

Daniel Pomerantz SETYG

Hey, Missouri Valley! I'm Daniel Pomerantz, but a lot of people call me Pommy, Dpommy, or Pomegranate. I am from SETYG in St. Louis, Missouri, and I am a junior in high school. When I'm not at school or playing sports, I'm usually doing something NFTY-related. My time as a NFTY participant, TYG board member, and regional board member has been incredible. The Missouri Valley community continues to amaze me as we keep making great memories together! If we haven't talked, or you want to talk more, I would love to get to know you better! My number is 314-809-8031, and my Snapchat is dp0mmy, so as the cool kids say...HMU!

I like sports a lot! In fall you can find me making cross country Snapchat stories (which are WAY too long), in winter you can catch me at the J with my basketball team "Latke Flocka Flame," and in spring you can witness my mediocrity at tennis. Last year I tried to bring Crocs back, which didn't work; now I am currently failing at bringing Snuggies back, so if you want to keep the trend alive, bring one to an event and I'll proudly wear mine with you!



Why do you want to be on Regional Board?

My NFTY experience has enabled me to see Missouri Valley through numerous lenses. In 9th grade, I was a general board member; I had no leadership title, just a love for NFTY and its events. Sophomore year I served as a Membership Vice President (MVP) in my youth group, SETYG. I developed a strong passion for NFTY, especially for recruitment and inclusion. These passions led me to where I am now, currently serving as Regional SLIID-Membership Vice President. This year has been outstanding; I've had the opportunity to meet and build relationships with such amazing people, and my love for Missouri Valley has soared to levels I didn't realize were possible just a year ago. My diverse range of NFTY experiences will help me in situations when I want everyone in Missouri Valley to be satisfied and happy. I want to be on Regional Board not only because I know I'm qualified, but also because I'm ready to take on this leadership role, and have created a platform to ensure that everyone's voice will be heard in Missouri Valley.

What are your qualifications for the position of President?

I believe that I'm qualified to serve as Regional President. Sophomore year I served as my TYG's Membership Vice President. I learned all of the necessary skills about reaching out to new faces and old, as well as ensuring that everyone is having a good time at events. I was able to apply my newly learned skills at SETYG Lounge Nights and local events. Throughout sophomore year I also grew as a leader at regional events. I loved facilitating mixers and being a welcoming face to everyone in the region. At Spring 2016, I was the head of both the SETYG Welcoming Committee and SETYG Social Committee. This experience helped me to appreciate the process

of planning an event and to take that next stride in NFTY leadership. Serving as a Regional Membership Vice President has allowed me to discover a whole new world of NFTY. I have cultivated the skills required to prepare for regional events, run 6-7-8 programs, and work with a regional network. I'm prepared to use the skills that I've gained in the past years to help our region.

What traits do you possess that would make you an effective regional board member?

Positivity: Even in the face of challenges, I maintain an optimistic and encouraging outlook. I keep in mind that my attitude affects the people around me. I try to always keep a friendly smile on my face, which often prompts others to do the same.

Ability to go with the flow: If things don't go according to plan, I know how to problem solve. I've learned it's important to adapt to situations and always have a backup plan for everything I do.

Approachability and Inclusivity: Since I strive to make everyone feel welcome, I am mindful of approachability inclusivity. I love initiating conversation and friendships which allows me to ensure that everyone, those I know well and those I want to know better, feels welcome in the NFTY community.

Professionalism with a sense of humor: These past years have helped me become more professional inside and outside of NFTY. I'm glad that over this year I didn't let the stresses of a board position affect my personality, especially my sense of humor. I love to laugh and crack jokes, but I also know when to tone it down (or turn it off) during more serious times.

What have you achieved in positions of leadership in NFTY you're proud of?

Sophomore year: Although we lost a large class of seniors the year before, SETYG did not decline in membership because we successfully recruited dedicated and enthusiastic new members. For Spring 2016, as the head of the SETYG Welcoming and Social Committees, I worked collaboratively to ensure participants felt both welcomed and engaged socially.

LTI 2016: Jade Groobman and I led a program that highlighted team building skills and allowed participants to understand that there is always something "on the inside" that we don't know about people.

Western Fall 2016: I helped plan the Implicit Bias Program which opened the eyes of many participants to the fact that implicit bias is inevitable, yet it's our responsibility to control it, as opposed to letting it control us.

JYG Shabbat Shira 2017: It was LIT. Every single middle schooler was jumping and dancing which is RARE for JYG, since Shira is often intimidating for newcomers.

MVP Network: Working with Jade to create a tightknit MVP network through Zoom calls and GroupMe has encouraged the MVPs to step up to leadership and develop passions for

inclusion, membership and NFTY as a whole. I am particularly proud of the community we have built this year.

What are you looking forward to accomplishing for MV? How do you plan to achieve these things?

As Regional President, my overarching goal is for Missouri Valley-ites to find their voices, use their voices, and respect other people's voices.

There are two basic instances when we, as NFTY-ites, can utilize our voices: during NFTY events and in between NFTY events.

Implementing ideas like "during-event surveys" will provide immediate feedback from our region. Results of these surveys will also help influence future participant-driven scheduling and content of future events. An "MV Appreciation Box" will allow participants to acknowledge other participants who they feel deserve recognition, whether for leading a program especially well or carrying a smile on their face.

Between events, we'll hold "NFTY Think Tanks" where any Missouri Valley-ite can join an online call and be in a task force that analyzes all aspects of MV. We can also emphasize the importance of bonding and growing as a community outside of NFTY. Confronting real world issues (like current waves of anti-Semitism) is a great way to bring the NFTY community together. Along with frequent TYG President meetings, I intend to have TYG talks with local board members and their Regional Board counterparts. These efforts will ensure that every TYG has the help and support that they deserve.