



Elections Packet 2020-2021 | 5780-5781 NFTY North American Board

This elections packet includes:

- General Expectations of NFTY North American Board Members
- 5780-5781 NFTY North American Board Elections Procedures
- NFTY Board Election Guidelines
- Candidate Contract
- 2019-2020 NFTY Board Contact Information
- Synagogue Professional Certification
- NFTY Regional Staff Certification
- Parent/Guardian Certification
- North American Board Counterpart and/or Alum Certification
- Mifgash Hafifah 2020 Information Sheet
- Summer Roles and Responsibilities

Online you will find:

[NFTY's Constitution](#) - Please be sure to read Articles 10 and 11 for information pertaining to the election process and job descriptions.

[NFTY's Brit Kehillah – Code of Conduct](#) - There is an expectation that all North American Board members will follow and uphold our NFTY Brit Kehillah.

**The following items must be submitted
no later than
JANUARY 15, 2020
to NABCandidate@urj.org
All items must be received by this date to be
recognized as a candidate**

Speeches are due by January 26, 2020.

Further guidelines for candidates, including details about speeches, will be emailed to all candidates after their initial materials are submitted.

A confirmation email will be sent within 24-48 hours to confirm that all the following forms and files have been received and are legible:

CANDIDATE CHECKLIST:

- Candidate Information Form
- Candidate Contract with Candidate Signature
- Parent/Guardian Certification
- Synagogue Professional Certification
- Regional Staff Certification
- North American Board Certification
- Brit Kehilah – NFTY Code of Conduct
- Mifgash Hafifah 2020 Travel Form
- Letter of Intent - Please see Page 7 for more information about Letters of Intent.
- Brief Bio – 75 words or less
- Digital photo of yourself - 1" wide by 2" high 150 dpi

Kislev 5780 / December 2019

Dear NFTYite:

Thank you for your interest in running for the 2020-2021 NFTY North American Board! We are looking for partners to help us search for and evaluate our path forward. Those who will find success on the North American Board are those who are willing to take on the mantle of responsibility and partnership in discovering what new possibilities await teen leaders, and for an openness to brainstorm, to dream, to cultivate ideas in others and to help gather information about what teens want and what can be next.

The decision to run for NFTY North American Board is immensely difficult. Before you commit to becoming a candidate, read this packet fully, connect with past and current NAB members, be sure you understand the expectations of the position, and fully think through your ability and desire to take on this responsibility.

“It is not the position that honors the person, but rather the person that honors the position.” Serving as a NFTY Board member requires an immense amount of time, dedication, flexibility, patience, and commitment – as well as a sense of vision and time-management. It is important that you fully understand the duties and obligations associated with the six North American Board positions and the elections process. Being a part of the NFTY Board is a team effort and partnership, both with your fellow board members as well as the professional staff of NFTY and the URJ. Please read through this packet of information with your parent/guardian, a synagogue professional, and your NFTY Regional Staff member.

Model Exemplary Leadership - To inspire the leaders of our movement to pursue change and growth, NFTY NAB members must be ready to model positive leadership by pursuing change and growth in their positions as well.

Build Relationships and Partnership - NFTY Board Members should be approachable and accessible to all adult partners, youth stakeholders, and NFTYites as a resource and partner. They should also be able to reach out and establish connections with people, as partnership and relationship building is the key to being productive throughout the year.

[NFTY's 13 Principles](#) - As a NFTY leader, NAB members must uphold the values NFTY stands for and educate others to ensure that these principles are in our programming.

Communication - NAB members are expected to be in frequent contact with their board, their network, the NFTY Director, and any other partners in their work. This is a weekly, and sometimes daily, expectation. They must also be able to communicate when they need support and be able to establish expectations partnerships.

Initiative - NFTY North American Board members must hold themselves accountable for ensuring that their work, as well as any work they oversee or are in partnership on is completed. If a project is not moving forward (whether they are working with teens or adults), they have a responsibility to communicate with their team and figure out what is keeping them from moving forward.

Prioritize - By running for North American Board, you are making a commitment that NFTY will be your primary extracurricular activity throughout the year. This may mean delaying participation in other experiences such as Greek life, performing groups, and other clubs if they inhibit you from completing your NFTY responsibilities.

