiser per event.
6. Assist the NFTY-GER Regional Director with organizing the NFTY-GER budget.
7. Collaborate with the Communications Vice President to coordinate a marketing plan and assess logo recognition.
8. Collaborate with the Social Action Vice President to successfully fundraise for an organization that goes along with the current year's study theme.
9. Help grow NFTY-GER's connection to its alumni in coordination with regional staff and the NFTY Alumni Network, with the goal of gaining new donors.
10. Oversee fundraisers throughout the year to support NFTY-GER in actualizing its goals.

Subsection 9: Specifically, the Communications Vice President shall:

1. Assist in the process of producing the NFTY Key Personnel Roster for distribution at or before the meetings of the NFTY-GER General Board.
2. Record the minutes at all NFTY-GER Executive and General Board meetings, and then type and distribute them to all people concerned within a reasonable amount of time.
3. Oversee the completion and distribution of the MaGERzine, the NFTY-GER regional magazine, and serve as a liaison to the MaGERzine chairpeople.
4. Insure that all actions taken by the region are in accordance with this constitution.
5. Will oversee the yearbook chairs and the fundraising aspect of the Chair position.
6. Oversee the Yearbook Business/Editor Chairs, the Webmaster, and the MaGERzine Chair.
7. Oversee the Communications Vice Presidents Network.

## Article V

### **Election Procedure**

SECTION A: Each candidate must submit an intent to run form to the NFTY-GER Regional Director of Youth Engagement by the date specified by the Director. Candidates will receive phone or e-mail confirmation.

Subsection 1: Each Candidate must submit a letter of intent to the Regional Director. The letter of intent can be one-page double sided for President candidates and one sided for the other positions.

SECTION B: No campaigning or electioneering is allowed. Any candidate who publicizes, or has publicized for him or her, shall be disqualified at the discretion of the Executive Board. This includes oral or written campaigning.

SECTION C: Elections will be a part of NFTY-GER's Hagigah Kallah. During the election event:

Subsection 1: At a scheduled time before or on the same day of the election, there will be a Meet the Candidates session, where the candidates will be able to answer any questions the delegates may have.

Subsection 2: The officers shall be elected in the following order: President, Programming Vice President, Social Action Vice President, Religious and Cultural Vice President, Membership Vice President, Northern Recruitment Vice President, Central Recruitment Vice President, Southern Recruitment Vice President, Financial Vice President, and Communications Vice President.

Subsection 3: The particular office shall be announced before the candidates speak. At that time, candidates for the particular office will be asked to leave the room and be called in reverse alphabetical order to speak.

Subsection 4: Each candidate will have 2 ½ minutes to speak. Presidential candidates will have four minutes each. If a candidate is dropping down to another position, they will have 1 minute to speak.

Subsection 5: The voting delegates shall then elect the following year's officers. Each TYG will have the same number of votes for the elections as the number of representatives it would have during a general Board meeting.

Subsection 6: For each position, delegates will have the option of voting for one of the candidates or abstaining. A vote to abstain will not be counted toward the majority. TYGs may not force a block vote from their delegates.

Subsection 7: Ballots for elections shall be printed prior to elections, with the position name on top, all candidates running, an option for abstention, and a blank space for drop-downs. To the left of each candidate and the abstention option will be a blank line. This line is where the voting delegate will indicate their preference by numbering the candidates 1 through x, where x represents the number of candidates running, plus the abstention option. The 1 will represent the candidate the voting delegate is voting for, 2 will represent their second-choice candidate, and so on, through x number of candidates where x will represent their x choice. At any point if the voting delegate feels they would rather abstain than vote for any other candidate, they may put abstention as their next choice, and leave the rest of the candidates blank. When there are two more candidates running for office, a simple majority (50%+1) is needed for that candidate to be elected to that office for which they are running.

Subsection 7A: When two or more candidates run for a position, and one candidate does not receive a clear majority of the number 1 votes, then an instant runoff shall occur. There will be no need to re-vote; instead, the candidate with the lowest amount of number 1 votes will be dropped and all ballots that had that candidate as number 1 will now have their number 2 candidate viewed as their number 1 candidate. If a candidate, with the combination of original number 1 votes and number 2 votes, has a simple majority, then they shall be elected. If there is still no majority, the process of instant runoff repeats.

