



**Elections Packet
2023-2024, 5783-5784
NFTY Southern Regional Board**

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April 10, 2023

Dear Candidate,

Mazel Tov on your decision to run for a regional board position! We appreciate your enthusiasm and are excited that the future of NFTY Southern lies in the hands of such strong leaders. In order for you to run for office, there are a number of things that you must complete. This package includes all the information regarding your candidacy, including:

- Candidate Declaration Form
- NFTY Southern Brit Avodah (Work Covenant)
- Elections Procedures and Expectations
- Parental, Advisor, and Congregational Clergy Certification Forms
- Duties and responsibilities of all board members and each position, as outlined in the NFTY Southern Constitution
- Guidelines for writing your Platform Packet
- Guidelines and requirements for Speeches
- Regional Board Intent to Run Checklist

As an executive position honors you, you must honor the position. It is important that you understand the duties and obligations associated with the NFTY Southern Regional Board. Please read over the enclosed job descriptions carefully so that you can be sure that your interests and abilities suit the position that you are considering. The current board members and I are happy to answer any questions and further discuss the experience of being on board with you.

In order to officially run for office, you must do two things:

- 1) Submit your intent to run to Ben Cohen, NFTY Southern Regional Mentor, for approval by May 5th, 2023. You can simply email bcohen@urj.org to share what position you plan to run for.
- 2) Once approved, submit all candidacy materials **NO LATER THAN 11:59PM on May 12th**. All materials should be submitted via email to bcohen@urj.org. If you are not able to scan and email these items, please contact Ben Cohen as soon as possible to determine an alternate plan.

It is also recommended that you attend the Regional Board Interest Webinar May 3rd at 7:00 p.m. [You can register for the Webinar by clicking here.](#)

All candidates must have declared their candidacy by May 5th – no candidates will be permitted to run after that date. Elections materials are due on May 12th by 11:59 p.m. Elections will be held on Sunday, May 21 on Zoom at 4 p.m. [at this Zoom link.](#) It is required that all candidates running for Regional Board are present at this event.

Again, please know how excited we are to hear of your interest in serving as a member of the 2023-24 NFTY Southern Regional Board! Please don't hesitate to contact me or a member of the outgoing board with any questions.

L'Shalom,
Ben Cohen
NFTY SO Regional Mentor
Assistant Director, URJ Henry S. Jacobs Camp



April 10, 2023

Dear NFTY Southern Parent,

Mazel Tov on your child's interest in running for a position on the NFTY Southern Regional Board! We are thrilled that your teen feels dedicated to a Jewish youth organization and wants to explore their leadership potential.

I hope they have taken time to discuss this decision with you. Serving on the NFTY Southern Regional Board is a big commitment, and it is very important that you and your teen are aware of the responsibilities associated with serving on the regional board. Some teens find it difficult to balance regional board with other extra-curricular activities, while others develop stronger time management skills when juggling multiple things. Please know that family and school requirements will always be a top priority to our board members.

In this packet, you will find important documents for you and your child to review, including:

- Candidate Declaration Form
- NFTY Southern Brit Avodah (Work Covenant)
- Elections Procedures and Expectations
- Parental and Congregational Clergy Certification Forms
- Duties and responsibilities of all board members and each position, as outlined in the NFTY Southern Constitution
- Guidelines for writing your Platform Packet
- Guidelines and requirements for Speeches
- Regional Board Intent to Run Checklist

While holding a NFTY Southern Regional Board position is a big commitment, it is also an extremely rewarding experience. Your teen will serve as a role model and leader among their peers, as well as play an important role in shaping the future of NFTY Southern. Your teen will undoubtedly grow from this experience, both individually and as part of a team. This is an exciting opportunity for them to learn and develop leadership skills, time management, teamwork, and communication – all while creating wonderful memories and a lasting impact on our region. I commend your teen for making the decision to run for board!

If you have any questions regarding positions on board, please feel free to call me at (601) 885-6042 or email me at bcohen@urj.org. I look forward to keeping communication open with the parents of our regional board members.

