

# SYDNEY TIRSCHWELL

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## **WHY I AM RUNNING FOR REGIONAL BOARD**

I am running for regional board with the hope that I can pass the love and inspiration that NFTY has gifted me unto new NFTYites. Ever since my first NFTY event in 2014 I have looked up to regional board members and I have aspired to inspire others the way in which board members have inspired me. I have so much love for the NFTY community and I wouldn't be the same person I am today if my moms had never never forced me to sign up for West Coast Party Jr. in the sixth grade, and I could not be more glad that they did.

Along with being the SAVP of my TYG, I am the vice president of a club called "Daraja," which advocates for and supports girl's education in Kenya.

## **FAVORITE ELEMENT OF NFTY AND WHY**

The community is the reason why I am running for regional board, specifically how accepting and loving everyone is. I've found that the love present at NFTY can always been seen at the end of the event during our goodbyes. Although they are sad, they show just how much we all truly care about each other, which I think is beautiful. We don't necessarily say goodbye to each other, it's more like an "I'll miss you until I can see you at the next event." This is the part of events that I believe the most love can be seen, especially between those who have merely met days before.

## **NEW IDEAS INSPIRED BY A NEW MEMBER**

Through talking to a few new members, two themes caught my attention: inclusivity and diverse programming. New members value inclusivity at NFTY, but also have experienced cliques while at their first events. Additionally, many said that they'd like to see different programming structures for the social action programs among others. I think that a good way to address both of these topics could be by switching up the way that we run programs or by using programs that promote a mingling of people and their ideas! This would help with engagement, inclusivity, and understanding of the issues. If this is done we will be able to get teens more involved in programs and subsequently help them create lasting bonds between themselves.

## **SPREADING SOCIAL ACTION IDEAS WITHIN AND BEYOND NFTY**

Social action at NFTY events tends to stay at those NFTY events, and I think that we could witness incredible leadership in action by NFTYites if we were to bring our leadership to the world outside of NFTY. I would love to promote sub-regional day events focussed on social action issues relevant to us (be it based on where we live or what we find to be of utmost importance). Furthermore, exploring ideas involving partnerships between NFTYites and organizations like the RAC could benefit our understanding of just how much we can influence social issues in our world!

## **WHY SOCIAL ACTION IS IMPORTANT AND HOW TO MAKE IT RELEVANT**

We are growing up in a time where it is easy to feel helpless or lost because we are surrounded by countless social issues. I think that it is incredibly important to develop people's understanding of just how much power their actions hold. Teaching leadership through social action is empowering and significant to all involved and NFTY is the perfect place to do so because of how much compassion and determination NFTYites possess.