Be Present - NAB members are expected to attend all designated NFTY events, weekly board meetings, position specific meetings, and URJ related meetings (when applicable). If there are any North American events that you cannot attend in their entirety, it must be stated in your speech. Note: Participating in the entire NAB summer experience is non-negotiable.

NFTY Board Members will have the opportunity to visit NFTY Regions during regional events or other events that satisfy NFTY's priorities, depending upon availability of resources. They will not be allowed to visit their home region for official or unofficial NFTY business. These travel opportunities will likely happen within the first semester of the NFTY year.

Being present extends beyond meetings, events, and travel opportunities. It especially includes staying focused and involved in your work and the projects you take on throughout the year.

Time Commitment – To be successful, board members must be willing and able to put in, on average, two hours of work into your position each day. This includes hour-long weekly NAB meetings, advisor check-ins, network meetings, email, and any work that goes into furthering your priorities for the year.

Dependability - Much of the work board members do is as part of a team, therefore it is imperative that they are dependable and accountable to each of their partners in this work. When everyone's work is connected and interdependent, board members must be able to uphold their end of the work and be transparent if they are unable to complete a task.

Open Minded - Throughout the year priorities may change as you continue to learn about the structure of the URJ and adapt to any changes or transitions that may occur during the term. Board members will be most successful if they are open to the challenges that come their way and allow themselves to grow with challenges rather than be held back by them.

Serving as a North American Board member is an extensive responsibility. If you have any hesitations around serving on the board while entering your first year of college, please consider the possibility of taking a gap year. While this also seems like an intense decision, there is great value in allowing yourself to focus fully on driving our movement forward. It is recommended that you read the letter on page 10 to further understand the commitment and merit of taking a year off.

Your signatures and the submission of these documents state that you understand the expectations for a North American Board member and are ready and capable to fulfill the duties of the position.

Your signatures and the submission of these documents state that you understand the expectations for a North American Board member and are ready and capable to fulfill the duties of the position.

Again, thank you so much for your interest in helping ensure the future of NFTY. This is a big and exciting decision, and we want to ensure you have all the information and tools to make the decision and set yourself up for success. Please feel free to be in touch with any questions or concerns that you may have regarding running for NFTY Board!

L'shalom,

Maya Levy
NFTY President | 2019-2020
NFTYPres@urj.org

Lynne Butner
Director of NFTY Engagement
Lbutner@urj.org

Events for all NFTY Board Members

NFTY Mifgash Hafifah 2020 March 13-15 or March 20-22, 2020 TBD
Old Board/New Board Transition Weekend

NFTY North American Board Summer Experience June 5 – July 12, 2019
Includes NFTY Mechina, NFTY NAB week, time at URJ Camps and various trainings and travel. Details will be available after elections.

NFTY Convention February 14th-17th, 2021

NFTY Mifgash Hafifah 2021 March/April 2021

NFTY Mechina 2021 TBD

Other meetings that you may be asked to attend (based on Board Position held):
URJ North American Board of Trustees Meetings, Netzer Veida Olamit, Commission on Social Action Meetings, NFTY Convention Meetings, and/or a NFTY Mid-year board meeting.

Expenses– If elected, your approved NFTY related expenses will be covered by NFTY. At times, you will need to use your own money initially to cover pre-approved expenses such as the cost of getting to and from the airport when traveling for NFTY. You will be provided with forms to fill out so that you can be reimbursed. In order to expedite flight book and cost reimbursement, we will provide you training on our process for booking flights through Egencia and submitting expenses through Concur (two separate systems we use for these processes).

NFTY North American Board Election Procedures

Campaigning

- As per the NFTY Constitution, campaigning is not allowed prior to or during NFTY Veida, where elections will occur. Any candidate that participates in campaigning will be disqualified.

Getting to Know the Candidates

- Each candidate will have a letter of intent, speech, short biography (75 words or less), and photo, which will be posted on the NFTY website (nfty.org) prior to elections.
- NFTY General Board members will have the opportunity to learn more about candidates during a “Meet the Candidates” forum during NFTY Veida 2020. The design of this forum will be available to candidates two weeks prior to elections.
- Each candidate can create a position paper to be distributed during the “Meet the Candidates” session during NFTY Veida 2020. **Position papers should be no longer than one page, single-sided for all candidates.** You will be responsible for bringing these with you to Veida.

