

Hannah Seigal

BTY

Shalom Missouri Valley! My name is Hannah, and I am thrilled to be running to be your Regional Religious and Cultural VP for the 2017-2018 year. I live in the beautiful Boulder, CO, and I am a member of BTY. Outside of NFTY, you can catch me watching Grey's Anatomy, playing soccer, or going to my URJ camp OSRUI! See you soon Mo-Valley!



Why do you want to be on Regional Board?

There is something about NFTY. It's not just the hugs, laughs, and tears. It's the feeling of belonging. The feeling that you have people you can turn to. NFTY is a space where people can become the best version of themselves. One of the responsibilities of being on Regional Board is creating this environment. As a new NFTYite, I was made to feel comfortable by past members of the Regional Board. If elected, I would be provided with the platform to help this work continue. It would be a privilege to pay it forward. Services are not always a place where people feel comfortable, which takes away from their NFTY experience. Part of the reason I want to be on Regional Board is to help MVites connect to Judaism, ultimately leading to an enhanced Jewish and NFTY experience.

What are your qualifications for the position of RCVP?

Throughout my childhood, I attended Boulder Jewish Day School. There, I was exposed to a combination of Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox Judaism. I experienced the richness and diversity of a variety of Judaism's gifts. This cultural tapestry adorns my present Jewish life and I draw from it on a daily basis. I began leading services for BTY Youth Shabbats in 7th and 8th grades. As a freshman, I shadowed the Religious and Cultural VP. Together, we planned BTY and congregational services. During this period, I drew upon my creativity and rich past to create innovative service experiences. This year I have served as BTY Co-RCVP and Religious Delegate to the Regional Cabinet. I have learned, planned, and lead all sorts of religious programming, ranging from services to Beit Midrash. In BTY, I led alternative services, bringing in some of the largest number of participants BTY experienced this year. As Religious Delegate, I worked closely with the Regional RCVP creating services, Israel programming, and Beit Midrashim for our region. Last year, I planned the religious aspects for Winter Chavurah with the Religious Committee. I planned and songlead all of the services, Beit Midrash, and Havdallah.

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

Team environments are where my greatest successes have occurred. I have played competitive soccer for seven years at the club level, and represented my high school in both basketball and soccer. By belonging to these teams, I learned how groups of people can work together to attain tremendous results. My Jewish communal life flourished on a parallel path. Instead of scoring points, we worked together to plan events, create religious experiences, and developed an atmosphere of inclusivity supporting the Jewish teens of our city. At the regional level, I have been involved in similar team experiences. Our region is rich with many talented people. I have

been honored to work closely with the Regional President, Regional RCVP, corresponding TYG RCVPs, and other cabinet members. However, my favorite team experiences are those moments when all of MV is locked arm-in-arm in a friendship circle. As a team member, I can be counted on to bring passion, drive, vision, commitment, and a sense we are part of something important. I believe these skills, which I have developed over many years, will provide me the skill set to help lead our region toward many new successes and accomplishments.

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

Even at the most successful events, there are always a handful of kids sitting on the sidelines. They seem unsure of why they are there, don't know how to get connected, and appear unable to engage with the rest of the group. In all of other aspects of teen life, this might be acceptable, but in NFTY, this is not the type of dynamic we can overlook. Nothing makes me feel more like a leader than those informal moments when I reach out to one of those kids (as a peer) and help them engage. During these last two years, my formal achievements have included: group and program facilitation, planning and leading the religious aspects of last year's Winter Chavurah, developing Beit Midrash for LTI and Fall, planning and leading services for both BTY and MV, and helping shape MV's creative religious direction. In both types of accomplishments (informal and formal) I am extremely grateful for the genuine relationships that have developed. It is these relationships of which I am most proud. They are truly the greatest leadership accomplishments I experienced.

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

At times, I have found different types of worship more meaningful than others. As RCVP, I would create an experience for Missouri Valley members to experiment with a variety of service types to see what works best for them. At each Chavurah, there will be multiple choices of worship for people to choose from. The ideas for these services would evolve over time as the year progressed. Essentially, they will range in variety. For instance, members could choose from Israeli immersion, meditation, art, or a traditional service experience. The goal will be for each member to choose an option to experiment or connect with, and in the end, their experience will be personally enriched and expanded. Israel programming is another area of my focus. Within Missouri Valley we have access to deep resources through our members and connections. My goal for Israel programming would be to help Missouri Valley gain access to people from the front lines of the day-to-day Israel experience. I would also like to provide a neutral and balanced position, allowing participants to make up their own minds about where they stand on a variety of issues.