

Molly Kodish

BTY

Why do you want to be on Regional Board?

NFTY and Camp Rainbow have brought me so much happiness since my first JYG event in 7th grade and I want to be on Regional Board so I can do everything I can, to allow others to feel as much joy for NFTY and passion for Camp Rainbow as I have. I also want to be on Regional Board because it is an amazing opportunity to reach out to more people in the region, as well as engage in conversation about Camp Rainbow and other topics that may be of interest. Along with fundraising for Camp Rainbow, I want to fundraise for other organizations that the region is passionate about, and work with the Social Action Vice President so we can take action and help the world be a happier place.

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

I have been Special Projects Coordinator this past year at my local youth group (BTY). The previous year, I worked closely with the SPC as board member at large, and my Freshmen year, I was on Freshmen Board. With these positions, I have organized multiple fundraisers for Camp Rainbow. I have also written programs to not only raise awareness for Camp Rainbow, but to also allow participants to genuinely understand why Camp Rainbow is such a wonderful organization, by connecting it with their personal summer camp memories. Through my experience on board the past three years, I have learned how to effectively work with many different people. I am also planning on attending Camp Rainbow this summer as a counselor. Aside from NFTY, I have participated in multiple international summer camps that were all self directed and planned by the participants. This means that I worked with others (whom I had just met, and some of which struggled to speak English) to plan programs based around the theme of human rights and conflict resolution. This taught me how to work with others and gave me many interesting program ideas.

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

I value kindness pretty much above all else. This would make me an effective Regional Board member because genuine kindness allows others to feel welcomed and wanted. As a Regional Board member it is crucial that you communicate to the region that each individual is important and valued within the community, and I believe that kindness helps to convey that message. Along with kindness, I believe respect is very important. Each individual should be respected for their different beliefs and values, because that is what makes the community so wonderful. I also highly value communication. I know that in almost any community, there is bound to be

conflict of some kind, but communication truly is key to working through these conflicts. In addition, I am truly so passionate about NFTY and Camp Rainbow. As a leader, if you possess authentic excitement and love for whatever you are leading, it is bound to rub off on the participants and be contagious. I believe that I exemplify kindness, respect, communication, and passion through my interactions with others.

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

I have been leading and writing programs since my Freshman year (for Camp Rainbow, Social Action, and mixers). With these programs, I have had some of the most amazing conversations with NFTYites, and learned more than I could have ever imagined. It can be difficult to write a program or initiate conversation, but a good program with a good conversation can be more beneficial than a whole month at school (in my opinion). I am also very proud of organizing different fundraisers for Camp Rainbow. This included building off of previous the year's fundraisers, as well as creating two new ones. Organizing these events were not easy and there were many bumps along the way, but in the end, it was more than worth it, and helped support Camp Rainbow.

What are you looking forward to accomplishing for MV?

My goal is to continue the amazing work that MV has done, by continuing to fundraise for Camp Rainbow and by getting as many people as possible involved in planning the fundraisers. In addition, I want to involve the local communities outside of the temples. I also want to continue raising awareness by creating programs and events that allow individuals to find their own personalized connection that helps them to fall in love with Camp Rainbow. I would also like to utilize the new amendment, and fundraise for other causes as well. Over all, I aspire to remind NFTY of the good in the world (such as Camp Rainbow) and organize fundraisers in which, as a community, we can help make the good even better.