Subsection 8: The NFTY-GER President and Regional Director shall tabulate Votes for each race. If either the President is running for re-election to the Board, then the next Executive Board member in terms of gavel order that is not running for re-election shall count the votes.

Subsection 9: Candidates who do not win the office for which they were originally running may drop-down, **but only once**. Candidates must specify the office to which they wish to drop-down on their initial intent to run form, but the selection of drop-down offices may be changed. However, candidates may opt not to drop-down at any time before the election of their drop-down office. A candidate's drop-down office will not be announced when he or she is running for the initial office.

SECTION D: In order to be considered as a candidate for regional office, each prospective candidate must have attended at least three regional events, and have the intent to run form signed by one temple clergy member and TYG advisor. If the above requirements cannot be met, the regional advisor should be notified, and the Regional Board will vote on accepting the candidate's intent to run by a 2/3 majority vote.

## **LETTER OF INTENT SUGGESTIONS**

### **5779-5780 REGIONAL BOARD ELECTIONS**

Letters of Intent will be posted online a few weeks before elections. The letter is your first opportunity to tell the region who you are and what you want to accomplish, if elected-and you know you can never make a second first impression! Below are some suggestions to make your letter the best it can possibly be.

**No more than 1 page (single sided for 7 VP positions, double sided for President, 12 pt. font, Arial)**

#### **Be creative!**

Think outside the box—This is your first opportunity to catch people’s attention!

#### **Start and end strong.**

Make people excited to read your whole letter and leave them wanting more at the end.

#### **What do you intend to do?**

Remember, this is a letter of INTENT, not a resume. Be sure to mention what makes you qualified to serve, but don’t forget to focus on what you INTEND to do for the region. Think about what the region needs and what you want to do for it. The region wants to elect people with ideas they like— not just people who will “look cool” doing it.

#### **Proofread!**

Once you’ve written your letter, check it over for spelling and grammar mistakes. Have someone else read it for you, too. In addition to your candidacy forms, please **EMAIL** your letter of intent along with a photo of yourself for us to post on the website. Letters, bios, and photo attachments can be sent to [nftyger@urj.org](mailto:nftyger@urj.org).



**2019-2020 REGIONAL BOARD**  
**CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM**

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Full Name of Candidate \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate for the position of \_\_\_\_\_

Drop-down position (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Temple Youth Group: \_\_\_\_\_ Current TYG position held: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Current Age \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Facebook \_\_\_\_\_ Instagram \_\_\_\_\_

URJ Congregation & City: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian 1 Name** \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian 2 Name** \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**PLEASE EMAIL THIS SIGNED FORM NO LATER THAN February 21, 2019 TO:**  
Abbye Fogel – NFTY-GER ELECTIONS (position)  
[nftyger@urj.org](mailto:nftyger@urj.org)



**2019-2020 REGIONAL BOARD  
CANDIDATE DECLARATION FORM**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am a member in good standing of the following URJ congregation\*: \_\_\_\_\_, and I am a member of the following Temple Youth Group (TYG): \_\_\_\_\_ – both of which are in the NFTY Garden Empire Region. If I am not a member of a URJ congregation, I am a member in good standing of the following group: \_\_\_\_\_, which is a part of my \_\_\_\_\_ community. By signing below, I hereby openly declare myself a candidate for the position of \_\_\_\_\_ on the NFTY Garden Empire Regional Board for the 2019-2020 School Year. My signature also indicates that I understand that serving on NFTY GER Regional Board is an extremely exciting, rewarding and educational experience. If elected, I will accept the full scope of responsibilities expected of me as a leader of the Region as outlined in the “Letter to Candidates and Their Parents.” Furthermore, if I am elected, this form will serve as a contract between the region and me that I will uphold my obligations as a Regional Board member.

Signature of Candidate

Date

**PARENTAL AUTHORIZATION**

I understand that a position on the Regional Board of the NFTY Garden Empire Region will demand a significant commitment of time and energy from my child’s extra-curricular activities and dominate a great deal of his/her time. I also understand that my teen will be expected to uphold the B’rit K’hilah during, and sometimes outside of, regional events. I understand that my approval is necessary for my child’s name to be placed on the ballot. By signing I indicate that I have read the letter to candidates and parents, support and approve my child’s candidacy and am prepared to support his or her commitment to NFTY GER Regional Board.

