



New Member Packet



Welcome to NFTY Ohio Valley (NFTY-OV)!

You have found the NFTY Ohio Valley New Member Packet! This packet contains information about our region (OV) and the Reform Jewish Youth Movement (NFTY).

Through reading this packet, you will be familiarized with NFTY Ohio Valley! We can not wait to get to know you!



Stay Connected with NFTY OV!

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What is NFTY?

NFTY, The Reform Jewish Youth Movement, has offered thousands of young people the opportunity to explore and live Reform Judaism through teen-powered weekends and engaging social justice ventures.

NFTY is a movement that builds strong, welcoming, inspired communities through teen-powered engagement. Together, we pursue tikkun olam, personal growth, youth empowerment, and deep connections, all rooted in Reform Judaism.

Today, over 500 Reform congregations throughout North America sponsor Temple Youth Groups, bringing the NFTY experience to more than 6,000 high school-age young people in grades 9 through 12.

Additionally, NFTY welcomes Jewish teens in grades 6-8 through an initiative called NFTY678.

NFTY is a Reform Jewish community for all high school students who are interested in connecting to their Judaism. Teens build friendships, lifelong Reform Jewish identities, and leadership skills through community building, worship, social action, and experiential youth-led Jewish educational programming.

NFTYx

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the URJ and NFTY have had to expand to more virtual programming options and fewer in-person regional events. This was done to accommodate security of funding, as well as ensure safety for all of our participants.

Out of this came NFTYx, a teen-powered engagement for local communities through synagogue run experiences. They are open to the full NFTY region, sub-regions, or specific cities.

NFTYx experiences are organized by passionate URJ synagogue partners, alumni and teen leaders who seek to bring teens from multiple Reform congregations together in community.

The “x” signifies an unknown variable, the notion of collaboration among users, and its exponential impact. The unknown variable is teen leaders, alumni, clergy, youth professionals, parents, anyone who wants to plan a NFTYx event! You represent the x-factor. Your ideas, inspiration, creativity, passion, and leadership multiply the impact of NFTYx.

About NFTY Ohio Valley (NFTY OV)

The Ohio Valley Region of NFTY serves Jewish Teens in Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee, and West Virginia. We work in partnership with Union for Reform Judaism affiliated congregations to provide meaningful Jewish experiences for middle and high school students.

NFTY-OV works towards enlightening, educating, and empowering our participants. A large focus is placed on enhancing leadership skills, development, and social opportunities.

Our movement was founded as the youth arm of Reform Judaism in 1939 at the urging of Women of Reform Judaism (then known as the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods).

With over 900 congregations and 1.5 million Jews, Reform Judaism is the largest and most vibrant Jewish movement in all of North America.

Frequently Asked Questions

What makes NFTY a safe and inclusive space?

NFTY is a community in which Jewish teens feel safe expressing themselves and being a part of the community. NFTY members meet new people, have fun, and connect with their own Judaism through interactive programming.

I don't know anyone in NFTY, is it easy to make friends?

NFTY-OV helps teens create deep connections and lifelong friendships. Through mixers and enriching events, teens are given the opportunity to build meaningful relationships with other Jewish teens.

What if I'm the only Jewish teen in my area?

Whether you live near other Jewish teens or not, NFTY gives you the chance to interact with other Jewish teens across the Ohio Valley region.

What is one thing you wish you were told before your first NFTY event?

New members should come with an open mind. This means to be comfortable with making new friends, sitting with someone new at a meal, engaging in conversation with their peers, and to feel comfortable sharing my opinions and insight during discussions and programming.

Why Do We Love NFTY?

I love NFTY because of the community that has come from it. NFTY is a safe space and I have always felt accepted and a part of its community. I have been able to explore myself and my Judaism in a unique way through NFTY.

- Macey, Senior

I love NFTY because it's given me the opportunity to meet Jewish teens from all over the country. I've made some of my best friends and memories through NFTY and have been able to embrace my Judaism throughout the year outside of camp and synagogue.

- Sydney, Senior

I love NFTY because it's an opportunity to see my camp friends while simultaneously meeting new Jewish teens, all while we engage in interesting topics that help further enrich our leadership skills!

- Nora, Senior

I love NFTY because of the accepting and welcoming community and the opportunity it has given me to meet so many amazing Jewish teens from all around the country. NFTY has taught me so many amazing leadership skills and has given me the chance to be a part of a bigger cause.

- Stephanie, Junior

I love NFTY because it gives me the chance to meet Jewish teens from around the country. It is rewarding to be in a community that is so accepting and welcoming.

- Sienna, Junior

I love NFTY because it helps me create an environment where I can surround myself with people and experiences that build my Jewish identity.

