



Religious & Cultural VP Application

5780–5781

2020-2021

What you will find in this packet:

1. Letter from Senior Regional Director to Applicants and Parents
2. General Expectations of a Regional Board Member
3. 5780-5781 Event Dates and Meetings Information
4. Appointment Procedures
5. Responsibilities specific to the Religious & Cultural Vice President
6. Applicant Information Form (must be returned)
7. Applicant Declaration and Parent Authorization Form (must be returned)
8. Rabbinic and Youth Professional Certification (must be returned)
9. NFTY's Brit Khillah (must be returned)
10. Application Questions (must be returned)

****All forms must be returned in a single email to nftyger@urj.org with Subject "NFTY-GER Religious and Cultural VP Application" no later than April 21, 2020. By this time, all applicants must have also had a phone call with GER's current RCVP and Senior Regional Director.**

Dear NFTY-GER Regional Board Applicant 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. As the NFTY-GER Senior Regional Director, I 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 Weekend, Location TBD **(May 29-31, 2020)**
- Executive Board Weekend Location TBD **(August 28-30, 2020)**
- Mechina at Newman by the Bay, Vallejo, CA – **(June 4-7, 2020)**
- NFTY Convention, Bruceville, TX **(February 11-15, 2021 – Not mandatory)**

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 2020-2021 school year will be ready 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.

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

- As part of Regional Board, **you are expected to attend every regional event**. Board members are also responsible for outreach and recruitment, and will 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 Newman by the Bay in Vallejo, CA. The second North American Board meeting (which you will be strongly encouraged – but not required – to attend) will be held during NFTY Convention 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, depending on your position, congregational visits.
- 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. I will provide reimbursement request forms and I will do my best to return them within two to three 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 your clergy 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 212-452-6576 or email me at nftyger@uri.org.

B’Hatzlacha!

Barak Malkin
Senior Regional Director of NFTY-GER and Urban Mitzvah Corps

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 40 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.

Inclusivity - All board members are expected to treat all participants equally and with respect. They also commit to speaking positively about NFTY programs, URJ youth programs, and local youth group programs. Board members will also build relationships with synagogues in the region to support recruitment efforts for NFTY-GER and URJ youth programs.

Events for all Board Members

Event	Dates	Where
New Board/Old Board	May 29-31, 2020	Location TBD
NFTY Mechina	June 4-7, 2020	Newman by the Bay, Vallejo, CA
Executive Board Weekend	August 28-30	Location TBD
Subregional Events	Dates TBD in Early Sept, 2020	Locations TBD
Fall Kallah	October 23-25, 2020	Location TBD
L.E.A.D. (Leadership Event)	November 14, 2020	Location TBD
Taste of NFTY Kallah	December 4-6, 2020	URJ Camp Harlam, Kunkletown, PA
Winter Kallah	January 22-24, 2021	URJ Camp Harlam, Kunkletown, PA
NFTY Convention	February 11-15, 2021 (Not Required)	Greene Family Camp, Bruceville, TX
TBD Day Event	Late February TBD	Location TBD
NFTY-GER Elections	March 14	Location TBD
Spring Kallah	April 16-18	URJ Camp Harlam Kunkletown, PA

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

If appointed, you are also committed to attend our monthly Board Meetings. These take place the Sunday one or two weeks prior to each month's event. Locations for meetings are determined after the full Board is appointed.

NFTY Regional Board Appointment Procedures

1. This application must be filled out completely and emailed to the NFTY-GER staff at nftyger@urj.org by Tuesday, April 21st.
2. No campaigning or electioneering of any type is allowed. Any applicant who publicizes, or has publicized for them with the exception of filling out this application, shall be disqualified at the discretion of the NFTY-GER Regional President and the NFTY-GER Senior Regional Director. This includes oral or written campaigning.
3. If appointed, you must attend all events unless indicated when you hand in your packet.
4. Before submitting the application, you are responsible for having a call with the current NFTY-GER Religious and Cultural Vice President and the Senior Regional Director. Your parents also must have a call with the NFTY-GER Senior Regional Director to discuss some expectations and needs of them as well. The current NFTY-GER President is also available for questions. Contact information for the President, Religious and Cultural Vice President, and Senior Regional Director can be found below. NOTE: When contacting current members of the NFTY-GER Regional Board, you're not allowed to ask for advice on your application.

