

## A Guide for Getting to Know your Temple's Youth Group President

### Why should the presidents meet?

Everybody benefits! The congregation benefits from the creativity, passion, and commitment of a young generation of leadership – their willingness to learn and be trained in the ways of temple leadership sets the standard for future involvement in congregational life. The youth group learns essential skills and the values that guide the congregation. This meeting helps both parties build an invaluable relationship in which they will learn, grow, and thrive.

### Goal Setting and Alignment

Share your goals, large and small, with each other. Knowing each other's goals will open the lines of communication between the adult and youth leadership and will highlight opportunities where the two bodies can align with each other. For example, if the temple has identified a goal to increase religious school enrollment by 10%, the youth group could be instrumental in recruiting among their peers.

### Budgeting

Share the temple budget with your youth group president and assist them with developing a youth group budget. When given the opportunity, teens will rise to the challenge (and use their discretion!) For example, your youth group may identify "remodel the youth lounge" as its goal for the year, while the temple may be buckling down on building renovations. Sharing some of the budget goals with the youth group president will help align the youth group's goals with the rest of the congregation's – and it may inspire you, too.

While you're thinking about budget, make sure you've also set up a scholarship fund so that youth programs are accessible to everyone!

### Resources

Ask the question, "**What are our resources outside of the synagogue walls?**" You have access to a wide network of resources that can be useful to your teens in establishing contacts that will enrich their programming, mentorship, and service opportunities. Ask the president of the youth group what they want to accomplish during the year, and think about who you may be able to connect them with. Also think about the **committees** your congregation has, and consider asking the youth group's chairs to join or participate in a meeting for the relevant committee to strengthen the work each group is doing (For example: the teen social action chair might join the social action committee).

### Additional tips:

- Establish a mailbox, desk, or workspace for your youth group president
- Meet monthly with your youth group president to update on goal progress
- Establish a youth scholarship fund to support teens in attending leadership development programs
- Ensure that you are on the youth group email list
- Give teens the opportunity to rise to the occasion, and they will!

*This guide was created with input from the 2013-14 NFTY President, Andrew Keene. Additional resources for working with your youth group can be found online at [www.NFTY.org](http://www.NFTY.org)*