Letters of Intent

- Each candidate will write a letter stating their intent to run for NFTY Board.
- Letters of Intent for candidates for President should be no longer than two sides of one page. Letters of Intent should be no longer than one side of one page for those running for PVP, SAVP, RCVP, MVP, and CVP.
- All letters should have one-inch margins on each side and be written in size 11 Arial font ONLY.
 - Set one-inch margins all around the page
 - Save the file as a Microsoft Word file.
- A candidate’s Letter of Intent should include a basic summary of what you intend to do in the upcoming year, why it is important to NFTY, and any other relevant information. You are submitting a condensed version of your platform.
 - We recommend this letter focuses on the values your candidacy and term will encompass, not only ideas and projects you hope to accomplish. You should be thinking about the value you will add to the movement and to all the work you do.
- Letters of Intent will be posted online for NFTYites to view after they are received by the North American office. If there is any information you would like kept confidential until your speech, do not include it in your letter. Since your Letter of Intent will become public domain, please do not use any personal information such as personal emails, twitter handles, screen names, or phone numbers.
- Example Letters of Intent can be found [here](#). Please only use these for format and structural inspiration, as you should be creating your own platform and ideas for your candidacy.

Speeches

- All speeches will be delivered online. Candidates will receive technical information on submitting a video speech within one week of the candidate declaration deadline. **Speeches must be submitted by January 25th.** Candidates may start working on the content of their speech at any time.
- Candidates for any Vice President position will be allowed a speech no longer than **four minutes**. Candidates for President will be allowed a speech no longer than **five minutes**.
- Once all speeches have been received and optimized for posting, they will be posted online for general viewing. Speeches will only be posted online. They will not be given live.

Elections

- Elections will proceed in gavel order during Asefah on Sunday, February 16, 2020.
- Delegates will mark their votes on an official ballot, fold it, and hand it into the NFTY staff member assigned to collecting the ballots. Each ballot will list the name of the position, the name of the candidates in alphabetical order, an option for abstention, and an option for no-vote. To the left of each candidate, abstention, and no-vote option will be a blank line. This line is where voting delegates will indicate their preference by numbering the options 1 through X, where X represents the number of candidates plus the abstention and no-vote options. The 1 will represent the candidate the voting delegate is voting for, 2 will represent their second choice, and so on, through X representing their X choice. The NFTY Constitution requires a simple majority to elect. (Please familiarize yourself with election procedures outlined in the NFTY Constitution and the outcomes of each option.)
- Ballots will be counted by the current NFTY President and the Director of NFTY Engagement.
- Candidates will be informed of the outcome of the election by the current NFTY President before results are announced to the NFTY General Board and the participants attending NFTY Veida. However, it will be after the Asefah has officially ended and before the announcement that evening.

NFTY BOARD ELECTION GUIDELINES

Each of the following guidelines is subject to the discretion of the NFTY Board. We offer these guidelines to provide candidates with a clear understanding of what is and is not permissible. If you have a question about the appropriateness of any of your actions or materials – i.e., a potentially “gray area” – consult the NFTY President or NFTY Director without delay.

What a Candidate Cannot Do (At Risk of Disqualification)

- Distribute material to any NFTYite that discusses the voting procedure to sway/affect that person's vote. (Thus, material may educate about the candidate's platform, but may not say, for example, “vote for me,” “I am the best candidate”).
- Distribute or share inappropriate or negative material about any candidates.
- Contact – including by telephone, email, text messaging, social media, etc. – delegates or other NFTYites (including other candidates) to initiate conversation about the election and its process.

- Visit regions other than the candidate's home region between the time that letters of intent are due and the time of elections.
- Distribute material outside of the event during which elections are held (e.g., email delegates, post material pertaining to the election on blogs, social networking sites, snail mail material, etc.).
- Distribute material that is not paper based/written. Platform papers are allowed, but pins and other promotional material are not. The material is meant to educate, not advertise. The ONLY permissible material to be handed out is the platform paper, which may be distributed during Meet the Candidates.
- Use network email threads or social media or contact list text groups as a forum for campaigning in any way.
- Contact delegates from other regions in an effort to block vote. You represent the constituents of your region. At NFTY Veida 2020 Asefah, all Asefah participants (including candidates) are involved with their regional caucus. Your votes should be reflective of what your region wants.