NFTY-GER 5779-5780 Regional Board Contact Information

President

Caroline McKinnon

(201) 258-9896

ger-president@nfty.org

Religious and Cultural Vice President

Molly Gorman

(973) 632-1518

ger-rcvp@nfty.org

Senior Regional Director of NFTY-GER and Urban Mitzvah Corps

Barak Malkin

(908) 642-6590

nftyger@urj.org

Responsibilities of the Religious & Cultural VP as per NFTY-GER's Constitution

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 NFTY-GER Spring Kallah.

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 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.

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.



2020-2021 REGIONAL BOARD
APPLICANT INFORMATION FORM

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Full Name of Applicant _____

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 Applicant

Date

PLEASE EMAIL THIS SIGNED FORM NO LATER THAN APRIL 21, 2020 TO:
nftyger@urj.org – Subject: NFTY-GER Religious and Cultural VP Application



2020-2021 REGIONAL BOARD
RABBINIC CERTIFICATION

Name of Applicant _____

Applicant for the position of _____

Dear Rabbi,

The above-named applicant intends to run for a NFTY Garden Empire Regional Board position for the 2020-2021 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 applicant, please sign the bottom of this form, certifying his/her candidacy for the position above. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Caroline McKinnon
2019-2020 NFTY-GER President
201-258-9896

Barak Malkin
Senior Regional Director,
NFTY-GER & Urban Mitzvah Corps
212-452-6576

I am aware that this teen is applying to become a candidate for the NFTY-GER Regional Board. I have spoken with them about this commitment. I certify their candidacy for the position above. We have spoken about the obligations of being a leader in the Reform Jewish community, including the time commitment involved, expectations and Jewish values of being a leader, and of following NFTY’s B’rit Kehillah.

Signature of Clergy

Date

Printed Name of Clergy

Name of URJ Congregation

City, State

I certify that I have met with Clergy to discuss my candidacy for the NFTY-GER Regional Board.

Signature of Applicant

Date

PLEASE EMAIL THIS SIGNED FORM NO LATER THAN APRIL 21, 2020 TO:
nftyger@urj.org – Subject: NFTY-GER Religious and Cultural VP Application



2020-2021 REGIONAL BOARD
YOUTH PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

Name of Applicant _____

Applying for the position of _____

Dear Youth Professional,

The above-named applicant intends to run for a NFTY GARDEN EMPIRE Regional Board position for the 2020-2021 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 applicant, please sign the bottom of this form, certifying his/her candidacy for the position above. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Caroline McKinnon
2019-2020 NFTY-GER President
201-258-9896

Barak Malkin
Senior Regional Director,
NFTY-GER & Urban Mitzvah Corps
212-452-6576

I am aware that this youth group participant is registering to become a applicant for the NFTY-GER Regional Board. I have spoken with them about the commitment level expected of NFTY-GER Regional Board members, and my personal expectation that they will uphold the NFTY *B'rit Kehilah* while in office. I certify that they are a member in good standing of their youth group. I also certify their candidacy for the position above.

Signature of Youth Professional

Date

Printed Name of Youth Professional

I certify that I have met with my Youth Professional to discuss my candidacy for Regional Board.

Signature of Applicant

Date

PLEASE EMAIL THIS SIGNED FORM NO LATER THAN APRIL 21, 2020 TO:
nftyger@urj.org – Subject: NFTY-GER Religious and Cultural VP Application



NORTH AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEMPLE YOUTH

NFTY's *B'RIT K'HILAH*—Code of Conduct ברית קהילה

The undersigned acknowledges that an online signature will, for all purposes, be treated as an original.

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 refrain from inappropriate sexual behavior.

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. I also agree not to photograph or make video recordings of anyone without their express permission. 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 affirms my agreement to the rules and policies of NFTY and this B'rit K'hilah.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Application Questions

Please answer the following questions as completely as possible and send them along with the rest of your application to nftyger@urj.org no later than April 21, 2020.

1. Being on Regional Board is time consuming and can be stressful and emotional. How do you plan to balance your school year, which may include homework, extra-curriculars, jobs, friends, and other personal needs, with all the responsibilities that come along with being on Regional Board?
2. What leadership experience or qualities, both in and out of NFTY, do you have that would help you in this position?
3. What has changed since last month, when candidacy packets were due, that now motivates you to apply for Regional Board? If you were a candidate for Regional Board, what now motivates you to apply for this specific position?
4. As RCVP, one of your roles is to work with cabinet and committee members to create engaging spiritual moments. Describe how you plan to engage participants in services.
5. What new ideas will you bring to the position of RCVP? What would you hope to change in the upcoming program year?