L'Shalom,
Ben Cohen
NFTY SO Regional Mentor
Assistant Director, URJ Henry S. Jacobs Camp

2023-2024 NFTY Southern Regional Board Candidate Declaration Form

I, _____, hereby declare my intent to run for the NFTY Southern Regional Board for the 2023-2024 school year. I certify that I have read the duties and responsibilities of this position, as outlined in the NFTY Southern Constitution, and I understand that I will be expected to perform all of these duties to the best of my abilities.

I further certify that I have read and fully understand the process of elections for NFTY Southern and promise to abide by these expectations. Should I have any questions regarding the election and/or candidacy process, I understand that I am free to contact the NFTY Southern Regional Advisor.

I certify that I am a member in good standing of _____ (URJ congregation) and _____ (TYG). I certify that I have discussed the decision to run for regional board with my parent(s), and a Congregational Clergy Member or Educator, as indicated by their signatures of support on the following certification forms. I certify that I have spoken with the board member who currently holds the position I am seeking. *I also certify that I have spoken with the NFTY Southern Regional Mentor, Ben Cohen, regarding my decision to run for NFTY Southern Regional Board and have been approved to continue with my candidacy.*

I declare myself a candidate for the position of _____ on the 2023-2024 NFTY Southern Regional Board. I understand that serving on board is an exciting, rewarding, and educational experience. If elected, I will accept the full scope of responsibilities expected of me as a leader in the region as outlined in the NFTY Southern Constitution and NFTY Southern Brit Avodah. If elected, these documents will serve as a contract between myself and the region that I will uphold my duties as a regional board member.

Name (print): _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Cell Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Birthday: _____ 2023-2024 School Grade: _____

Parent 1 Name: _____ Parent 1 Email: _____ Parent 1 Cell: _____

Parent 2 Name: _____ Parent 2 Email: _____ Parent 2 Cell: _____

Rabbi Name: _____ TYG Advisor Name: _____

Signature of Candidate: _____ Date: _____

2023-2024 NFTY Southern Regional Board Brit Avodah (Work Covenant)

"It is not the position that honors the person, but rather the person that honors the position." – Taanit 21b

Being elected to the NFTY Southern Regional Board presents an incredible opportunity. You will have a powerful influence on a community of Southern Jewish teenagers. As a leader of NFTY Southern, you set the example for fellow NFTYites through your involvement and conduct. Not only do you represent the teens of our region, but you represent over 500 Temple Youth Groups across North America, including the one from which you began your journey of leadership in NFTY. It is crucial that you understand that each board member is responsible not only for their particular job, but also for building a strong, working, supportive team of regional officers.

General Expectations of Regional Board Members

Role Model: Recognize that the members of NFTY Southern look to you to set an example. Be aware of your behavior and attitude at all times, even when you are not actively leading. Lead by example. Never ask someone to do something that you would not be willing to do yourself. Realize that all eyes are always on you. You will be expected to uphold the NFTY Brit Kehillah, Code of Conduct, at all times.

Approachability: Board members need to be approachable at all times, and NFTY Southerners should know how to reach you. At events, it is easy to spend your free time with your friends, but it is important to remember that you now represent all of NFTY Southern, and everyone should have access to you. There are always new people to meet and get to know, and the Regional Board must set the example of welcoming new teens to NFTY Southern events.

Attendance: You are expected to attend all NFTY Southern regional events. School will always be your first priority, but you should understand the travel requirements associated with being on board. Should you have a conflict with a scheduled regional event, you must notify the regional advisor as soon as possible to determine a plan for your involvement. Please know that when you run for a position on the NFTY Southern Regional Board, you are making a commitment to make NFTY Southern your primary extra-curricular activity. In addition to attending all regional events, NFTY Southern Regional Board members are expected to remain active members in their communities and attend and support local TYG programming, as well as participate in cross-regional and North American.

Communication: It is expected that you will maintain an open line of communication with your fellow board members, the Regional Advisor, your North American network, and your local advisor.

Because of your personal leadership skills and strong commitment to Reform Judaism, you are taking a large step towards becoming a leader of your peers in NFTY Southern. This wonderful experience comes with a tremendous amount of responsibility. In addition to the above requirements, it is expected that the specific constitutional job requirements pertaining to your position will be maintained throughout your term in office.

