

Dear NFTY-GER,

When I arrived at my first NFTY kallah in eighth grade, I was a little nervous. I hardly knew anyone and I didn't know what to expect. By the end of the event, all of this had changed. I was immediately welcomed into a loving community and soon formed friendships that I know will last a lifetime. I was impressed to see such powerful youth leaders with such a strong passion for NFTY. What impressed me even more was seeing them lead engaging and enlightening programs that they created from their own hard work. From that moment on, I was inspired to match and exceed their energy for NFTY and to pour my heart into our community. My immense love for NFTY has led me to have incredible experiences and create strong connections with others. NFTY-GER has helped me discover my Jewish identity and shaped me into the person I am today. Because of the countless opportunities NFTY has given me, the friendships, bonds, and connections that I have formed because of NFTY, and the experiences in NFTY that have changed my life, **I am pleased to announce my candidacy for NFTY-GER's Programming Vice President for the year 5780-5781.**

The skills I have gained through NFTY-GER Cabinet, Scouts BSA, NFTY Convention, and local J-TEEN programs will help me succeed in my position and do the most I can for our region. During my time as a NFTY-GER Program Coordinator I had the opportunity to write and lead a program with my fellow PCs, which taught me the structure of NFTY programs as well as the skills required to lead a successful program. Serving as the Senior Patrol Leader of Scouts BSA Troop 99 has helped me develop my leadership skills and strategies and my ability to communicate effectively with others. Going to NFTY Convention gave me a new perspective on a variety of meaningful aspects in programming and an opportunity to build a network by forming lasting connections with Jewish teens throughout NFTY. My involvement in J-TEEN programs as a Diller Teen Fellow and a J-SERVE Ambassador has taught me how to write programs that keep participants engaged and interested, stay organized, be a strong leader, and incorporate Jewish learning and values into my programs. Balancing all my extracurriculars and school has given me the ability to manage my time well, prioritize my tasks, and stay organized. These experiences have prepared me for regional board and have led me to find my love and passion for programming.

I have many ideas to enhance regional programming. I will specifically focus on: **Creating interactive programming** based on a broader topic (such as social action) and the NFTY study theme in order to keep the programs engaging, relatable, and interesting and encompass Jewish learning and values.

Building connections and networking within our NFTY-GER community by providing programming resources to Temple Youth Groups, working with TYG PVPs to strengthen the planning process for programs on both a regional and local level, and incorporating community and/or leadership-building into NFTY-GER programs. This will enrich the perspective and content of our programs and make the messages of our programs more powerful and impactful.

Implementing program tracks to open up more options for types of activities to engage in and topics to explore. Using program tracks will ensure that everyone has the opportunity to engage with a topic they are passionate about in a way that they enjoy and, as a result, get a more meaningful experience out of the program.

I would be thrilled to have the opportunity to be a leader in our community and support and improve programming in our region.

בידידות (in friendship),
Elianna Perlman