

Talia Frost-Belansky

BTY

Why do you want to be on Regional Board?

It has become clear to me that the place in Missouri Valley where I can make the biggest impact and contribution to NFTY is at the regional level. Throughout the past three years in BTY, I am lucky enough to have been taught leadership skills by my older mentors and fellow board members. I have been an active leader in contributing to the success of BTY, and I thoroughly understand the role of the programming vice president. I work hard to put time and devotion into NFTY at a TYG level, and I am ready to expand my work to the regional board. I want to bring Missouri Valley meaningful programs that will have a lasting impact after events. I am committed to being a leader for the region and expanding the knowledge of programming to others. I want to be a part of MV's regional board so that I can bring my experience and passion for programming to continue developing a cohesive and organized board.

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

I have been BTY's programming Vice President for the past two years, which has provided me with the most relevant and necessary skills to be the regional PVP. I practice being both a mentor and a support system to allow the ideas of the participants to be heard. Two years of programming on a large TYG's board has provided me experience with writing programs for big events, as well as small scale creative programs. With this experience I am able to balance the creativity and organization that allows programs to run smoothly. I first learned how to write a program on freshmen board. BTY's freshmen board wrote all the programs for tzofim (youth group for grades 3-5). I was lucky enough to have the ability to learn this skill early on in my NFTY experience, and now I have been writing programs for three years. Aside from board I have also been a part of the BTY's winter planning committee, and I have group led numerous programs. This experience allows me to understand program writing at a region size scale. This summer I got to be a SIT (staff in training) at Shwayder Camp. I learned programming skills for young campers which helped me learn how to write fun programs that also tie back to a concrete meaning. With two years of PVP experience I have learned the importance of flexibility that is necessary to implement when a program does not go as planned.

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

Often times the hardest part of being on a leadership board is not the work itself, but the ability to work effectively to develop a cohesive board. Throughout my experience of serving on my TYG's board I have practiced the balance between being a listener and being a leader. I

understand when it is necessary for me to hear the concerns of others and listen to their ideas. There are also times when it is crucial to move the board forward with voicing my opinion, and to make sure we are staying focused. Another important trait to ensuring strong communication within a board, is the ability to be trustworthy. I am responsible and timely regarding finishing my tasks, and I am supportive to my fellow board members when they are need of help. It is highly important to me to have the trust of the people I am working with so that we can achieve the highest level of success.

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

My proudest accomplishment so far in NFTY is being a reliable and successful PVP for two years. I have worked hard to create engaging programs and maintain organized events for everyone. The program writing process is extremely rewarding when I see participants enjoying activities and taking part in meaningful experiences. From programs where participants created a High School Musical inspired dance routine, to playing a real life game of Clue, and to writing goals for their future selves, I am proud of my ability to create a diverse assortment of programs. Outside of BTY, I am proud of my ability to lead programs at regional events. Daniel Pomerantz wrote a program at Winter where we analyzed song lyrics, and I led a group discussion where talked about serious issues and shared personal experiences to work through tough societal issues. I am proud of my ability to not only write programs, but to engage participants and create strong connections with them as well.

What are you looking forward to accomplishing for MV?

My goal for the 2018-2019 year as PVP is to develop programs that appeal to a variety of people, by utilizing multiple techniques to engage participants. Programs containing visual and auditory aspects, along with incorporating movement will allow the purpose to be more impactful and long lasting. I am looking forward to facilitating meaningful conversations in a program setting, where participants feel comfortable to share personal experiences and are interested in hearing each others' opinions. Beyond the programs themselves, I am excited to involve many people in the program writing process. Whether they are developing ideas, writing the program, or leading it, I want to create a supportive environment where everyone feels welcome to participate in planning. I look forward to contributing to the success of Missouri Valley and creating an enjoyable programming experience.