

Megan Rubenstein

UHTYG

What's up MoValley, what's up? My name is Megan Rubenstein and I am a junior from St. Louis, Missouri. I am currently in my second term as UHTYG Programming Vice President, and I am on Missouri Valley Cabinet as Programming Delegate. When I am not doing something NFTY-related, you might find me playing lacrosse, working on my school yearbook, or playing guitar. In the summer, I work as a counselor at a Jewish day camp. I have loved being a part of Missouri Valley ever since my first JYG Chavurah in 7th grade, and I am so excited to be running for regional PVP!



Why do you want to be on Regional Board?

I want to be on Regional Board so that I can positively affect the programming within Missouri Valley. It would be incredible to have the opportunity to help lead and represent the region that has given me so much. Writing, leading, and participating in programming has greatly and positively impacted me throughout my time in NFTY and I want other members of Missouri Valley to be impacted in the same way. I want to use my passion for programming to ensure that next year our region will have exciting, innovative programming. I also would love to work with TYG PVPs so that those new to programming can develop the same love and passion I have for this position. When it comes to both regional and TYG programming, there are infinite possibilities, and I would love to help make sure our region's programming is memorable, meaningful, and impactful for all participants.

What are your qualifications for the position of PVP?

I have spent the past two years as the PVP of United Hebrew Temple Youth Group (UHTYG). Over the last two years I have planned a wide variety of programs including many lounge nights, weekend events, and two program-filled overnights at Camp Sabra. This year I also served as the Programming Chair for Winter Chavurah. On the regional level, I am currently the Programming Delegate on Missouri Valley Cabinet, which has given me the opportunity to assist with the writing and editing of programming for many regional events. I was also on the SLIID Fall Programming Committee in 2015 and 2016, and I was on the Welcoming Committee for Winter Chavurah 2015. I also currently serve on the NFTY Internal Structures Committee, part of the newly-formed North American Cabinet, where we are working on national NFTY legislation.

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

The trait I feel is most important to being an effective regional board member is my undying love and passion for programming, Missouri Valley, and NFTY as a whole. This passion would undoubtedly transfer into the work I would be doing as PVP. I also consider myself to be creative and open-minded when it comes to programming. I believe this is important because having creative, fresh programming is crucial to the effectiveness of regional events. I also am responsible and organized, which would be beneficial to the programming itself. I also

genuinely love meeting and talking to new people in NFTY, which is an important part of being a regional board member because one must be welcoming and friendly to all.

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

In the fall of my sophomore year, UHTYG's overnight Mizzou/Sabra event was the moment where I first felt truly proud and accomplished as a PVP in NFTY. Watching 70 teens participate in the programming I planned for the weekend was an amazing experience and led to me falling even more in love with the position of PVP. My overall proudest moment, however, was watching Winter Chavurah 2017 come to life. Working on that event was without a doubt one of my most favorite NFTY experiences. As Programming Chair for the event, I wrote numerous programs and oversaw the programming as a whole. After months of hard work, it was an absolutely amazing feeling to finally get to watch everyone enjoy and become engaged in the programming throughout the weekend.

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

If elected Missouri Valley PVP, there are many goals that I would like to accomplish. One of my goals is to make sure that regional programming is memorable and engaging. Programming should meet the needs and interests of all participants, which can be achieved by sending out surveys to participants for input on what types of programs they want to see. I also would like to focus on strengthening and supporting TYG programming. Every TYG is unique, and when helping with programming I would make sure to cater to the individual needs of each TYG. Another goal I have is that the future leaders of this region will learn programming skills so that they can write programs of their own. I will do this by planning local and Zoom-call workshops for those interested in programming. I also would like to open up group and program leading opportunities at regional events. At Winter Chavurah we had 70 group leaders, and I would like to continue this as it is a great way to ensure that more people can get involved with programming on the regional level. If elected PVP, I would love to expand upon and bring these ideas to life.