

Hannah Seigal

BTY

Why do you want to be on Regional Board?

Throughout my time in NFTY, I have always felt loved and supported by the leaders in our region. They created a space that was holy; a space where everyone belonged. After gaining so much from being in this community, I feel it is my duty to create this environment for current and future MVites. The influence Regional Board has over the region is immense, and the prospect of being able to impact a NFTYite's experience excites me. NFTY has played a crucial role in shaping my Jewish identity, and I hope to be on Regional Board so that I can help shape other peoples' Jewish identities.

What are your qualifications for the position for which you are running?

After being BTY's Religious and Cultural Vice President for the past two years, I have been able to gain the skills and knowledge needed to fill the role of Regional RCVP. I have planned and lead services, Havdallot, Beit Midrashim, and Israel programs on both the local and regional level. In addition to my role in BTY, I have been NFTY-Missouri Valley's Religious Delegate for the past two years. The combination of these roles created the foundation upon which I plan to draw from next year. In terms of religious experiences outside of NFTY, I participated in a seven-week Hebrew/Israel immersion program at my summer camp, traveled to Israel this past winter, and am the President of the Jewish Club at my high school.

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

To be an effective Regional Board member, one must have the ability to get things done, be willing to fill in gaps, and care enough to push Missouri Valley to its full potential. A Religious and Cultural Vice President has to meet hard deadlines; if a service is not ready in advance, the songleaders and congregational leaders will not have enough time to prepare. After being an RCVP for the past two years, I have become used to delivering under this pressure. Often in a board setting, there are places where people need to step up. Over the past two years, I have spent time in BTY filling in gaps when needed. Whether it was in program writing, program leading, or brainstorming for secular parts of events, I was able to fill roles that would otherwise be left vacant. Most importantly, passion is essential in being effective. Since my freshman year, I have known I wanted to fill this role. I strive to make an impact on Missouri Valley in the same fashion that past Regional Board members have.

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

Serving as the BTY Religious and Cultural Vice President for the past two years has been the source of my pride in terms of leadership. After executing service after service, program after program, and Havdalah after Havdalah, I have become confident in my skills as an RCVP. The Youth Shabbat services I have been planning with Noah Young and Avivah Malin have been among BTY's most successful events in terms of attendance and participation. I take great pride in knowing I have helped my TYG remain a place where the youth of our synagogue can feel loved and wanted. Next year, I intend to apply what I have learned from being a local RCVP to being a regional RCVP.

What are you looking forward to accomplishing for MV?

The prospect of next year makes me extremely excited. After three years of creating services and programs that I would like to see done on the regional level, I have been able to compile what I feel is my best work. In terms of next year, I intend to accomplish three main things.

1. Joint programming with other regions to foster connections before NFTY Convention.
2. Continue to create an element of choice for worship.
3. Implement Israeli Culture and Political programming into events.

In order to implement these goals, I plan to compile resources from past Regional RCVPs, enlist the help of the RCVP network, and maintain a close relationship with the Regional Songleaders.