

Max Pinson PBnJ

Hey NFTY Missouri Valley! My name is Max Pinson and I am a sophomore from PBnJ in Kansas City. Currently I serve as a Missouri Valley Regional Songleader and PBnJ President. Outside of NFTY, I am actively involved in theatre in the Kansas City area and enjoy singing, playing the piano and guitar, and watching Netflix. I have grown to fall in love with NFTY Missouri Valley over the past three years and can't wait for the many great memories to come.



Why do you want to be on Regional Board?

I want to run for Western Membership Vice President because membership is one of the core aspects of our region. Our region would be nothing without its members, and I want to ensure that NFTY Missouri Valley continues to grow and prosper for many years to come. I have loved NFTY Missouri Valley since my first JYG Chavurah in 2014 where I was happily welcomed with open arms by each loving member of MV. I want to be the person who can allow others to come into NFTY, feel welcomed, and fall in love with it just as I did. For me, meeting new people and welcoming them into NFTY is extremely fun and exciting, and I truly love building relationships with new people as opposed to them just being another tally in the head count. As MVP, I would get to do something that I sincerely enjoy while at the same time helping the region that I love.

What are your qualifications for the position of Western MVP?

Throughout the last 2 years, I have had a variety of leadership roles in NFTY. Last year, I served as PBnJ's CVVP, and this past year I had the opportunity to be PBnJ President and a NFTY MV Regional Songleader. All of these things would help me to be a successful regional MVP. As CVVP, I was able to work with our TYG MVP at the time to understand how to advertise for events in appealing to new members. As president, I've had the opportunity to oversee all of the positions on my TYG's board, along with helping to increase membership at programs throughout the year. My TYG also got the chance to host JYG Chavurah which allowed me to truly get an insight into the future generations of NFTY and have some experience working with prospective high school NFTYites. As a regional songleader, I have had experience working with a team to ensure that participants are having fun and feel included. Each of these positions have allowed me to become more knowledgeable and passionate about NFTY on a local and regional level and, in general, would be great preparation for this position.

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

I possess multiple traits that would allow me to have great success as MVP. One of the traits I possess is approachability. I think approachability is important for an MVP because prospective members need to feel comfortable talking to the MVPs. I am also very outgoing which is important because a big part of being MVP is meeting and reaching out to new people, and I enjoy the process of building relationships and making connections with new people. I am also very motivated to do well at my position and as a board member, and I always aspire to work hard and do my best. I am very passionate about bringing in new members to Missouri Valley

because I believe that as many people as possible should get the opportunity to experience the amazing community that we share.

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

In the past year, I have had a wonderful experience as a regional songleader and PBNJ President. As PBNJ President, I have helped my TYG to reach out to new members and increase our 7th and 8th grade participation. I also played a large role in the planning of JYG Chavurah and was very proud of the way it turned out. Despite the fact that we had a small planning committee, it was incredible to see the middle schoolers fall in love with Missouri Valley for the first time. I am also proud of how I grew this past year as a regional songleader. Not only was this position a culmination of my passions for NFTY and music, but also it helped me to grow my leadership skills immensely. Helping participants to become engaged during song sessions and siyyumim within the MV community have personally been very proud moments for me. I am proud of the work I have done within my TYG and regional leadership positions this year, and they have not only allowed me to grow as a leader but also continue to find my ever-increasing passion for NFTY Missouri Valley as a whole.

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

If elected Western Membership Vice President, I would like to focus on building a strong foundation for the future of membership in NFTY Missouri Valley. I would do this by working on a local and regional level to increase NFTY 678 programming. I think starting early in membership is a great way to ensure that numbers will continue to grow. I would also like to make sure that participants can easily feel like they're a part of NFTY MV. Being included can greatly impact someone's experience, so I would like to guarantee that participants don't feel like they're left out. Not being able to contribute anything to a discussion can be an easy way to feel left out, so I'd like to make sure all members are properly educated on the processes and lingo of NFTY, so they never feel in the dark during conversations. I would like to increase membership as a whole by meeting with TYG MVPs to figure out what specific tactics will work for their individual TYGs. Through all of these things, I would like to increase and retain membership in NFTY Missouri Valley to ensure a bright future for the NFTYites of tomorrow.