December 2019

Dear NFTY North American Board Candidates and Families,

I have been extremely honored and humbled by the opportunity I have had to serve on the NFTY North American Board as NFTY President. Though I have been fortunate to serve in this capacity, I have been even more fortunate in my ability to defer my college enrollment for a year in order to commit myself to NFTY. There is nothing more fulfilling and powerful than getting up every day to focus on NFTY and drive our movement forward.

Initially, deciding to defer my college enrollment was incredibly challenging, but it has ended up becoming a very rewarding experience for me. The idea of falling a year behind my peers and taking an “untraditional” route was scary. After thinking long and hard, going back and forth multiple times, and doing some research it all just clicked that this would be the right decision for me. I realized I would still have my college experience, it would just come a year later, and in the meantime, I would be pursuing my strongest passions and actively embodying my deepest-held Jewish values. Additionally, the tangible benefits of taking a gap year far outweigh any cons. A study conducted by the [American Gap Year Association](#) found that 98% of students who chose to take a gap year said their year had helped them develop as a person, 96% found it increased their self-confidence, and 93% agreed that it had increased their communications skills. Gap years are not only becoming a more popular decision, they are also proven to be a more practical decision.

As a result of deciding to take a gap year, I have been able to consistently prioritize NFTY and my NFTY responsibilities. This has enabled me to connect with more NFTY participants, effectively support more leaders, form partnerships with more professional staff members, and execute my vision for NFTY with the utmost levels of attention and focus. For that opportunity, I could not be more grateful.

All of that being said, deferring college enrollment to serve as a NFTY Board member is a very personal decision to make. It is undoubtedly a decision that should only be made after serious thought and consideration. Taking a gap year involves careful planning, firm commitment, and immense self-discipline. Considering a gap year is not a mandatory step to running for NFTY Board and has recently become a norm for the NFTY President. Taking a gap year does not mean that NFTY can or will fill all your time for the whole year. Those who have decided to take a gap year have also looked for employment, taken classes, volunteered, and explored other passions in order to make their year successful.

I encourage that you consider this option, and I would be happy to share more specifics about my experience this year. There are many people who are happy to be resources for you as you think about this decision as well. You can reach out to Jake Forstein (NFTYmvp@nfty.org) who decided to defer his admission this year as well. NFTY’s Director of Engagement, Lynne Butner, (lbutner@nfty.org) can provide more details on what this decision might look like for you. If your parent/guardian has any questions or hesitations (as this is a big decision for them as well), my parents would be happy to speak with them as well, you can email me for their information.

Whether you attend university or take a gap year, it is important that your choice is fulfilling, exciting, meaningful, and the best decision for you. I am here to support you throughout this difficult process, so never hesitate to reach out!

B’ahavah,
Maya Levy, NFTY President, 2019-2020
NFTYPres@URJ.org

**5780-5781 NFTY North American Board
Candidate Information Form
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

Name of Candidate: _____

Candidate for the position of: _____

NFTY Region: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____

Prov/State: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Current Grade: _____ Current Age: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Cell Phone: _____

URJ Congregation & City: _____

Parent/Guardian 1 Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

(Optional) Parent/Guardian 2 Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Signature of Candidate

Date

PLEASE RETURN THIS SIGNED FORM NO LATER THAN January 15, 2020 TO:

NABCandidate@urj.org

5779-5780 NFTY North American Board Candidate Contract

It is the expectation of NFTY and URJ Youth that the NFTY North American Board serve as role models for all members of our organization. Because of your personal leadership skills, programming ability, strong commitment to Judaism, and forward thinking on social issues, you are taking a step towards being a leader for the participants of the North American Reform Jewish Youth Movement. This wonderful experience comes with a tremendous amount of responsibility. Not only must you fulfill the job requirements listed in the description of your position, it is expected that each member of the NFTY North American Board will be present at and participate in all the travel requirements and meetings throughout the year, as well as embody the following values (descriptions can be found in the opening letter of this packet):

