



Elections Packet
2022-2023 | 5782-5783
NFTY North American Board

This elections packet includes:

- General Expectations of NFTY North American Board Members
- 5782-5783 NFTY North American Board Elections Procedures
- NFTY Board Election Guidelines
- Candidate Contract
- 2021-2022 NFTY Board Contact Information
- Synagogue Professional Certification
- NFTY Staff Certification
- Parent/Guardian Certification
- North American Board Counterpart and/or Alum Certification
- 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 completed no
later than
February 15, 2022**

Questions should be directed to NABCandidate@urj.org

Other important dates

Video speeches are due February 24, 2022
Elections will be held virtually on March 6, 2022

Further guidelines for candidates, including details about recording 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 and Contract and NAB Certification](#)

Before you begin this form, please have the documents below ready to upload.

- 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

[Parent/Guardian Certification](#) – email link to parent or guardian

[Synagogue Professional Certification](#) – email link to synagogue professional

[NFTY Staff Certification](#) – email link to your area manager

Contact Information for 2021-2022 NFTY Board

President	Lev Mosbacher	nftypres@urj.org
Programming VP	Sam Goldstone	nftypvp@urj.org
Social Action VP	Maddy Denker	nftysavp@urj.org
Religious & Cultural VP	Owen Thomas	nftycvp@urj.org
Membership VP	Riley Miner	nftymvp@urj.org
Communications VP	Jacob Fishman	nftycvp@urj.org

Shevat 5782 / January 2022

Dear NFTY leader,

Thank you for your interest in running for 2022-2023 NFTY North American Board! We are looking for partners to help navigate our path forward during this time of great change. The responsibilities of each position are fluid and will likely look different in the coming year. We have attempted to envision what being on the North American Board might look like this year and those descriptions can be found **included in this packet**. While each position has individual responsibilities, one of the most important parts of being on North American board, regardless of position, is supporting NFTY's North American networks, supporting all the leaders in NFTY, and helping the community continue to thrive and grow.

Leaders who will find success on NFTY North American Board are those who are open to dreaming, brainstorming, and nurturing the dreams of others, and who will help gather information about what teens are looking for and what will be the next chapter of NFTY.

NFTY is in a time of change. Despite these changes, the roles and responsibilities of the North American board are more important than ever. As a member of NAB, you will have the unique opportunity to support NFTY through whatever changes may come, and to lead the community at a time when leadership is especially crucial.

Another significant opportunity you will have as a North American board member is to be a central part of conversations regarding the future of NFTY. Each year, and especially these few years, are pivotal moments in the history of NFTY, and Reform Jewish youth in general. I urge you to consider becoming a candidate for the 2022-2023 North American board of NFTY.

B'ahavah,

Lev Mosbacher, NFTY President | 2021-2022

NFTYPres@URJ.org

The decision to run for NFTY North American Board is challenging. 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 think through your ability and desire to accept 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 a significant 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 on 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 Staff.

Open Minded – This year has been a time of unprecedented change for NFTY. As we continue to navigate the changes brought on by COVID-19 NFTY NAB members must be open to change and unexpected situations. We will need your help as agents of change. 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.

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.

Build Relationships and Partnership - NFTY Board Members should be approachable and accessible to all NFTYites, adult partners, youth stakeholders as a resource and partner. They should be ready to reach out and establish connections, as partnership and relationship building is the key to productivity.

[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 the foundation of our programming.

Communication - NAB members are expected to be in regular 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.

Initiative - NFTY North American Board members must hold themselves accountable to ensure that their work, as well as any work they oversee, is completed. If a project is not progressing (whether they are working with teens or adults), they have a responsibility to communicate with their team and ensure that their priorities are moving forward.

Prioritize - By running for North American Board, you committing to NFTY as your primary extracurricular activity throughout the year. This may mean delaying participation in other experiences such as Greek life, performance groups, and other clubs if they prevent 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). Being present extends beyond meetings and events. 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 weekly NAB meetings, advisor check-ins, network meetings, task force 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 they must be dependable and accountable to their partners in this work. When everyone's work is connected, board members must uphold their end of the work and be transparent if they are unable to complete a task.

Serving as a North American Board member is a considerable responsibility. If you have hesitations about serving on the board while starting 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. We recommend 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 the online documents state that you understand the expectations for a North American Board member and are ready and able to fulfill the duties of the position.

