

“Va-a-ni ma-a-min I mean I really do believe that everybody’s got something to show!” These lyrics to Spike’s popular song not only echo the words “Fish swim” throughout our regions, but also carry a deeper meaning for NFTY as a whole. NFTY is the place where I realized I have a voice to contribute. At every level of NFTY, from individual participants to TYGs, sub-regions to regions, our uniqueness is incredible and builds our *kehilla kedosha*. Together, we can continue to develop our holy community into something even more amazing.

With this belief in mind, I, Jake Forstein, am honored to declare my candidacy for the position of your 5779-5780 NFTY Membership Vice President. Throughout my six years in NFTY, I have gained invaluable experiences through serving as NFTY-SAR Membership Vice President, NFTY-SAR Social Action Vice President, Camp Jenny Co-Director, and two-term North American Inclusion Task Force Member. In addition, I have attended over forty NFTY events and am an alumnus of both the URJ Kutz Camp and Camp Harlam. I am prepared with knowledge and inspiration to enact the following changes within our movement:

We will not only incentivise attending events, but incentivise recruiting for events. In encouraging NFTYites to bring friends with them to NFTY Convention, NFTY created a “NFTYfriends” promo code which made the event more accessible to those who were on the fence and rewarded people who recruited others. I propose we use this model on a smaller scale throughout NFTY that is specific to each region. By rewarding those who have recruited new or inconsistent members, participants will be more eager to bring their friends with them to regional events. Not only will this initiative take some of the stress of recruitment off the shoulders of the regional MVPs, but will also provide an easy and efficient way for regional MVPs to utilize their networks and further encourage regional participation.

We will recognize that participants have busy lives and cannot always prioritize NFTY. Often, a participant will want to come to an event, but between marching band, sports, theater, ACT & SAT testing, school dances, et cetera, they are not able to attend every event. I propose that NFTY pilots more 1-day events in addition to our kallot to give our participants more opportunities to see their friends throughout the year. In addition, I propose that NFTY provides travel to and from ACT & SAT testing sites on the Saturdays of events. This will show the parents of NFTYites that we are invested in the future of our participants.

We will celebrate how our regions succeed and utilize these strategies. Every region works in different ways, and we all have very similar goals. By utilizing the North American networks to recognize the ways regions succeed and spread these strategies to help each other, we will achieve a new level of efficiency and unity throughout our movement.

*NFTY, I just need to know just what makes you glow. Thank you for your consideration,
Jake Forstein*