- Model exemplary leadership
- Build relationships
- Fulfill NFTY's 13 principles
- Communicate
- Have Initiative
- Prioritize your NFTY work
- Be Present
- Understand and manage this time commitment
- Be a dependable member of a team
- Be open minded

If elected to be a NFTY North American Board Member, you will be held to a higher standard as you must lead by the example you set for your peers. It is always expected that you will uphold [NFTY's Brit Kehillah–Code of Conduct](#) as well as support the enforcement of the Brit at all NFTY events in which you participate, and in how you portray yourself online. Breaking any of its rules may result in the consequences outlined in the NFTY Constitution.

If elected, I am prepared to make NFTY my primary extracurricular activity during the next academic year. I am fully aware of the values I must embody, and the expectations placed upon NFTY North American Board Members and commit to the terms of this contract and the NFTY Board Election Packet if elected to the 5780-5781 NFTY North American Board.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS SIGNED FORM NO LATER THAN January 15, 2020 TO:
NABCandidate@urj.org

**5780-5781 NFTY North American Board
Parent/Guardian Certification**

Name of Candidate: _____
Candidate for the position of: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

I am aware that my teen is registering to be a candidate for the 5780--5781 NFTY North American Board. I have read the NFTY Board Election Packet and NFTY's Brit Kehillah – Code of Conduct - and am familiar with the preliminary travel schedule outlined in this packet. I understand that if my teen breaks the NFTY Brit Kehillah while holding a North American Board position, they may be removed from the NFTY North American Board. I understand that if elected, my teen is making a commitment to make NFTY their primary extra-curricular activity during the 2020-2021 academic year. I am fully aware of the expectations placed upon NFTY North American Board Members.

I understand that if I choose, I can arrange a call with Lynne Butner (lbutter@urj.org) between December 26 and January 12 to answer questions I might have about my teen's role if elected to the NFTY North American Board, before the application deadline.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Email: _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS SIGNED FORM NO LATER THAN January 15, 2020 TO:
NABCandidate@urj.org

**5780-5781 NFTY North American Board
Synagogue Professional Certification**
(may not be a family member)

Name of Candidate: _____
Candidate for the position of: _____

Dear Synagogue Professional,

The above-named candidate intends to run for a NFTY Board position for the 2020-2021 school year. **Please take the time to meet with the candidate and discuss the potential role as a board member as well as the importance of such a commitment. If you have questions about what is appropriate for this meeting, please be in touch with Lynne Butner at the email below.** After you meet with the candidate, please sign the bottom of this form, certifying their candidacy for the position above.

Please feel free to contact us with us any questions.

Maya Levy
NFTY President | 2019-2020
NFTYPres@urj.org

Lynne Butner
Director of NFTY Engagement
Lbutner@urj.org

I am aware that this member of my URJ congregation is registering to become a candidate for the NFTY North American Board. I have spoken to them in detail about this commitment. I certify that they are a member in good standing of my community. I have spoken with this member of my congregation about the time commitment involved and the expectations and Jewish values of following NFTY's Brit Kehillah. I also certify their candidacy for the position above.

Signature of Synagogue Professional: _____

Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Name of URJ Congregation: _____

City, State: _____

I certify that I have met with my Synagogue Professional to discuss my candidacy for the NFTY North American Board.

Candidate Signature: _____ Date: _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS SIGNED FORM NO LATER THAN January 15, 2020 TO:
NABCandidate@urj.org

**5780-5781 NFTY North American Board Candidate
Regional Staff Certification**

Name of Candidate: _____

Candidate for the position of: _____

Dear NFTY Regional Staff,

The above-named candidate intends to run for a NFTY Board position for the 2020-2021 school year. **Please take the time to meet with the candidate and discuss the potential as a board member as well as the importance of such a commitment. If you have questions about what is appropriate for this meeting, please be in touch with Lynne Butner at the email below.** After you meet with the candidate, sign the bottom of this form in order to certify their candidacy for the position above. Please feel free to contact us with us any questions.