Again, thank you for helping ensure the future of NFTY. This is an exciting decision, and we want to ensure you have the information to make the right choice for you, and to set yourself up for success. Please feel free to be in touch with any questions or concerns that you have regarding running for NFTY Board.

L'shalom,

Lev Mosbacher
NFTY President | 2021-2022

Lynne Butner
Director of NFTY Engagement

Julie Marsh
Interim NFTY North American Manager

NFTYPres@urj.org

Lbutner@urj.org

jmarsh@urj.org

NFTY North American Board Experience 2022-2023

Why you would want to be on NFTY North American Board

- You want to be a Jewish leader across North America in NFTY and the URJ.
- You want to learn skills around organizing your community and making a difference across North America.
- You want to support that networks that bring Jewish teens together for fun, meaningful moments.
- You want to support work to create inclusive Jewish spaces where everyone can be their best selves

What you might expect as a NFTY North American Board leader

- Help to lead a North American Network that includes teaching/learning leadership skills and translating those skills into action
- Support NFTY board networks as they prepare to run NFTYx events
- Be part of a the NFTY North American teen leadership team
- Be part of an important change process as NFTY continues to evolve with the changing times.
- Work with adults in NFTY and the URJ as youth representatives
- Participate in high level learning opportunities/leadership training

Positions

President

Opportunities for Teaching/Learning:

- URJ Change Makers Fellowship

Responsibilities:

- Work with Adult leaders to create and teach the Change Makers Fellowship
- Support President network in navigating NFTYx
- Partner with adults to envision new NFTY engagement strategies
- Lead the President network as they work with teens and adults in their region
- Be a youth Representative of NFTY at the URJ, and with partner Jewish organizations.

Examples of the work of the President

- Work to create and implement the URJ Change Makers Fellowship
- Serve on the URJ North American Board
- Hold monthly President Network meetings to support the work Presidents are doing and to provide training
- Meet weekly with NFTY adult leadership
- Help to create and implement programming for NFTY North America (ie NFTY Convention, Mechina, Veida)

Programming Vice-President

Opportunities for Teaching/Learning:

- URJ Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Fellowship

Responsibilities:

- Lead the PVP network as they work with teens and adults in their region
- Support the PVP network in navigating NFTYx
- Work with Adult leaders to create and teach the URJ Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Fellowship
- Be the youth representative in URJ Audacious Hospitality work
- Be a resource for regional and synagogue leaders about NFTY programming
- Be the lead advocate for DEI work in NFTY
- Provide training and programming to NFTY teens around teen leadership
- Run a North American network of teens who care about Diversity, Equity & Inclusion issues

Examples of the work of the PVP

- Work with the URJ Audacious Hospitality team to create virtual programming about DEI
- Create a series of workshops available to all NFTY leaders around writing and leading programs
- Run a North American network of teens who care about Diversity, Equity & Inclusion issues
- Create and run programming for Mechina/Veida
- Meet weekly with the NFTY North American Board.

Social Action Vice-President

Opportunities for Teaching/Learning:

- RAC Justice Fellowship
- L'Taken (if possible)
- RAC National Campaign and/or State Projects

Responsibilities:

- Lead the SAVP network as they work with teens and adults in their region
- Work closely with the Religious Action Center National Campaign Organizer
- Support the SAVP network in navigating NFTYx
- Support SAVPs working with RAC State representatives
- Work with Adult leaders on the RAC Justice Fellowship
- Be the youth representative on the URJ Commission on Social Action
- Be a resource for regional and synagogue leaders about NFTY Social Action programming
- Be the lead advocate for URJ Social Justice issues as related to NFTY
- Work with partner organizations (ie The Civics Center)
- Provide training and programming to NFTY teens around RAC Social Justice issues
- Mobilize your peers to create change

Examples of the work of the SAVP

- Running a campaign with the RAC National Campaign Organizer
- Speak at rally or as part of a panel as a leader of the Reform movement
- Lead a social justice program that mobilizes teens to act on a specific issue

Religious & Cultural Vice-President

Opportunities for Teaching/Learning:

- URJ Israel Advocacy & Engagement Fellowship
- URJ Songleader Fellowship

Responsibilities:

