

What to Expect in 2022-23 – A Synagogue Leaders Guide

Centering of Teen Leaders & Movement Building

The NFTY that teens and adult partners are building together now is a movement that centers youth leadership, reflects the values, interests, and aspirations of teens and their peers, partners with Reform synagogues and like-minded communities, welcomes alumni/volunteers to be adult allies, and creates a vibrant and powerful youth community where all can experience wholeness, justice, equity, love and joy in their Judaism.

Paid “Regional Mentor” for each region

In some cases this will be a part time person (at least 8-10 hours a week). In others it will be a combined role with camp or a local congregation. The URJ staff will be working with the teens, synagogue leaders, and camp leaders in each region to identify what might be possible for each region and collaboratively build job descriptions.

4 full time URJ NFTY/teen focused staff

These full-time professionals will work in partnership with our teen leaders to experiment with new organizing and leadership strategies focused on building movement and collaboration across the system, support NFTYx, build a volunteer network, support our Regional Mentors.

An integrated strategy for teen engagement and leadership development that spans the full URJ system including NFTY, camps, synagogues, Israel, and Justice.

Timeline

May

- House Meetings with teens to help build movement – giving tools to bring in others
- Job postings for full time NFTY positions
- Start of regional meetings to discuss the staff person for the region (keep an eye out for invitations to teens and synagogue leaders!)
- Continued House Meetings for synagogue professionals and interested adults to learn more about the new NFTY strategies and how they can partner
- North American teen working groups form to focus on finance/fundraising, hiring, and the URJ ethics process
- 2022-23 Camp retreats dates shared
- 2021-22 NFTY regional volunteers and mentors work with synagogues to calendar NFTYx events for the 2022-23 year (where ready)

June

- Continuation of regional meetings and completion of conversations
- Meetings with synagogue leaders who previously hosted NFTYx events to revise model together

July

- New full time staff members begin their positions & the full URJ teen team begins their work
- Hiring process for Regional Mentors continues

August

- Regional Mentors & NFTY Organizers begin their positions and convene teen leaders
- New NFTY websites and data gathering tools go live
- The new NFTYx infrastructure launches and regions and sub-regions fill in their NFTYx calendars
- New campaigns and experiments in new engagement models launch
- Staff and adult trainings launch; teen fellowship applications launch

September

- Regional Mentors begin convening synagogue leaders monthly to collaborate, learn, and build
- NFTY Volunteer Network launches
- NFTYx events launch locally; joint camp retreats happen November-May

October

- October 7-9th – North American Teen Leadership Summit at OSRUI (150 teen spots available!)
- Teen Leadership Fellowships launch

The Full Strategy At A Glance