I am fully aware of the expectations placed upon the NFTY Southern Regional Board members and commit to the terms of this Brit Avodah if elected to the 2023-2024 Regional Board. I understand that if I cannot fulfill the terms of this Brit, I will forfeit my position.

Candidate's Signature: _____ Date: _____

2023-2024 NFTY Southern Regional Board Elections Procedures and Expectations

Prior to Elections:

Each candidate must submit all paperwork to Ben Cohen (bcohen@urj.org) by 11:59pm on May 12. All candidates must prepare and submit their Platform Packet by this date as well. Each candidate must prepare a speech to be given on Zoom for elections on May 21.

At Elections:

Each candidate will present the region with a 2-minute maximum speech, and those running for contested positions will participate in Meet the Candidates, an opportunity for NFTYites to meet in breakout rooms with each candidate to ask them questions about their platform packet and their vision for their position. Following speeches and Meet the Candidates, teens will be given the opportunity to vote with a secret ballot. The candidate who receives a majority of the votes (50% + 1) will be elected.

Expectations:

- Campaigning in **no way, shape, or form** will be allowed. Campaigning is any communication with NFTYites with the intention of swaying or confirming votes. This includes: using social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) to promote a candidate and/or their platform, distributing elections materials (such as your Platform Packet) directly to other NFTYites prior to Elections, or any inappropriate or negative material about any other candidate.
- Any evidence of campaigning either by candidate or by supporters will result in disqualification from candidacy. If you are unsure if you may do something, please check with Ben Cohen in advance.
- No nominations will be accepted from the floor the day of elections. All interested candidates must submit materials by 11:59pm on May 12.

2023-2024 NFTY Southern Regional Board Parental Certification Forms

Name: _____ Candidate For: _____

Dear Parent,

Your child has expressed interest in running for a position on the 2023-2024 NFTY Southern Regional Board. This is a great responsibility, and we request that you carefully read the contents of this package to understand the duties associated with serving on the Regional Board. Once you have read through this information, **please talk with your teen and discuss this exciting opportunity.**

Please contact me with any additional questions:

Ben Cohen, NFTY SO Regional Mentor

bcohen@urj.org

(601) 885-6042

Please include any key points from your discussion together: _____

I have read the letter to parents and understand that being on NFTY Southern Regional Board is a serious commitment. I recognize that my child will be expected to participate in regional events, Regional Board trainings and functions, and local programming. I am supportive of my child's involvement in the NFTY Southern Regional Board, both emotionally and financially. I am confident that my child is entering the regional election process with complete knowledge of what it means to be a Regional Board member. I will do my best to enable my teen to perform their duties should they be elected. I have read the NFTY Southern Election Packet and the NFTY Southern Brit Avodah.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

I certify that I have met with my parent/guardian to discuss my candidacy for the 2023-2024 NFTY Southern Regional Board.

Candidate Signature: _____ Date: _____

2023-2024 NFTY Southern Regional Board Congregational Clergy/Educator Certification Forms

Name: _____ Candidate For: _____

Dear Congregational Clergy Member or Educator,

The above-named candidate intends to run for a NFTY Southern Regional Board position for the 2023-2024 school year. **Please take time to meet with them to discuss their potential as a board member, as well as the importance of such a commitment.** After you meet with the candidate, please sign the bottom of this form, certifying their candidacy for the position listed above.

It is the expectation that NFTY Southern Regional Board members serve as role models for the members of our organization. They do this through their maturity, personal leadership skills, programming ability, strong commitment to Judaism, and forward thinking on social issues. This wonderful experience of leading NFTY Southern comes with a great deal of responsibility. By running for board, the candidate is choosing to make NFTY a priority over the next school year. Each board member leads by example, and it is expected that each board member will uphold the NFTY Brit Kehillah, Code of Conduct, as well as support the enforcement of that Code at all NFTY events.

Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions:

Ben Cohen, NFTY SO Regional Mentor

bcohen@urj.org

(601) 885-6042

Please include any key points from your discussion together: _____

I am aware that this member of my congregation is seeking a position on the 2023-2024 NFTY Southern Regional Board. I have spoken with them in detail about this commitment. I certify that they are a member in good standing of my congregation, and I support their pursuit of a regional leadership position.