- This year, regional RCVPs will have the opportunity to focus on one of two different areas: Israel or Music and Worship. While RCVPs may continue to lead their region in both areas, each RCVP will be able to choose to participate in learning and leading activities in one or both areas. Part of the work of the NAB RCVP will help to bridge the two tracks during the network meetings as they work together as a network.
- Support RCVP network in navigating NFTYx
- Work with adult leaders to plan and teach fellowships
- Be part of a North American conversation about Israel and inspire/support teens to act
- Provide worship resources to RCVP network
- Represent NFTY/youth in URJ worship experiences
- Lead Israel focused campaigns, education opportunities, and initiatives with Reform teens
- Offer programming about Israel - either virtually or during NFTY events
- Run a regional network of teens who care about Israel-related issues
- Create & lead worship services/rituals at in person experiences

Examples of the work of the RCVP

- Create a North American social media campaign to raise awareness about equality issues in Israel.
- Be part of a URJ virtual Hanukkah experience.
- Create and lead services for NFTY Mechina
- Be part of the American Zionist Movement Board
- Meet with the President of ARZA to bring Israel programming to more teens
- Help create and lead Fellowship programming

Membership Vice-President

Opportunities for Teaching/Learning:

- Mobilization training
- Hillel recruitment training

Responsibilities:

- Support MCVP network in navigating NFTYx
- Work with adult leaders to plan and teach training
- Be a resource for increasing engagement
- Be the lead advocate for creating inclusive communities
- Offer support in programming for mixers/ice breakers for regional leaders
- Take the lead on creating welcoming, inclusive communities at URJ camps and NFTY weekends
- Run a network of leaders who care about teen engagement

Examples of the work of the MVP

- Help to develop and run training for regional leaders
- Provide training on outreach and mobilization to teen leaders
- Create resources for ensuring welcoming and inclusive communities

Communications Vice-President

Opportunities for Learning:

- Communications/Marketing Fellowship

Responsibilities:

- Be the person responsible for the social media presence of NFTY
 - Post appropriately on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter
 - Create high quality graphics for NFTY programs and priorities
 - Create blog posts highlighting exciting happenings in NFTY
- Support CVP & FVP networks in navigating NFTYx
- Work with adult leaders to plan and teach fellowship
- Work with SAVP, RCVP, etc. to promote any social justice, Israel, or other important campaigns and initiatives
- Create merchandise and help to maintain NFTY store.

Examples of the work of the CVP

- Create a social media plan for NFTY
- Create graphics/videos for holidays
- Teach teen leaders about creating a social media plan, creating quality graphics, and more so that they can promote NFTYx events
- Work with Social Action Vice President to create a social media campaign

NFTY North American Board Election Procedures

Campaigning

- As per the NFTY Constitution, campaigning is not allowed prior to or during the elections weekend. 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, 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 on March 6, 2022. Details about this forum will be provided to candidates two weeks prior to elections.
- Each candidate can create a position paper to be virtually distributed during the “Meet the Candidates” session. **Position papers must be limited to one page, single-sided for all candidates and must be sent as a .pdf file.**

Letters of Intent

- Each candidate will write a letter stating their intent to run for NFTY Board.
- Letters of Intent for candidates for President must be no longer than two pages. Letters of Intent should be no longer than 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 that this letter focus 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 the work you will do.
- After all letters have been submitted, the Director of NFTY Engagement will set up a meeting with you to review your platform before letters are published.
- Letters of Intent will be posted online within 2 weeks of being 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, social media accounts, 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 pre-recorded and published online prior to elections. Candidates will receive technical information on submitting a video speech within one week of the video speech deadline.

Speeches must be submitted by February 24, 2022. Candidates may start working on the content of their speech at any time.

- Candidates for any Vice President position are limited to a speech no longer than **four minutes**. Candidates for President are limited to a speech no longer than **five minutes**.

Elections

- Elections will proceed in gavel order during Asefah on Sunday, March 6, 2022
- We are researching the best online voting process that will work for our elections process. More information will be provided prior to elections.
- 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 processed 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. Results will be announced to the NFTY General Board via email in the evening on Sunday, March 6.

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 of Engagement.

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. (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. **This includes virtual events.**
- 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. Materials are meant to educate, not advertise. The **ONLY** permissible material to be shared is the platform paper, which may be shared during Meet the Candidates.
- Use network email threads, social media, or text groups as a forum for campaigning in any way.
- Contact delegates from other regions to block vote. You represent the constituents of your region. During the elections weekend, all Asefah participants (including candidates) are involved with their regional caucus. Your vote should be reflective of what your region wants.