



## The Reform Jewish Youth Movement

### How to Recruit Host Homes

- **Start early:** As soon as you know you're hosting an event, start to spread the word that you'll need host families.
- **Keep going:** Even if you think you have enough, keep registering "back up" host families. You never know if a host is going to have to back out at the last minute, or we may get last minute registrations and need extra space.
- **Appeal to different groups:** Tap into alumni parents, middle school parents, young religious school parents, preschool parents, teachers and faculty, older couples, Brotherhood & Sisterhood members, other temple committees, etc.
- **Have lots of messengers:** Find people who have influence in different areas of the congregation to help you get hosts. Use the clergy (especially during holidays), key lay leaders, parents, etc.
- **Get personal:** Mass emails and recruitment speeches to groups of people are important, but it's the personal phone calls and individual emails that are going to really get people signed up. Have a phone-a-thon with parent volunteers, or even hosting teens, calling temple members to ask them to host!
- **Make it easy:** Utilize both electronic signups online, with a link you can email out and have people click and sign up, as well as a paper form, that you can hand out during services or religious and people can fill out and return to you immediately.
- **Have a guest minimum:** While NFTY policy says we need at least 2 guests in each home, a typical car can fit 4 passengers, so require families to sign up to host at least 3 (if they have their own teen) or 4 (if not) guests.
- **Have alternative options:** Some people can't host, but would be willing to help drive, and some people would be willing to host 10+ but don't have enough seatbelts, so pair them up!
- **Be clear with expectations:** ie. "Host families are going to need to be responsible for driving back and forth on Friday night, Saturday morning, Saturday evening, and Sunday morning. They are also going to be asked to provide their guests with breakfast and dinner on Saturday." Make sure they know the expectations up front.
- **Get creative with driving:** Our teens only need floor space – they will bring sleeping bags and pillows, and do not need beds. That means that people can host as many as they can fit in their cars, and it also means that if we can find some extra drivers, we can usually fit extra teens in the houses.
- **The final plea:** In that last month when you're doing your final push, call people who are already hosting and ask them to take just one more. Promote lots of buzz about the event, and tell congregants how many more spaces you need. Make sure they know that we depend, and are so grateful for, their generosity that makes it possible for these Jewish teens to have an incredible experience!