

Dear NFTY-TOR,

Since I was about 7 years old, I have been surrounded by NFTY. My two older sisters were constantly engaged in TOR and TYG activities for their entire highschool experiences, and my middle sister, Zoe, was Programming Vice President of TOR her senior year. For as long as I can remember, I have wanted to be a part of NFTY, and I was ecstatic for my first event in eighth grade, Wincon 2019. I immediately got as involved as I could, and I have loved every second of it. I could not simply pass up the opportunity to work with such an amazing group of Jewish teens, and I am consequently so excited to announce my candidacy for Programming Vice President for the 5781-5782 NFTY-TOR regional board.

We have been stuck in such a rare situation due to COVID-19, and I know how hard it has been on each and every one of you to do average life things, like making new friends. This brings me to my first order of business if I get elected as PVP: I want to work with the other elected PVPs in the Southern Area to plan virtual events. This will open up TOR members to expanding friend groups and meeting more Jewish teens across the southern part of the country. My goal is to do recreational activities like JackBox Games or escape rooms. This is meant to be a break from the stress and worry school causes us, and full of interactive conversation from everyone.

An additional idea I want to pursue if I get elected is to create opportunities to raise money for non-profit organizations like American Civil Liberties Union or the Religious Action Center. The organizations TOR donates to will be fully suggested and decided by our members for each fundraiser. I want to work with the CVP to design TOR merchandise and sell it as one of our fundraisers, and also share Venmo Bingos on social media. This brings me to another virtual connection I would like to bring to TOR, which is connecting members more through social media. I want to work with the elected CVP to create graphics and games that we could share on Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, and messages. I want everyone to be able to participate, so they will additionally be posted on the TOR website for those who do not have access to social media.

I am so grateful for you, NFTY-TOR. You all have truly inspired me to be a better person and I love this region so much. If I am elected as your Programming Vice President, I promise to make each and every one of you my top priority, and to take care of this gorgeous region.

Stay healthy and safe,

Tori Berman