Clergy/Educator Signature: _____ Date: _____

I certify that I have met with a Clergy member or Educator of my congregation to discuss my candidacy for the 2023-2024 NFTY Southern Regional Board.

Candidate Signature: _____ Date: _____

2023-2024 NFTY Southern Regional Board Duties and Responsibilities

GENERAL DUTIES FOR ALL POSITIONS

1. Attend all executive board meetings (held in person or conference calls).
2. Attend all regional events and North American events.
3. Attend the New Board Retreat to be held following elections.
4. Be an active participant in your local community. This includes attendance at events, potential program writing, and other forms of assistance.
5. Strongly encouraged to attend Dream Street.
6. Plan and write programs for regional events.
7. Serve as role model for other NFTYites by demonstrating good judgment in the decisions made and by upholding the Brit Kehillah both within and outside of NFTY.
8. Support fellow board members, the President and Regional Advisor.
9. Be an active member of their respective NFTY North American network.
10. Uphold the board brit (signed at the New Board Retreat) while at any URJ or URJ affiliated event (including NFTY regional and North-American events, URJ Summer Programs, URJ Camps, etc.).

CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF POSITIONS

The duties of the NFTY's Southern Regional Officers shall include, but not be limited to the following:

Section 1 - The **President** shall:

- Preside at all NFTY Southern's meetings and NFTY Southern's Regional Board meetings;
- Conduct for NFTY Southern all affairs with NFTY;
- Attend the NFTY Board Meetings as NFTY Southern's delegate;
- Submit to the NFTY Southern Regional Board a report on the NFTY Board meeting;
- Be NFTY Southern's liaison to NFTY in all matters regarding NFTY Competitions taking place at NFTY North American Convention;
- Create and appoint new committees when necessary;
- Be responsible for the work of and exercise direct supervision over the members of the board and committee chairmen;
- Be responsible for the execution of all the laws, by-laws, and policies of this organization;
- Be responsible for carrying out the administrative functions of the organization;
- Be responsible for administering the election procedure as outlined in the Constitution;
- Vote only to break a tie;
- Serve as Chairperson along with Regional Advisor of NFTY Events not hosted by congregations
- Serve as NFTY Southern's representative at all NFTY President network meetings
- Meet weekly with the NFTY SO Regional Advisor

Section 2 - The **Programming Vice President** shall:

- Perform all the duties of and possess all the powers of the President in the event of the absence or disability of the President;
- Be responsible to the President and assist them at all times in the performance of their duties;
- Attend the NFTY Board Meeting as a NFTY Southern delegate;
- Oversee all programming at all regional events;

- Serve as NFTY Southern’s representative at all NFTY PVP network meetings;

Section 3 - The **Social Action Vice President** shall:

- Oversee and facilitate all Social Action programming at conclaves.
- Attend the NFTY Board Meetings as NFTY Southern’s delegate;
- Serve as NFTY Southern’s representative at all NFTY SAVP network meetings;
- Serve as NFTY Southern’s liaison to all matters concerning Camp Dream Street and promote Camp Dream Street within the region.
- Facilitate and encourage programming on NFTY’s current Action Theme;

Section 4 - The **Religious and Cultural Vice President** shall:

- Provide information on creative worship to all interested teens and communities;
- Promote and encourage teen involvement in Reform Jewish cultural activities;
- Stimulate knowledge of our Jewish heritage in keeping with Reform Judaism’s creed of “choice through knowledge” and one of NFTY’s thirteen guiding principles, “to learn and to do”;
- Attend the NFTY Board Meetings as NFTY Southern’s delegate;
- Serve as NFTY Southern’s representative at all NFTY RCVP network meetings;
- Oversee and facilitate all religious and cultural programming at all conclaves
- Collaborate with the Regional Songleader on the Havdallah Service for all regional events;

Section 5 - The **Membership Vice Presidents** shall:

- Serve as NFTY Southern’s representative at all NFTY Membership network meetings;
- Endeavor to help all communities to increase membership participation through creative programming;
- Support subregional programming and engagement.

