

Leora Greene
BTY

Shalom, NFTY Missouri Valley! My name is Leora Greene, I am a junior from Boulder, Colorado, and it is an honor to be running for your 2017-2018 Social Action Vice President! My spirit animal is Baby Simba, I have an immense adoration for Chacos, and I love NFTY with all my heart. I've had the honor to serve as BTY's SAVP this year and share my love for social justice with our lovely youth group! I have spent 7 summers at URJ camps and am a proud Coleman and Kutz Alum. When I'm not at an event, you can probably catch me watching/freaking out about Grey's Anatomy or playing guitar.



Why do you want to be on Regional Board?

NFTY has given me more than I can put into words, and since I left my very first event in seventh grade, I knew that this community would help me thrive, grow, and give me a family. After my freshman year, I had the honor to serve as a CIT at Camp Jenny, a camp directed by NFTY-SAR & NFTY-STR to help inner-Atlanta students get the opportunity to go to camp. During my time there, we talked a lot about "lollipop moments", or, as Drew Dudley defines it, a "moment where someone said or did something that you feel fundamentally made your life better." At the time, we wanted to apply this to making our campers' experience everything they wanted and deserved, but I couldn't let it go after the weekend ended. Now, I want to give back to this region that has helped me grow exponentially, as your regional Social Action Vice President to spread the power of lollipop moments in our region, at home, and to everyone who may need it.

What are your qualifications for the position of SAVP?

During my time in NFTY, I have found many opportunities to grow as a leader. I have served on my youth group's board for two years, as Sophomore Representative (2015-16) and Social Action Vice President (2016-17). Through these positions, I have learned how to communicate with others, advocate for myself, problem-solve, and think creatively about programming. I also currently serve on two NFTY national committees - the Syrian Refugee Task Force and Racial Justice Committee - where I have learned how to effectively inspire change among my fellow NFTYites and pursue issues important to us as a movement. This summer, at the URJ Kutz Camp, while serving as a Kutz Fellow, I was a part of the Mitzvah Corps (Gibush) major, where I focused on learning about autism by spending time with the tsofim, campers ages 12-20 with autism. This experience helped me realize that everyone in NFTY should have the ability to make friends, enjoy programs, and be a part of a community where they feel accepted. Other experiences, including serving as a Camp Jenny CIT (2015), attending the RAC's L'Taken Social Justice Seminar, and others, have taught me the importance of making a difference and standing up for what is right.

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

I have so much love and passion for both NFTY and social action, and want more than anything to spread those values and help them blossom throughout our region. Through all of my leadership opportunities, I have also gained vital skills that will help me be the best regional board member I can be. Through my previous positions, I have learned the importance of communication, inventive and creative programming, and empowering others to be leaders and spread change, regardless of leadership title or grade. I am responsible, devoted, and want to see ideas from NFTYites in our region come to life. With my years of experience in leadership plus my time as a general member, I have gained the skills necessary to effectively lead our kehillah kedosha, holy community, in sparking change and educating ourselves and others.

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

This year, I had the privilege to be nominated to a NFTY Tikun Olam Committee, which is based on furthering our movement's work on racial justice. I, alongside regional leaders around the country, have worked to create NFTY's Racial Justice Campaign with the Religious Action Center. I seek to educate my fellow NFTYites on issues surrounding racial justice and provide students opportunities to act on what they have learned. At NFTY Convention in Chicago earlier this year, our committee and the NFTY National Board (or NAB for short) got to officially launch our campaign during a plenary, or a period when everyone at the convention gathered together, following an incredible keynote by Pastor Chris Harris Sr. on the topic of racial justice. Standing in front of all my peers, friends and strangers alike, I was able to talk about an issue I am so passionate about. This beyond incredible experience is one that I will likely never forget.

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

Should I have the honor of being elected as your next SAVP, along with engaging styles of programming and different ways to connect to social action issues, I will be sure to have NFTYites from all TYGs across our region engage in a "Mo-Valley Mitzvah Day/Weekend." Each city and/or Temple Youth Group will team up to help create change in their local communities, whether it be picking up trash at a park, volunteering at a local homeless shelter, or any one of the other countless acts of tikkun olam that we all can do at home. If elected, I will be in constant contact with the SAVP network to choose a time that will work for a majority of localities. But, social action leadership opportunities shouldn't be restricted to SAVPs. I will encourage NFTYites outside of the network to get involved in the planning and execution of an event with their local SAVP. I will be there every step of the way as a resource to ensure the success of this event. NFTY Missouri Valley is such a special, inspiring kehillah, and by using the "action" in social action, we can work together to help our communities flourish, as I have seen our region do time and time again.