Signature of Candidate’s Parent

Date

*\*In order to run for Regional Board, you must be a member in good standing of a URJ congregation or youth group that is currently in good standing or be approved for candidacy by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board.*

**PLEASE EMAIL THIS SIGNED FORM NO LATER THAN February 21, 2019 TO:**

Abbye Fogel – NFTY-GER ELECTIONS (position)

[nftyger@urj.org](mailto:nftyger@urj.org)



**2019-2020 REGIONAL BOARD**  
**RABBINIC CERTIFICATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate for \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Rabbi,

The above-named candidate intends to run for a NFTY Garden Empire Regional Board position for the 2019-2020 school year. **Please take the time to meet with him/her and discuss both his/her potential as a Regional Board member as well as the responsibilities that come with leadership.** After you meet with the candidate, please sign the bottom of this form, certifying his/her candidacy for the position above. In order to run for Regional Board, the candidate must be a member in good standing of a URJ congregation or youth group that is currently in good standing. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sarah Friedman

Abbye Fogel

2019-2020 NFTY-GER President

NFTY GER Interim Regional Director

908-307-2868

212-650-4038

I hereby certify that \_\_\_\_\_ is a member in good standing of my congregation or youth group, I have met with him/her, and I certify him/her to run for the 2019- 2020 NFTY Garden Empire Regional Board

Signature of Rabbi

Date

I certify that I have met with my Rabbi to discuss my candidacy for the Regional Board.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**PLEASE EMAIL THIS SIGNED FORM NO LATER THAN February 21, 2019 TO:**

Abbye Fogel – NFTY-GER ELECTIONS (position)

[nftyger@urj.org](mailto:nftyger@urj.org)



**2019 – 2020 REGIONAL BOARD**  
**Youth Professional CERTIFICATION**

Name

Candidate for \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Advisor,

The above-named candidate intends to run for a NFTY GARDEN EMPIRE Regional Board position for the 2019 – 2020 school year. **Please take the time to meet with him/her and discuss both his/her potential as a Regional Board member and the responsibilities that come with leadership.** After you meet with the candidate, please sign the bottom of this form, certifying his/her candidacy for the position above. In order to run for Regional Board the candidate must be a member in good standing of a URJ congregation that is currently in good standing. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sarah Friedman

2019-2020 NFTY-GER President

908-307-2868

Abbye Fogel

NFTY GER Interim Regional Director

917-406-0907

I hereby certify that \_\_\_\_\_ is a dues-paying member of NFTY and in good standing of our Temple Youth Group (TYG). I have met with him/her, and I certify him/her to run for the 2019 – 2020 NFTY Garden Empire Regional Board.

Signature of Advisor

Date

I certify that I have met with my Advisor to discuss my candidacy for the Regional Board.

Signature of Candidate

Date

**PLEASE EMAIL THIS SIGNED FORM NO LATER THAN February 21, 2019 TO:**

Abbye Fogel – NFTY-GER ELECTIONS (position)

[nftyger@urj.org](mailto:nftyger@urj.org)



## 2019-2020 NFTY-GER Regional Board Candidate Current Regional Board Certification

Name of Candidate \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate for the position of \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Candidate,

While we have tried to clearly outline the expectations and goals for Regional Board Members, the greatest understanding of a Regional Board position can only come from one who has held that position. Please take the time to talk with the current Regional Board who holds the position for which you choose to run (as well as the person who holds your drop-down position if you have one). Make sure you discuss the realities of being a Board member as well as the importance of such a commitment. **This conversation MUST happen between now and the time that the application is due.** After you speak with the Regional Board member(s), please sign the bottom of this form, and indicate with whom you have spoken. Please know that at any time, in addition having the required conversation(s) with the current NFTY-GER Regional Board, you can also feel free to direct questions to Abbye Fogel, who is the interim advisor to the NFTY-GER Regional Board.

