

Emily Birger PBnJ

My name is Emily Birger and I am running for Western MVP. I am heavily involved with the theater department at my school and have gained a lot of my confidence through acting on the stage. I have also learned how to become a better speaker through the Forensics program at my school. I have gone to camp at GUCI in Indiana the past 4 years now and have made incredibly strong friendships. This summer, I will be traveling with my campmates to Israel and I can't wait to share this experience with them. I am obsessed with Candy Crush and am currently on level 897. On rainy days, I love to bake too many cupcakes and binge on Netflix. My one true love is my dog, Oliver, who I take on long walks and to the off-leash park. I have not missed a NFTY event since my freshman year and cannot wait for the rest of my NFTY adventures!



Why do you want to be on Regional Board?

I want to be on Regional Board because NFTY has become the most important thing in my life. When I was first introduced to NFTY, I was a shy girl who had a hard time making new friends. After my first LTI, I formed so many bonds that I knew would become incredible friendships. My biggest goal, if I am elected, will be to share the amazing NFTY experience with as many people as possible. Everyone should have a chance to feel and live in that NFTY love and spirit. Regional Board would give me that opportunity on a much larger scale than the one I've been working with in my TYG. I feel ready for this advancement because of my experience as an MVP and I feel more prepared and excited than ever.

What are your qualifications for the position of Western MVP?

I am qualified for this position because this year, we had the most number of people at a PBnJ event that we've had in several years. I directly influenced that by calling and talking with many new people that had never even heard of NFTY. I believe my persistence and dedicated effort to welcome them to the idea of NFTY and our youth group was a key component as to why they came to our event and the development of long-term friendships. Another major achievement I had this year was successfully hosting JYG Chavurah in February. At this event I planned, participated, and led 7th and 8th graders to the launch of their NFTY lives.

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

My favorite quality that I possess is my passion for NFTY. NFTY has become the most important thing in my life, so, naturally, being able to bring my enthusiasm to the Regional Board would mean bringing that enthusiasm to every event and every NFTYite. Another positive trait is my sense of responsibility to my obligations. I will take this position seriously and not only set an example, but show that I can be a strong leader. The trait that defines me most is my confidence. I have acquired this confidence through mistakes and hiccups followed by lessons. I

feel very proud of who I've become through NFTY and would like to enable others to find their confidence through this amazing program.

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

This year we hosted JYG Chavurah in early February. It was an awesome experience! This was the first time that I had the opportunity to plan and lead programs. Both of these were amazing opportunities to see first hand what it means to lead. Program planning was a difficult task that my board and myself undertook and, in my opinion, we planned a fantastic event. Program leading was a great experience because I got to see my program in action, which was everything I hoped it would be. Lastly, we had an event this year that had a record turn out of potential new members. I'm very proud of this program because it wasn't fancy and all about the bells and whistles, but just Jewish teens hanging out and making friends, just like NFTY.

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

My goal for this year is not only getting attendance numbers up across the board, but most importantly, building solid friendships with the potential members. Obviously, high attendance rates are always a great accomplishment, but the proof of a successful program is when you see the same faces returning program after program. Going to an event alone is nerve-racking because of the fear of not knowing or feeling comfortable with anyone. My goal is to have everyone feel connected to at least one person after an event. I am happy to be this person. This goal is as relevant to the smallest youth group as it is to the largest. The friendships you build are what you will take away from NFTY, not the numbers.