- Jacob, Senior

Find Your Temple Youth Group (TYG)

Kentucky	<p style="text-align: center;">LEXTY, Adath Israel (Lexington) PARTY, Temple Shalom (Louisville) The Temple (Louisville)</p>
Indiana	<p style="text-align: center;">Beth Shalom (Bloomington) Sha'arei Shalom (Columbus) Adath B'nai Israel (Evansville) FOrTY, Achduth VeShalom (Fort Wayne) IFTY, Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation (Indianapolis) B'nai Israel (Kokomo) Sinai Temple (Marion) Temple Beth El (Muncie) Beth Boruk Temple (Richmond) United Hebrew (Terre Haute) WeLFY, Temple Israel (West Lafayette) BESHTY, Congregation Beth Shalom (Indianapolis)</p>
Ohio	<p style="text-align: center;">YGOR, Rockdale Temple (Cincinnati) VOTY, Valley Temple (Cincinnati) WOOTY, Wise Temple (Cincinnati) Temple Israel (Columbus) TIDY, Temple Israel (Dayton) Temple Beth Or (Dayton) Beth Israel (Lima) Temple Israel (Marion) Beth Shalom (New Albany) Temple Sholom (Springfield) BethTY, Beth Tikvah (Worthington)</p>
Tennessee	<p style="text-align: center;">MiTY, Temple Micah (Brentwood) TOaSTY, The Temple (Nashville)</p>
West Virginia	<p style="text-align: center;">HINY, B'nai Sholom (Huntington) B'nai Israel (Parkersburg)</p>

Acronyms and Abbreviations

URJ - Union for Reform Judaism. The parent body of NFTY. It includes all of the synagogues which define themselves as Reform.

NFTY - The youth movement of the Reform movement. There are 19 regions, one of which is Ohio Valley.

OV - Ohio Valley - Our NFTY region. It includes youth groups from Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia.

GUCI - Goldman Union Camp Institute - our regional URJ Camp in Zionsville, IN.

HUC - Hebrew Union College - Jewish seminary in North America and the academic, spiritual, and professional leadership development center of Reform Judaism. Your clergy may have attended HUC!

TYG - Temple Youth Group - The group of high school students at your Temple who get together for social, educational, religious, cultural, recreational and social action oriented events.

JYG - Junior Youth Group. This applies to 6-8th grade students.

Kallah - Regional convention

Ruach - Hebrew word for spirit

Bessie - Our beloved cow and mascot

Regional Board Positions and Descriptions

President - Leader of the regional board! Their role is to supervise members of the board, call and preside over board meetings, correspond with the region's TYGs, and work behind the scenes.

Programming Vice President - The PVP helps to program regional events. They also serve as a resource for programming TYG events.

Social Action Vice President - The SAVP coordinates social action programs throughout the region and at events.

Religious and Cultural Vice President - The RCVP is responsible for services and havdalah at regional events. They maintain a file of worship services and materials, coordinate with the regional clergy, and oversee a network of songleaders.

Membership Vice President - The MVP maintains and grows membership within the region. They promote NFTY programs and general spirit, as well as serve as a resource for all TYG MVPs.

Communications Vice President - The CVP manages Ohio Valley's social media and online presence. They also take notes at board meetings and create the NFTY-OV slideshow at events and the end of the year.

Financial Vice President - The FVP is responsible for fundraising and creating Ohio Valley merchandise.

Temple Communications Vice President - The TCVP initiates communication with temples in the region, helping rebuild youth programs at the local level.

NFTY Cheer

(call and response)

(stomp-clap-stomp-clap...)

...5-6-7-8

Say what's your name?

Say NFTY!

Say what's your name?

Say NFTY!

Say what's your name?

Say NFTY!

Gonna live and die-N-F-T-Y!

NFTY's in the front

HEY HEY HEY

Let me hear you grunt

HEY HEY HEY

NFTY's in the middle

HEY HEY HEY

Let me hear you giggle

He He He!

Never in the rear

No, no, no

Let me hear you cheer!

WHOOOOO!!

Ya got it?

Yeah!

Ya got it?

Yeah!

It's in my knees, my knees are weak

It's in my mouth, I cannot speak
It's in my hair, it's over there, it's over there, it's everywhere!

(stomp-clap-stomp- clap...)

...5-6-7-8

Say what's your name?

Say NFTY!

Say what's your name?

Say NFTY!

Say what's your name?

Say NFTY!

Gonna live and die-N-F-T-Y!

Noar Tzioni Reformi x3

Ohio Valley Cheer

Oooooooooohiooo vaaalleeeey

(O-O-V O-O-O-V) x4

Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee

Don't forget West Virginia, 1 TYG

OV is our region! Bessie is our cow!

NFTY is our reason! We'll sing it loud and proud!

OV OV lalalalalalala x2

KITOWV and OI join as one

To form the best region under the sun!

We can't be stopped; we're a sight to see!

Welcome to the GREAT OV! OOOOOOOOV!

(Stomp-clapstomp-stomp-clap) x2

Who is the very best? OV!

Who dominates the rest? OV!

Who you can't defeat; who rocks this beat!

From West VA to Tennessee! OOOOOOOOV!

(Stomp-clap-stomp-stompclap) x2

OV throw it up! BAM!!!!