Sarah Friedman  
2019-2020 NFTY-GER President  
ger-president@nfty.org

Abbye Fogel  
NFTY GER Interim Regional Director  
AFogel@urj.org

Name(s) of NFTY-GER Regional Board member(s) I have had a formal conversation with about my candidacy.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Member 1

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Member 2

Position I currently hold on my TYG Board: \_\_\_\_\_

Position for which I am running: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I have spoken to the following NFTY-GER Regional Board member(s) to discuss my candidacy for the 2019-2020 NFTY GER Regional Board.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# NFTY's *B'rit K'hilah* — Code of Conduct

## ברית קהילה

NFTY is a movement that builds strong, welcoming, inspired communities through teen-powered engagement. This b'rit serves to ensure that we are able to focus on enacting our shared mission. We will promote the creation of a religious youth community based on mutual respect and a sense of personal responsibility. We will treat others with kavod (honor and respect) in order to facilitate the feeling of shalom bayit (peace in the home) and create a sense of NFTY's welcoming community.

**Our NFTY community feels incomplete without all our members fully present,**

**I will** attend and participate fully in the entire event, unless otherwise agreed upon with the NFTY Regional staff member

**I will** arrive on time, stay until the end, and remain on the event premises at all times. To maintain shalom bayit within our living space

**I will** abide by the event curfew announced by the leadership. At the time of the announced curfew

**I will** go directly to my cabin, hotel room, or host home and remain there until the next session

**As a means of respect and for the well-being of the community and myself,**

**I agree** to exercise proper consent, and I agree to refrain from inappropriate sexual behavior.

**I understand** that consent is only given when someone gives positive and verbal permission to a sexual activity with another person, and that all people in a sexual situation must feel comfortable saying an explicit "yes" or "no" of their own free will to stop the physical activity at any point.

In order to maintain our *kehilah kedosha*, it is essential that I uphold consent at NFTY events and in my daily life. Consent is a form of respect, and I will continue to show respect for my peers.

**As NFTY is a safe and inclusive space for all participants,**

**I will not** participate in any activities before, during or after events that could be deemed as hazing, sexually harassing, demeaning, hurtful, or bullying.

**This includes** in-person interactions during regional events, interactions over cell phone and email, and actions in online spaces including Facebook groups, twitter, Instagram, and other forms of social media between events.

**If I hear of,** or see any act of sexual misconduct, whether it be seen in person, over social media, or by ear, I will report it to my regional director or trusted adult.

**I also agree not** to photograph or make video recordings of anyone without their express permission, and not to take any photographs in inappropriate places, such as restrooms, host homes, and cabins. If I post or distribute any pictures/media, they will represent NFTY, the staff, and other participants in a positive and

wholesome manner. Anything I post will represent the Jewish values the NFTY community teaches and upholds.

**In order to ensure** the well-being of myself and my peers, I understand that no guests are allowed at any event, unless the adult leadership grants permission in advance, and that any unauthorized guests will be asked to leave immediately.

**Because overnight events can cause a lack of sleep and create dangerous driving conditions,**

**I will not** drive to, during, or from events, unless advance permission for a special situation is requested in writing by my parent/guardian and granted in writing by the NFTY Regional staff member. This includes driving to/from my home to meet NFTY's designated transportation.

**To promote a healthy and safe NFTY environment,**

**I will not** possess, consume, or distribute alcoholic beverages, other than that served by adult leadership for Jewish sacramental purposes, even if I am of legal drinking age.

**I will not** smoke, consume, or distribute tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, at any time during the event. I will not possess, use, or distribute any illegal drug or drug paraphernalia, including marijuana regardless of the legality in the hosting state.

**I will not** commit any illegal act. I understand that vandalism, disturbing the peace, or other inappropriate behavior as determined by the adult leadership in accordance with the youth leadership will not be tolerated. I understand that

**I will** have to pay for any damage that I cause. I understand that no gambling is allowed, except for fundraisers approved by the adult leadership.

As NFTY is a community that I want to keep safe and free of violence, I will not bring or use any weapons, firearms, or anything that may be construed as a weapon.

As NFTY is a community of teens that respect and appreciate the adult leadership and each other, I agree to abide by any additional rules, pertinent to a specific Event, which may be announced, and to accept the consequences of their violation.

**I understand that elements of this brit apply from the time I leave home for the event, during the event itself, and until I return home after the event. Some elements include behaviors and expectations between events.**

**My signature, and the signature of my parent or guardian, on the attached Health and Safety Form for Union for Reform Judaism Youth Programs, affirms my agreement to the rules and policies of NFTY and this B'rit K'hilah.**

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Signature of Candidate

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Date