Maya Levy
NFTY President | 2019-2020
NFTYPres@urj.org

Lynne Butner
Director of NFTY Engagement
Lbutner@urj.org

I am aware that this member of my NFTY Region is registering to become a candidate for the NFTY North American Board. I have spoken with this member of my region about the commitment level expected of NFTY North American Board members, and my personal expectation that they will uphold the NFTY Brit Kehillah while in office. I certify that they are a member in good standing of this Region. I also certify their candidacy for the position above.

Signature of Regional Staff

Date

Name of NFTY Region

I certify that I have met with my Regional Staff Member to discuss my candidacy for the NFTY Board.

Signature of Candidate

Date

PLEASE RETURN THIS SIGNED FORM NO LATER THAN January 15, 2020 TO:

NABCandidate@urj.org

**5780-5781 NFTY North American Board Candidate
Current North American Board Certification**

Name of Candidate: _____

Candidate for the position of: _____

Dear Candidate,

While we have tried to clearly outline the expectations and goals for North American Board Members, the greatest understanding of a North American Board position can only come from one who has held that position. We require you to speak with the current member of the NFTY Board for the position you seek and one additional current or past board member to discuss the roles, expectations, and experience of the North American Board. If you are running for Communications Vice-President, you should speak with Maya. **These conversations must happen between now and January 8th.** If you do not reach out to the current North American Board members, you will be disqualified as a candidate. On these calls, we encourage you to ask these questions:

- What are the obligations and weekly responsibilities of holding a North American Board position?
- What do you wish you had known before running and before you began your term?
- Share your reason for running, goals for the year, and potential platform. Are these attainable and realistic goals for a NAB member?

After you speak with the North American Board members, please sign the bottom of this form, and indicate who you have spoken with. Please know that at any time, in addition to having the required conversation(s) with the current NFTY Board, you can also feel free to direct questions to Lynne Butner, NFTY's Director of Engagement.

Maya Levy
NFTY President | 2019-2020
NFTYPres@urj.org

Lynne Butner
Director of NFTY Engagement
Lbutner@urj.org

I certify that I have spoken to the following NFTY Board member(s) to discuss my candidacy for the 5780-5781 NFTY Board.

Signature of Candidate

Date

Position for which I am running: _____

Names of the two North American Board members I have had a formal conversation with about my candidacy before January 15, 2020: (no signatures required, please print these names)

Current Board member who holds the position I am seeking

One additional current or former NFTY Board Member

PLEASE RETURN THIS SIGNED FORM NO LATER THAN January 15, 2020 TO:

NABCandidate@urj.org

Contact Information for 2019-2020 NFTY Board

In order to contact current NFTY North American Board members to complete the Current North American Board Certification, please refer to the contact information below.

President	Maya Levy	nftypres@urj.org
Programming VP	Hannah Bender	nftypvp@urj.org
Social Action VP	Jess Becker	nftysavp@urj.org
Religious & Cultural VP	Brandon Morantz	nftyncvp@urj.org
Membership VP	Jake Forstein	nftymvp@urj.org
Communications VP	Please connect with Maya Levy	nftypres@urj.org

TRAVEL PARAMETERS TO MIFGASH HAFIFAH

The weekend of *Mifgash Hafifah*, where the current board and the 5780-5781 board-elect come together with NFTY Leadership will be taking place in March. NFTY will be booking your flights to and from this event. Because of the very small window to book these tickets between election at NFTY Veida and attendance at *Mifgash Hafifah*, we need to preliminarily collect the information from you so that we can book those tickets immediately, after your election to the NFTY North American Board. Please submit the following information with all your materials:

Name:

Email:

Preferred Airport or City of Origin:

Preferred Airline:

Frequent Flyer Number:

TSA number:

Birthdate:

In-flight preferences (food, seat selection):

Address:

While we try to accommodate your airline preference requests, due to the short turnaround time of booking flights, flight times and costs, we may not end up booking you on the airline of your choice. Once we have found travel plans for you, we will let you know, and you will have 24 hours to confirm with us on that particular flight or travel plan. Attendance at *Mifgash Hafifah* is mandatory, and if you are not able to confirm within 24 hours, we will ask that you book your own travel to the event, at your cost.

PLEASE RETURN THIS SIGNED FORM NO LATER THAN January 15, 2020 TO:

NABCandidate@urj.org