Section 6 - The **Communications Vice President** shall:

- Oversee all event giveaways and merchandise;
- Maintain a complete account of the minutes of all NFTY Southern meetings and all executive meetings in conjunction with the Advisor;
- In conjunction with the Regional Advisor, maintain and update the content of NFTY Southern’s social media presence;
- Be responsible for NFTY Southern’s public relations within the greater organization, including but not limited to, submitting blog posts on behalf of NFTY Southern to NFTY North America;

2023-2024 NFTY Southern Regional Board Platform Packet Guidelines

Those seeking candidacy for the 2023-2024 NFTY Southern Regional Board must complete a Platform Packet for the position they seek and submit it to the Regional Advisor by email (bcohen@urj.org) no later than 11:59 p.m. on May 12, 2023.

The completed document must be no more than 3 pages, using 12-point font and standard double-spaced formatting. Please include your name and position desired on top right of each page and reprint the prompts in bold before each of your answers. In the meet the candidate portion of the election process, candidates will individually meet with NFTYites to discuss their platform packet. Please contact Ben Cohen with any questions.

General Questions – ALL Candidates must answer the following questions:

1. Why are you running for regional board? Why have you chosen to run for this specific position?
2. What makes you qualified for this position?
3. What are your goals for this position?

President:

1. As President, you are not only a leader in the region, but a leader on the board. Over the year, board members become close friends, if they were not already. As President, you may be required to have difficult conversations with other board members if they fall behind on their responsibilities. How would you approach this potentially difficult conversation?
2. Choose a quote and explain how it represents you.

Programming Vice President:

1. What do you feel is most valuable for participants to feel and experience in programming at NFTY Southern regional events?
2. Create up with a hypothetical theme and program idea for an event next year. Include a description of a potential challenge that could arise and how you'd address the challenge if it arose.

Social Action Vice President:

1. What is your experience with Camp Dream Street and how will you continue to promote participation among NFTY Southerners?
2. Name one Social Action initiative you would like to bring to NFTY and explain how you would implement it.

Religious and Cultural Vice President:

1. How do you plan to engage NFTY Southerners Jewishly?
2. Share a program or text study idea related to a Torah portion.

Membership Vice President:

1. Describe a strategy you'd implement in recruiting new membership and/or promoting regional events?
2. How would you explain to an 8th grader why they should join NFTY? What about an 11th grader?

Communications Vice President:

1. Create a hypothetical outline for regional event promotion on social media. When would social media posts take place? What social media tools would you utilize? Feel free to include photos or graphics as example.
2. How do you plan to use social media and other communications tools to engage the unengaged Jewish teen population?

2023-2024 NFTY Southern Regional Board Speech Guidelines

Every candidate must:

- Explicitly state their name, their home TYG or community, and the position for which they are running
- Share with the region why they are interested in that position
- Name at least one goal they will implement if elected

Timeframe:

- Each candidate will be allowed 2 minutes for their speech.
- Candidates will be given cues to know how much time is remaining (1 minute left, 30 seconds left, 15 seconds left, time).
- Speeches will be presented in gavel order – beginning with President and ending with Communications Vice President.
- Candidates for each position will speak in alphabetical order by last name.
- Candidates for President are permitted to speak for 5 minutes.

2023-2024 NFTY Southern Regional Board Intent to Run Checklist

Reminder: All materials must be scanned and submitted electronically Ben Cohen (bcohen@urj.org) by 11:59pm on May 12, 2023 unless otherwise discussed.

Please save each document as follows:

Your Name – Candidate Declaration Form

Your Name – NFTY Southern Brit Avodah

Your Name – Parental Certification Form

Your Name – Rabbinic/Educator Certification Form

Your Name – Platform Packet

Document	Completed?
Candidate Declaration Form	
NFTY Southern Brit Avodah	
Parental Certification Form	
Rabbinic or Educator Certification Form	
Discussion with NFTY Southern Regional Mentor Ben Cohen	
Discussion with NFTY Southern Regional Board Member	
Platform Packet	