

## Julian Albright SETYG

Hey Missouri Valley!! My name is Julian Albright, and I'm psyched to run for regional board this year! Most of the time, you'll find me working on something school or NFTY related. If I had to choose a hobby, besides showering and watching basketball, I would tell you that it's NFTY. Most weeks, I am at some sort of NFTY event. NFTY has a very special place in my heart and as a sophomore, has already helped in making me the person I am. I loved freshman year, and holding my TYG board position this year was an honor. I am very excited to see what the future holds for me concerning NFTY. Outside of NFTY, I play sports most of the school year. I run cross country in the fall if you didn't know, and during the winter I'll be at basketball practice for my school, U. City. However, I usually take the spring off to relax and focus mostly on school. I am extremely excited to get to know everyone better this coming year. However, I do struggle with Shabbat Shira costume ideas, so if you have any suggestions we should start an email chain or something.



### **Why do you want to be on Regional Board?**

I want to be on regional board because I have fallen in love with NFTY over the past couple of years. Entering my first JYG in eighth grade, I didn't know anything about NFTY, but by Sunday morning I had decided I wanted to spend my high school years being involved. I looked up to the high schoolers, especially the regional board members, and I thought to myself that I would love to have the opportunity to be in that position-- to be a leader for the region. I have a drive and a passion to be the best leader I can for our region. I want to be on regional board to share my experience with all the participants of NFTY, and hopefully influence others the way that I was influenced at my first regional event.

### **What are your qualifications for the position of SLIID MVP?**

I realize that running for MVP is a huge responsibility, but I am eager to show that I possess the proper qualifications and qualities to positively impact the membership of our region. I currently hold the position of MVP for my local TYG, so I recognize the time, effort, and thought that goes into holding a board position. On top of NFTY, I am an editor on my school's newspaper, displaying my ability to thrive in a leadership role, as well as balancing my extracurricular activities. Additionally, I have been to JYG as a high schooler, so I am aware of the importance JYG membership is to the region, and I know how to communicate and achieve goals with members of our diverse region. My work as a camp counselor and Madrichim in Sunday School, illustrate my abilities involving teamwork, further showing I can lead a team cohesively to accomplish our goals.

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

Collaboration, competence and good energy are three crucial aspects of a strong leader. An MVP needs to take chances and I know myself to be confident enough to talk to anyone and

everyone. Similarly, I don't feel that I am intimidating. It is important for the regional board to be approachable so they can adequately lead and help the region grow together. People should always be able to talk to you about anything they need. Vice versa, I am, and will be, always willing to talk everyone about whatever. Lastly, I feel that I am quick on my feet. In a pinch I can occupy time with a mixer or game and quickly work out a compromise and solve problems with the help of the other board members.

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

One of the biggest things I am proud of I accomplished this August. I am currently co MVP in SETYG, My team and I were able to gain an attendance of over 40 people for the first lounge night of the year. This was a remarkable accomplishment. This event was the kickoff for a huge year for our membership. It has since helped increase the attendance for SETYG steadily all year. Then later this year I was able to accomplish organizing and help leading a program with Karen Arosety, the regional director for the Anti Defamation League, about Antisemitism which has been a big issue in the past few months of our lives. I have also been very happy to partake in building a strong MVP network, which in turn is useful for bouncing ideas off each other for programs and mixers.

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

If elected, I will strive to make NFTY-MV feel like a home for every member, just as it has been for me. Many come to their first regional event knowing nobody, and have nobody to talk to. This single experience can isolate possible NFTY-ites. In a meeting with temple officials at our TYG board overnight, we discussed how to make everyone feel included; I immediately recognized this could translate to NFTY. I want to strengthen the bonds and skills within the MVP network, because to have strong membership you need strong MVPs. I want to have monthly network-wide Zoom calls and for the MVPs to check in individually to share what they've done and to receive help and advice. Additionally, mixers every morning would help break the ice and will lead to people making new friends. I also want our JYG attendance to rise this year significantly. This can be accomplished by personally reaching out to the middle schoolers, each of the MVPs will write something about their experiences at JYG, why JYG is a good idea, etc. If kids hear this coming from real NFTY-ites, they will be more inclined to go, even if they need a push.